

## RECEIVE A SCORCHING

Do Our State Officials at the Hands  
of the Mine workers  
Journal.

The current issue of the United Mine Workers Journal handles the Whipple disaster editorially as follows:

"Once more the history of mining in West Virginia has a bloody page, and once more the futility of unenforced law has been demonstrated.

"This time eleven men were dashed into eternity; at least that is the number given out by the company's agents, but those aware of the juggling of names and numbers in West Virginia feel that the death list was over fifty.

"This latest slaughter makes over one hundred and fifty men who have been needlessly killed within a radius of a mile within one year's time. It is doubtless if any county in the country can equal the gruesome record of Fayette County, West Virginia—not excepting the morgue at Pocahontas.

The press dispatches state that the mine "was well ventilated and well equipped," but the facts flatly contradict that assertion, for such "accidents" do not occur in well-ventilated mines. We have the highest mining authorities on record to that effect. The law means nothing there; it is simply irritating to read about the "law" in West Virginia.

"A few stiff prison sentences in these manslaughter cases would have a wholesome effect, but to expect such a thing is the same as expecting to drink the ocean dry. The state authorities in West Virginia cannot escape complicity in these dreadful affairs. These things are dues to their criminal negligence; to their utter indifference to the wholesale slaughters that have made the name of West Virginia a hissing and a shame. They are "their brother's keepers;" no casuistry can relieve them of the responsibility, for if they were fearless and vigilant in enforcing the laws these "accidents" would not occur."