

QUARTER-MILE OF GRAVES FOR CHERRY MINE DEAD

Relatives Refuse to Permit Destroy- ing Bodies With Chemicals in Mine Galleries.

Cherry, Ill., Jan. 30.—Nearly every woman in Cherry is drawing her heart strings tight to undergo the ordeal of exhumation this week, following the promised unsealing tomorrow or Tuesday of the St. Paul mine, in which more than 200 coal miners have lain entombed since November 13, when fire caused the death of 350 men. With a snow storm beating over the prairie and the helmet men not yet arrived from the University of Illinois, the prospects tonight are that the mine, tightly closed for two months, will not be unsealed before Tuesday.

As it is not certain that the fire in the mine is extinguished, nothing definite towards the recovery of the bodies will be planned until experts protected with oxygen helmets have explored the shaft.

It is thought that about forty bodies are floating on the water in the bottom of the mine. More than 200 other corpses are said to be huddled in the second level.

The condition of the bodies is causing much concern as are the engineering problems attendant on the uncapping of the mine and the cleaning of the debris from the subterranean passages. It has been suggested that much of the grewsomeness of the situation could be avoided by destroying the cadavers in the mine galleries with chemicals. This proposal, unofficially made, has met with bitter opposition on the part of the widows, mothers and children of the dead miners. They contend that all they now hope for is to look once more on the form of a beloved relative, to give that body a Christian burial and to recover some personal token of the decedent, such as a watch or a ring.

With grief long drawn out, the women of Cherry are awaiting the last ordeal. Tentative arrangements are already making for a funeral and burials. Men have been engaged to dig a row of graves nearly a quarter of a mile long.