

Federal Rescuers Fake.

In substantiation of what this paper has contended concerning the boosting of the federal rescue work at the recent Layland mine disaster, we quote from the Fayetteville Tribune the following:

“A storm of protest has been aroused over the claims of the federal rescue crew for saving the lives of the 47 survivors who came out of the mine 4 days after the explosion. As a matter of fact these survivors were never rescued but managed to save their lives by their own heroic efforts.

“Those who watched the rescue work and who are familiar with the situation existing at the mine for days after the explosion give but little credit for their services. They were the most timid and backward of all those who entered the mine. The deputy state inspectors Holliday, Absalom and others were much more fearless, intelligent and diligent in their explorations and had they been allowed to handle the situation in their own way there might have been some real heroic rescue work.”

Instead of presenting the bureau crew with medals of honor by the federal government in accordance to a Washington dispatch, it might be better for the government to keep the "rescuers" away hereafter and let the matter rest with the deputy inspectors and volunteer crews, who have proved to be the real heroes in more cases than this one. At Eccles the volunteer crew would have entered the mines much earlier and with the same degree of safety, had it not been for the "scientific methods" of the federal bureau which assumed management of the affair, with the result that the first body was brought out Friday night following the explosion of Tuesday.

We are willing to see the honor bestowed where it belongs, but in this instance we feel that the bureau has been over-advertised.