

150 MAY HAVE DIED IN MINE

Casualties In West Virginia
Disaster Not Yet Known

CARLOAD OF COFFINS ARRIVES

Layland Mine Was Not Considered Gaseous and Company Was Therefore Not Obligated to Keep Tab on Employees Entering Works—Location of Explosion Not Where at First Suspected by Officials.

Layland, W. Va., March 4.—It is now believed that the number of entombed men in the wrecked New River and Pocahontas Coal company's mine will reach 150.

A carload of more than 100 coffins arrived from Hinton this morning.

Mine officials say a pocket of gas caused the explosion, but some think dust accumulated and exploded. The force of the explosion broke off the wheel of a hand car of a railroad sixty yards distant from the mouth of the mine.

Because the Layland mine was not considered gaseous, the company was not required to keep a list of the men going in and out, so that the only way of knowing the number of men in the mine would be by the number of checks coming over the tippie, and the number of drivers, track repairers and other laborers in and about the mine employed. As yet the company has not been able to get a complete check, but as progress has been made the number known to be in the mine has climbed and climbed.

As the rescuing parties advance greater destruction is discovered, indicating that the location of the explosion was not where the officials thought it at first to have occurred. The work of the rescuers is through tunnel or mine No. 1, while the first belief was that the explosion had occurred in No. 3, running in the almost opposite direction.