

NINE KILLED DURING FIRE IN OHIO MINE

**Short Circuit, Caused By
Boulders Falling on Con-
duit, Starts Blaze**

**HEROIC FOREMAN
SAVES MANY LIVES**

BELLAIRE, Ohio, Dec. 23.—
(United Press.)—With nine of their
comrades dead by asphyxiation, all
of the other miners who were en-
dangered when fire broke out in the
Webb Coal Company's Cambria
mine, near here, shortly after mid-
night, were accounted for today.

The 68 miners who escaped unin-
jured owe their lives to the heroism
of their foreman, Jacob Schram.

Schram, controlling his panic-
stricken men with an iron hand,
led them to safety through an un-
used entrance a mile from the main
shaft, where the fire occurred.

A short circuit, caused when a
boulder fell on an electric conduit
started the blaze. Sparks shooting
from the wire ignited coal gas, which
exploded with a deafening roar.

The dead are:

A. O. Truax, Shady Side; John
Ferry, Webb Heights; Alphonse Za-
zanmi, Bellaire; S. A. Kellor, Webb
Heights; Julius Taleberd, Shady
Side; Edward Kennedy, Bellaire;
John Kura, Webb Heights; Thomas

Continued on Page Sixteen.

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Continued From First Page.

Spezens, Webb Heights; Martin Se-
zed, Webb Heights.

The Webb-mine is six miles south
of here.

The nine men who lost their lives
were caught in the pocket near the
blaze, with all means of escape cut
off.

Fire apparatus could not be sent
to the mine from Bellaire or sur-
rounding villages, on account of the
impassable roads.

The mine had been closed and
only recently resumed operations on
a four-day-a-week scale.

Oxygen tanks, gas masks and
other life-saving equipment were
rushed to the scene.

News of the fire spread through-
out the region, bringing hundreds
of persons, including wives, children
and other relatives of the miners, to
the main shaft, where they stood in
the bitter cold awaiting word from
the men within.

After the short circuit flames and
dense clouds of smoke quickly
penetrated the arteries of the mine,
extinguishing the lights and trapping
the miners.