

## A TONGUE OF FLAME

Followed by an Awful Explosion in a Mine.

### ONE HUNDRED MEN KILLED

And as Many More Injured, Half of Whom Will Probably Die—Scenes of Sadness at the Death Pit—Sad News of the Krebs Disaster Confirmed.

SOUTH McALLISTER, I. T., Jan. 9.—Twenty-four hours have elapsed since the fatal explosion in the Osage mine at Krebs, but it is still impossible to estimate the number of victims. The number who came up alive after the explosion can be determined only by a house canvass, which is now being made. It is believed the killed will number fully 100, the injured 115, about one-half of whom will certainly die.

At the hour of the explosion there were about 400 men in the mine. They were the day shift and were preparing to ascend when the explosion took place. Six men who had already been hoisted in the cage had just stepped upon the platform at the side of the shaft. The cage was blown through the roof of the tower and fifty feet into the air.

A tongue of flame shot up the shaft and above the ground fully 100 feet, which was followed by a terrific report which

Was Heard for Miles Around, and shook all the neighboring country so violently that people in the surrounding towns, four and five miles away, thought an earthquake was shaking the ground. The men already above ground were prostrated by the force of the explosion, but did not receive severe injuries. The scenes about the mouth of the shaft, immediately following, were fearful in the extreme. Weeping wives, mothers and sisters flocked to the scene from the villages, their faces blanched with dread, and many hysterical to the point of insanity.

The air shaft was the way of escape for the entombed miners. Many of the miners were able to make their way out, and were warmly welcomed by their friends. The injured were quickly taken to places of shelter and were tenderly cared for.

#### Awful Suffering of Survivors.

One man with a broken leg climbed all the distance of 400 feet through the air shaft and fell unconscious as he reached the surface. Others, who were terribly burned, labored painfully up the ladder, strips of flesh falling from their hands and arms as they grasped the rungs. It is believed fully one-half of the entombed miners escaped by the air shaft, though many of them received mortal injuries.

The news of the disaster spread quickly through the villages surrounding Krebs. Every physician at once hastened to Krebs. Hundreds of miners from the Braidwood and McAllister fields also hurried to the scene.

#### The Work of Rescue

was begun at once and has continued ever since. The work was terribly hazardous. The explosion entirely changed the topography of the mine. Many tunnels were closed entirely and big loose boulders were balanced perilously on shelves of rock adjoining the air shaft and the main shaft, which a breath of air might hurl down upon the rescuers.

The rescuers have recovered about forty bodies. The rescuers worked at both the air and main shafts. Those identified were immediately carried away by relatives or friends.

#### A Ray of Hope.

The rescuers can hear faint knockings and far-off shoutings. They are digging in the direction whence the sounds come and hope to rescue some of the men alive.