

IN THE MINE.

**Twenty-four Miners Meet Their
Death by a Fire Damp Ex-
plosion.**

**Terrible Accident in a Coal Mine
Not Far From Chattanooga,
Tenn.**

**Scenes From Which the Stoutest
Person Turns Away Sick at
Heart.**

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., December 20.—Twenty-four miners lost their lives to-day in the Nelson mine, near Dayton, by an explosion of fire damp. The explosion was succeeded by a terrific crash, which indicated that the roof of the passage through which they entered had fallen in. No avenue of escape was left and there is no possibility that any will be found alive. The mine is the property of the Dayton Coal and Iron company, and is reached by a spur track. The men entered to go to work at 7 o'clock. Nothing of the awful catastrophe was known until 1 o'clock, when the drivers found their way blocked by a solid wall of coal and slate. The Nelson mine has been worked twelve years. The entry is over two miles from the mouth of the mine. The mine in the southern coal fields is known as a drift or level veined mine, worked in the direction of the vein, straight into the face of the mountain and before the entry is reached, a long slope extends to the level several hundred yards below at an angle of about twenty degrees. The cars are pulled up from the foot of the slope where tram cars drawn by mules, connect with the outside by a cable which hauls the coal up with remarkable rapidity. Rescuing parties have been working all day like grim death trying to reach them, but it will be several days before an opening through the wall of the fallen roofing can be made, and it must be made safe as they proceed. The work will be continued day and night until the bodies are recovered. At the drift mouth hundreds of women and children soon gathered and their grief and despair were heartrending. Mothers wring their hands, weeping daughters and little children, sweet-hearts and grey-headed grand-parents, were all in the greatest distress, for they had been told there was no hope. The spectacle is one from which one turns sick at heart. The mine is ventilated by air shafts, so the caving in of the walls in the entry, cut off the draft and death is certain to those who breathed the poisoned air.

1895 Nelson Mine Explosion NEWS

Clipped By:
usmra_rob
Apr 15, 2025