

EXPLOSION IN MINE

Fatalities at Berryburg Colliery In West Virginia.

Detroit, Nov. 3.—B. F. Berry of this city, president of the Willis Creek Coal company, received a telegram from N. O. Gray, manager of the mine at Philippi, W. Va., saying:

"Fatalities resulting from an explosion are probably six. Indications are that the mine is not injured as badly as was at first feared.

"Dynamite taken into the mine in too large quantities by a shooter is believed to have exploded from the concussion of other shots and caused the accident."

Before this dispatch great alarm had been occasioned by the receipt of the following from Philippi:

"Berryburg coal mines blown up; 32 killed and over 100 wounded.

"Greatest calamity ever occurred in this state.

"There is neither telegraphic nor telephonic communication with the mines."

The Berryburg mine is located about six miles south of Philippi and about 290 men are employed in its workings. A majority of these are negroes, who are married and live in a settlement near the mine.

T. W. Davis of this city, the Willis Creek company's inspector, says that it is one of the best equipped soft coal properties in West Virginia. He refused to make any estimate of the probable damage to the property resulting from the explosion, saying it was impossible until further information was at hand. He thought, however, that operations could probably be resumed in two or three days.