

POWDER EXPLODED

Big Muddy Coal Mine Wrecked at Herron, Ill.

SIX ARE DEAD, EIGHTY INJURED

Fifty Kegs of Explosive Set Afire by Electric Wire Created Death and Havoc Among Over Three Hundred Men Underground.

CARBONDALE, Ill., May 12.—A disastrous explosion occurred in the Big Muddy Coal and Iron company's coal mine at Herron shortly after the men went to work.

About 325 men were at work in the mine when a car containing fifty kegs of powder exploded. The cause of the explosion is not known. Eighty injured men and six dead have been removed from the mine.

The mine was badly wrecked, making the rescue work difficult. Thirty nine mules were killed.

Luckily a majority of the miners were working in other parts of the shaft when the explosion occurred and were uninjured. They were thus able to assist with the rescue work.

It is not known how many men were working in the vicinity of the explosion. It is believed that several are dead and covered with wreckage. It also is feared that some of the wounded may be shut off from the rescuers and may die before being reached.

Mangled and mutilated bodies of those instantly killed were piled upon those who were so badly injured that they were unable to move after the flames had swept over them. Scores of men were lying crushed and groaning in the narrow passages of the mine when the relief work began.

The powder that exploded is thought to have been ignited by the premature turning on of the electric current which operates the machinery of the mines. The bodies of the dead men were frightfully mangled.