

## 100 MINERS ENTOMBED; ALL PERHAPS KILLED

Explosion of Dust Causes Disaster in Alabama Pit.

### RESCUERS HAVE HARD TASK

Cannot Reach Interior of Slope Before  
10 o'Clock To-day—First Accident  
of Kind in That Mine.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 20.—By an explosion in the Virginia mines, eighteen miles southwest of Birmingham, at 4 o'clock this afternoon, more than a hundred miners were entombed, and it is believed that the entire number suffered death.

Scores of vigorous rescuers are at work digging into the mine to relieve their friends on the inside.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by an accumulation of dust, although the mine has heretofore been noted for being entirely free from gases.

The news spread like wildfire throughout the whole district. The camp is almost isolated from the rest of the world, as there is no telephone station at Virginia, and the only wire running to the place is a dispatcher's wire of the Birmingham Mineral Railroad, on which Virginia is located.

Details of the disaster were slow to come in.

The class of miners employed was the best in the district and all belonged to the United Mine Workers of America. Since the strike has been on in the Birmingham district many of the most industrious and thrifty miners of Pratt City and other important mining points have removed to the Virginia mines, so that the mines were being worked to their full capacity.

Relief trains with surgeons and workmen were dispatched from both Birmingham and Bessemer as soon as the news was learned. Then began the work of succor in earnest before 6 o'clock, but at midnight the rescuers had not gotten half way through the mass of débris. It is thought it will be 10 o'clock to-morrow before the interior of the slope is reached. The slopes are well arranged, and there has never been the least trouble in the mines before.

The mines are owned by the Alabama Steel and Iron Company, but are leased and operated by Reid & Co.

J. D. Hillhouse, Assistant State Mine Inspector for Alabama, will go to the mines early to-morrow morning to investigate the disaster officially.

President Edward Flinn of the Alabama United Mine Workers, and National Committeeman W. R. Fairley, together with Joe Hallier, District Organizer, have left for the scene.

President Flinn said before leaving that there were 135 men employed in the mine regularly, but as yesterday was pay day, he could not say whether the full quota was in the mine at the time of the disaster or not.

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