

NINETY BODIES TAKEN OUT OF VIRGINIA MINES

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Crawled After Explosion.

But few of the bodies of the men who have been brought out of the ill-fated mines so far escaped without bruises. One of the bodies recovered last afternoon had but few scratches on it. Members of the rescuing party say that in one of the lifts a number of the unfortunate men were found lying on their faces, their coats being drawn up around their eyes and mouths. In some instances the men had their faces buried in their coat sleeves. This would indicate that while the explosion extended through every chamber in the mines, into every room and into every corner, that many lost their lives by the after-damp, or foul air following the destruction of the fresh air current.

A number of bodies were found at least three hundred feet and even further than that from the places where the men worked, showing that after the explosion, realizing their awful predicament, the men had attempted to reach a place where they could get fresh air. In cases where they remained flat on the ground, their faces covered, seeking every possible inch of fresh air, death was most horrible. In these cases the unfortunate men knew that unless they could get to this fresh air death was absolutely certain, every miner being acquainted with the fact that black-damp is dangerous. The terrific smoke and the force of the explosion which was felt in all parts of the mines was evidence to the men who were not killed outright that they were doomed and while they made a desperate effort to get to the fresh air, they failed and were forced to yield up their lives.

Will Locate Origin.

Experienced miners believe that as soon as the bodies have all been brought out that the origin of the explosion can be located. The general opinion now appears to be that the trouble happened in the third entry, though in lower entries men were found who were terribly mangled and in one instance a man was found with his head practically blown off. He was some distance from the third entry. The idea that the greatest force of the explosion was at the starting point is good logic, say miners, but its severity can also be sustained some distance away, under certain conditions. However, there is a belief that the origin of the explosion will be established when the mine can be entered and thoroughly inspected.

A Record Broken.

Very few mining horrors in the world have happened where every soul in the mines at the time was lost. Even steamship horrors have had their survivors. Railroad accidents have happened in which numerous people were killed, but always there has been one or two who were left to tell the

tale. In the Virginia mine accident there is no one to give a description of the awful catastrophe.

The full list of the dead can be established only by those who gave their names to the check weighman and were sending out coal under their respective check numbers during the day of the accident or were on the pay roll of the company as a day laborer or in other words, on a salary basis. Last night a statement was made that some of the miners had laborers in names with them and their names were never given in to the office. This is positively denied, however, as the rules and regulations of the unions do not permit of laborers.

According to the checkweighman's sheet, names from which were furnished The Birmingham News by Thomas Tinney, the checkweighman, on Monday night after the accident, there were over 93 men sending out coal on Monday afternoon. This list was augmented by drivers, chainers, trappers, and other day laborers, the total number as agreed upon by officials being 116. Among those whose name was furnished was Jere Keel, a miner, but it was afterwards denied that he was in the mines. Yesterday his body was recovered and sent to Bessemer.

State Will Investigate.

State Mine Inspector J. M. Gray will make a full investigation into the matter. With his two assistants he has been on the scene almost constantly since the first news was given. Acting Governor Cunningham has instructed Mr. Gray to make a full investigation.

The Ownership.

It has developed that the state of Alabama has been discussing the ownership of the mines. As has been stated before the Virginia mines were operated by Amos Reed & Company, under lease from the Alabama Steel and Wire Company. There is a contention, it is learned, that coal land belonging to the University of Alabama has been encroached upon. Just a few days since, as late as Saturday, Captain McEachin, who is the agent of the University in land matters requested maps of the mines at Virginia to ascertain their situation. It has been but a few weeks since an assistant inspector secured a report on conditions at Virginia though no official inspection has been made during the last two or three months.

There is considerable doubt as to the existence of gas to any extent at the time of the explosion. The dust in these mines is said to have been quite extensive and charged with the proper qualifications exploded easily, it is believed.

Bodies in Bessemer.

The usual crowd was about the temporary morgue in Bessemer last night when the relief train brought in the twenty bodies to be prepared for burial. Police officers and others prevented curiosity seekers from entering the place and the men engaged to embalm the bodies and dress them for interment were undisturbed. Coffins from



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4.75 For Nettleton's Shoes, winter styles, worth \$6.00.
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2.45 Gets ladies' shoes, worth \$4 and \$3.50. Cuban and French heels.
1.98 For special lot ladies' kid, extension sole, \$3 shoes.
1.69 For elegant kid shoes; worth \$2.50.
1.39 For splendid kid shoes, only few pairs left; worth \$2.00.

You'll Be Amply Satisfied. COZ

Birmingham, Pratt City, Ensley and other places have been coming in for Kennedy Bros. and the required number will be on hand by tonight, it is expected.

The following is the list of bodies which were received by Kennedy Bros. and Vermilion & Adams last afternoon and evening, in addition to the list given in The Birmingham News yesterday:

Whites.—James Meachin, Charles Crowley, Steve Crowley, James M. Brown, Jere Keel, Walker Shumaker, Jesse Weaver, Robert Pierson, Luke Bailey, W. H. Donaldson, Tom Caldwell, E. H. Bryant, J. E. Jordan.

Colored.—Jim Huffman, Ellisha Hale, George Huffman, Henry Stevenson, Homes Dawson, Jim Burton, Oliver Houston, Amos Brown, A. J. Jackson, H. R. Johnson, Sam Simpson, Jim Simpson.

Funerals Today.

More than fifty funerals of victims of the mine catastrophe took place today. Eight bodies will be laid to rest today in Pratt City, including Pat and Steve Crowley, James Meachin and son, James Brown, Sandy Nelson, Ira and Kirby Powell, Luke Bailey, Walker Shumaker and Jesse Weaver will be buried at Valley Creek church, just three miles from the scene of the accident. The body of Tom Caldwell has been sent to Pratt City also for interment. The remains of Jim Burton have been forwarded to Vance, Ala. Just as rapidly as the undertakers in Bessemer are receiving instructions the bodies are being sent out.

Ed Bryant's Body.

J. D. Bryant, a member of the Birmingham police force, had a nephew who perished in the accident. Ed H. Bryant, a coal digger, Mr. Bryant received positive information through The Birmingham News office that his relative was in the mine and he went to Bessemer last night with the remains of his brother's son. The body will be shipped tomorrow morning to McDonough, Ga., his home, for interment. Ed Bryant leaves a wife and one child.

The Material Damage.

There is no reckoning as yet what the material damage to the mines will be. It is believed that not less than \$50,000 will be needed to put the mines in the shape they were before the explosion. While no announcement has been made as yet, it is thought that as soon as the bodies have been taken out that steps will be taken at once looking to the repair work.

The Telegraph Operators.

The regular railroad agent and telegraph operator at Virginia Mines is T. L. Crowe. Immediately after the explosion on Monday he began working and did not get a minute's rest until yesterday morning at 8:30 o'clock when he came to Birmingham, spending all the morning in the city. He handled hundreds of messages, women, men and children fling telegrams to relatives announcing the horrible accident and telling of the probable outcome. Not one time did Mr. Crowe lose his patience. With a surging crowd of men in his little office begging that their respective messages be given "right of way" over all other messages, he was patient to a wonderful degree and worked constantly, succeeding in the course of time in handling the business. He received instruc-

tions from the chief dispatcher in Birmingham on the Birmingham Mineral, J. W. Leach, to allow the wire to be used for commercial business, it being realized in Birmingham that the people frantic to get information to their relatives and others should be accommodated. Mr. Crowe was relieved yesterday by W. F. Frye, a young operator who has a sign station also on the Mineral. He is an excellent operator and he, too, was called upon to handle a large amount of business.

The Southern Bell Telephone company rushed a wire through the country from Bessemer and announced that the line was through to the commissary in Virginia. This places telephonic connection within two blocks of the mouth of the mines. Manager Woodruff stated this morning that the line was open for free use by the people and connection with Virginia mines could be secured through the long distance office.

CORRECTION!
The Cyclone Sale will take place at the Leader Saturday, Feb. 25th, and not at Burger Dry Goods Co. M. H. Burger, The Leader, 1911 2nd Ave. Currey's Flowers, 204 N. 19th Phones 761.

SAN DOMINGO TO ACCEPT WITH MODIFICATIONS

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—One of the leading members of the house of deputies is authority, according to a Herald dispatch from Puerto Plata, San Domingo, for the statement that the Dominican congress will accept the new arrangement with the American government with certain modifications. Congress will begin its session February 27th.

It is desired, the correspondent states, that article 2 of the treaty shall be amended so as to permit the Dominican government to name the officials who are to collect duties in the ports whose customs houses are in charge of the United States, these officials to be named with the approval of the American government and to be Americans, if desired.

Dominicans also desire such a change in article 7 as will provide against the landing of troops in the republic. Excitement in Monte Cristi is dying out and Lieutenant-Commander Leiper continues in full charge of the coast house. Six American war vessels are in the harbor.

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Leading Symptoms.—Bone pains, sciatica or shooting pains up and down the leg; aching back or shoulder blades, swollen joints or swollen muscles; difficulty in moving around so you have to use crutches; blood thin or skin pale; skin itches and burns; shifting pains; bad breath; sciatica, lamboag, gon, etc. **Botanic Blood Balm (B.B.B.)** will remove every symptom, giving quick relief from the first dose, and B. B. B. sends a rich, tingling flood of warm, rich, pure blood direct to the paralyzed nerves, bones and joints, giving warmth and strength just where it is needed, and in this way making a perfect, lasting cure of Rheumatism in all its forms.

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There is Hope.—The above pictures represent the before and after effect of Botanic Blood Balm (B.B.B.) on a most severe case of Rheumatism. It is no fancy picture—but a genuine case. It is simply wonderful the effect B. B. B. has on Rheumatism. It invigorates the blood, making it pure and rich, and destroying the active poisons in the blood, which causes the awful symptoms of Rheumatism.

B. B. B. limbers the joints, straightens out the bent back and makes a perfect, lasting cure after all other remedies fail.

Virginia Mines Disaster, 90 bodies found, James Brown

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