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NINETY BODIES TAKEN OUT OF VIRGINIA MINES; WATER NOW BREAKS TO RETARD RESCUE WORK

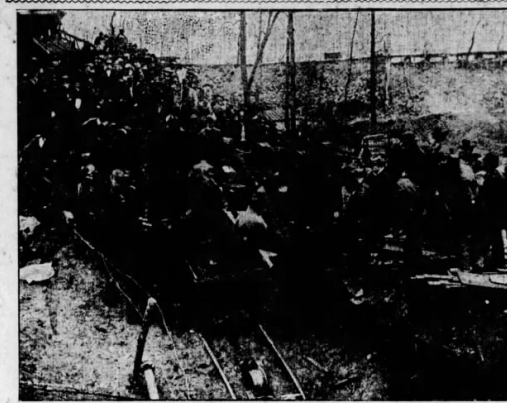
Odor From Decomposing Bodies Described as Almost Unbearable.

MANY RESCUERS OVERCOME

Because of Black Damp and Sleeplessness. Though All Are Quickly Reassuaged. The Few Bodies Left May Have to Remain in Mine Several Days.

FLYNN CALLS FOR MORE MEN

Special to The Birmingham News. VIRGINIA MINES, Ala., Feb. 23.—Ninety bodies have been taken from the mines here as a result of the "blast" explosion of last Monday afternoon. It now seems probable that after eight more bodies, now lying in entry three feet, have been recovered, there will be a temporary let up in the work of rescue, and the nine or ten bodies left may have to remain in the mine until the water has been partially pumped out. It is thought this will take five or six days, perhaps longer. The victims lying in entry three feet will not be taken out until late this afternoon, as a large amount of buttressing will be necessary. The total number of miners, there are some thirty men hurried to the scene from their homes in Bessemer. Realizing the thoroughly exhausted condition of the men, Ed Flynn and Inspector Gray, who are in charge of the work, wired this morning to Belle E. Elin, Calumet, Hargrove, Horton, Piper and Brookwood, asking for ten men from each place. The recruits arrived at the mine shortly after noon.



REMOVING THE BODIES FROM THE TRAM CARS AT THE MOUTH OF VIRGINIA MINES.

damp, though founded on fact, was so exaggerated that several workmen physicians hurried to the scene from their homes in Bessemer. Realizing the thoroughly exhausted condition of the men, Ed Flynn and Inspector Gray, who are in charge of the work, wired this morning to Belle E. Elin, Calumet, Hargrove, Horton, Piper and Brookwood, asking for ten men from each place. The recruits arrived at the mine shortly after noon.

Still in the Mine. A list of those known to be in the mine has been made out as follows: In No. 3 Entry—Jas. Wells, Joe Scott, Moll Brown, Lee Hardeeman, and J. Hardeeman, all white, and Jack Bannard, colored. The bodies of these men will probably be taken out late today. In the bottom of the slope, manway and air course—John McConnel, Andy Nicholson, Charlie Pickett and Dave Harris, all white. These victims may not be removed for several days.

Others may be added later. Mr. Flynn estimates the number remaining to be between twenty and forty, and says nothing definite can be known until the mine is pumped and thoroughly examined. Mr. Gray believes the victims left in the mine to be twenty-five, while Dr. M. W. Glasgow, the resident physician, says there are but twenty-seven.

Miners from almost every place in the coal district were present at strike in Virginia last night and this morning. Though many of them were on the verge of collapse, few left their posts until compelled by physicians to do so. Numbers one and two, on both sides, have long since been worked out, and therefore there were no miners in these places at the time of the accident. There are, however, remaining in the mine, the bodies of eight or nine men. These are located at the end of the slope, where the water is already awash with the top of the shaft, in the manway and air course. Time and hard work with pump and fan will be necessary to effect their recovery.

Horrible Odor. The stench arising from the bodies of the dead miners added to the horror of the recovery undertaking. A foul odor tainted the air for some distance around the mouth of the mine, while inside the entrances is almost unbearable.

The presence of the carcasses of thirty men in the mine is largely responsible for this terrible condition, though the bodies of all men taken out were badly decomposed. Formaldehyde was hastily carried from Bessemer to relieve the condition, but it was found impracticable to use it on the inside owing to its pungent odor. As each body reaches the surface, however, it is overspread with a cloth which has been soaked in disinfectant. Black damp, together with sleeplessness, caused by three days and nights of constant watching by many of the men had its effect on their condition, but not on their spirits.

Fresh Men Wanted. Frequently an upcoming chain of cars would bring a number of workers, almost overcome. Constant care of the physicians in attendance, together with extraordinary precautions on the part of the rescuers themselves, prevented serious results. A report early last night that eight rescuers had been overcome by black-

It is not believed that all the bodies will be gotten from the mine within a week, though there are hopes that by tonight the greater portion of those not last night will have been removed.

Twenty Corpses on Board. When the relief train of the Louisville and Nashville left here for Bessemer about 7:30 o'clock last night twenty bodies were taken over. Eighteen being turned over to Kennedy Bros., who have a general contract for the handling of the bodies of the victims. Two bodies went to Verrillion & Adams, undertakers. The twenty bodies made seventy-six in all, which had been numbered, while Mr. Kennedy stated that after arriving in Bessemer word had been received from Virginia announcing the recovery of five more bodies, making eighty-one in all, the number telegraphed to Birmingham yesterday.

Coroner Paris returned to Bessemer last night but will be back in Virginia today. He announces that his jury will not get down to actual work until after all bodies have been removed from the mine. Then the jury will make an effort to ascertain what caused the explosion and who was to blame therefor. The coroner states that many people have given expression as to the cause of the accident and have freely stated their opinions as to who is to be blamed and who he does not care to make a statement, he frankly asserts that it is very proper that this matter should be passed upon by the coroner's jury.

The volunteers are continuing their work today rescuing bodies. A number of men overcome by the black damp, have been brought to the surface and physicians had to be called to bring them around. Several men who have had this experience have returned to the work in the mines, showing grit and determination.

There are several bodies below the water in the lower portions of the mine and the indications are that these will be the last to be recovered.

Third Lift Entry. At a ten hour last night the statement was made that the rescuing party had not had a chance to get well into the third lift entry and the records show that something like twenty-five or thirty men were employed in that portion of the mine.

There are some men here who have been working hard since the awful catastrophe, tiring but a little time now and then to rest and recover from the effects of the bad air in the mines, but still there has been need for more volunteers and last night word was sent over to Bessemer for more help.

The desired help came back. Physicians and drug stores in Bessemer were called upon last evening to furnish disinfectants to ally as much as possible the awful odor which prevails in some parts of the mine to be pronounced disagreeable and which is met with almost throughout the entire mines. This disinfectant is being used now and its effect is perceptible.

MAY BE STRUGGLE OVER THE CONTROL

Old Directors of Tennessee Company Are Ready to Fight.

THERE ARE THREE CLASSES

Again Asserted that Hoadley, With Gates, Has Upper Hand But James T. Woodward Does Not Share in That View of the Situation.

BUSH EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE

Special to The Birmingham News. NEW YORK, N. Y., Feb. 23.—No one would officially answer yesterday the question: "Who has control of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, ownership of which is claimed by the present management on one side and the Hoadley-Gates-Steinbock faction on the other." Classification of the board of directors of the company as it exists indicates that a majority of the directors are opposed to losing control without a struggle. On May 24, next, a portion of the board of directors are to come up for election at the annual meeting of the stockholders to be held at Tracy City, Tenn. The board is divided into three classes so that in the event of a struggle between the present management and the new interests only a portion of the directors' places can be filled. The directors of the Alabama Consolidated Coal and Iron Company and the Sloss-Sheriff Steel and Iron Company, and the officials of these companies, reiterated yesterday that Hoadley with Gates had gained control, and that the present management would not be ousted. On the other hand a representative of the Birmingham News was informed last night that the present management of the company, including James T. Woodward, president of the Hanover National Bank, does not believe control has passed. T. G. Bush, president of the Alabama Consolidated Coal and Iron Company, said he was confident that consultation would be effected, notwithstanding the classification agreement clause of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company. "I am not a prophet," said Mr. Bush, "but I am confident that the matter will bridge successfully when obstacles are reached."

TENNESSEE AND SLOSS

BOTH SHOW BIG RISER NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Sloss-Sheriff held common stock rose 3 1/2 points on the stock exchange today and Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, was up 12,000, opened at 88 1/2. It closed at 86 3/4 on Tuesday.

THE MILK-MEN COMBINE TO CONTROL CHICAGO'S SUPPLY

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Milk consumers of Chicago are now confronted by a combination of all the large dairy firms in the city. The leading dealers have met and quickly effected an organization which it is said will be able to control nearly the whole supply of milk. Two explanations for the combination were offered. Labor men saw in the movement a plan to present united strength in resisting the demands for increased wages. Small milk dealers, predict next milk a fierce which the large firms are known to have defeated for the last two years. Thirty firms controlling over three hundred dollars and milk depots in Chicago compose the newly formed organization.

Alabama's River Items Will Go Through Congress

Special to The Birmingham News. WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 23.—Representative Rankin has certain that the new appropriations for the Warrior and Tombigbee rivers will pass Congress at this session. The items are in the river and harbor bill which has just passed the House and will go to the Senate at once. During the discussion of the bill on the floor of the House Representative Burton, chairman of the river and harbor committee, said he regarded the appropriations for the Warrior and Tombigbee as the most important in the bill. All other Alabama items in the bill went through to the Senate



THE DAMAGED FAN HOUSE ABOVE THE MOUTH OF THE MINES AT VIRGINIA AND PART OF THE WING CROWD.