

BRAVE RESCUERS KILLED BY GASES

TWO MINE INSPECTORS MEET
DEATH IN LEITER PIT
AT ZEIGLER, ILL.

NUMBER OF VICTIMS IS
EXPECTED TO REACH 35

Disaster Said to Be Result of Powder
Explosion—Hint at Plot of En-
emies—Union Official Says Acci-
dent Was Expected.

Benton, Ill., April 4.—The victims in the Zeigler mine horror have been increased by the death of the state mine inspector, William Atkinson, of Murphysboro, and the Zeigler mine inspector, John Graham. Both were overcome by the foul gases while directing the work of rescue Monday night.

The death list is expected to reach 35. The remains of 20 dead miners have been taken from the mine. Three men have been rescued alive, but with slight prospects for recovery.

Identified Dead.

As far as identified, the dead are: State Mine Inspector William Atkinson, of Murphysboro; Mine Inspector John Graham, of Zeigler; Joe Geisler, Everett Jones, Jerry Ward, John Linzey, Rolly Campbell.

The bodies of the dead have about all been located, but the work of rescue is very hazardous. Monday night State Mine Inspector Billy Atkinson and Zeigler Mine Inspector John Graham went down into the mine and were brought out dead, stifled by the foul air and smoke.

May Have Been Work of Enemies.

Ex-State Mine Inspector Evan Johns finally succeeded in making a tour of the mine, and was brought out almost dead. He has given out the statement that the explosion was not caused by gas, but was a powder explosion, and took place south of the main hoisting shaft. This has given rise to the rumor that the mine was intentionally destroyed by enemies of Mr. Leiter.

A Miraculous Escape.

A cage was resting at the mouth of the shaft to allow a force of mechanics to enter the mine. J. L. Wood, of Cleveland, O., was stepping on the cage when the explosion occurred. He was killed outright. The flames, leaping out of the shaft, burned several others, all of whom may recover. An overcoat worn by one of these workmen was torn from his back and carried to the top of the tippie, 100 feet away. A six ton cage was blown 500 feet from the bottom of the shaft to the tippie. A miraculous escape from death was experienced by a workman on the air shaft. The concussion hurled him 60 feet into the air, and he fell outside the stockade, 75 yards away. Besides a few slight bruises he was not injured.

Says Explosion Was Expected.

Springfield, Ill., April 4.—State Secretary-Treasurer W. D. Ryan, of the United Mine Workers of America, stated Monday night that the explosion of the Leiter mine at Zeigler was something which he had been looking for for the last six months. He said the mine was full of gases and that many of the new men whom Mr. Leiter had employed did not distinguish coal gas.