

SIXTEEN BODIES TAKEN OUT.

Death List in Zeigler Mine Horror May Reach Thirty-five.

Benton, Ill., April 4.—The death list at Zeigler now reaches sixteen, but is expected to run to thirty-five. Fourteen miners have already been taken from the mines. All were dead but two and these two have since died. The bodies of the dead have all been located, but the work of rescue is very hazardous.

Last night State Mine Inspector Atkinson and Zeigler Mine Inspector Graham went down into the mine and were brought out dead, stifled by the foul air and smoke. Former State Mine Inspector Evan Jones finally succeeded in making a tour of the mine, but 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 Joseph Leiter, the owner of the property.

A committee of union miners from Duquoin and other neighboring mining towns, headed by District-President Morris, hastened to Zeigler soon after the explosion occurred and offered their aid.

The bodies of the dead that have been recovered are so blackened they cannot at once be identified.

The force of the explosion was so great that one of the steel cages was blown to the surface from the bottom of the 500-foot shaft. The shock of the explosion was felt at Benton, twelve miles northeast of Zeigler. A teamster driving along a road half a mile from the mine was covered with falling cinders, and debris covered the floor of his wagon half an inch deep. One miner was killed and four were severely injured at the mouth of the shaft in which the explosion occurred.