

TWENTY ONE MINERS IN COALDALE MINE KILLED

By Associated Press.

Bluefield, Va., Jan. 4.—Twenty-one miners were killed in an explosion of mine gas in the shaft of the Cooper Mine company at Coaldale, W. Va., at noon today. Up to midnight only one body has been recovered. Immediately following the explosion, which was heard for several miles, rescue parties set to work to explore the wrecked shaft.

Coaldale is a mining town situated on the Norfolk and Western railway and is fifteen miles west of Bluefield. It is in Mercer county and wire facilities are inadequate.

Some idea can be formed as to the force of the explosion when several hours after the explosion one of the miners, who could not be identified, owing to being so badly mutilated, was found at a distance of several thousand feet from the mine mouth. He

had been blown there together with a mining car by the explosion.

News of the explosion soon spread through the coal fields and a great party of miners are gathering to assist in the rescue. Up to 7 o'clock tonight the rescuing party was unable to enter the mine on account of the great accumulation of gas which was pouring out at the mouth and would mean death to all who attempted to enter. It is hoped to have machinery in position by morning to force the gas through and enable the rescuing party to enter. If all the men in the mine at the time of the explosion were not killed instantly, it would be impossible for them to live in the mine for any length of time on account of the gas.

Mr. Cooper, the owner of the mine, is on the ground and is sparing nothing to relieve the situation.

1906 Coaldale Mine explosion NEWS1

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