

## GAVE LIVES TO SAVE OTHERS

Two Members of Rescue  
Party Were Overcome by  
Deadly Coal Gas.

Death List of Pocahontas  
Mine Explosion May  
Reach Fifty.

POCAHONTAS, Va., Oct. 4.—Nineteen known dead and from thirty to forty more men entombed and doubtless all dead, is the situation up to a late hour tonight at the West Fork mines of the Pocahontas Collieries Co., where the explosion occurred late yesterday afternoon.

The dead: B. Cook, Hall Richards, W. C. Kelley, Henry Green, John Adham, Ed Brown, George Radford, J. A. Dancey, John Davis, John Cumbee, Paul Valsko, Joe Elash, Bertie Estony.

Negroes: Henry Ward, Dick Moorman, Lightburn Woody, Ben Peery, John Green and Jay Palmer.

The bodies of these men were recovered from the mines as the result of the heroic work of a band of thirty-five men constituting a rescuing party that worked incessantly through the hours of the night and day. It was not until 7:30 o'clock this evening that the rescuers reached a point nearest Paul entry, where the explosion occurred. The work of rescue was very slow, as the conditions confronting the party were difficult to surmount. Toward the middle of the evening the hope was expressed that all the bodies would be recovered by midnight.

The authorities anticipated the fearful extent of the casualties today by ordering a car load of coffins and burial supplies, which are now on the way. The order is being rushed at Bluefield, and the burial supplies, which include sixty coffins, are expected to reach Pocahontas early tomorrow morning.

Supt. William Leckie of the mine who entered the mine as one of the rescuing party, had a narrow escape from death. He was overcome by the fumes and had to be carried out. Edward Jones, the inside mine foreman led the first rescue party, and when that party failed to return in a reasonable time a second rescue party under Supt. Leckie followed.

John Odam and Ed Brown were overcome by gas and died and Leckie barely escaped with his life. Then the third party was formed and continued the work.

Meantime the first party had reached another entrance to the mine in safety and sent word over the mountain announcing that fact. All this time the work of bratticing the mine, necessary for carrying on the work of rescue, was being effectively carried on. Some confusion was caused in the determination of the exact number of men entombed by the fact that when the explosion occurred the exchange of shifts was in progress, added to which was the fact that a number of the men escaped from the Tug Fork entrance.

The scenes around the mine were pitiful. Relatives and friends gathered in groups at the entrances and elsewhere awaiting tidings of the victims and gave vent to their grief as the bodies one by one were brought out. S. B. Cook, one of the victims whose body was found within 300 feet of the outside of the mine, was the only survivor of the big explosion on the Pocahontas mines in 1884.

Yesterday's explosion piled up timbers and dirt to the height of six feet. While the force of the explosion was terrific the foremen who were at the mine offices did not know there had been any trouble until the men and mules failed to come out at the time for quitting work. Report of the explosion was heard on the outside of the mines.

Up to midnight tonight the exact number of men who were in the mine was not known. About a score of mules were killed. There are no evidences of fire in the mine up to a late hour tonight.