

# FOURTEEN VICTIMS

OF AN EXPLOSION IN WITTEVILLE MINE NEAR POTEAU, INDIAN TERRITORY.

## WORK OF RESCUE DIFFICULT

Only Three Blackened Bodies Recovered After Working All Night—Two Men Escaped Through a Hole in the Door Leading to the Main Slope—Cause of Explosion Unknown.

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 25.—A special to the News from Poteau, I. T., says: There was an explosion in fourth south entry, slope 6, at the Witteville mine, three miles from Poteau, yesterday, at 1 o'clock. Rescuers worked all night, and at 4 a. m. three dead men, badly burned, were brought out. Eleven more are still in the mine. Black damp is so bad that the men are unable to get to the dead. They rush in, are overcome by gas and are pulled out senseless, and others take their place.

It is thought soon they will get sufficient air in the mine so that the dead bodies can be reached. A pusher and a driver escaped through a hole in the door leading to the main slope, but a mule was afterwards found dead. There was little damage done to the mine.

The dead are:

PETER VALSETTO.  
ANGELO BOCK.  
J. H. HARPE.  
TOM BOCK.  
JAMES DUFFEY.  
JOHN ALEXANDER.  
WILLIAM ALEXANDER.  
JOE BATLEY.  
ED FRANKMAN.  
JIM THOMAS.  
ANGELO SCARRIOT.  
FRANCISCO BOCK.  
JOSE TURK.  
J. H. DUNLAP.

The Witteville mines are operated by the Poteau Coal and Mercantile Company, and neither the company nor experienced miners can assign any reason for the explosion, as shots are fired in the mine at night by electricity.

At 7:30 p. m. all the bodies but two have been brought to the morgue. The consensus of opinion is that all the men were instantly killed.

1906 Poteau No 6 Mine explosion NEWS

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