

THE CARTHAGE MINE HORROR

Eight Miners Killed Instantly--Six Seriously Injured but Their Recovery Is Hoped for-- Bodies of Dead Were Terribly Mangled and Burned--Identification by Particles of Clothing.

COMBUSTIBLE DUST CAUSED EXPLOSION

Sound of Explosion Spread Terror-- Harrowing Scenes Followed Catastrophe. Mine Superintendent Led Rescue Party. Women Displayed Great Courage Caring for Wounded

Death in one of its most gruesome forms lurked in the Bernal mine of the Carthage Fuel company at Carthage during the closing hours of the old year.

It was during the noon hour Tuesday, when the mine was almost deserted of the forty men who were working there only a few minutes before, that a terrific explosion occurred which instantly killed eight of the fourteen men remaining in the mine, mangled their lifeless bodies almost beyond recognition, and seriously injured the other six.

The cause of the catastrophe is believed to have been what coal miners know as a "wind shot." This means that a shot, put in to break down a quantity of coal for removal later did not explode in the usual fashion but merely fizzled, raising a cloud of highly combustible coal dust. This dust was doubtless ignited by the explosion of another shot and instantly death had done its gruesome work.

On every hand were abundant evidences of the terrific force of the explosion. The bodies of some of the dead were blown against the walls of the mine with such force as to flatten them almost beyond recognition. In one instance, at least, a dead body was identified only by particles of clothing adhering to the mangled flesh. The body of one miner who was coming out of the mouth of the mine when the explosion occurred was shot a hundred yards into the air as from the mouth of a cannon and nearly all the bones in it were broken by the fall. In the case of some of the injured, small stones were driven into their flesh like bullets and had to be extracted with the surgeon's knife.

Even the sound of the explosion spread terror throughout the mining camp. It must be left to the imagination to picture the distressing scenes which follow-

ed. It was no time for the useless wringing of hands, however, for the living in the mine, if any, must be rescued from the jaws of death. Heroic rescue work was done by W. L. Weber, mine superintendent, and by many others. Doctor Bacon, company surgeon, worked like a Trojan to save and relieve the injured, and women were not lacking to aid him heroically at his task. Willing hands and sympathetic hearts were everywhere to care for the dead, and minister to the necessities of the living victims of the awful disaster.

The latest report from Carthage is to the effect that all the six injured miners will recover, except Villanua, whose chances are not considered good. The company officials are doing all they can in caring for him and the other injured, and are sparing no expense in providing for the future of the bereaved families. All the mines of the camp were shut down on New Year's day on account of the funerals, but have since resumed operations at the request of the miners themselves, who think work the best means of relieving the nervous strain under which they have been since the disaster. The mine was not injured by the explosion.

THE DEAD:

C. L. Wilcox.
C. T. Masterson.
Giovanni Andeole.
Angelo Cogorno.
Joseph Cana.
Lorenzo Rovetto.
Michael Lekio.
Juan Rentervilla.

DANGEROUSLY INJURED:

Mack Walker.
Matthew Brooks.
Grego Jackovitch.
Cornelio Nabaretta.
Vinito Archuletta.
Refegio Villanua.