

# DARR MINE EXPLOSION KILLS ONLY 200 MINERS

## Bad Enough But First Reports Were Incorrect; the Facts Coming Out Slowly.

Jacob Creek, Pa., Dec. 20.—The truth as to the nature and shocking result of the horror in the Darr mines Thursday morning are coming to light. It was not as great a horror as first reported, but still it is a great one.

Because of the dense clouds of dust and smoke it was at first believed that the mine was burning and from this supposition grew reports that were persistent until late in the day Thursday that the mine was on fire.

Ventilating fans were put in operation then, the power plant having withstood the force of the explosion, and the rescuers soon found no fire any place in the mine. Rescue work was thus made easier.

As far as known only one man who went to work escaped. He is Joseph Mapleton, a pumper, who emerged from one of the side entries shortly after the explosion. He had left the part of the mine where most of the men were working and was on the way to the engine room for oil. Mapleton was, however, somewhat cut and bruised, but after going home and having his injuries dressed he returned to the mine and joined the rescuing parties.

### Rescuers Enter Mine.

The rescuers were soon in the mine and had not entered to its depth before a number of bodies of victims were found. These, however, were mutilated and this fact led to the quick conclusion that others of the entombed had met a similar or worse fate. During the night 36 bodies were found and these placed in the main entrance. They were in a condition to shock and unnerve those permitted to look upon them.

Faint though it is, the hope cherished by rescuers, grieving friends and relatives, that some men survived the explosion and were awaiting release far back in the mine, caused the rescuers to take no time to bring out bodies found, but they continually press forward, the only aim being to quickly as possible open a passage to and explore every section of the mine. But beginning

this morning the bodies located during the night were brought out rapidly as possible while the search continued.

The foreign miners who escaped the disaster made last night hideous in the little village. Many were intoxicated before the catastrophe and after put themselves in a worse condition, some drinking in celebration of their escape and others drinking to drown their grief over the death of relatives or friends. All night there was carousing, the disorder at times bordering closely upon rioting.

### The Third Disaster of Month.

This is the third mine disaster since the first of the month in veins of bituminous coal underlying Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia for the Naomi mine near Fayette City and the two mines at Monongah, West Virginia in which an earlier explosion happened are in the same belt as the local workings. Today's catastrophe swells the number of victims of deadly mine gas for nineteen days to between 550 and 600.

The disaster does not equal or even surpass in loss of life and attendant horrors that in West Virginia is due to the devotion to church duties of considerable numbers of the miners. In observance of a church festival many of the four hundred or more men regularly employed at the mine did not go to work this morning. Those who escaped through this reason are members of the Greek Catholic church and they suspended work to celebrate St. Nicholas Day.

As was the case at Monongah, the explosion followed a brief shut down, Darr mine having been closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

### Only Six Bodies Out.

Jacob Creek, Pa., Dec. 20.—Up to noon today but six bodies had been removed from Darr mine. The exact number of men entombed when that explosion occurred is still uncertain, but there is no reason to change the earlier estimates of at least 200. The cause of the explosion is still unknown.