

## MANY BURIED IN DARR MINE

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Fallen Roof Delays Rescue Work—All  
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Jacobs Creek, Pa., Dec. 20.—An explosion of gas in the Darr mine of the Pittsburg Coal Co., located here, Thursday entombed between 200 and 250 miners and there is scarcely a ray of hope that a single one of them will be taken alive from the mine. Partly wrecked buildings in the vicinity of the mine and the condition of the few bodies found early in the rescue work indicate an explosion of such terrific force that it seems impossible that anyone could have survived it. All of the thirteen bodies taken out up to this time are terribly mutilated and three of them are headless.

This is the third mine disaster since the first of the month in the veins of bituminous coal underlying Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, for the Naomi mine near Fayette and the two mines at Monongah are in the same belt as the local workings. Thursday's catastrophe swells the number of victims of deadly mine gas for the 19 days to between 650 and 600.

#### Many Were at Church.

That Thursday's disaster does not equal or even surpass in loss of life and attendant horrors the one in West Virginia is due to the devotion to church duties of a considerable number of the miners. In observance of the church festival, many of the 400 or more men regularly employed at the mine did not go to work Thursday 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 shutdown, the Darr mine having been closed Tuesday and Wednesday. It was just 11:30 o'clock when the tenth trip of loaded cars had been brought out to the tipple and there came an awful rumbling sound followed immediately by a loud report and a concussion that shook nearby buildings and was felt within a radius of several miles. At the same time there came out of the mouth of the mine an immense cloud of dense smoke and dust that floated across the Youngbushen river.

#### Rumor of Fire Was Started.

Intuitively every one in the vicinity knew what had happened and all started for the one place, the mouth of the mine. The river separates the mine and the homes of many of the miners, so that only a portion of those who started for the scene were able to reach it, there being scant facilities for crossing the stream. To those who could not cross the water, the smoke and dust pouring from the mine's mouth told a story of seething flames back in the workings and from this source came reports that were persistent until late in the day that the mine was burning.

#### One Man Escaped.

Joseph Mapleton, a pumper, emerged from one of the side entries shortly after the explosion. He had left the part of the mine where most of them were working and was on the way to the engine room for oil.

"I was in entry No. 21," said he, "when I heard an awful rumbling. I started towards the entry, but the next instant I was blinded and for a little time I did not know anything. Then I got up and worked my way out."

About 1,500 feet from the mouth of the mine a heavy fall of roof was encountered by the rescuers. It is believed that most of the men will be found nearly a mile and a half beyond this point. How long it will require to remove enough of the fallen roof to open a passage to these remote workings can only be conjectured, as it depends upon how frequent these falls are met with. It is hoped from the progress made up to this time, however, that the farther section will be reached early today.