

RESCUERS AT WORK

BODIES ARE RECOVERED FROM
DARR MINE.

EXPLOSION IS MYSTERY

Foreigners Who Escaped Disaster by
Celebrating Holiday Drink to Ex-
cess and Make Night Hideous
at Jacobs Creek, Pa.

Jacobs Creek, Pa., Dec. 20.—Of the 200 or more miners who were made prisoners in the Darr mine of the Pittsburg Coal company by a terrific explosion at noon yesterday, the bodies of 30 this morning lie in the main entry where they were tenderly laid during the night by the brave rescuers, until they can be brought to the surface. Some of the bodies are dismembered and mangled and all are distorted by the agonies of violent death and disfigured and begrimed by the concussion and the smoke and dust of the explosion.

Faint though it is, hope is cherished by rescuers and grieving friends and relatives that some of the men may have survived the explosion and are awaiting release far back in the mine. For this reason the rescuers did not take time to bring out the bodies as they were found, but continually pressed forward, their only aim being to as quickly as possible open a passage to and explore every section of the mine.

To-day the bodies located during the night were brought out as rapidly as possible, while the search continues.

The foreign miners who escaped the disaster made the night hideous in the little village. They had suspended work because of the holiday and most of them followed their usual holiday custom of drinking to excess. Many were intoxicated before the catastrophe and afterwards they put themselves in worse condition, some drinking in celebration of their escape and others drinking to drown their grief over the death of relative or friend. All night long there was carousing and disorder, at times bordering closely upon rioting, and by many conditions this morning are regarded as ominous. The calling to the mine of a troop of the state constabulary as well as steps to stop the further sale of intoxicants are being seriously considered.

Christian Burial For All.

The Pittsburg Coal company has arranged to provide a christian burial for all of the victims and will bear all expenses connected with the funerals. A large number of coffins were ordered from Pittsburg last night and will arrive early to-day. The blacksmith shop of the mine has been converted into a temporary morgue and undertakers are being brought here from surrounding towns to promptly care for the bodies as they are brought out.

There were not many people around the entrance to the mine last night, the efforts of company officials to keep women and children in their homes, the foreigners behaving more like a jollification crowd than grieving, distressed relatives of the victims of an awful calamity, the difficulty in reaching the place and the bitter cold, all combining to keep the people away and robbing this disaster of the usual scenes of anguish and suffering.

Greek Catholics Not Working.

It is believed that a majority of the victims are Americans. Such of the foreigners as belong to the Greek Catholic church did not go to work yesterday morning, that they might celebrate St. Nicholas Day, an important holiday in their church calendar.

This and other little towns of the region have been overwhelmed by the crowds attracted by the disaster. Immediately upon hearing of the explosion the men in all the mines hereabouts suspended work and many of them hurried here, many offering their services as rescuers. Many more are coming in this morning, for, as is usual following disasters, the miners within a wide radius will not resume work for several days. Hotel accommodations in every town near the mine were quickly reserved by company officials and others having duties here and private homes are being besieged with requests for meals and other accommodations.

Rescue Work Slow.

The rescuers report the interior of the mine badly damaged. As they advance they are compelled to rebuild much of the bracing that was blown out and a great deal of bratticing is necessary to make possible the ventilation of the remote sections. There is a shortage of many of the supplies needed for such conditions and the work of rescue will of necessity progress slowly. The distance from the mouth of the mine to the most remote sections is said to be about three miles, and it is thought many of the bodies will be found near the end of the workings.

Record is Incomplete.

Nothing definite as to the number of men in the mine has yet been learned. Under the system of the company there seems to be no complete record of all entering the mine to work. A miner is assigned a room and given a check, but he may take in one or more assistants of whom no record is made. W. R. Woodford, vice-president of the company, said early to-day that he did not believe there were over 175 men entombed. He said he and his fellow officers felt that there was scarcely a possibility of any of the men still being alive but on the remote chance that some may have survived the greatest possible volume of air is being forced into the mine and the openings made as fast as possible. Mr. Woodford believes the explosion was due to gas.