

MINERS CAUGHT  
IN DEATH TRAP

Fifty Thought To Be Dead in  
West Virginia.

MANY OTHERS ARE  
ENTOMBED IN MINE

Of the Lick Branch Colliery  
Company Tuesday.

Eighteen Are Taken Out, by Early  
Reports, in a Half Suffocated Con-  
dition and Are Soon Revived.

Mine Is Supplied with the Latest  
Scientific Safety Devices and  
Cause of Explosion Is a Mystery.

Maybury, W. Va., Dec. 30.—The  
fatalities in the Lick Branch mine, as  
a result of yesterday's explosion, will  
probably reach fifty. At 10 o'clock  
this morning mine officials admitted  
that there are thirty men now buried  
under the debris, all of whom it is  
thought are dead.

The mine foreman, however, in-  
sists that forty-one men are still en-  
tombbed in an old working near the  
Tug river side of the mine where the  
explosion occurred.

The early morning hours were  
spent by the rescuers in bratticing  
so as to get to the scene of the ac-  
cident.

The Known Dead.

Jim Smith, colored.

One unknown Russian.

Cleve Alexander.

Pete Kennedy.

John Miller, colored.

Kemp Sanders, colored.

John Brown, Greek.

Three brothers, James, Richard  
and Henry Lockhart.

Two brothers, Charles and Wil-  
liam Little.

Cause Not Known.

The cause of the explosion is un-  
known, but it was of such a terrific  
force that it was felt and heard for a  
great distance around and at once  
sent hundreds hurrying to the shafts  
to aid in the rescue work.

Mine inspectors Phillips, Henry,  
Werner and Grady were also hurried  
to the scene and assumed charge of  
the rescue work, which was kept up  
all night and is still in progress.

So far, only the main part of the  
mine has been explored and besides  
the forty-two who have been taken  
from the mine, either dead or alive,  
from sixty to 100 are still thought to  
be imprisoned and for whom all hope  
has been abandoned.

The mine was considered one of the  
best in this section, and as a result,  
in spite of the explosion, air is being  
forced in by the fans, making the  
work of rescue comparatively safe.  
Ordinarily, 400 men are employed,  
but a large number of these had gone  
off work just before the explosion  
occurred.

Other Bodies Recovered.

Up to 11 o'clock seventeen bodies  
have been removed from the mine,  
two brothers, Webber by name, be-  
ing the last removed. Fifteen es-  
caped by crawling out, two of whom  
may die.

Five more bodies were taken from  
the Lick Branch mine, this after-  
noon, making a total of twenty-three  
dead that have been removed.

Two men who were taken out  
alive will also die of their injuries.

All of the pitiful scenes that ac-  
company mine disasters are being  
reenacted here, and the air has been

1908 Lick Branch Mine explosion dec  
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filled with the wails of widows and orphans for hours.

Fresh relays of men are being sent into the mine and the coal company is serving hot coffee and sandwiches to all workers at the mouth of the mine.

#### Twelve Known Dead.

Bluefield, W. Va., Dec. 30. — It is known that twelve men are dead and probably twenty-five more are entombed in the Lick Branch colliery, owned by the Pocahontas Consolidated Coal company, the largest mining concern in southwestern West Virginia, as the result of an explosion. The men leave the mine after what is known as the "run," and it is not known exactly how many were in the mine at the time the explosion occurred.

Eighteen of the entombed men have been taken from the colliery alive. They had been stifled by the smoke and were not injured seriously enough to make their removal to a hospital necessary.

The management of the property, it is claimed, had provided every device known to mining experience and science to insure safety, and it is thought that the trouble originated in an abandoned but connected working in the western division of the mine.

The little town of Switchback, in which all of the miners who work in the colliery live, was wild with excitement when the news spread that an explosion had taken place, and from all of the neighboring collieries men hurried to the scene to aid in the work of rescue.