

## FIFTY REPORTED DEAD IN MINE DISASTER

EXPLOSION WRECKS LICK BRANCH MINE  
NEAR ENNIS, W. VA.

Twelve Bodies Already Recovered  
and But Little Chance for Those  
Still in Shaft—Cause of Ex-  
plosion Unknown.

Ennis, W. Va., Dec. 30.—The fatalities in the Lick Branch mine as the result of the explosion yesterday afternoon will probably reach fifty. Up to nine o'clock to-day twelve bodies had been taken out.

According to a mine foreman, there are thirty-eight men in the mine, with little chance of their recovery alive.

The cause of the explosion is unknown. State Mine Inspectors Phillips, Warner, Henry and Grady immediately came here and all night directed the work of rescue.

There is no excitement at the mine. Practically all the women and children of the victims are bearing their grief in silence at their homes on the mountainside.

All the bodies are expected to be recovered to-day.

The management of this 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.