

RESCUING PARTY FINDS SEVEN MINERS DEAD IN ILL-FATED BAKER MINE

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SHORT TIME AFTER
EXPLOSION.

TO HOLD AN INQUEST TODAY

Rescuers Labored Unceasingly From
Saturday Afternoon Until Late
Monday Night.

THEORY OF HOW DISASTER OCCURRED

A rescuing party, headed by State Mine Inspector C. J. Norwood, of Lexington, and Assistant Mine Inspector Thos. O. Long, of Earlinton, found the bodies of the seven miners entombed in the ill-fated Baker mine of the West Kentucky Coal Company, near Wheatcroft, last night, and all of them were removed from the mine shortly after midnight. The first body was found about 7 o'clock.

All of the miners had evidently died from black damp and had been killed a few hours after the explosion.

An inquest will be held by the coroner this morning in an effort to fix the blame for the mine horror.

Rescue parties had worked unceasingly from Saturday afternoon until last night removing debris in an effort to save the lives of any that might be alive or recover their bodies.

Seven caskets were taken to the mine early Monday morning, all hope having been abandoned of finding any alive. The bodies are now in a improvised morgue awaiting the inquest before being interred.

A large crowd of people were at the mine when the bodies were brought to the surface.

All Hope Abandoned.

Henderson, Ky., Dec. 13.—Hope was abandoned for the seven negro miners entombed by an explosion Saturday afternoon in the Baker mine of the West Kentucky Coal Company. The fire has been extinguished, but the water necessary to put out the flames has flooded the mine and it will be some time before the bodies can be removed.

Norwood on Scene.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 13.—Prof. C. J. Norwood, of this city, state mine inspector, has gone to Clay, Webster county, to take charge of the rescue work at the Baker mine, where seven negro miners are entombed.

FIRE EXTINGUISHED SUNDAY.

Clay, Dec. 12.—The fire in the Baker mine was extinguished at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon and a rescue party, headed by Thomas Long, state mine inspector, entered the shaft at 3:30 o'clock. Up to 11 o'clock tonight no word had been received from them and nothing is known of fate of the seven colored miners who were at work on the second level when the explosion occurred. The fan is going and the air shaft in the mine is declared to be free from gas.

The disaster is attributed to a peculiar set of circumstances. The abandoned lower level, which was worked at a depth of 233 feet, and filled with water. Coal was being taken from an upper vein, 113 feet above the flooded level. An eyewitness today said:

"There was a rush of water from the bottom level and a roar of gas at high pressure. I can account for this only on the theory that an

earthquake had cracked the lower level and in settling had opened a pocket of natural gas. Then this escaped up the shaft and exploded when it met the torches on the miners' caps, it caused the explosion we heard. The gas set fire to the timbers of the shaft and burned the tippie. The six miners were working almost half a mile from the shaft but I believe they are dead. The gas would have gotten to them in a minute after it rushed out of the abandoned level."

As soon as the fire in the shaft was put out, a temporary derrick was rigged out. A party headed by the state inspector went down as the fans started. The air was tested and found good. After the men were let down a lot of cloth and lumber was sent down so they could build temporary brattices and control the air currents. The rescuers were not equipped with oxygen helmets and said they did not need them.

While the derrick was being erected at the mouth of the pit a timber fell across the leg of Elbert Powers, a miner. The bone was broken, but he refused to leave the shaft until he saw the rescue party start down at 3:40 o'clock. The state inspector said he intended to stay in the mine as long as was necessary to get to the men and learn their fate.

Of the six entombed miners, five are single. The other's family is not here. The mine manager stated tonight that no trouble was encountered in starting a good air current and that the rescue problem would be simple were it not for the fact that many brattices were blown down by the explosion. He is said that the explosion was light in the second level.

WILEY-CRABTREE.

The marriage of Mr. C. M. Wiley and Miss Sophia Crabtree, both of the Slaughterville country, occurred there Monday. The bride is a popular woman who has a host of friends. The groom is one of the most prominent farmers of that section of the county and is a leading member of the Stemming District Association, being magisterial committeeman.

Itching, torturing skin eruptions, disfigure, annoy, drive one wild. Doan's Ointment brings quick relief and lasting cure. Fifty cents at any drug store.

JAMES FRANCEWAY TO MANAGE HOTEL MARY

Popular Man Connected With Antler to Close Place — Assumes Charge Soon.

James Franceway, manager of the Antler Hotel, has signed a contract to manage the Hotel Mary, and will enter upon his new duties soon, possibly today or Wednesday. After much effort the Central Hotel Company has been able to secure the service of Mr. Franceway and their action places one of the most popular hotel men in this section of the state in charge.

The Antler Hotel will be closed when Mr. Franceway assumes charge of the Mary, but it is reported that another well-known Madisonville man will open this hostelry in the near future.

Mr. Franceway desires to thank the residents of Madisonville and the travelling public for their patronage and solicits a continuance of it in the future.