

# DEAD MAY REACH 100

## 26 Corpses Already Removed From Fated Lick Branch Mine.

BLUEFIELD, W. Va., Jan. 13.—Rescue crews worked incessantly all night at the Lick Branch coal mine, the scene of yesterday's explosion, and at 9 o'clock today 26 bodies had been recovered. There is no change in the estimate of dead, the number ranging from 85 to 100. It is not likely that any more bodies will be brought to the surface until late this afternoon, although rescue crews will work all day and into the night, relaying every few hours with fresh forces of men who have volunteered from all over the coal fields. It was learned early today that the company had ordered 80 caskets and robes.

A carload of necessities was shipped to the scene of the disaster today. James W. Paul of Pittsburg, representing the United States geological survey, is expected here today with a number of assistants. West Virginia mine inspectors are arriving at the mine with every train, but they are almost continually in the mine and all efforts to talk with them concerning the cause of the catastrophe are futile.

One of the most remarkable features of the accident is the escape of Cleave Bowers, a mine foreman, who crawled on his hands and knees from the mine while fire, smoke and deadly gases were about him. He is the only man who reached the surface alive, and although he lies in a hospital with two broken ribs and other injuries, he will probably recover.