

## TWENTY-SIX DEAD TAKEN FROM MINE

Second Disaster Within Two Weeks  
at Lick Branch Killed From  
85 to 100 Miners

### 300 MEN WENT INTO THE MINE

Bluefield, W. Va., Jan. 13.—There is no change up to the present in the estimate number of dead in the Lick Branch mine, the number ranging from 85 to 100. Twenty-six bodies have been recovered from the workings.

Huntington, W. Va., Jan. 13.—Out of 300 miners who were at work in the Lick Branch coal mine none may have survived in the second explosion that has occurred in those collieries within the past two weeks. Conservative death lists place the number of victims at between 60 and 80, while the fact is known that between 280 and 300 men were in the mine at the time of the disaster and to all knowledge this far all may be dead.

Fire believed to be raging in the mine adds to the horror.

Those who place the list of dead at 80 appended a statement to the effect that owing to the number employed the list may be largely increased when the exact figures are known.

The Lick Branch coal mines are owned by the Pocahontas Consolidated Collieries company, at Switchback, on the Norfolk and Western railroad. Less than two weeks ago an explosion in these mines wiped out the lives of 50 miners.

The Lick Branch was considered a model mine and the cause of the explosion December 28 had not been fully ascertained before a more horrible disaster occurred. Crepes had scarcely been taken from many homes of the mining hamlet before others in token of grief over the death of another brother or perhaps the father or husband must be hung by families twice tragically bereft. The second calamity following so closely upon the first has filled the town with consternation and scenes about the mine and its surroundings are appalling.

The explosion occurred at 8:30 o'clock Tuesday morning.

The last body, in connection with the first explosion, was brought to the surface only last Friday, after which the state mine inspectors declared that the mine was again safe and that work could be resumed.

The majority of the men who were engaged to resume work in the mine were Americans, with a few foreigners, and some colored men as laborers. It was stated that the mine was examined on Monday morning, before the new explosion occurred, and that it was reported perfectly safe.

In spite of this, however, soon after work was begun, the explosion occurred.