

DISASTER OCCURS IN ZEIGLER MINE

Roll of Dead Will be
Heavy

EXPLOSION OF GAS WAS CAUSE

Mine had Been on Fire for Weeks—
Work had Just Been
Resumed

Benton, Ill., Jan. 11.—Nineteen men are known to have lost their lives in the famous mine of the Zeigler Coal company at Zeigler, in this county shortly after midnight yesterday morning as the result of a mysterious explosion.

To Fight Fire

The Zeigler mine has been closed down for several weeks, on account of a serious fire which was raging in the workings. Early in the month Jos. P. Leiter, president of the Zeigler coal company came down from Chicago with his bride and took charge of the work of extinguishing the flames which threatened the destruction of the valuable property. So effective was the work of Leiter and his expert fire fighters that the fire was confined to a small portion of the workings and the debris was cleared away and everything put in condition to resume operations.

Ready for Start

A small quantity of coal was hoisted yesterday and it was the intention of the management to put on the usual force of miners during the coming week. The night shift of men 26 in number went into the mine at midnight and had been down but a short time when an explosion occurred.

Of this number rescued 19 of this number being dead. The other two are alive, one being but slightly injured while the second is in a serious condition.

Buried Deep

The remaining men have not yet been found and it is not known whether they are dead or alive. Of these only two are natives of Franklin county. Four of the others are negroes, while the remainder are foreigners. Their bodies are badly burned, making recognition almost impossible. Coroner Dyer of Christopher was commissioned and held an inquest. After hearing the evidence an adjournment was taken until nine o'clock tomorrow when the coroner's jury is expected to return a verdict.

Caused Explosion

Quesne, Ill., Jan. 11.—An explosion of gas in the Zeigler mine yesterday killed twenty four and injured four.