

FIFTEEN MEN WERE KILLED

**Explosion in Cokedale Mine
Near Trinidad, Colo., was
Disastrous.**

Trinidad, Colo., Feb. 10.—Fifteen miners are still entombed and may be dead as the result of the explosion in the Cokedale mine of the Carbon Coal and Coke company, eight miles west of Trinidad, last night. Seventeen men were in the mine, but two shot firers were rescued two hours after the explosion.

The force of the explosion, which was distinctly felt at Trinidad, seems to have been greatest in the main stope. Timbers were blown 200 feet from the mouth of the stope, but the explosion seems to have been attended by no serious falls of rock.

The explosion wrecked the fan house, but the fan was uninjured and is still working, although the air has been "short-circuited" by the blowing out of brattices and doors.

Twenty rescuers are working desperately to reach the more remote parts of the mine, where the fifteen men are supposed to have been working. The rescue party has penetrated 2,000 feet. At that distance black damp was encountered and helmet men are now making their way through the poisonous gas, bratticing the entries as they advance.

The government mine rescue car, in charge of G. C. Roberts, has been summoned and the rescue car of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company is on the way to the wrecked mine.

There are five exits from the Cokedale mine and none but the main stope was injured. It is hoped that some of the men in the mine may make their way to one of these exits. The two shot firers who were rescued were working near the surface in No. 5 entry and while both were overcome with gas, they were able to go to their homes without assistance.

The cause of the explosion is unknown, but it seems most improbable that it could have been an explosion of dust.

The Cokedale mine has been operated for four years and the camp was known as the model coal camp of America. The property is owned by the American Smelting and Refining company and supplies the Guggenheim smelters.