

BRICEVILLE FACES SERIOUS QUESTION

Fire Continues to Impede Rescue Work in the Cross Mountain Mine.

Briceville, Tenn., Dec. 16.—Rescue work in the Cross Mountain mine has been retarded today on account of fire in cross entry No. 17, right, and also cross entry No. 18, left. It is thought no more bodies will be removed until late this afternoon or perhaps Sunday.

(By Staff Correspondent.)

Briceville, Dec. 16.—What of the future of the widows and orphans and dependents?

This is a serious question and a problem that confronts every one here. In a few days they must plan some way to live in the future.

Most of the miners killed lived in houses owned by the Knoxville Iron company. Ultimately the families may have to move and live in another place, if they are no longer employees of the company. Where will they go? Some will go to live with relatives; some have lost their relatives by the explosion, and others have none to whom to go for assistance.

Even \$20,000 or \$30,000 will not go far in the relief work. Some of the dead left only one dependant, and others as high as eight. The Cherry, Ill., mine disaster relief fund amounted to \$300,000. That of the Briceville horror may fall far short of that amount.

Some of the women of mature years are good seamstresses, but at Briceville there is little such work for them to do, and many of the men who had furnished the work are now dead. It may be said that the women are of the best class of wives and daughters of miners. They are generally intelligent and of fine character. Their moral ideals are high.

It may be said of the miners who have been killed that most of them had been with the Knoxville Iron company for years. It is asserted that the best miners in the Tennessee coal district are to be found at the Wooldridge mine and the Cross Mountain mine. Most of the deceased miners were religious and always attended church services. They lead moral lives.