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Chattanooga Daily Times (Chattanooga, Tennessee) · Tue, Dec 12, 1911 · Page 1
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FIVE MINERS ARE FOUND ALIVE IN THE CROSS MOUNTAIN MINE

Rescuers Rewarded for Their Desperate Efforts.

HOPE IS INSPIRED THAT OTHERS ARE LIVING

Effort to Penetrate to Innermost Recesses of Mine Are Renewed.

ALL RESCUED MEN HAVE GOOD CHANCE OF RECOVERY

Report That Rescue Party, Including Dr. Holmes, Had Been Killed by Cave-In, Happily Proves Untrue —Twenty-Eight Dead Bodies Are Brought to Surface.

BRICEVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 11.—Five men were taken out alive at the Cross Mountain mine tonight, after all hope of saving any of the 100 or more men entombed by the explosion last Saturday morning had been abandoned.

All except one man were in good condition after sixty hours below the earth, and the rescuers were so encouraged that they bent their energies anew and late tonight there were excellent prospects that more survivors would be reached before morning.

The men rescued were:

William Henderson, aged 55, married.

Milton Henderson, aged 22, his son; married.

Irwin Smith, aged 35, married.

Arthur Scott, aged 20, married; two children.

Dore Irish, aged 30, married.

Irish is badly burned about the face and hands, but probably will recover. Scott is practically unhurt.

All the men rescued were working in the second room on the left-hand side of entry 19.

H. A. Irish, aged 60, who was bossing the gang, was killed instantly by the explosion, and his body was found tonight badly burned. His son, Theodore, was the only other one of the gang's members accounted for, who was injured.

Two other members strayed away and have not been located.

"Bill" Henderson, the oldest of the rescued men, came out of the mine smoking his pipe, and resisted when efforts were made to carry him home on a stretcher.

"Oh, let me walk," he protested, but without avail.

Henderson Tells Story Of Fearful Experience.

Mr. Henderson made the following statement of his experience in the mine:

"Under my direction, we bratticed up the entrance to the mine room. With our coats we fought back the after-damp that came through the cracks in the brattice, and then stuck our coats and other articles of wearing apparel in the hole of the brattice. We had lights, our dinner, and each of us had from a half to three-quarters of a gallon of coffee and water in our dinner pails. We remained in this room quietly for several hours, burning one light and taking turns at eating. Late Saturday evening Arthur Scott and Dore Irish left the room and attempted to make their way back and reach the entrance of the mine through the overpass. That was the last we saw of them. The next morning we made our way, the air having been purified by the fan, into the entry, and passed over into No. 18, endeavoring to find the way out. We ran into gas and were forced to go back to room 2 in No. 19, where the air was pure. We remained there until discovered tonight. We ate the last of our food about midnight of Sunday, but still had some water left and plenty of light. We were endeavoring to reach the main entrance again when we were discovered by the mine rescue men about 8:15 tonight."

Briceville became excited when the news spread over the village that five men had been found alive. Almost every woman in town, it seems, who was not grieving for her certain dead, rushed to the mine in the hope that their loved ones might be among them. Strangely, the wives of none of the rescued men were there, several of them being ill and hysterical. The scenes at the homes when the men arrived were affecting.

The death list was increased to twenty-eight, five bodies were found in entry No. 27, the rescuers being now at work with all their might exploring the entries on the left side, no one having been found alive in the right entries examined.

One of "Bill" Henderson's friends telephoned this afternoon to Clinton, Tenn., directing that a grave be dug for him in the old Henderson burying ground there. He hastily countermanded the order tonight, admitting that he had given it against the wishes of Mrs. Henderson, who had never despaired of seeing her husband and son alive. Two squads of mine rescue men are now at work, another car having arrived tonight from the Pittsburgh district in charge of J. W. Paul. Dr. J. A. Holmes, director of the bureau, and Dr. J. J. Rutledge, of the Pittsburgh station, have been in the mine for more than thirteen hours directing the work.

Twenty Dead Bodies Are Brought to Surface.

At nightfall twenty-two bodies had been recovered and more than twenty cross-entries to the mine remain to be explored. It will be days before all of the entries are penetrated.

A day more gloomy or more in keeping with the feelings of the surviving inhabitants of this stricken village would be difficult to imagine. A cold rain began falling just before daybreak, and continued until late in the afternoon, converting the roads which comprise the streets of Briceville into mudpuddles. From the little shacks in which the miners live came wailing sounds from women and children, thereby adding to the general gloom. For the most part the women remained in their homes, but a few of them paraded their grief through the village and stood in the rain outside the mine entrance waiting for their dead to be brought forth.

The rescue work has gone relentlessly on since the explosion occurred early on Saturday morning. Dr. J. A. Holmes, head of the United States bureau of mines, took personal charge for the government today, and directed his men into the unexplored recesses. Wearing oxygen helmets, they were able to penetrate to corners in which the miners themselves dared not venture for fear of the dread after-damp. They worked as rapidly as possible, leaving the miners to take out their dead while they searched for any who might be living. Not the slightest sign of life had been detected when the government rescuers came out of the mine tonight for the first time since they entered it at 11 this morning.

Practically all of the men who are believed to have perished are Americans, born and reared in this valley. Many women have been deprived not only of their husbands, but also of brothers, and some of sons. The stricken ones seem to have cried themselves out, and they seem to be in a sort of daze, unable fully to realize the extent of their loss.

A new graveyard was established today at Laurel Branch, near here, to take care of the Cross Mountain dead. The graves are being dug in a circle, the plan being to eventually erect a monument in the center in memory of the explosion victims.

Volunteers were called for today to perform the sexton's tasks, and twelve responded. All afternoon they could be seen plying pick and shovel on the mountainside under an improvised shelter to protect them from the rain.

There was not enough work for the undertaker's corps to do, and, clad in oilcloth aprons, they presented a gruesome sight as they stood about the mine waiting for bodies to be brought forth.

Theories Advanced as To Cause of Accident.

Many are the theories being advanced as to the cause of the accident. President Stevenson, of the Knoxville Coal company, which owns the mine, said today it probably had been caused by a "windy shot," which is a sort of "flareback" of powder inserted in a hole bored in the coal to be dislodged. This powder might have ignited gases accumulated in one of the many "rooms" of the mine, or might have set off the coal dust on the floor of the room. The floors are supposed to be kept sprinkled and Mr. Stevenson said they were, in proof of which he recited a statement of one of the first rescuers on the scene that they had used some of the dust as putty to stop up holes in the brattices, or partitions into which main entry has to be divided to assist the circulation of fresh air.

Cross Mountain mine is more than twenty years old and contains some of the richest coal deposits in this region. It has an average output of 600 tons a day. Never before in its history has it had a serious accident.

The coal company is supplying the immediate needs of the stricken families, but later there will be need of funds to care for the widows and orphans.

Indications are that there will be more that fifty of the former and about 100 of the latter. A Knoxville baker distributed 600 loaves of bread among the families today and there was no shortage of food.

Appeal Made to Chattanooga For Aid for Explosion Victims

Times Starts List With $100—Citizens Requested to Respond Liberally to Call of Unfortunate Neighbors — City Takes Official Notice of Mine Horror.

Mayor Thomas Watts, Jr., of Briceville, yesterday appealed to Chattanooga for aid for the families of the victims of the explosion in Cross Mountain mine. His message to Mayor Thompson follows:

About 125 families in want because of Briceville mine explosion. Your co-operation solicited. Send funds to Mayor Thomas Watts, Jr.

In response to this The Times last night started a subscription, heading the list with $100.

The Times will gladly receive any contributions that the citizens of Chattanooga may wish to make. The people are urged to respond liberally to this call for help.

President Brock, of the chamber of commerce, yesterday notified Secretary Winn, that he, Mr. Brock, already had pledges from several sources as a nucleus for a fund. Mr. Winn was instructed to receive donations. Whatever is subscribed will be forwarded at once to Briceville in order that it may be available for use as soon as possible. It is hoped, and expected, that Chattanoogans will respond promptly and liberally. This city has been called upon for help in similar instances before, and has always done her share. The situation at Briceville is a serious one, as evidenced by reports of the catastrophe, and the appeals sent out by Mayor Thomas Watts, Jr., of that place.

A resolution commending the giving of funds to relieve suffering at Briceville was passed at yesterday's meeting of the municipal commission. This matter was brought to the attention of the commission through a telegram received during the morning by Acting Mayor J. H. Warner. It was signed Thomas Watts, Jr., mayor of Briceville, and stated that more than 125 families were destitute because of the explosion there. He asked that help in any form be rendered.

It was first suggested that funds be appropriated by the commission to be sent to the widows and children of miners, but this was turned down because some of the commissioners declared they had no right to appropriate money of the people for any cause other than that of maintaining the government. The matter is directly up to the people, and if they are inclined to give they may do so.

Commissioner Sloan then moved that the body take official notice of the disaster by urging that all citizens of Chattanooga who were able to do so give liberally to the fund to be sent from here. This passed by a unanimous vote.

GOVERNOR APPEALS TO PUBLIC FOR AID

Sets Forth Needs of Bereaved Families in Briceville.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 11.—This afternoon Gov. B. W. Hooper issued the following appeal for aid for the sufferers in the Briceville mine explosion:

TO THE PEOPLE OF TENNESSEE:

On Saturday, Dec. 9, 1911, a terrible disaster befell the employes in the Cross Mountain mine, at Briceville, Tenn., as a result of which between eighty and one hundred men lost their lives. Their widows and children are now facing the rigors of winter and will suffer from cold and hunger if speedy relief is not given them. The men who died were engaged in an extra hazardous occupation, essential to the life and well being of their fellow men. It is, consequently, the highest form of justice, as well as charity, that the people of the state at large should rally to the comfort and assistance of the helpless and dependent ones.

As governor of the state, I, therefore, call upon the citizens of Tennessee and such nonresidents as may feel disposed, to forward contributions for the above-named purpose to the Knoxville Journal and Tribune and the Knoxville Sentinel.

This, Dec. 11, 1911.

(Signed.) B. W. HOOPER, Governor.

Adjt.-Gen. Frank Maloney has been ordered to the scene to take charge of the distribution of funds.

"HELMET MEN" REPORT SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

Birds Used to Give Warning of Presence of Deadly Gases.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—Van H. Manning, chief clerk of the United States bureau of mines, received the following telegram tonight from Dr. J. A. Holmes, chief of the bureau, who has been directing the work of the "helmet men" in the Cross mountain mine:

"Briceville mine examination has proved satisfactory. Everybody is good shape. Large amount of helmet work required. Have called in half dozen men trained by car No. 7. Rutledge here this morning. Paul, with car No. 6, arrived tonight. Paul and Rutledge, with helmet men, will continue examination for several days. Birds of greatest possible service. Leave for Washington tomorrow."

The "birds" referred to by Dr. Holmes, it was explained, are canaries that are used to give warning of the presence of deadly gases.

Ernest P. Bicknell, national director of the American Red Cross, left here tonight for Briceville, where he will take full control of the Red Cross relief work. He is due at Briceville tomorrow afternoon.

SEVENTEEN DEAD ARE BROUGHT TO SURFACE

Grief-Stricken Families Receive Mutilated Corpses.

BRICEVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 11.—Seventeen men have been brought forth dead from the Cross Mountain mine up to 11 o'clock this morning. Only one additional body has been discovered since midnight.

It is estimated that there are still more than 100 men in the mine, and there is one chance in a thousand that none of them will be brought out alive. The rescue work is necessarily slow and tedious, as brattices or work partitions must be erected at frequent intervals through the mine to assist the circulation of the fresh air that is being pumped in constantly.

All of the bodies recovered have been identified and turned over to the grief-stricken families. As most of them were in a badly mutilated condition, speedy interment had been required. They rest in a little churchyard on a hill in the heart of the village.

The prospective destitution of the families of the victims has resulted in an organized appeal through the state for financial relief. The Knoxville Sentinel and the Knoxville Journal and Tribune

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Clipped By:
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May 3, 2025

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