

83 MEN ENTOMBED IN MINE; 3 ESCAPE

Gas Explodes in West Virginia Colliery and Fills Workings, Balking Rescuers' Efforts.

CHANCE THAT SOME FEW MAY BE FOUND ALIVE

By United Press.

WELCH, W. Va., March 26.—Eighty-three men are entombed in the mine of the United States Coal & Coke Company at Jed, three miles from here.

An explosion of gas occurred in the mine at 7:30 o'clock this morning.

Eighty-six men were then at work.

Only three of the number were able to reach the outside.

The mine is on the Gary branch of the Norfolk & Western Railroad.

Following the explosion afterdamp pervaded the entire workings and it was impossible for any immediate rescue work to be begun. Deputy State Mine Inspector Arthur Mitchell arrived from Bluefields an hour after the explosion occurred. Miners who had worked during the night and were then in their homes were brought to the mine and organized into rescue parties.

Because of the deadly after-damp, in which no human being can live for an instant, it was impossible for the would-be rescuers to get farther than a few hundred feet from the opening.

Whether any of the 83 men are alive is problematical. Experienced miners say that there is a chance that some may have escaped and reached a part of the mine not penetrated by the after-damp.

If this is the case, brattices may have been thrown up by them to prevent the gases from befouling the air.

Under the conditions the men could live for several hours and perhaps for days. It is recalled that at Briceville, Tenn., entombed miners in this way fought the approach of the after-damp and were rescued more than 48 hours after the explosion occurred.

The entire output of the Jed Mine is taken by the United States Steel Corporation. Most of the coal is shipped over the Norfolk & Western to Marion, Ind.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Director J. A. Holmes, of the Bureau of Mines, immediately upon learning of the explosion in the Jed Mine, took steps to send rescue cars to Jed. Mine Rescue Car Number 7 located today at St. Paul, Va., on the Norfolk & Western Railroad, not more than 150 miles away was ordered to Jed. It carries four expert mine rescue men, headed by foreman William Burke. This car will go by special to Jed and should arrive there this afternoon.

Mining Engineer G. H. Dike of the United States Bureau of Mines here is speeding on his way to Jed, W. Va., with the bureau mine rescue car and a full equipment to aid in the work of rescuing the miners entombed in the Jed, W. Va., mine. No details of the disaster were received here. The car will arrive at Bluefield, W. Va., this afternoon.

SUGAR TRUST CASE TO GO TO THE JURY

Judge Hand Denies Motion of Lawyers for Defense to Instruct a Verdict for Parrone, Thomas and Other Defendants.

TRIAL WILL NOW PROCEED

By Associated Press.

NEW YORK, March 26.—Judge Hand in the United States District Court today denied the motion of DeLancey Nicoll, chief counsel for the defense, to instruct the jury to acquit John E. Parsons, Washington B. Thomas and other directors of the American Sugar Refining Company, charged with violating the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law in closing the Pennsylvania Sugar Refining Company of Adolph Segal. The trial therefore proceeded.

Judge Hand, who reserved decision on the motion until today, several times remarked in the course of the argument yesterday which was conducted for the defense by Nicoll and James M. Beck, that he agreed with points they raised and announced that unless the district attor-