

MINE HORROR IN OKLAHOMA

EIGHT KILLED AND FATE OF
OTHERS DOUBTFUL.

MEN ENTOMBED IN SHAFT

Fire Cuts Off Their Escape from
Lower Workings—Rescuers Bring
Out Half Dozen Alive, but It Is
Feared a Score Will Perish.

Lehigh, Okla., Feb. 23.—Eight miners are known to be dead and possibly a score of others are entombed and believed to have been killed as the result of a mine fire, the cause of which has not been determined. The blaze started shortly after noon in mine No. 5, of the Western Mine and Coal company, a Gould property.

When the fire broke out 300 feet below the surface nearly 200 miners, mostly foreigners, were at work in the shafts, and word of the disaster immediately was spread through the mine. Most of the men escaped through an abandoned shaft, the outlet to which was more than two miles from the entrance to the main shaft.

The disaster is the most serious in the history of mining in Oklahoma. Besides the loss of life the damage to the mine will aggregate many thousands of dollars.

Lehigh, Okla., Feb. 22.—Seven miners are known to have been killed and the fate of a score or more, imprisoned in mine No. 5 of the Western Coal and Mining company, which is afire, is doubtful. Up to midnight seven bodies had been brought to the surface, half a dozen men had been rescued alive, while the apparently lifeless bodies of several others had been located.

The mine, which is several miles from Lehigh, was discovered afire shortly before noon today. At that time 100 men were at work in the mine. The greater number were near the mouth and escaped before the fire gained headway, but others in lower workings were entombed.

The fire was sufficiently subdued early tonight to permit rescue parties to enter. A negro was the first man found alive. In the same recess the bodies of the seven dead were found. One of the number was an American, the others foreigners.

On the second trip of exploration the rescue party brought out several inanimate bodies. Contact with the air, however, revived the men and, except for weakness, they were little the worse for their experience.