

# DEATH TRAVELS MILE A SECOND IN ECCLES MINE

ECCLES, W. VA., May 2.—  
(Spl.)—"No man was alive in the  
Eccles mine three minutes after  
the explosion," Chief State Mine  
Inspector Earl Henry declared to-  
day, after 31 bodies of the 172  
missing men had been recovered.

"They were either killed by  
poisonous monoxide gas or by the  
force of the explosion," he said.

Only one body has been found  
on which there was evidence  
that the victim had any time at  
all to prepare for the blaze, which,  
according to Henry, rushed  
through the mine at the rate of  
60 miles a minute.

The body was that of Wayman  
Lester, who was found with a  
handkerchief around his face.

"He had hardly tied the knot  
before he was knocked down and  
killed," said Henry.

Several other men were found  
who had instinctively thrown  
their arms up to their faces as  
the explosion came toward them.

Twenty-seven oxygen helmet  
men, employed by the U. S. Gov-  
ernment, are now co-operating  
with Chief Henry's State force in  
the effort to penetrate every part  
of the mine. About half of the  
mine has been explored so far.

"I have not given up hope,"  
said James Paul, Mine Bureau  
Engineer, "but the situation is  
not very encouraging."