

Two Hundred And Fifty Miners Entombed---One Hundred Probably Dead

Disaster Occurred in Mine Near Royalton, Illinois—
Gas Explosion Occurred Shortly After Men Had Gone
to Work—One Dispatch States That 150 Bodies Have
Been Recovered—Rescuers Rush to the Scene.

By Associated Press.

Royalton, Ill., Oct. 27.—One hundred or more miners were killed, it is believed, in the Mitchell coal mine near here today when a terrific explosion occurred in the lower level of the mine soon after three hundred men had begun work.

Of those who entered the mine about 150 escaped but thirty bodies were soon brought to the surface and more than 100 other men were known to be imprisoned in a lower level, cut off from rescue by fire. It was thought that all of these shut off by the wall of flames in the interior were soon burned to death.

Royalton is a mining village 86 miles southeast of St. Louis on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad.

St. Louis, Oct. 27.—News today was received here that 250 miners were entombed in a mine at Royalton, Ill., 85 miles southeast of here on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway. A mine rescue car has been sent from Benton, Ills.

A despatch from Centralia, Ills., says that thirty bodies have been taken from the mine near Royalton.

The telephone operator at Royalton said that the mine was about a mile out of town and that every one except herself had gone to the shaft when they heard the explosion. She had no definite information other than that none of the 250 men had been able to leave the mine immediately after the explosion.

Fire Follows.

A telephone message from the owner of the mine said that of the three hundred men who entered the mine this morning about 100 escaped; 30 or 40 have been found dead and 100 are known to be on a lower level, which is burning.

Gas Explosion.

Murphysboro, Ills., Oct. 27.—The mine disaster at the Mitchell mine at Royalton, 25 miles north of here, was due to a gas explosion. The men had just gone to work.

Some bodies have been found and a few miners have been rescued.

All the men whose bodies were taken from the upper level had been overcome by gas; none had been burned. General Superintendent Mitchell said the men in the lower level doubtless had been overcome by the gas before it exploded and that if they regained consciousness the fire that followed the explosion would prevent their escape.

The blast occurred in the northwest corner of the mine where from 150 to 200 men were working.

Men in the southern part of the mine heard the explosion and hurried to the cages which took them to the surface. Three hundred and seventy two men

were employed in the mine but about fifty had not entered the shaft.

Up to 11 o'clock the rescue parties were unable to penetrate more than fifteen hundred feet in the workings but at that hour the rescue car came from Benton, Ill., with four hours' supply of oxygen. This made possible a further penetration of the mine by the rescue parties.

General Superintendent Mitchell said he could not account for the explosion as the mine had been in continuous operation and no gases had been detected.

150 Persons Taken Out.

Murphysboro, Ill., Oct. 27.—One hundred and fifty persons had been taken alive from the Royalton mine at noon. Eighty-five of those rescued had been overcome by gas. Two died at the top of the mine.

One hundred now are known to be trapped behind the flames on the lower level. The rescuers are making few attempts to carry the dead from the mine, using all their time in the attempt to rescue the living. It now is stated that 308 men entered the mine before the explosion occurred.

Fighting Flames.

At noon rescuers said they could see at least 25 bodies on the upper level. Rescuers sought to check the flames in the lower level by dropping blankets soaked with water. This temporarily checked the flames, but the poisonous gases drove the fire fighters back.

BIG SHIPMENTS OF COTTON

By Associated Press.

Savannah, Ga., Oct. 27.—Cargoes of cotton consisting of 9,700 bales and valued at \$388,000 will be shipped today from this port on the Danish steamer Knud II for Copenhagen and the Swedish steamer Uller for Gothenberg. The two vessels were cleared yesterday.

SNOW FELL TO-DAY IN RALEIGH

Raleigh, Oct. 27.—Light snow began falling in Raleigh at 1 o'clock this morning accompanying a decided drop in temperature. The fall was not heavy enough to remain on the ground.

WAR'S EFFECT ON AMERICAN COMMERCE

Gain in Exports During September Over Record of First Month of the War Was Over Forty-Five Million Dollars—Heavy Increase in Exportations of Food Stuffs.

Marked Decrease Shown in Exportations of Cotton, Machinery and Manufactures—Improvement in Business With Latin American Countries.

By Associated Press.

Washington, Oct. 27.—War's continued effect on American commerce—a tremendous increase in the sale of foodstuffs for foreign armies and a marked decrease in exportation of cotton, machinery and materials for use in manufacturing—was shown in detail today by statistics compiled by the department of commerce.

Exports of grain and meats jumped to practically unprecedented quantities in September, resulting in a great improvement over August's trade and a substantial export balance, but the decrease in the sale abroad of cotton and manufactures resulted in a loss, compared with September 1913 of \$61,902,668.

The gain for September's exports over those for the first month of the war was \$45,968,219. Supplemental figures obtained at the department showed that exportations of canned beef jumped from 364,693 pounds in September 1913 to 2,885,356 last month. The increased trade in fresh meat was larger. More than 7,037,400 pounds were shipped abroad last month, compared with 634,523 in September 1913.

The war growth of grain exports was as marked. Barley sales jumped from 251,454 bushels in September 1913 to 2,781,286 last month; oats from 318,928 to 10,780,165; wheat from 11,971,168 to 25,869,100 while rice exports increased from 1,456,995 pounds to 10,443,817.

The decrease in exports of cotton during September compared with last year amounted to nearly \$600,000,000.

With the partial restoration of shipping facilities, a remarkable improvement in the exports to some of the Latin-American countries was shown over the first month of the war. Trade to Germany, Russia and Belgium re-