

# MINE EXPLOSION KILLS EIGHT AT CHRISTOPHER

## Illinois Town Scene of Dire Disaster When Gas in Mine Explodes —Rescuers Busy.

**MOUTH OF SHAFT BESIEGED BY FRANTIC RELATIVES — RESCUE CORPS IS RUSHED TO THE SCENE FROM BENTON—BODIES BADLY BURNED MAKES IDENTIFICATION VERY DIFFICULT — MINE IN OPERATION FOR POST NINE YEARS—IDLE SINCE MARCH 1ST UNTIL TWO WEEKS AGO—MANY SERIOUSLY INJURED — OUTPUT ABOUT 2800 TONS PER DAY.**

Christopher, Ill., July 28.—Eight men were killed, eight seriously wounded and a dozen slightly hurt by a gas explosion Tuesday in the United Coal Mining Company Mine No. 1, one-fourth of a mile east of Christopher, Franklin county.

The explosion took place in the sixth, southeast entry, where more than 100 men were working.

The dead are: John Parks, Everett Swofford, George Gimatis, Mike Orsega, Frank Bonaski, H. M. Dufour, Alfonso Dufour, Julius Takasch.

### Rescue Corps Rushed to Scene.

As soon as the accident was reported rescue corps were formed by employes of the mine and the first of the injured were brought to the surface about 10 a. m.

At 11 o'clock members of the State Mine Rescue Corps arrived in automobiles from Benton and took charge of the rescue work.

The injured were removed to their homes and the Zeigler Hospital, after receiving first aid treatment at the mines. At 1 p. m. all the bodies had been removed from the mine.

Soon after the explosion the news spread throughout the city and sur-

rounding towns and hundreds of persons were at the shaft before 10 o'clock.

Frantic women and children rushed to the mine at the first news of the disaster and implored rescuers to speed their work.

### Identification Is Made Difficult.

The dead and injured men were in the immediate vicinity of where the explosion occurred. The bodies of some of the dead were so seriously burned identification was made difficult.

The coronor yesterday afternoon arranged to hold inquests.

The mine was opened about nine years ago, being the oldest mine in operation in this city, and had been idle from March 1 until July 6, when it resumed operation and has been running steadily since then.

The mine employs about 450 men and averages about 2800 tons of coal a day. It is in charge of F. J. Urbain, general manager.

### The seriously injured men are:

William Good, not expected to live; John Kuranski, Steve Kluda, John Marlo, John Ceroti, John Gergely, Jr., John Gergely, Sr., Frank Malriski.