

EIGHTEEN MINERS ARE TRAPPED ON 600 FOOT LEVEL

ACCIDENT OCCURS IN THE OLD
BEN MINES IN VICINITY OF
CHRISTOPHER, ILL.

[Associated Press Leased Wire.]

CHRISTOPHER, Ill., Nov. 30.—The mine rescue crew that came here last night from Benton, Ill., entered the Old Ben mine to search for the 18 men entombed by yesterday's explosion at 7 o'clock this morning.

A second explosion was heard in the mine at 3 o'clock this morning. It is thought that the 18 men are dead. At 9 o'clock the bodies had not been found.

Because of the heat in the mine, the rescue crew was not able to penetrate far, and there is little prospect of a thorough search of the workings until this afternoon. An unconfirmed report has it that 28 men are entombed.

Rescue parties from Benton and Herrin reached here soon after the explosion and with the men already on the ground worked all night.

That only 18 men were caught in the mine was due to the fact that yesterday was a holiday and the rest of the 700 employees were not at work.

Officials of the company have been unable to learn the cause of the explosion as no unusual amount of gas had been noticed in the mine.

State Director Present

[Associated Press Leased Wire.]

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Nov. 30.—Evan John, state director of mines and minerals, is on the ground at Christopher to direct the rescue work in connection with the explosion in the mine of the Old Ben Coal corporation, it was announced here this morning.