

BLAST KILLS 18 IN ILLINOIS MINE

Workers Believed to Have Perished in Gas Explosion Near Christopher.

RESCUERS HALTED BY DEBRIS

Scores of Physicians and Surgeons Rushed to Scene of Accident in Autos—Repair Workers Victims.

DUQUOIN, Ill., Nov. 30.—Eighteen men are believed to have lost their lives last night by a gas explosion in coal mine No. 11 of the Old Ben Mining corporation, near Christopher, Ill., 12 miles east of this city.

The blast came about ten o'clock, completely wrecking the main shaft and air shafts and preventing the work of rescue.

But for the fact that there was no night shift at work the loss of life would have been greater, as from 200 to 700 men are ordinarily employed on this property, which is owned by DeWitt W. Buchanan of Chicago.

Rescue Effort Is Prompt.

The mine is about three miles north of Christopher, from which place all the available rescue apparatus and a score of physicians and surgeons have been rushed in autos.

Rescue trains also are being sent from Johnson City, West Frankfort and Benton. The mine rescue car at the state mine rescue station at Benton was the first to leave.

The men who are believed dead were employed repairing shafts and at various odd jobs after the mine had been closed down for the day.

The main shaft is between 200 and 300 feet deep and the entries extend at right angles for a quarter to a mile in length.

Wreckage Hurlled 1,000 Yards.

So great was the force of the explosion that wreckage was blown a thousand yards away.

One of the cages was blown through the top of the tippie house, completely wrecking the cage transportation machinery.

It is not believed that the work of rescue can be started until late today because of the temporary repair work necessary.

Word of the explosion was brought by a boy, who ran all the way from the mine to Christopher, all the telephone wires having been put out of commission by the explosion.