

# FEAR 20 DEAD IN ROYALTON SHAFT

## Superintendent and Man- ager Entombed in Burn- ing Mine

MURPHYSBORO, Ills. Sept. 28.—Twenty men, including Superintendent Pastick and Manager Helm are entombed tonight in the Franklin Coal and Coke company mine at Royalton, Ill., as the result of an explosion at five o'clock this morning. The men had gone down to fight a fire that was discovered by a watchman last night. The mine is still burning and mine rescue workers, who came from Denton, Ill., said there was no hope of finding any of the men alive.

At noon, after many attempts to force their way through the smoke and gas, the rescue workers reached the bottom of the shaft and found four bodies, but made no attempt to bring them out. Five men, who were in the mine, but not near the vicinity of the explosion, escaped during the morning by way of an air shaft. They could tell nothing about their companions.

A gas explosion in the same mine Oct. 24, 1914, caused 52 deaths while a great many more escaped. Today's explosion was 400 feet below ground. The mine has not been operated at night and the watchmen were alone in the mine after midnight when they discovered the fire. The explosion came just as the men were to descend to work, but only 25 entered.

1918 Royalton North No 1 Mine explosion  
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