

NINE DIE WHEN ROCK SLIDE CAUSES FIRE

Miners Lose Lives While Working in Webb Mine in Eastern Ohio Yesterday When Rock Slide Short Circuited Electric Wires, Starting Fire — No Estimate of Financial Loss Made.

Bellaire, Ohio, December 23. (A. P.)—Eighty men working in shifts fighting a fire in the Webb Mine at Shadyside near here in which nine miners die. Officials expressed the belief tonight that the fire would be extinguished in forty-eight hours.

The flames reached 200 feet back of the mine but are confined to the main entry. It may spread, but if so, the mine will be filled up.

Mine officials accompanied by Ohio mine inspectors plunged in to fight again the conflagration as soon as the last body was removed. The miners who died, had rushed to the main air shaft hoping to escape but were suffocated in trying to climb to the ground level 240 feet above.

Seventy-one men who were working at various places in the mine made their way to escape through the main entry.

Officials determined definitely that the fire was caused by a rock slide in the main entry, which short circuited electric wiring that fired the mine support.

The officials said tonight no estimate had been made of the financial loss.

Bellaire, Ohio, December 23. (A. P.)—Fire, believed to have started when a fall of coal short-circuited the electric light system, claimed nine lives at the Webb mine at Shadyside, a few miles south of here, last night. Two other miners are in a Bellaire hospital.

The dead, all of whom live near Shadyside, were: A. O. Troux, Julius Oliveri, Samuel Kello, Alfonso Zaccigini, Edward Kennedy, Julius Talbert, John Ferry.

Two unidentified.

Today the fire was burning fiercely, little effort having been made to check it until rescue work was completed. Company officials said the damage probably would be large.

Only 79 of the normal force of more than 600 men were at work at 6 o'clock last night when the fire was discovered. All escaped except the 11 who were trapped in one of the lower laterals. Rescue workers by midnight brought three survivors to the surface, but Ferry died a few minutes later. The two others, Robert Hock and Harry Kyle, both of Bellaire, are still in a serious condition. The bodies of the eight who died in the mine were brought to the surface before 2 o'clock this morning.

No statement was forthcoming from company officials early today, pending an investigation by State mine officials, who reached the scene late last night. The Webb mine, one of the largest in Eastern Ohio, is operated by the G. M. Jones company of Pittsburg.