

# HOPE ABANDONED FOR EIGHT MEN

Rescue Workers Believe Entombed Miners at Welch Have Perished

Bluefield, W. Va., May 14.—All hope for the rescue of eight men, trapped in the Shannon Branch mine of the Central Pocahontas Coal Company, about a mile west of Welch, by a gas explosion shortly after 1 o'clock this morning, has been abandoned when rescue parties from the Kingston-Pocahontas Company and the Gary mines were forced to give up an attempt to enter the wrecked area, because of the intense heat, according to a statement from Thomas Stockdale, mine inspector, this morning.

Few details of the affair came out of the mine. E. M. Davis, a motor-man in the mine, heard the explosion and hurried to the outside to give the warning. A rescue crew was organized and immediately started to work. However, after penetrating about a half mile of the entry, a second explosion occurred and the party retreated.

The opinion was expressed today at the mouth of the mine that probably fire had started in abandoned portions of the operation. The fans have been put in working order and by late today it is thought the mine will be cooled off enough to allow rescue parties to work their way to the entombed men.

In the meantime, there is little excitement about the tipple of the Central Pocahontas company. A few curious from Welch and neighboring mines drifted about, talking and speculating.

Officials of the company expressed slight hope for the recovery of the eight men alive. Four of the men were machine runners and the others helpers.

Those entombed are:

Galinty Stoval, Harry Leiging, Howard Maxwell, Lester Burke, Joe Badger, Will Smith, Earl Dockery, Will Griffith.

Four of these are negroes.

1927 Shannon Branch Mine explosion  
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