

Death Toll in Disaster at Mather Mine Now 194; 164 Bodies Brought Out

Mather, Pa., May 23.—(P)—Rescue work in the Mather mine, where more than 190 miners met death in a disastrous explosion, was suspended to-day, and to-night the mine was being ventilated thoroughly in preparation for the official investigation of the blast by state and national mine inspectors and county authorities.

The list of recovered dead stood at 164, with some thirty miners still unaccounted for. Most of the missing are buried under heavy falls of slate and earth, rescuers said, and no immediate attempt will be made to dig them out.

The fact that more than seventy men escaped from the mine alive was disclosed late to-day by F. A. Armstrong, general manager for the

Pickands Mather Collieries Company, owners of the workings. In addition to the fourteen men previously reported, as having escaped, Armstrong told newspapermen that William Eden, assistant foreman at the mine, had rescued sixty-two others, including his two sons.

Up to the present, available sources agreed that 211 men were in the mine when the explosion swept through the tunnels. The sixty-two listed by Armstrong as having escaped, brought the total working force to 273. Of this number 164 are known to have been killed, seventy-four escaped shortly after the explosion occurred, one was rescued after having been entombed for sixty hours and thirty-four are missing.