# RESCUE CREWS STAGING RACE AGAINST DEATH

## Origin of Explosion Today in Illinois Mine Not Determined

## HINT LABOR TROUBLE

### State Rescue Squads Called from Several Mining Sections

**BULLETIN**

WEST FRANKFORT, Ill., Jan. 9 (UP).—An explosion today in mine No. 18 of the Peabody Coal company, north of here, caused one death and held between 20 and 30 miners captive at one p. m., a checkup disclosed.

The dead miner, Carl Jones, a face boss of West Frankfort, was one of the 700 men who had been at work less than 30 minutes this morning when a dust or gas explosion cut off approximately 130 men. All but about 30 of the men made their way to safety.

WEST FRANKFORT, Ill., Jan. 9 (UP).—Approximately 100 miners were trapped today by an explosion of undetermined extent in the Peabody Coal company mine No. 18, two miles northeast of here.

At 11 a. m., four hours after the explosion, officials in charge of mine rescue squads reported inability to penetrate the workings to the place where the explosion occurred, and said they did not know as to the exact number of men in the mine.

The explosion occurred at approximately the 350-foot level.

**Two Reach Surface**

The force of the explosion, two miners who reached the surface afterwards said, seriously damaged brattice work and blocked passageways.

George Watkins, one of the two, reported he stumbled over what he believed were the bodies of fellow miners either dead or overcome by the blast.

**Think 100 Men in Pit**

He said he believed about 100 men were in the affected part of the mine.

Mine rescue crews from Benton and from other sections of the southern Illinois coal belt were called to the Peabody mine and were working in relays attempting to penetrate to the trapped men.

The Peabody mine is in the center of a great coal producing district which recently resumed work after a long shutdown due to controversy over the Jacksonville wage scale.

The company employs normally about 400 men.

1928 Peabody No 18 Mine explosion
NEWS3