

## FATE OF SIX IN WEST VA. MINE STILL IN DOUBT

Experts Hold Out Little Hope  
For Men Imprisoned Near  
Roderfield.

Bluefield, W. Va., Dec. 1 (Special). —No reassuring word was forthcoming today for the little knot of sobbing relatives grouped about the entry of mine No. 1 of the Princess-Pocahontas Coal Company, near Roderfield, McDowell county, and at 11 o'clock the dark, yawning depths still veiled the fate of the six miners who were imprisoned by an explosion at 8 o'clock last night.

Rescue squads had worked their way into the mine for a distance of almost a mile, and still no word came back from the black abyss.

S. H. Meem, Bluefield, president of the company, who is on the scene, stated in a long-distance telephone conversation at 11 o'clock, that the miners would probably be reached about noon.

### Six Imprisoned.

Seven men were in the mine when the blast came. Dewey England, a coal loader, who was working near the mouth of the mine, escaped uninjured. Six others were working far back in the mine, perhaps more than a mile, and their fate is in doubt.

The missing are: Sam Guy, Kyle Walters and his son, Clarence Walters, Henry Daniels, Bill Poutz and Henry Lester. Kyle Walters is a contractor, Daniels a machine runner and Lester is his helper. The other three are coal loaders.

In the telephone conversation this morning, Mr. Meem declared he was not yet prepared to make any statement, and declined to say what in his opinion caused the explosion. He said the mine had not been seriously damaged. The electric circuits were not hurt, seeming to indicate that the blast may have been a coal gas explosion.

Rescue crews began arriving at the mine at 2 o'clock this morning, and a short while later a crew was pressing forward into the mine, through the deadly fumes. Experts about the mine said there was little possibility that the imprisoned men could still be alive.

Robert M. Lambie, chief of the State Department of mines, was notified about midnight. He had not arrived at the scene of the disaster at 11 o'clock. President Meem said he was expected in Roderfield momentarily.

### Had Been Inspected.

Sam Ward, of Iaeger, mine superintendent, stated last night that the mine was inspected at 3 o'clock in the afternoon by the fire boss, and that no trace of gas was reported.

The Princess-Pocahontas Coal Company is located on Spice Creek, about one mile from Roderfield, McDowell County. It has an annual output of about 55,000 tons, and its daily rating is eight cars. There are two mines of the operation, No. 1 and No. 2. The latter has not been worked for some time. Morris Watts, of Bluefield, is general manager of the company.

It was stated by the company officials that there has never been a general explosion before in the Princess-Pocahontas mines, and only once before has there been a blast of any description.

Mr. Watts and President Meem left Bluefield early this morning for the scene of the tragedy, and were utilizing every resource of the company in the rescue of the six miners.