

## Rescue Workers Hope to Reach Entombed Men in Few Hours

**Blast at Pioneer Coal Co. Mine at Kettle Island, Ky., Saturday Entombs 16 Men, 15 of Whom Have Families. All Believed Dead From Poisonous Gases.**

### FIVE BODIES RECOVERED

Kettle Island, Ky., March 31. (A.P.)—The bodies of five of sixteen miners trapped by an explosion in the Pioneer Coal Company mine Saturday, were discovered by mine rescue workers today, one and one half miles from the entrance. The workers were forced to leave the bodies in the mine and immediately return to the surface without identifying them, because of intensity of the carbon-monoxide gas.

John F. Daniel, chief of the state department of mines, said today that it was a practical certainty that the eleven other miners also are dead. He expressed the opinion that the remainder of the bodies would not be reached before Wednesday because accumulated debris caused by the explosion hampers the workers.

Carbon monoxide gas makes it extremely dangerous for rescue squads to remain near the scene of the explosion for more than a few minutes.

Kettle Island, Ky., March 31. (A. P.)—Spurred by the hope that they would reach in a few hours, the sixteen men entombed by an explosion Saturday far back in the Pioneer Coal Company mine here, but almost despairing that any are alive, rescue workers today toiled desperately repairing the damaged ventilating system.

Word was brought back a mile and a half along the shaft late last night, that the rescue crews were within 200 feet of where they believed the entombed men to be, but the air was so thick with carbon-monoxid that gas masks afforded scant protection.

This information added to the despair of the families of the trapped men, clustered in the open near the mine entrance, but still they hoped. All but one of the men, a boy 17 years old, had families.

The air was so dangerous that fifteen of the rescue workers were affected last night. After struggling almost exhausted back to the mine entrance they were placed on a car that with a locomotive serves as a shuttle train to be carried to the county seat, 7 miles away to recuperate.

Their places were taken by others, eager to aid in the fight. In charge of the rescue efforts was John F. Daniel, Lexington, chief of the state bureau of mines, and he had at his disposal the most modern of rescue equipment and a number of experts from the state bureau, from volunteer rescue companies and from the federal mine bureau.

The one hope held for the entombed men was that they might have escaped falling debris and erected temporary walls of lumber and airtight cloth provided in constructing the mine, thereby excluding the foul air that follows explosions.