

# Hope Abandoned for 36 Men As Mine Gas Foils Rescuers

Pocahontas, Va., Feb. 27.—Rescuers struggling to reach miners entombed deep in the Boisevain Mine near here by explosion which choked passages with slate, tonight announced they had abandoned hope that the men were alive.

Thomas Stockdale, of Bramwell, W. Va., a district mine inspector, said a careful check revealed 36 men were locked in the shattered shaft, which slopes into an Allegheny foothill.

"We have abandoned hope of any life down there," said Stockdale.

Rescue crews were forced to withdraw to the surface for two hours at one time. Artificial means were used in an attempt to clear the stifling gases from the hole.

Coffee was served for the mine company by three women. The men ate sandwiches, holding them in grimy fingers.

Stockdale was assisted by District Mine Inspectors W. D. Prentiss of

West Virginia and A. G. Lucas of Virginia. Rescue crews were from Pocahontas, Gary, Coalwood and Jenkins Jones, Va.

The officials said there was no indication of the cause of the explosion. One theory was that powder was ignited.

W. A. Bishop, chief engineer of the mine, expressed the belief that because of the stifling, carbon monoxide after-damp and the heavy slate fall caused by the explosion, the stricken men would not be reached until 6 A. M. Sunday at the earliest.

Chief Mine Inspector A. G. Lucas based his hope that the men still might live on the fact there is a water-way leading from the Boisevain into the nearby Jenkins-Jones mine, by which, he believed, the men might be able to lead themselves to safety.