

The Dickenson Explosion.

The explosion Monday in a mine of the Splash-dam Coal Corporation in Dickenson County, which snuffed out the lives of ten men, was perhaps the worst mine disaster that has occurred in this section. Much greater disasters happen more or less frequently in other parts of the country, but the coal fields of Southwest Virginia have been rather free from such tragedies.

The ten victims of the explosion in Dickenson County were the only men who reported for work Monday morning. It is fortunate that more men were not at work in the mine, else the death list might have been larger. Working in the bowels of the earth is a hazardous occupation which probably never will be made quite safe.

This latest accident robbed nine women of husbands and twenty-nine children of fathers. Nine of the ten men were married and seven of them had from two to six children each. These women and children were suddenly deprived not only of husbands and fathers but of providers, and perhaps their sole support. They are deserving of sympathy as they mourn their dead and face a future that may hold for them no promise but of hardship and privation.