

**EXPLOSION
TRAPS MEN**

**Miners Rescued From
Old Ben Shaft at West
Frankfort Today.**

CAUSE IS MYSTERY

(By United Press)

West Frankfort, Ill., Jan. 14—
Forty miners were rescued from
the fume-filled shaft, No. 8 mine, of
the Old Ben Coal Corporation near
here early today following a gas
explosion.

Ten were seriously injured and
were taken to a hospital. Physi-
cians said two probably will die.

The miners were rescued at 4:30
o'clock this morning after having
been held prisoner in the mine for
three hours.

The 750 men employed on the
day shift were prohibited from en-
tering the mine today because of
danger from the gas and smoke.
The blast occurred on the 500-foot
level.

What it was that touched off the
gas accumulation had not been de-
termined today. The burned work-
ers could not give a comprehensive
account of their experiences.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 4—Officials of
the Old Ben Coal Corporation when
informed today of the explosion in
the mine at West Frankfort, Ill.,
said that while the mine was "dry"
very recently it had been thorough-
ly "soapstoned" for the purpose of
preventing dust explosions.

Forty men comprised the aver-
age night shift. The mine is lo-
cated at the edge of the village
and the drift passes under the vil-
lage.

The mine is one of the largest in
this area. Its output is estimated
at 8,000 tons daily. The owning
corporation has headquarters here
in Chicago.

George Campbell, the company's
West Frankfort superintendent,
could not be found when efforts
were made to ascertain from him
the extent of the damage. He was
thought to be at the scene of the
explosion.

Old Ben No 8 mine explosion

Clipped By:



usmra_rob
Sun, Dec 27, 2020