

throughout western New York and are confident of nominating him at Syracuse next week.

NINETEEN MINERS MEET DEATH IN EXPLOSION

*Rescue Parties Recover
Seventeen Bodies—State
Mine Inspector Begins an
Investigation of Disaster.*

(By the National News Association.)

Abernant, Ala., Aug. 14.—Nineteen negro miners were killed by an explosion in the mine of the Abernant Coal company. Rescue parties, which worked all night, recovered seventeen bodies. The explosion occurred 100 feet from the surface at a time when eighty-three men were at work. Of these, forty-six were whites.

State Mine Inspector Nesbitt arrived on the scene today and began an investigation. He said he believed the explosion was caused by a charge of blasting powder igniting coal dirt.

WILL WED GIRL WHO INJURED HIM

San Francisco, Aug. 14.—If Lieut. F. J. Williams had not received a severe scalp wound while traveling to this port on the U. S. army transport Thomas, he would not have been made the hero of the voyage, and local army circles would not be expecting the announcement of his engagement to one of the prettiest girls on the ship.

The young woman is Miss Flora Bewick of Atlanta, Ga., daughter of Mrs. E. T. Donnelly, wife of Capt. Donnelly. While promenading the deck, Miss Bewick was pitched forward by the tossing of the ship and Lieut. Williams seeing her danger jumped headfirst in front of her. He broke her fall, but was himself seriously injured.

Erie Canal.

Celared August 14, 1912.
about Rochester

Montgomery, Ala. A. S. 12. 2.
Saturday, October 12, 1912.

Passageway

The explosion in the Abernant Mine, Jefferson County, which occurred August 13, snuffing out the lives of eighteen miners, was due to neglect of duty as prescribed by the mining law governing the spraying of duty places, and the prohibition of gas accumulations, according to C. H. Nesbitt, Chief Mine Inspector of Alabama, who filed a report of his investigation with Governor O'Neal Friday.

The explosion was caused, he reports, from ignition of firedamp in Room No. 11 of the mine, from the lamp of Gilbert Lee, one of the victims. Eighteen negro miners were killed, twelve of whom were married, and several of whom were heads of large families.

The report of the inspector telling of the actions of the imprisoned miners is graphic. Had they been governed by coolness, all might have escaped, but only one of their number did, he says.

Room No. 11, in which the explosion occurred, was driven close to the fourteenth right air course. The pillars separating the two were weak and thin, and was blown out by the explosion, which also knocked out the brattices directly in front of room No. 11, thus short-circuiting the air in the fourteenth right entry and temporarily cutting off the means of escape of ten men who were working in the fourteenth right.

The ten men who were caught in this entry gathered at a point near the place where the explosion came through the No. 11 room, and for several minutes exchanged suggestion as to what was best for them to do. Finally they reached a decision to start through the afterdamp for the slope, which was the nearest place for fresh air. However, it was soon discovered that they could not proceed as decided upon, whereupon two of the men advised the other eight men to turn back, which advice was not heeded. Consequently, the eight men perished from the effects of the afterdamp.

But the two remaining men went back to the starting point, and remained there some time, making frequent attempts to get to the slope but unsuccessfully, until their final trial. Then they discovered that the afterdamp was not so strong as at first, having been cooled off sufficiently for them to go through it. After going some distance, Hannry Duncan, one of the two, decided to go into the air course, thinking it the best place for means of escape, but in so doing he entered afterdamp, which was stronger than on the entry.

Will Yancey, his companion, came straight out the entry to the slope without any assistance. If the ten men had all been guided by the same cool-headedness as directed Yancey, they would have escaped with their lives, because the ventilation had been practically restored.

ABERNANT FOREMEN MAY BE PROSECUTED

Neglect of Duty Caused the
Death of 18 Miners

NESBITT FILES REPORT

Mine Inspector Makes Thorough Investigation of Mine Explosion at
Abernant—May Take Legal
Action Against Foremen

Montgomery, October 11.—(Special).—Neglect of duty on the part of the foremen at Abernant mine caused the death of 18 men August 13, according to State Mine Inspector C. H. Nesbitt, who filed his report with Governor O'Neal Friday afternoon. The men are subject to prosecution under sections 29, 30, 32 and 41 of the mining law, and the solicitor of Tuscaloosa county has been requested to determine whether or not legal action against the foremen should be taken now. Inspector Nesbitt stated that he had delayed the report until he could make a thorough investigation. He said that the explosion occurred about 11 o'clock, while 78 men were in the mine. He holds that "a large body of explosive gas in rooms Nos. 9, 10 and 11, on the fifteenth right entry, had been ignited by an open light, the ignition beginning at the same time as the explosion. The effect of the explosion was to blow out the pillars separating the two, and caused the brattices to be knocked out, thus short-circuiting the air in the fourteenth right entry and temporarily cutting off the means of escape of ten men who were working in the fourteenth right. The ten men who were caught in this entry gathered at a point near the place where the explosion came through the No. 11 room, and for several minutes exchanged suggestion as to what was best for them to do. Finally they reached a decision to start through the afterdamp for the slope, which was the nearest place for fresh air. However, it was soon discovered that they could not proceed as decided upon, whereupon two of the men advised the other eight men to turn back, which advice was not heeded. Consequently, the eight men perished from the effects of the afterdamp. But the two remaining men went back to the starting point, and remained there some time, making frequent attempts to get to the slope but unsuccessfully, until their final trial. Then they discovered that the afterdamp was not so strong as at first, having been cooled off sufficiently for them to go through it. After going some distance, Hannry Duncan, one of the two, decided to go into the air course, thinking it the best place for means of escape, but in so doing he entered afterdamp, which was stronger than on the entry. Will Yancey, his companion, came straight out the entry to the slope without any assistance. If the ten men had all been guided by the same cool-headedness as directed Yancey, they would have escaped with their lives, because the ventilation had been practically restored."

Study. A manufacturing concern which makes highly finished cardboard products recently moved from the center of the city to the outskirts, stating as one reason for the change that the smoke atmosphere they had had to contend with caused great damage to the work. The effect of the smoke was to blow out the pillars separating the two, and caused the brattices to be knocked out, thus short-circuiting the air in the fourteenth right entry and temporarily cutting off the means of escape of ten men who were working in the fourteenth right. The ten men who were caught in this entry gathered at a point near the place where the explosion came through the No. 11 room, and for several minutes exchanged suggestion as to what was best for them to do. Finally they reached a decision to start through the afterdamp for the slope, which was the nearest place for fresh air. However, it was soon discovered that they could not proceed as decided upon, whereupon two of the men advised the other eight men to turn back, which advice was not heeded. Consequently, the eight men perished from the effects of the afterdamp. But the two remaining men went back to the starting point, and remained there some time, making frequent attempts to get to the slope but unsuccessfully, until their final trial. Then they discovered that the afterdamp was not so strong as at first, having been cooled off sufficiently for them to go through it. After going some distance, Hannry Duncan, one of the two, decided to go into the air course, thinking it the best place for means of escape, but in so doing he entered afterdamp, which was stronger than on the entry. Will Yancey, his companion, came straight out the entry to the slope without any assistance. If the ten men had all been guided by the same cool-headedness as directed Yancey, they would have escaped with their lives, because the ventilation had been practically restored."