

NINETY-SIX DEAD FOUND

Fifty More Victims Still Lying in the Fatal Frontenac Shaft.

THE TERRIBLE MINE EXPLOSION.

Pittsburg and Frontenac Plunged Into Deepest Mourning.

HEROIC WORK OF THE RESCUERS.

Descending Into the Gas-filled Mine to Bring Out the Survivors—A Night of Horror and Suspense at the Mouth of the Shaft.

Special Despatch to THE PRESS.

PITTSBURG, Kan., Nov. 10.—This little village is overwhelmed with grief. There is scarcely a cottage in town or in Frontenac that is not in mourning. Nearly every family in the two mining villages has lost a relative in the terrible colliery disaster of last evening. The stores are closed and the blinds of the cottages are tightly drawn. The only place of business remain-

which has long since been cleared of its ghastly stock. Streamers of crape flutter from the doors of cottages at every step and the village bell has been tolled almost without intermission since sunrise. Carpenters are now hurriedly making coffins from such timber as is at hand. The noise of their hammers, the shrieks of hysterical women and the creakings of wagons as they move slowly over the rough roads with their loads of mangled human bodies are about the only evidences of life in the stricken village.

AN AWFUL NIGHT AT THE SHAFT.

Such a night as has just past has no parallel in the history of Kansas. The wailing and shrieking of 1200 women and children above the tomb of 160 sturdy miners; the screaming of the storm through the wreckage of the fatal shaft and the glare of a score of bonfires upon the low hanging clouds made a picture of the most gruesome colors. For hours after the explosion snuffed out the lives of 150 men the scene at the pit was distressing. Poorly-clad women with babies clasped to their breasts came through the darkness within the radius of light cast by the bonfires, like haggard, uncanny beings from another world. Some shrieked above the roar of the storm, others seemed bereft of reason and moaned and muttered as they fell helpless on the shoulders of their stronger neighbors. Still others were mad in their despair and tore their hair and garments and would have dashed headlong into the tomb, but for the strength exerted by miners from other shafts.

One poor woman, whose husband and two sons were in the pit, laid her three youngest children beside a blazing fire and then fell in hysterics among them. She lay unnoticed in this position until morning, when she was removed to her

in order to clear the way for the rescuers. The poor creatures fought each other in their despair, and in some instances inflicted severe punishment.

BRINGING UP THE DEAD.

About midnight the hoisting apparatus was patched up and then a crew of miners without lamps slowly descended into the pit. With breathless interest the women and old men watched the car disappear. The moments passed like hours to the watchers. Finally the signal for hoisting was given and then amid the most profound silence the car slowly arose from the tomb. The rescuers were pale and nearly overcome from the gas with which the mine was filled. They staggered out of the car bearing between them the dead body of a miner whose face was torn and bespattered with blood and dust. For an instant not a word was spoken. Then a wail that drowned the screaming of the Autumn storm arose from the watchers, who fought with blind desperation for the body, the identity of which had not been established.

As the night wore on the work of recovering the bodies continued, until the floor of the engine house was strewn with mangled men. Then bodies were placed in rows upon the ground, where the rain and snow beat upon them. The victims were shockingly mutilated; some were so disfigured as to be unrecognizable. All were covered with blood and dust and many were almost stripped of their clothes. Many of the searchers fainted at their work. Others, stimulated by brandy and the entreaties of the women, continued at their bloody task all through the long night. Some of the victims were not disfigured. Those who worked in chambers were least affected by the shock and perished from asphyxiation.

IDENTIFYING THE CORPSES.

As fast as the bodies were brought to the surface there was a rush made to identify them, a half dozen women in many cases being engaged at one time in scanning the bleeding