

BELIEVE MORE ALIVE IN WRECKED MINE

Sounds in Briceville, Tenn.,
Workings Sustain Hope That
Others May Be Saved.

54 NOW ACCOUNTED FOR

Mine Owners Say Only 85 Were Buried
by Saturday's Explosion—Victims
Wrote Farewell Messages.

Special to The New York Times.

BRICEVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 13.—Twelve more bodies, making a total of forty-nine, were removed to-night from Cross Mountain mine, and with the five taken alive, make a total of fifty-four thus far accounted for. President Stephenson states that so far as can be ascertained there were only eighty-five in the mine on Saturday morning, when the workings were wrecked by an explosion.

The condition of the twelve bodies indicated that the miners had lived for many hours following the explosion. They were found by the helmet men, who arrived this morning from Birmingham. All of last night and to-day, faint noises as of men digging have been heard by the rescue party and by miners in the adjoining Thistle mine, and this sustains the fast diminishing hope that others may be removed alive. Dr. J. A. Holmes, Chief of the United States Government Bureau of Mines, to-day expressed the hope that others may be found alive, and the work is progressing rapidly although retarded by smoke from the fire which was discovered Tuesday night in the head of the mine, where it had probably been smoldering since Saturday's explosion. The fire was extinguished after an hour, but not until it had filled a large area of the mine with smoke.

Some of the cross entries are many hundreds of feet in length and some have been abandoned for a long time, and to-night Otis A. Brown, Secretary of the Knox Iron Company, which operates the Cross Mountain mine, expressed the belief that some of the miners have fled to these abandoned entries and have bratticed themselves there.

Although Government officials are directing the work as rapidly as safety will permit, miners are critical of the way it is being done, and still beg to be allowed to help, declaring they can clear it in two days. They point to the fact that it was one of their number who found Henderson's party, whose members said they heard the Government forces pass them twice on Sunday but could not make themselves heard. The miners do not fear the gases as do others. There are about twenty miles of mineway to explore and less than twenty-five helmet men. Canary birds are being used to detect the presence of poisonous gases with great success.

Messages scrawled on the walls of compartments of the mine, which encouraged rescuers yesterday, yielded no results to-day. The messages evidently were written by a party of men. When driven out of one place by gas they would write indicating where they were going. After the trail was followed through several entries it was lost.

Four of the five men rescued alive from the mine had written messages to loved ones. They had but one little piece of pencil hardly an inch long, and each took his turn with it. Milton Henderson wrote thus to his wife:

Dear Little Wife: You have been a good little wife, but if I don't get to see you any more on this earth I have told you where I want to be buried at Pleasant Hill. Now, sweetheart, do as I tell you. Bye-bye.

This was written at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning. Evidently young Henderson's turn with the pencil had gone, but it came back to his hand again. Then he added:

We have to fan with our coats to live. You know half the cow is yours. If I don't get out of here get your papa to help you get my pay from the mine. If I don't happen to lay my eyes on you again on this earth I hope to see you in heaven. I am sure we will meet in heaven. I want you to tell mamma that papa and I are all right so far. If they don't send nothing worse on us, I hope we can get out. If we don't get out, I hope to meet you in heaven.

Similar to the feelings entertained by young Henderson were those reflected by Erwin Smith in the note he left his wife, only blacker were his hopes. He wrote:

Dear Wife and Children: I don't think we can get out. Me and Dore Irish is burned bad. Let the house go back. (He had just bought a home.) The company owes me \$50. Take care of the children. You can make the company pay for my life. Arthur and Duff started through Entry 15. I don't know whether they can get out or not. Good-bye to all.

In the double dinner pail carried by Smith was water, and though, he was burned and almost famished for drink he gave it all to Dore Irish, who was more badly burned and who needed water more than the others to minimize his sufferings. Smith, like young Henderson, in response to the pleadings of his wife and children, has promised he will forsake mining and find other means of livelihood.

Officials of the Knoxville Iron Company issued a statement declaring a thorough investigation as to the cause of the dust

blast was under way. The statement adds:

It is our purpose to deal justly with relatives or representatives of those who are injured or who were lost in the mine.

The miners suggest that no hasty action be taken by relatives in the way of making contracts with lawyers for division of possible damage money, as suits may be brought for claims at any time within twelve months.

Ernest P. Bicknell, Director of the American Red Cross, arrived here to-day. He expressed approval of the relief measures already taken and indicated that he thought the local committee was competent to take care of any families made destitute by the explosion. The relief fund was swelled to-day by a check for \$1,000 from the Southern Railway officials.