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DESERET EVENING NEWS MONDAY NOVEMBER 15 1909

HUNDREDS DIE IN EXPLOSION

St. Paul Coal Co.'s Mine at Cherry, Illinois, Is Scene of The Disaster.

TOWN FILLED WITH GRIEF

Fire Started by Hay Allowed to Smoulder Too Long-Miners Realized Their Danger Too Late.

Ladd, Ill., Nov. 12 -At least 250 miners were killed here today in one of tha worst mine horrors in yours.

Twelve Bodies tonight had been taken from the mine of the St. Paul Coal company, which was set on fire this afternoon by a burning bale of inty in the male stable.

The men entombed mumber at least 250, according to the estimates of the mine officials, and that many can be rescued is beyond all possibility.

Tonight the shart of the burning mine , could escape, ras scaled after efforts to extinguish he flamma had proved futile. was sealed after efforts to extinguish flames had proved futile.

The town tonight was a scene of Frief and terror. Women and chil-aren were meaning and evying is the streets. Many wives whose husbands did not return from the fory tomb were crassed with grief. Every family in the stricken town has felt the blow of the celesnity.

The entrance to the mina was boarded over in an effort to check the finnes. This ended all hope of excape by the imprisoned information. In the three veins, one 300 feet below

In the three veloe, one 300 feet below the surface, the minors were impro-oned and their only chance for life was to retreat to the ends of the veloe, in the hope there might be enough afr to proserve their fives until help came. The first explosion occurred shortly after 2 o'clock. It communicated to other sections of the mine, and in less than 10 minutes all boop of encape seemed shut off from the miners. While smoke, and even jets of flame, swept up through the miner entrance, the cage which carried the miners to their work made regular trips. The first loads were miners who escaped with no worst injurier than burns or braises received in the rush for sufety.

ted in the rush for sufety.



The food that makes strength

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The last trip of the case was made when the bodies of the mine superin-tendent and his assistants when brought out. A half hour aft, the explosion oc-

brought out. A hair hour aft, the explosion oc-curred the month of the shaft was sur-manded by hum breds of rrankic women, children and men. Many tried to en-ter the mine, but gave up after the first effort and were carried uncon-acious from the smoke and escaping furnes. For almost two hours the of-fields of the mine and residents of Chorry trief to devise means to help the imprisoned miners.

Chorry Iries to devise means to help the imprisoned miners. Mine Supi, James Steele declared five hours after the explosion it was almost impossible that any of the miners could escape. The mine has a day shift of 484 men. Of these a few left the mine at noon. Twenty-five are known to have escaped after the fire broke out. The others doublies are deed.

to have escaped after the fire broke out. The others doubtless are doud. The entrance to the mine was weaked up in the hope of checking the flames, Despite the efforts of officials and worres of volunteer assistants. It seemed assured t hat only bodies of the dead would be taken from the mine. The fire crusting the explosion, in what may prove one of the greatest tragedles in the list of mine horrors, had an origin almost trivial. A pile of has allowed to smoulder too long final-

hay allowed to smoulder too long final-ly ignited the timbers of the mine and before the workers realized their dan-gor the mine was filled with smoke. games and flames and all exit was im-

No similar accident has been record-ed in the history of mine disasters in

The greatest loss of life in any minaccident in this state occurred at Braid-wood in 1879, when 80 men lost their lives. At Zeigler, III., 50 men have been Icilied in successive four accidents. There were 150,000 men simployed in Il-nois mines, and for the last fiscal year 181 were killed in accidents and 800 in-

often destructive to the

mother's shapeliness. All of this can be avoided by the use of Mother's Friend before baby comes, as this liniment prepares the body for the strain upon it, and preserves the symmetry of her torm. Mother's Friend makes the danger of child-birth less, and carries her

safely through this critical period. Thousands grate-fully tell of the benefit and relief derived from the use of this remedy. Sold by druggists at \$1.00 per bottle. Book mailed free to all expectant mothers THE BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO. Atlanta, Ga.



The greatest tragedy in mining his fory is balleved to have occurred in Tokio, Japan, in 1997, when 470 persons were killed.

were killed. The maximum loss of life in a utino disaster in the United States was re-corded at Monangih, W. Va., in 1991, when 30s minors were killen. One of the miners who sataped from the Cherry mine said touight: "The lights went out soon after the free started and left everything in dark-meas. When the slarm of fire was heard there was a rush for the escape and main shafts, but comparatively only a few could be saved. The smoke grow worse every minute. It will not be possible to save any of the Impris-oned me." anad men.'

EXPERTS BELIEVE FIRE HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED

Cherry, Ill., Nov 11.-Nearly 400 hu-man beings, men and boys, it is now believed, are dead or perisbing in the St. Paul mine here, though the experts who succeeded in penetrating the smoke-filled air shaft to the depth of 500 feet late today returned with a ray of hope for the grief-stricken rela-tives of the entombed men. That the fire has been extinguished was the conclusion of mining experts and inspectors sent by Gov. Dencen to investigate the calamity.

investigate the culamity.

investigate the calamity. For more than 30 hours the prisoners have been cut off from fresh air. That life could exist under such conditions is doubted, but because no truce of high temperature was found in the depths of the mine tenight, officials of the company hope the victims may have found safety in remote recessed of the workings.

have found safety in remote recesses of the workings. A. J. Earling, president of the Chi-cago, Milwaukze & St. Paul Railroad company, who has not slopt since ar-riving, received an encouraging report. after heroic efforts had been made to-day to open the mine for the release of the entombed men, or for the release of the dead. From the son of one of the missing

ery of the flead. From the son of one of the missing miners, a young man named Reid, the rallroad president heard that a concus-sion of the earth had been feit by farm-ers half a mile south of the main shaft. The report was sent to Henry Burke, an official of the mining company. Burks rushed to President Earling in the office of the company. "Tye heard sizemals from the men." 've heard signals from the men,'

The office of the company. "Two heard signals from the men," he said, excitedly. "What do you mean," asked the railroad president. "What signals?" "John Reid's boy says that he and farmors whose hand is over the south-ern end of the mine feit several concus-sions of the earth this afternoon. There were several shocks, and the men who fait them are convinced they were shots freed by the imprisoned miners, and that they were meant for an assur-ance that at least some were alive." "Oh, I hope so," said Farling. "That is, at least some were alive." "This glimmering of light in the dark-enesh homen of Cherry tonight followed other uncounsging."

and that oxygen enough remains in the mine to keep them alive until the shafts may be re-opened. The Hei of missing was compiled today in the offices of the mining com-oany. It reached 355, including the dead whose charred bodies were taken from burning cages Saturday after-noon. It was declared probable that this list might be increased. One hundred and seventy men who entered the mine Saturday norming have been acounted for. The company had scores of tracers at work rounding

had scores of tracers at work rounding up employes. Tonight company offi-cials said the number of men in the mine was greater than they first had believed possible.

belleved possible. Among the missing are many Ameri-caus who have lived in the mining sec-tion of filmois for years. Though the majority of these who may never be found alives are foreign-born, yet all had their homes here or in the sur-rounding towns and villages. Grief over their probable fate has cast a pall over the community. Cherry today held thousands of per-sons, and before noon the St. Paul mine was surrounded by an almost uncon-trollable mob.

trollable mob



ait the face of the mine, was one of the few who came out allve. For nore than 209 yards he crawled in the dark on hands and knees, using the rall is a guide to the bottom of the shaft. At one point he says he met 65 miners witting in a row along the road. They had given up the straggle and were waiting resignedly for death. "I and my buddle' (partner) were at work on the second vein level when the alarm of fire was sounded." said Vickers. "We started from the bottom, but had gone only a few feet when our eights went out. The entry was tast filling with smoke, which filled our eyes and made us usep for breath. "Several times we attempted to light our lamps, but without success. All about us we evuld hear shouts of our comrades in adjoining rooms, who, like ourselves, had been left in the dark. Calling to my buddle' I wared him to get close to the roadbed, and I dropped to my hands and knees and began to crawi along the rails, shout-ing at intervals to my buddle' to let him knew where I was.

dropped to my hands and knees and began to crawi along the rails, shout-ing at intervals to my 'buddle' to let him knew where I was. "At one point we passed about 65 miners slitting by the routside al-most in a stuper. I tried to rouse them and encourage them to go on, but they scemed to have given up all hope and did not stir. I had no time to hose and continued on, expecting to send relief from the shaft. "When within 100 feet of the mine mouth, I began to grow faint from the effects of smoke and exhaustion. The smoke was growing more dense every foot I went, and my courage was fies ebbing. I pulled my coat closely about my face and, bending closely to the rail, struggled on. "I escaped death by just three min-ines. When I arrived at the bottom of the shaft the last cage had reached the top and was about to descend. I should as the signal bell was ringing and two men broke the way to me and dragged me to the cage. I then lost conscloaumes. When I cause to I was safely on top. "My 'buddle' had followed closely all the way and had encouraged by the light held by the cage main, man-aged to reach the shaft and was car-ried with me to safety." A tobacco pouch was the means of saving the lives of John Phillips and Edward Surroek jung in the track in the main entry-way. He dragged his coverome with the struct. When sainfit, found Surroek lying in the track in the main entry-way. He dragged his cover which the rest over his nose and mouth. The only thing available was the small sack in which he carried to-bacted his beat in this mouth he pulled the rest over his nose and mouth. The only thing available was the small sack in which he carried to-balt due was the saving of John McGill and his young son. They left the place where they were working when the alarm was given. Before half the journer was completed, the

The only surviver was an invalid, who, on Monday, returned from the hospital and was unable to report for work on

MAN WHO CAME BACK.

"I couldn't have done anything else than I did. It is not worth talking about. Beebles, I am too busy to talk



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If your memis don't tempt you, or If your memis don't tempt you, or what fifte you do sat sectors to fill your or lays like a lump of lead in your stamach, or if you have heartburn. That is a sign of Indigestion. Ask your Pharmacist for a be-cent temp of Pape's Dispepsin and take a him just as scan as you can. There

Take a little Diapepsin now and your Stomach will feel fine in five minutes. Every family here ought to keep some Diapepsin in the house, as any on your breath with nauseous odors.

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Relief in five minutes from all stomach minery is at any drug store, waiting for you.

sone, and before noon the St. Paul mine was subtrounded by an almost uncon-trollable mob. Officials early in the day swore in a force of deputies to handle the crowd. Scores of trains from Streator, Men-dota, Laidd, Spring Valley, La Salle, Otawa and other towns were run. When experts had drilled a hole through the concrete at the top of the second vein alreshaft and all prepara-tions were made to lower Mr. Williams and his volunteer explorers, the scene at the mine was dramatic. Along the railroad tracks and in fields on the east and vein alreshaft and all prepara-tions were made to lower Mr. Williams and his volunteer explorers, the scene at the mine was dramatic. Along the railroad tracks and in fields on the east and vest of the shaft was a wall of humanity. Stout ropes and pollosmon kent back the throng. It was a silent, but not indemonistra-tive assemblage. Occasionally a wom-an's wall broke the stillness. Four men appeared, oxygen bags on their shoul-ders and steel and glass covered hoods over their heads. They were beaides Mr. Williams of Urbana, this nasist-ant James H. Webb of the University of liniols. James Hand of Spring Val-ley and Henry Smith of Peru, Later, Mine Inspector James Taylor of Peoria donned the regalis. The men who were ready to assist the top of the shaft. Williams and Smith prepared to descend. Inspector Taylor drilled them in their signals. The men who were to undertake the rowleating noded ascent. Engineer Coviey at the hoist that controlled the from backet in which Williams and shift were standing asmounced his readinese, and the first men to enter the 8t. Paul mine since the explosion were slowly lowersd. SUPT. TAYLOR TALKS. on Monday, returned from the hospital and was unable to report for work on Saturday. One pititul case is that of the Love family. Mrs. John Love is not only left a widow, but four sons are be-lieved to have perianod. A canvass of what is known as "Long Row," a street which has an one side a row of 53 cottages identical in appearance, has revealed that only two men in all the houses are numbered among the living. Each of the 23 families has from one to four dead. The story of the 14 heroes who went down to their death in the blazing shaft of the Cherry mine and of the one man who came back, scattred by free and blackgened by smake, to tail the ghastly story, is being related to-day in all its details. MAN WHO CAME BACK

SUPT. TAYLOR TALKS.

W. W. Taylor, general auperintendent of the mines of the St. Paul company, was a pathetic figure today. He stood watching and suggesting movements to open the mine, and at times, though he struggled to control his emotions, tars dimmed his eves and his where choked

MAN WHO CAME BACK Standing out above all the others is the story of Dr. L. B. Howe, "The nam-who came back," the only one of the frecole 14 who survived to tell what happened. Neven times before the other rescu-ers began to go down in the burning shaft, he went down alone in a lift. Each time he brought to the surface his quota of sured. Twenty-five min-ers owe their lives to him. Today his hands are badly burned, but he shows no other sear. When asted to describe his experience, he increased and substantian and suid. struggled to control his emotions, tears dimmed his eyes and his voice choked with sols. "I wish, he said. "that the men of the press would interview these min-ing inspectors after they are relieved from their duties of this ordeal about this mine. I do not want to so or this mine, I do not want to go on pecand alone, but I believe that they will tell you that this was the safest coal mins in this country. I have sented many mines and I know that was safe,

It was safe, "A calastrophe could have happened here in no other way than just as it did. The five need not have been dis-astrons. The men at work in the sta-bles were excited. The burning hay could have been shuff off from the rest of the mine without the least difficulty, and the fire extinguished with little trouble. "This is an aveful thing. Some of about. Beerides, I am too bury to talk today." The disaster brought to light many unnamed heroes. Among these was a miner who, when fighting ble way through the blinding mode, stambled across the bady of a little "trapper" boy who had been overcome at his post at one of the trap doors that controls the air supply. Finding that life still existed be picked up the boy, and, placing him upon his shoulders, stag-gered on until he met one of the rescu-ers. Both the miner and the boy reached the surface.

difficulty, and the fire estinguished with little trouble. This is an awful thing. Some of the best men who ever lived lost their lives, all through carelessness. Handy and Nosberg died like herces. They were on the surface. They went down to neve their follows." As Supt. Taylor speke tears relied down his chocks. He has not slept since he reached here Baturday hight. President Earling, too, deeply feels the tragedy. He and his son are constant by on the ground. Arrangements are being contemplated to bring relier to families of the victims. It is probable that supplies for their meds will be arranged by the Bt. Paul company. Citizens of neighboring towns al-rendy appreciate, with the mart ap-proach of winter what the matro he maans to the inhabitants of Cherry. Not a horse here has not been affected. Break winners in hundreds of homes are dead. are dead.

Coroner Maim temorrow will resume the inquest begun today.

Excitement ceased with the diacon-invance of afforts to explore the mine and the disappearance of the great crowd. Proparations are being made for handling the dead when they are found found

STORY OF A SURVIVOR.

William Vickers, who was at work

Inches.

rescue work was the saving of John McGill and his young son. They left the place where they were working when the alarm was given. Before half the journey was completed, the boy began to grow dizay. Clasping his father's hand be same to his knees, exclaiming. 'Pa, I am dying. Leave me and save yourself if you can.'' Although greatly weakened himselt, the father raised the now unconaci-ous son and, taking off his belt, strap-ped the boy on his back and straggled on. Within sight of the shaft he staggered and fell. Before losing con-aciousness he yelled for help, and his cries were heard. Rescuers bore them to the cage. Elseven of the 12 boardets at the house of Mrs. George White ware lost. The only surviver was an invalid, who, FERD STROUSE, President.

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reached the surface.

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