DISASTER AT PRIMERO DUE TO EXPLOSION OF FIRE DAMP

(Continued From Page One.)

night and this supply will be further increased by shipments tomorrow.

Primero, Feb. 1.—When darkness fell on Primero, where yesterday the lives of seventy miners were snuffed out by an explosion in the main slope of the Colorado Iron and Fuel company's mine, the bodies of forty victims lay in the temporary morgue installed in the machine shop, a large force of men was still engaged in restoring ventilation throughout the mine, and hundreds of Primero's residents lingered about the mouth of the shaft awaiting the recovery of the entombed bodies.

Officials of the company on the ground, who were not needed to supervise directly the mine work, turned their attention to the relief of families of the victims; Coroner Guilferl had impaneled a jury to take up an investigation of the catastrophe, and relatives and friends of the identified dead turned their attention to preparations for burying the dead.

Cause of Disaster Unknown.

The cause of the disaster tonight remains shrouded in mystery. Several theories are advanced, but definite conclusions as to the cause of the explosion are not expected until the mine is completely cleared and an official investigation made.

Leonardo Virgen, a Mexican and the only surviving miner who is supposed to have been working within a comparatively short distance of the point where the explosion originated, is unable to give a clear statement of what actually ocurred or tell from which direction the force of the explosion came.

Force of Explosion Great.

Following immediately the report, which warned residents of Primero that a disaster had occurred in the mine, came the first visual evidences of the disaster. A column of dust and smoke poured out of the main entrance. Large pieces of timbers were hurled from the entrance more than a hundred feet; and so terrific was the force that a string of cars in the mine mouth were blown clear off the track.

Attention of those outside was turned immediately to the huge ventillating fans, and within an hour of the disaster two of these were put in operation and rescue parties were forcing their way into the gas-filled workings. An immense caveln at the mouth of the slope blocked entrance at that point, but the rescuers followed the main ventilating shaft for several hundred yards, gaining entrance to the main stope through a cross-cut.

First Bodies Were Found.

It was not until the relief party reached A. 7, on the main slope, that they found evidence of the destruction wrought by the explosion. Here probably a dozen bodies were encountered, but the rescuers pushed on in the hope of finding signs of life. A little further on near the mouth of entry A. 8 the party in charge of J. B. Manley, local mine inspector, came across Leonardo Virgen shortly after 2 o'clock this morning. As if waking from a sleep, Virgen opened his eyes and said:

"Please may I go home now?" Virgen was hurried to the temporary hospital. Today he had sufficiently recovered to join the ranks of watchers around the mine entrance. Encouraged by their find, rescuers worked with renewed energy, hoping to find others alive within the recesses of the mine, but failing in this up to noon today, those still missing were given up as lost.

Work of Exploration.

Early last night local workers were re-enforced by squads of miners from the surrounding camps of Segundo, Starkville, Berwind, Engle, Cokedale and Frederick. All night and all day rescue work has been pushed with frequent reliefs until tonight the advance guard had reached to within 400 yards of the face of the main stope.

Leaders in the work were J. B. Manley, William Kilpatrick, mine superintendent, and William Morgan of the Rocky Mountain Fuel company's Piedmont mine. Morgan knows the workings thoroughly. He was superintendent of the Primero mine when twenty-four lives were lost in the explosion of Jan. 23, 1907. J. S. Thompson, division superintendent; Joseph Bail, David Griffith and other officials hurried from Trinidad on a special train and joined in the rescue work. This morning officials on the ground were further increased by the arrival of Frederick Herrington, general counsel; E. H. Weltzel, manager of the fuel department; F. P. Bayless, superintendent of the Guggenheim properties at Cokedale, and others.

Today orders were issued through officials of the Colorado Supply company, a subsidiary of the C. F. & I. company, to issue provisions to families of the victims until a permanent system of relief can be organized.

Work of checking off the dead proceeded slowly today, the only means possible being checking the missing numbers carried by each miner with the company's roster.

Scenes around the mine today failed to indicate the extent of the disaster.

The ground was roped off around the mine entrance and a force of deputy sheriffs kept the crowds back, giving the workers a clear field. Although anxiety caused by uncertainty was plainly visible, men, women and children among the watchers restrained their grief with amazing fortitude.

Worker Was Overcome.

Shortly before 1 o'clock this afternoon the watchers were electrified by the report that another man had been recovered alive, but hope thus revived was quickly shattered by the announcement that Bert Lloyd, one of the rescue party, had ventured too far into the poisonous fumes and had been overcome. He was brought to the open air and quickly revived.

The jurors selected by the coroner today to investigate the disaster follow: J. M. Fox, George Guy, John Titsworth, John Leller, Manuel Torres and William N. Ridpath.

The main stope where the explosion is believed to have occurred extends in almost a straight line. About 100 feet east of the stope is the main air course which parallels the main stope and here is located the main fan.

On the right of the main air course, where many miners are believed to have been working at the time of the explosion, nothing has been done. The reason for this is found in the fact that the force of the explosion is believed to have been to open the main stope and entries to its left, allowing miners in the other portion of the mine to escape.

Many instances of daring occurred in the rescue work today and many of the workers repeatedly risked their own lives in the hope of reaching some of the entombed men alive.

The arrival today of E. E. McClintock, superintendent of the company's telegraph department, relieved the shortage of communication with the outside world and with the installation of direct circuits made possible the sending out of the first detailed account of the disaster.

Following is the list of known dead compiled from records of Coroner Guilfoil and the company:

DAVE WILLIAMS, Welch, pit boss.
JACK ELIAS, American, boss driver.
WILLIAM HELM, American.
JIM RUMMINGS, American.
J. W. HOSKINS, American.
ED RAIL, American.
E. STRANGFELDER, German.
CHARLES SELLERS, colored.
J. H. ANDERSON, colored.
W. E. FIELDS, colored.
FRANK DOTSON, colored.
E. ROMERO, Mexican.
FERNAND VILLARD, Mexican.
D. ARGUELLA, Mexican.
M. ADODOCA, Mexican.
FRANK OMERS, Italian.
SIMON DEGA, Hungarian.
ALBERT FOAT, Hungarian.
ANTON RADORICH, Hungarian.
JOHN ISKRA, Slav.
ALBERT TOTH, Slav.
PETE PERKO, Slav.
FRED CISKLER, Slav.
——— TORRY.
TONY VIRCH, Slav.
K. W. CHUN, Japanese.
H. K. LEE, Japanese.
L. H. LEE, Japanese.
L. K. YAR, Japanese.
H. B. KIM, Japanese.
L. C. CHO, Japanese.
Y. B. KIM, Japanese.
C. Y. CLIOY, Japanese.
O. M. KIM, Japanese.

STALLIONS FOR SALE

IN THE PUBLIC



JAMES F. CURTI
New Assistant Secretary of

LIST OF BODIES FOUND

Special to The Chieftain.

Primero, Feb. 1.—Up to this hour this evening thirty-seven bodies have been recovered from the mine at Primero. The list as taken from the official roster of Coroner Guilfoil, is as follows:

WILLIAM FIELDS, colored.
RUBEN DAUGHTERTY, colored.
JOHN RAMMING, aged 23, leaves a bride of three weeks.
WILLIAM ASKINS, married.
J. D. WILLIAMS, pit boss, body not yet recovered.
JOHN ELIAS, driver boss, leaves wife and four children.
ERNEST STRANGFELDER, aged 52, married.
JOHN THEIS, aged 30, married.
J. H. ANDERSON, colored, aged 35, leaves wife and three children.
CHARLES SELLERS, aged 35, married, no children.
S. MASLEY, colored, aged 40, wife in Alabama.
JACK ASGRE, age 21, single.
J. W. HELM, electrician, aged 26, single.
S. ETIFANIO ROMERO, aged 16.
SAMUEL LACROIX, aged 58.
JOSEPH LACROIX, aged 11.
JOSEPH HUMMEL, aged 19.
STEVE BARECO, aged 30, wife here.
ALEX LUCAS, aged 30, wife in old country.
FRED PICKLES, aged 40.
FIDEL AGUELLO, Mexican.
FRANK LAWRENCE, carried lamp 246. It is not known whether his last or first name was Lawrence.

Lying in an improvised morgue are nine unidentified Japanese. While there have been eight or ten different lists of the supposed dead sent out, this is the list as made out by the coroner and his assistant officials. The mine officials refused to give out the list of the known dead. That list will run anywhere from 19 to 85.

Coroner Guilfoil this afternoon empaneled a jury which viewed the remains in order that the burials might take place, but the actual work of investigation and hearing testimony will not be done until the excitement subsides around the mine and the funerals are all over. The mine officials have done everything in their power to confuse and prevent the sending out of authentic reports from the camp.

There now remains throughout the workings of the mine about forty-eight mangled and dismembered bodies and no attempt at the present time will be made toward their removal.

Florence Hunters are Numerous.

Special to The Chieftain.

Florence, Feb. 1.—January, 1910, has proven an unusually busy month in the number of hunting licenses issued. Only eight were taken out in January, 1909, as against 174 for January this year. The increase is attributed to the active work of Game Warden Poteet who since his appointment three months ago has made it very unpleasant for the violators of the game laws.