

## The International First Aid and Mine Rescue Contest

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**T**HE EVENT of the year, as far as the million miners of the United States are concerned, is the International First Aid and Mine Rescue Contest that will be held in September at Denver, Colorado, under the auspices of the Bureau of Mines.

The contest will be open to all bona fide first aid and mine rescue teams connected with the mining and metallurgical companies of the United States, Canada and Mexico, and prizes of gold medals, cups and banners will be awarded to the teams most proficient in the art of saving human life. A number of similar contests have been held in the past by the bureau and each succeeding contest has shown increasing enthusiasm among the mining fraternity until today these events are looked upon as red-letter days in their history.

The miners' occupation being continuously filled with hazard, the rescue and first aid teams at the mines are looked up to as the leaders in a great cause and there is much local and regional pride in the proficiency of their men. The teams that come back from the Bureau of Mines contest with some of the honors are greeted as conquering heroes by their communities and are considered by their fellow-miners as far greater than the winner of a great athletic contest, for to the other men these men typify the greatest of heroes—the man who risks his life for his fellowman.

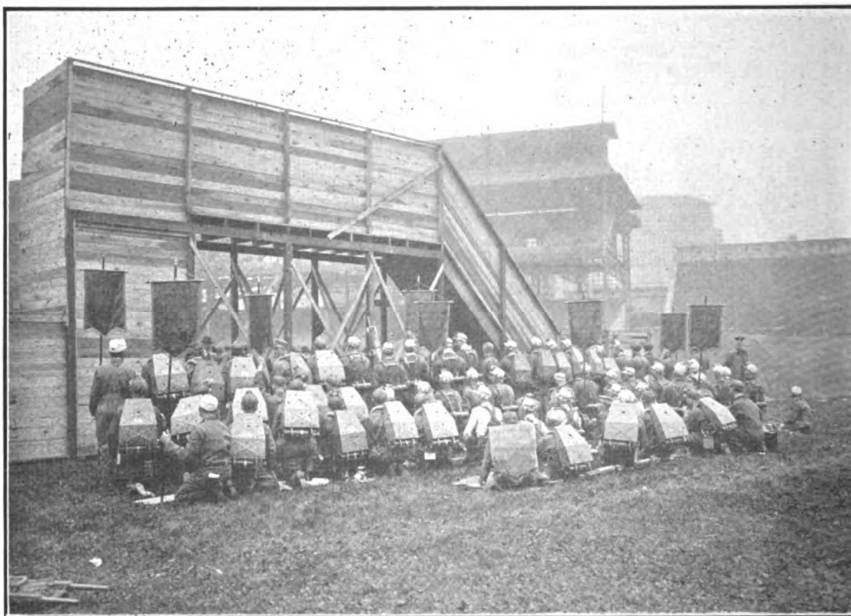
It is a little more than ten years ago that the Bureau of Mines, under the late Joseph A. Holmes, its first director, introduced into the mines a new method in life saving—the use of oxygen rescue apparatus which permits trained rescuers to enter a mine filled with poisonous gases that would kill in an instant. That allowed the formation of mine-rescue crews at the mines, and today there is not an important mining community that does not boast of its expert crews of life savers. If there are mines that have not yet sensed the forward movement, and disaster occurs, there are several expert crews at surrounding mines that respond to the call of disaster with all the eagerness of the heroes of song who man the life-boats when the storm is raging and life hangs by a slender thread. In fact this movement has grown so rapidly that it is said, in the event of a great disaster, a train traveling forty or fifty miles in a mining region can pick up more than sufficient expertly trained life savers to take care of the emergencies, no matter how great.

With the advent of the trained rescue miner, wearing the oxygen rescue apparatus, has come the trained first-aid man who takes the victim of a mine disaster and gives him the emergency aid that oftentimes is the difference between a dead miner and a live one; the difference between a man disabled for life and one restored to the full use of his powers; and the difference between a man deprived of his earning capacity and one who can support and protect his wife and children in comfort.

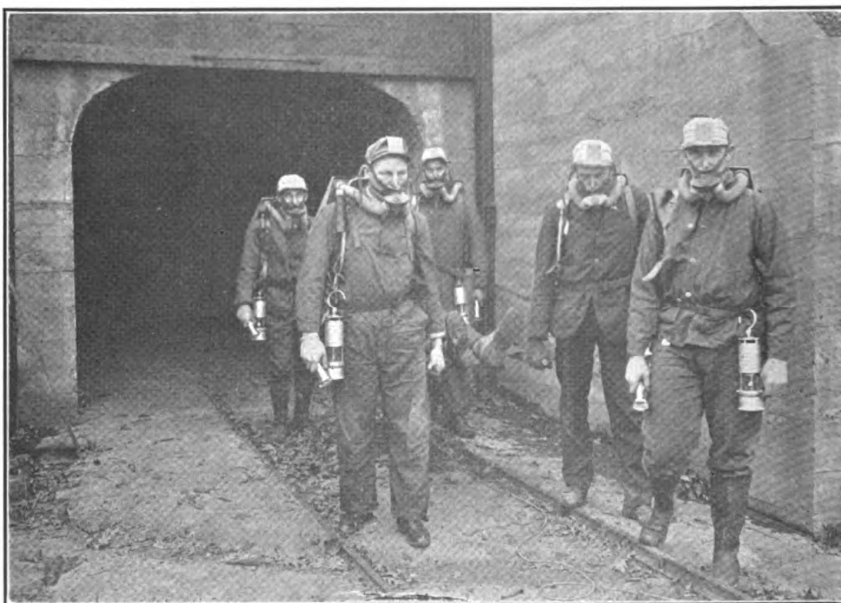
Today there are more than 100,000 men in this country trained by the Bureau of Mines in modern first-aid or mine-rescue work or both, all of them volunteers, ready to help their own or those in some other place, no matter where, for there is no distinction in the saving of the life of a fellow-man.

There is perhaps no other industry in the United States that has such hazards; there is no other industry that has such help from the Government. The Bureau of Mines maintains

in this work ten fully equipped mine-rescue cars with trained rescue crews that visit as many mines throughout the country as they can, training men in modern life saving, and now and then stopping their work to rush to a disaster and assist in a practical way in the saving of men from death. The bureau also maintains ten mine rescue stations and five mine rescue trucks that perform similar duties. In this work altogether the bureau employs fifty trained mine rescue men.



Group of mine rescue teams at contest held at Pittsburgh, Pa. These teams came from every section of the United States.



Mine rescue team fully equipped leaving tunnel entrance.



*Type of apparatus carried on back of body.*

The mining industry in this country employs more than a million men, and more than 3,000 are killed each year while at work. This life-saving work has now been in existence ten years or more, and the records of fatalities show that in that time the lives of 5,000 men have been saved. To state this in another way, had the fatalities been in the same proportion the last ten years as in the preceding ten years 5,000 more miners would have lost their lives.

There is such interest among the miners in these contests, teams in the various mining states have been busy all the summer in local and state contests preparing through competition for the big events. Such states as California, Kentucky, Alabama, Indiana, Oklahoma, Virginia, Iowa and West Virginia have all held meets and selected their best teams for the Denver meet. The Lehigh Valley Safety Division of Pennsylvania recently held a "No

Accident" week and picked out the best teams in their localities to attend the contests in September.

Last year the contests of the bureau were held at Pittsburgh, Pa., with 108 teams participating. This year the entries closed August 26, and were filed with the bureau at its Pittsburgh office. D. J. Parker, head of the rescue service of the bureau, will have charge of the meet.

One of the spectacular events will be an actual demonstration of the utility of the airplane in rescue work in quickly transporting engineers and oxygen rescue apparatus to the scene of mine disasters. While the mine rescue teams are showing their proficiency on the field where the contests are to be held, an alarm of a supposed mine disaster will be telegraphed or telephoned to the location of the nearest airplane of United States Air Service. An airplane will be immediately dispatched to pick up Bureau of Mines men and apparatus, bringing them to the field as quickly as possible. So many of the miners in the United States have been trained in rescue work by the bureau, it is not thought there will be much difficulty in promptly obtaining rescuers at a mine accident anywhere. The airplane will then be used in bringing to the scene engineers who have ability to direct rescue work.

Another feature of the meet will be the formal presentation of gold medals to miners for deeds of bravery in saving life in the United States during the last three years. The awards will be made by Dr. Frederick G. Cottrell, Director of the Bureau of Mines, in behalf of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association, of which he is also president. The gold hero medal is to be presented to four western miners and to the nearest living relative of three others, who sacrificed their lives in their attempts to rescue fellow miners from death.

The men who performed deeds of bravery are: John L. Boardman of Butte, Montana, safety engineer of the Anaconda Copper Company; Daniel Bionvitch, Biwalik, Minn., an employee of the Balkan Mining Company; James Collins, Mullen, Idaho, an employee of the Gold Hunter Mining and Smelting Co.; and James Dilimark, Mullen, Idaho, an em-



*Type of apparatus carried on front of body.*

ployee of the Gold Hunter Mining and Smelting Co.

Three other heroes, miners for the North Butte Mining Co.; at Butte, Mont., sacrificed their lives in trying to save others. The nearest living relative of each of the three men will be at Denver during the First Aid and Mine Rescue Contest and will receive from Dr. Cottrell the gold medals and diplomas detailing the heroic deeds of the dead men. The men who died are: Michael Conroy, Peter Sheridan and John D. Moore.

That the meet will cover the entire mining industry of the country is shown in the number of teams already entered, such as the Homestake Mining Co., Lead, S. D.; Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co., Lansford, Pa.; Keystone Coal and Coke Co., Greensburg, Pa.; Hailey-Ola Coal Co., Haileyville, Okla.; Union Pacific Coal Co., Rock Springs, Wyo.; H. C. Frick Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.; United States Fuel Company of Indiana; State of Kansas First Aid Association; Temple Coal Co., Luzerne, Pa.; St. Louis Rocky Mountain Pacific Coal Co., Raton, N. Mex.; Colorado Fuel and Iron Co., Pueblo, Colo.; Huntington team of the Arkansas Mine Rescue Association.



*Showing a first aid team in action administering treatment to a subject during Bureau of Mines First Aid contest.*

The high premium says an English contemporary on the American dollar more than offsets the tariff; hence our manufacturers can send goods into the U. S. A. more advantageously than they can sell them at home, while the same premium on the dollar practically prohibits American manufacturers from selling abroad when there is any sort of competition from countries whose exchange is lower. The fluctuations in exchange also introduce a speculative factor which compels U. S. A. manufacturers to put on a larger percentage of profit to offset any change in exchange which may occur between the booking of an order and its delivery.