

mine ready in just such an emergency, so that the miners who escape death or serious injury from the explosion and who may be protected from the carbon monoxide, may be saved. In the case of the Courrières disaster the largest number of deaths was due, not to the force of the explosion, but to carbon monoxide poisoning.

RUSSIA

In Russia, about a year after the Courrières disaster, the following decrees relating to the organization of rescue corps and the installation of rescue apparatus in coal mines, were issued:

"1. In every coal mine a rescue squad must be organized and to it is entrusted operations in foul gases.

"(a) In every mine which has connection with a central organization for the inspection and supervision of rescue corps, the number of workers belonging to the corps must be 4 per cent. of the enrollment of the largest shift. For every four mines belonging to the corps, there must be not less than one breathing apparatus and one electric handlamp. In isolated mines, however, it is required that there shall be not fewer than three complete rescue equipments.

"(b) In mines which are not affiliated with such a central organization, the number of mines required to belong to a corps shall, in general, be the same as in mines of the first category. However, there shall not be less than six men to a corps, and for every three members at least two breathing apparatus and two handlamps shall be provided. In mines having a total force of only 50 men, a corps may consist of three men, having two breathing apparatus and two handlamps, provided the approval of the district inspector has been secured. Mines of this last class must, however, be within 1.5 versts (one mile) of mines having a normal sized corps and have telephone connection with them.

"2. Every gold mine with underground workings and any other mines except those not requiring timbering, must also organize a rescue corps. The size of the corps in these cases, the number of apparatus, electric lamps and other necessary equipment is to be determined by the local inspector after consultation with the mine authorities.

"3. The choice of the particular type of breathing apparatus rests with the mine owners, subject to approval by local authorities."

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18, 1908:

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Art. 2.-
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Art. 3.-
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