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NEGRO EX-CONVICTS

Imported Into Illinois From the South to Take Place of Strikers.

A BLOODY RIOT IS THE RESULT.

A Battle Between the Miners and Negroes and Their Guards on the Train---The Train Passes Swiftly out of Town---Seven Miners Killed and Many Wounded on Both Sides---Fighting at the Mine---Governor Tanner Refuses to Aid in Importing This Class of Labor---He Puts the Blame for the Fight on the Mine Owners.

Virden, Ill., October 12.—The little town of Virden is comparatively quiet tonight after a day of riot and bloodshed, resulting from the long expected clash between the union miners and imported negroes. At 12:40 o'clock this afternoon a Chicago and Alton special train bearing 200 negro miners from the south arrived at the stockade around the Chicago-Virden Coal Company's mines, and immediately the fighting began. The list at 1:00 o'clock tonight stands: Seven dead, thirteen wounded. It is said that six men were wounded inside the stockade, but this has not been verified and those inside the stockade refuse to communicate with outsiders.

For the past two weeks rumors have reached Virden that a train having negroes from Alabama would reach the city and the Chicago and Alton depot has been surrounded day and night by miners. The Chicago and Alton infinited, due to pass here at 10 o'clock en route to Chicago, was an hour late, displaying flags on the rear indicating that a special was following. Immediately the word was spread and a dense crowd of miners lined the station platform, while another crowd collected at the entrance of the stockade a half mile north of the station.

At 12:40 o'clock the special train passed the station and signal shots were fired from the south end of the train announcing its arrival.

Immediately shots were fired from the moving train and outside and the battle was on. A few moments after the train had passed the switch where D. L. Kiley, a Chicago and Alton detective, was stationed, and while he was talking with two citizens, he threw up his arms and dropped dead with a bullet through his brain. He was the first man killed. The train continued to the stockade, the miners firing into it all along the route and the negro passengers returning the fire. The moment the train reached the stockade, the miners opened a desperate fire with Winchesters, revolvers and firearms of all descriptions. The negroes on the train answered with a steady fire. The miners on the train were enveloped in a cloud of smoke and the shooting sounded like a continuous volley. Kinnece Tigar received a bullet in the arm and dropped from his seat. His fireman seized the throttle, pulled it open and with a jerk the train was under speed carrying a load of wounded negro passengers to Springfield. How many were wounded is not known. The train stopped at the stockade but two minutes. Its departure did not cause the fighting to cease. The stockade was filled with sharpshooters armed with Winchesters and they kept up a steady fire into the crowd of union miners. Eye witnesses say the dead miners were killed after the train had departed. It is not known how many men are stationed behind the walls of the stockade, but an estimate places them between twenty-five and forty.

It is claimed that six within the stockade were wounded, but those inside refuse to hold any communication with the outside and nothing authentic can be learned. Word was, however, sent from the stockade to physicians in town that their services were needed.

A DESPERATE FIGHT.

The supply and provision store of the Chicago-Virden Company is known as the Climax Trading Company, with Superintendent F. E. Syster in charge. At 2 o'clock, after the firing at the stockade had subsided, an attack with double force had been made on Syster's store in the village. The history of the attack is as follows: Immediately the word was spread that a crowd of miners lined the station platform, while another crowd collected at the entrance of the stockade a half mile north of the station.

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