

BELGIAN MINERS' FUNERAL.

Belgium gives a State funeral - which is attended by King Baudouin - to the first six victims brought to the surface after the tragic disaster at the Bitter Heart colliery. At the same time, more bodies are being recovered - and though hope is waning rapidly for the 172 miners still entombed half a mile below ground, the rescue squads are working night and day as long as the faintest possibility of rescue remains.

A hundred thousand people have gathered for the service - for this is a day of national mourning in Belgium. Radio, theatres and cinemas have cancelled their programmes, and the nation's thoughts are with the miners and their sorrowing families as the flag-draped coffins are carried to their last resting-place.

Of these six dead miners, three were Italians, two Belgians, and one a Pole. Five others have been taken to their home towns for burial. But although the dead came from widely-scattered countries, they had made Belgium their home, and worked at the coal-face side by side with their Belgian colleagues. The country of their adoption mourns them as her own sons.