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BENNY SAVED BY PRESENCE OF MIND

Duluth, March 15.—The terrible experience of Captain Joseph Benny of the Elba mine during the eleventh hours after the cave-in Saturday afternoon, forms the most thrilling story ever told in connection with a mining disaster in the Lake Superior region.

Benny was caught under scores of tons of iron ore and rock when the roof and walls of the section of the drift in which he and a crew of men were at work came down upon them, killing two miners instantly and doom ing the captain to what seemed inevitable death by suffocation. Only a seeming miracle and an amazing presence of mind when brought face to face with the grim angel saved him from this miserable fate.

"I had just entered the room in which the cave-in occurred about 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon, when I noticed that the place was not safe. There seemed to be a working of the walls and roof that threatened our safety. We had gone to ~~timber up~~ the room, to prevent a fall of the ore before we were ready for it; but I decided that we had better get out and await developments. If it was going to come down I did not want to be there or have my men near it when it did so. Consequently I gave the boys orders to leave. As they turned to go the roof and walls came down with a rush. The timbermen, who were near the entrance to the room, made good their escape. Stone and Babich, who lost their lives, tried to rush to a place of safety, but were born down by the avalanche.

"After what seemed ages there dawned a moment that I will never forget. It was heralded by a rush of cool, free air, that brought me back to life. I bathed my face and throbbing head. It thrilled me like an electric shock. I regained my faculties and looked out—out through the mass of earth—through a small round hole, and saw flashing lights beyond where the men were at work. I yelled with delight, and they shouted back that I was saved—and I was saved."