

EARTH SLIDE BURIES THIRTY

MEN CAUGHT IN A MINE NEAR
DULUTH, MINN.

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Duluth, Minn., March 11.—Thirty men were caught in a great slide of earth at the Norman mine, near Virginia, tonight. The pit is 125 feet deep and was more than half filled by the avalanche, which came without warning and extended 100 feet beyond where the victims were entombed. There are only four survivors, all injured, three of them probably fatally crushed.

Three bodies were recovered by rescuing parties. The others still remain beneath the debris. The dead are mostly Finlanders and Austrians, several of them leaving large families.

The news of the disaster caused a rush of sobbing women and children to the pit.

The miners, who were taking up one of the two tracks in the pit in order to permit the steam shovel to work in another section of the mine, were for the most part bent over with bars and claws when the avalanche swept them into eternity.

Chief of Police Ellis Walsh, of Virginia, was notified of the accident by one of the mine engineers. He hastened to the mine, which is about three-quarters of a mile outside the city limits, but found the forces of the Oliver Mining company amply able to take care of the situation.

Catastrophe a Strange One.

The scene was a strange one. The catastrophe was quite unlike anything in the history of iron mining on the range. The difference was that it came in the form of an avalanche. Behind and before the pit were thousands of tons of ore, rock, snow and ice, and the rapid warming of the atmosphere released them upon the toiling miners. Capt John Gill, the superintendent of the mine, declined to comment on the accident. He busied himself in directing the work of finding the bodies.

A year ago there was an accident that bore a slight resemblance to the one today. A steam shovel at Norman was hurled by the cave-in but not a miner was caught. Norman mine employs about 1,000 men when running to capacity. Just at this time several hundred are employed, working in night and day shifts.

Capt. Gill, superintendent of the Norman mine, said tonight that it was only a slight cave-in of the bank, about twenty-five feet up, that came sliding down upon the first track. At midnight only four bodies had been recovered.