

TOTAL DEAD IN MINE DISASTER ABOUT FIFTEEN

Ten Bodies Already Recovered
From Norman Property at
Virginia, Minn., Where
Cave-in Occurred

CAPTAIN BENNY IS RESCUED

In Accident in Elba Mine at Gilbert,
Minn., Mining Captain is Caught
in Cave-in. Taken Out
Alive Yesterday.

Virginia, Minn., March 13.—Search for the remaining unbound victims of the cave-in at the Norman mine Saturday night are still being prosecuted by a small army of workers, but so far without success. Today the men commenced work on the mass of ore and debris blocking the passage.

Ten bodies crushed almost beyond recognition had been recovered at 6 o'clock last night. The other bodies had at that time not been reached. There is no reason to suppose that any of the several men still entombed will be taken out alive.

The cause of the catastrophe is believed due to the thaws of the last few days suddenly loosening boulders and earth and forcing the ore body to slide toward the bottom of the pit. It may be two days before all the bodies are recovered.

According to information received at the offices of the Oliver Mining company, more men escaped than was supposed Saturday night. The company officials believe that the dead will total fourteen or fifteen.

Some Men Escaped.

The accident occurred at 5:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon, just before the men of the day shift had finished for the day. The men were working on the south side of the entrance to the Norman mine. The earth gave way from the bottom and allowed that from above to slide upon the gang of men at work there. There was no warning whatever of what was about to occur.

The men were working on repairs to the track. About thirty were in the gang. These who had the forethought to run in a westerly direction were not injured. Practically all of the men who ran to the south to get on the second track were overtaken by the falling and sliding mass of ore and were covered up some fully and others partially.

The mining company inspects this bank frequently, but the mass, amounting to about 20,000 tons, came away without any warning or indication that any danger was impending. It would have been impossible to have foreseen the danger.