

Unscathed.

MINER STEPS IN NICHE TILL LANDSLIDE PASSES.

[BY DIRECT WIRE TO THE TIMES.]

STOCKTON, July 13.—[Exclusive Dispatch.] When Matt Pitalo, a miner, employed at the South Eureka mine, chanced accidentally to glance up from his work the other day, he saw death bearing down upon him in the shape of a mass of falling rock. Death was in an awful hurry and so was Matt. Just why he glanced up at the right moment is a matter for psychology to thresh out, although Matt thinks that it was his guardian angel that saved him. At any rate, when he looked up he saw an avalanche of rock rolling with frightful velocity towards his corporeal presence. Just at that moment the miner saw a lit-

the niche in the clammy side of the big dark hole and just as he climbed into it, the huge body of moving rock thundered by and piled up all around the niche, imprisoning the miner.

The roar had been heard up above and a few minutes later a report was sent to the nearest town that one Matt Pitalo had been killed in a most horrible manner. This sensational news brought the inhabitants to the mine in a body, and after an exchange of eulogistic comment concerning Matt's many sterling qualities, a band of miners set to work clearing away the debris.

In the meantime, it is said, an undertaker in a near-by village made grim preparations for a certain unpleasant duty which he was confident would soon devolve upon him. After five hours of work on the part of the rescue party Matt emerged from his tomb and insisted on shaking hands with everybody present.

1912 Matt Pitalo escapes death from South Eureka mine landslide



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