

## CAUGHT BY AVALANCHE AND HELD FOR TWO DAYS

Buried so that he stood erect in five feet of snow, Eli Marfhi, aged 35, a miner, was rescued yesterday morning from an avalanche that buried him near Philipsburg. For 48 hours he had lived in the snowdrift, eating snow to satisfy a fierce thirst and fighting desperately to free himself. His mittens were worn when he had clawed at the hard-packed snow. He was unconscious when miners on their way to a remote claim beyond Philipsburg saw Marfhi's head above the drift and rescued him. His right leg had a double fracture and his left arm was broken in two places. The miners improvised a cast from splints off trees, strapped the injured man on their backs and carried him several miles. Then they secured a wagon and dragged Marfhi to the Northern Pacific tracks. Dr. A. H. Konigmacher of St. James' hospital met the train and took Marfhi to the hospital. He will probably survive.

By some unexplained chance, Marfhi

was not frozen, although he was frost-bitten.

"I just had to take my medicine, the leg and arm hurt and it got terribly cold there those two nights," said Marfhi, when the members had been set. He told how he became terribly thirsty; how he alternately prayed for life and death, and of his final surrender to what he considered a slow death. He considered that the chances of his being discovered were very remote.

Marfhi was warmly dressed and he owes his life to this. The snow was packed so tightly that the cold reached only his face and hands. During the day the crippled miner tried to claw his way out. With one hand he had partly freed himself when a second small slide buried him deeper.

Marfhi was walking under a cliff to cut timber when, without warning, the slide overtook him. In his confusion, he ran toward the cliff, which accounted for his being buried in a standing position. Marfhi was formerly a Butte miner.

## 1914 Eli Marfhi rescued from avalanche

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