

CROSBY TRAGEDY 'ACT OF GOD'

NO HUMAN TO BE CHARGED WITH BLAME

Inspectors Make Report Accident Unavoidable; No Bodies Removed

Crosby, Feb. 7.—(Special)—The Milford mine disaster at Crosby, in which 40 miners lost their lives, was, in legal phraseology, an "act of God," for which no human being can be held responsible.

This is the substance of reports on the cause of the disaster made by inspectors of the United States bureau of mines, local mine inspectors and Adjutant General W. F. Rhinow, representing the state of Minnesota.

Adjutant General Rhinow, after making a thorough investigation of the mine disaster, reported to Gov. J. A. O. Preus today that the accident was "unavoidable" and that everything possible is being done to speed the work of removing the buried bodies.

Pumps Placed at Work

George H. Crosby, of Duluth, president of the Whitmarsh Mining company, which controls the Milford mine, told Rhinow that three large pumps will be placed at work before the close of today, two pumps at the mine and one at the muddy lake, to clear the mine. The lake pump was in place this morning.

"We will spare no expense to bring the bodies out in the shortest possible time," Mr. Crosby said. "We are doing everything that can be done in that direction and are co-operating to the fullest extent with the Red Cross in bringing relief to the families of the men lost."

Pumps Arrive on Scene

Two huge "sand-sucker" pumps are being removed from freight cars on a siding near the mine. They will be installed at the mine shaft to draw the mud and slime from the shafts and drifts. Before these big sand pumps can be used successfully the lake first must be drained, according to opinions of engineers at the mine. The water pump now drawing from the lake has a capacity of 35,000 gallons a minute, but it will take 17 days to remove all of the water from the lake, it is claimed. The pump is located on the shore of the lake, about 1,500 feet east of the mine shaft.

Tremendous Task Ahead

It will be a tremendous task removing the sand and mud from the mine. The engineers explain that the mud consists mostly of quicksand mixed with the mud, and that carried by the water it flowed easily into the mine to fill up every nook and cranny.

After the lake is drained it still will require at least three weeks to clear the mine. It will be necessary to work with great caution as the work in the mine progresses. New timbers will have to be used in rebuilding partitions and to strengthen every point where new caveins may occur.

Cause of Disaster

An undercurrent of water which wore away the partitions of the mine workings was responsible for the Milford mine disaster, according to the report of August Swanson, Crow county mine inspector. Mr. Swanson placed the number of dead at 40.

The complete report of the mine inspector follows:

"The deaths numbered 40. The accident happened between 3 and 4 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon.

Inspector's Report

"As far as can be ascertained, an underground current from the small pond to the east of the shaft undermined the workings and broke into the mine. This flood of water and mud ran unchecked and engulfed the miners so suddenly that but seven were able to escape up the ladders to safety on the ground above.

"As far as I can ascertain no blasting was in progress at the time. The regular hours for blasting are usually established as being the last thing at noon before the men go to dinner, and the last thing at night when the other shift quits work.

"My observation of the mine, extending over a period of half a year, is that mining has been carried on in a workmanlike manner and that due attention has been paid to the safety of the men and that the mine, furthermore, has been bothered with very little water, the amount pumped decreasing, if anything. When the mine is entirely unwatered it will be possible to make a careful examination and find the cause of the accident."

Typical Victims of Crosby Mine Disaster, Scenes at Death Trap



Honor for Thirty Years 'U' Service Teamster, Gardener Get Theirs With Prexy Fete for Charter Day Is Planned

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA faculty and staff members, who have served for 30 years or more, are to be publicly honored as a part of the institution's observance of its fifty-sixth charter day, Thursday, Feb. 14. This was announced by President L. D. Coffman today. A greeter, several professors and members of the library staff, and "most veteran" of all, President-emeritus William Watts Folwell, are included in the number to be honored, which totals 34.

The charter was granted Feb. 18, 1868, but the nearest Thursday to the actual date is celebrated because it is the regular university convocation day. During the convocation hour all the veterans, except a few who are out of town, will sit on the platform. President Coffman and Dr. Folwell will speak briefly. Professor Henry Nachtrieb, of the department of animal biology, will introduce the others.

Next in point of service to Dr. Folwell are Professor-emeritus John G. Moore, of the German faculty; Professor-emeritus J. C. Hutchin, of the Greek department; and Miss Matilda J. Wilkin, professor-emeritus of German. They came to the university in 1872, 1876 and 1877, respectively. Others on the list came as late as 1894, which is 30 years ago.

A. E. Cuzner, head gardener at the university botanical gardens, Thirtieth and University avenues, came in 1883, 41 years ago, and John Hoffman, teamster at university farm, has been a university employee since 1888.

Dressed to represent the co-eds of the seventies, eighties, nineties and the first decade of the present century, women students at the university will parade across the stage after the honor guests have been introduced.

The list of those to be honored as if now stands is as follows: W. W. Folwell, president-emeritus, 1869; W. R. Appleby, dean, school of mines, 1890; Dr. R. O. Beard, medicine, 1889; Andrew Ross, agriculture, 1894; E. A. Cuzner, head gardener, 1883; John F. Downey, dean-emeritus, 1880; C. A. Eckmann, anatomy, 1893; Miss Ida Perkins,

RECORD THRONGS IN EARLY HOURS AT MOTOR SHOW

City Organizations Join in Attendance Drive for Minneapolis Day

Minneapolis will turn out today to set a record in the week's attendance at the Twin City auto show, officials of the show believe. It is Minneapolis day and every citizen of the city who has yet failed to visit the exposition is urged to attend today.

"Let's go, Minneapolis!" This is the slogan proposed by clubs and other organizations who are urging their membership to visit. The show 100 per cent strong. The Minneapolis Automobile club urges that every citizen belonging to the club or eligible to the organization should be among the visitors today or tonight. Special efforts will be put forth by the Minneapolis exhibitors in the radio and accessory exhibits as well as the auto sections of the show to greet their fellow townsmen.

Great Crowd Wednesday

Extraordinary interest was displayed Wednesday, Automotive day. The of total attendance was placed at 18,000, the largest attendance for a single day so far this week.



These pictures of the mine disaster at Milford, Minn., show a typical group of the miners, taken underground recently in the workings which Tuesday were flooded with water and mud, trapping and killing 42; a general view of the mine, showing the shaft house and surroundings, with the edge of the pond and swamp, which drained into the mine, plainly visible in the foreground. The portrait is of George H. Crosby of Duluth, president of the Whitmarsh Mining company, owners of this mine and others in northern Minnesota.

respecting the future prevails in financial circles generally. The unsettled conditions in the De Korte, Montana and Minnesota, are