

# VAIN ATTEMPT TO GIVE ALARM

**Hero Miner Loses Life in Trying to  
Save Fellows. Fixing Blame in  
Milford Mine Disaster.**

Crosby, Minn., Feb. 6.—Official investigation to determine the cause of and fix responsibility for the disaster at the Milford mine near here yesterday, which caused the death of 41 men, went ahead tonight with the state of Minnesota represented, under order of Governor Preus, by Adjutant General W. W. Rhinow.

With the best engineering talent of the iron ranges placed at the disposal of the Whitmarsh Mining company, operators of Milford mine, work was rushed to place additional pumps in operation at the flooded pit, but as time wore on the problem apparently became more baffling and tonight the engineers could not say just what procedure will be followed in the efforts to recover the bodies of the miners.

Hope was expressed by some of the workers that the flow into the mine might have been stopped by the rush of dirt and rock into the opening at the top edge of the ore body, where the victims worked. In this case, they held it likely that no more water would enter the mine, thus permitting it to be drained in a comparatively short time.

Mine Inspector Swanson is determined that no more lives shall be lost in the Milford mine, even for the sake of recovering the bodies of disaster victims. Even if the mine is

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drained, it is held unlikely that workers will be permitted to enter the shaft for several days.

Harvey Rice, skip tender on the day crew, owes his life to the illness of the night skip tender, who was sick the night before the disaster. Rice substituted for the night man Monday night, and in turn was replaced yesterday by Clinton Harris, a Brainerd youth.

Harris gave his life in a vain attempt to warn his fellow miners of the approach of doom by ringing the skip bell. With two other men, Harris had as good a chance to get out as the seven who escaped, being at the foot of the shaft when the crash came, but instead of springing up the stairs, Harris stuck to his post until engulfed in the torrent of mud, rocks and water a few seconds after the fortunate seven reached safety. The two men with Harris hesitated to run, and also died.

Investigation of the shore of the mud lake by the adjutant general's party revealed a slide of earth about one hundred feet square, and about five feet deep. A swift current of water continues to rush into the underground mine, although the water in the shaft apparently was no higher tonight than it was an hour after the cave-in late yesterday afternoon.