

# Investigate Mine Horror In Minnesota

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

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 to-night with the state of Minnesota represented, under order of Governor Preus, by Adjutant General W. W. Rhinow.

General Rhinow, who arrived here early tonight from St. Paul immediately went into conference with August Swanson of Brainerd, Crow Wing county mine inspector. Later they planned to visit the mine. Swanson said he inspected the mine last week and found it "in apparently good shape."

With the best engineering talent of the Iron Range placed at the disposal of the Whitmarsh Mining company, operators of the Milford mine, work was rushed to place additional pumps in operation at the flooding 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.

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 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 100 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. The water pouring from the lake is believed to be seeping through to the smaller openings of the mine.