

SNOW SLIDES.

A Succession of Disasters in the Wahstock Valley, Utah—A Number of Persons Killed and a Large Amount of Property Destroyed.

SALT LAKE, Utah, Jan. 16.—Snow has fallen almost continuously in the Wahstock, about the heads of the Little and Big Cottonwoods, since Christmas. The mountains surrounding the mining town of Alta are steep and high, and the trees have been cut off. The tramway sheds of the Wahstock & Jordan Valley railroad have been swept away in several places for five miles below Alta, rendering ingress or egress almost impossible. Two weeks ago snow slides carried away a man named Derby. The continuous storm increased in fury with the opening of last week and Wednesday snow fell in sheets and the wind became a hurricane. About 10 o'clock a snow-slide carried away the flagstaff of the ore house and four hundred feet of the railroad sheds, and swept across the flat and the creek to the opposite mountain. Another slide passed over Victoria and Imperial house, burying two men who dug their way out in ten hours. Continuing it swept away the Grizzly boarding house in which was Mr. Jonathin Hoskins and four children, C. Simons, Robt. Howarth and Evan Morris. Of these Mrs. Hoskins and daughter, Jane Howarth and Morris were killed. Another slide smashed and buried the Toledo works and boarding house, killing Chas. Boerbidge and Frank Laporte. Thursday and Friday work was stopped at the principal mine and many of the men left the canyon for the valley. The storm continued and increased in fury, the wind blowing a gale and piling the snow just over the crest of the hill north of Alta on the Alta side. The great weight started another slide half a mile Friday night, which would have completely demolished Alta but that it was split and partially diverted by the flat area. Just above the head main street it struck a large heavily built stone store in which firemen had gathered in for safety; two sleeping in the second story were thrown out comparatively unhurt. Three had taken refuge in the basement, and built a fire, John Fitzgerald, P. B. Lee and William Hollingshead. The house was crushed in on them and fired from the stove, and they perished. Richard Williams and John Washington, who remained to look after the Joab Lawrence property with instructions to sleep in the tunnel, are missing. An avalanche swept away every building owned by the Jacob Lawrence company, together with their tramway, inflicting a loss of \$20,000. It buried the Buffalo house. But three men had retired into the tunnel and were rescued exhausted. Fifty people came down last night, leaving about twenty who for various reasons could not get away. The trip down was fearful. Leaving their homes with nothing but the clothes on their backs, women wallowed through the snow as best they could, the men carrying the children. There remains enough mountain slopes still undenuded to complete the destruction of the town, and it may slide any moment. Eight miles of the upper Big Cottonwood are said to be one huge slide covering everything. A big slide in Mayfield Gulch has blocked the creek for 400 yards and made quite a lake. While there is no loss of life yet reported from the Big Cottonwood, the miners are leaving the canyon as fast possible. When the snow becomes deep and heavy on the sides and top of the mountain slopes, an avalanche may be started by a party wading across their face or by a concussion. Sometimes a blast far underground will do it.