

LAWS OF GRAVITY

Great Mountains of Snow Overhang Silver Plume.

A Slight Thaw, a Puff of Wind or a Jar May

PRECIPITATE A SLIDE.

The Snow Now Hangs Almost Contrary to Natural Laws.

If the Slide Occurs It Will Bury the Town Completely.

Denver, Colo., Feb. 14.—The warm weather prevailing since Sunday has helped to relieve the distress experienced in some mountain towns owing to the long continued storm and the railroad blockade. The Denver and Rio Grande is entirely opened. The Colorado Midland is still tied up west of Leadville, but the rotary is making good progress in removing the enormous snow drifts on Hamerman pass. The Colorado and Southern's South Park high line to Leadville is still blocked and it is uncertain when this road will be opened. The towns along this road have run short of some provisions, but it is thought that there is plenty of bacon, potatoes and flour to prevent suffering. It is believed that an effort will be made to cut a road over the mountain near Red Cliff, which will give direct communication with the through line of the Rio Grande.

The Rio Grande's Aspen branch is open and coal is being rushed to that camp, as well as to Leadville, to enable the mines, mills and smelters to continue working. Some anxiety is felt on account of the liability of disaster from snowslides in the mountains, especially at Silver Plume, where Sunday's avalanche is liable to be followed by another of greater extent and possibly more disastrous in its results. A slight thaw, a puff of wind, a jar may bring down millions of tons of snow that now hang upon the mountain tops, almost defying the laws of gravitation. Barely a tittle of the burden of the mountains came away in the avalanche Sunday. It left great circular gaps, whose walls of snow rise vertically a hundred feet in height. But the first slide swept out every obstacle and filled up the low places so that when the rest comes it will have a clean sweep right down into the town itself.

Many of the inhabitants have removed to Georgetown.

Although the storm about Leadville has not yet ended the snow now melts almost as fast as it falls, and is not making much trouble for the railroads.

1899 avalanche at Silver Plume kills miners NEWS1

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Mar 8, 2025