

Seventeen Miners Killed in Succession of Snowslides.

Seventeen men were killed in a series of snowslides which occurred in the immediate vicinity of the Liberty Bell mine on Smuggler Mountain, three and a half miles north of Telluride, Colo.

No less than four distinct slides occurred, each one claiming two or more victims. The first slide occurred at 7:30 o'clock in the morning and carried away the boarding and bunk houses and the tramhouse of the mine. The slide came without warning. The three large buildings were carried down the steep mountain side a distance of 2,000 feet and ground to splinters, not a board being left intact. The snow and debris piled in the bottom of the canyon twenty-five feet deep.

Those who escaped the slide at once began the work of rescuing their less fortunate companions. A dozen or more were taken out alive, some of them badly injured, however.

Shortly after noon, while the work

being killed. The others were more or less injured.

Nearly all the buildings of the Liberty Bell mine were carried down by the slide. One wing of the avalanche shot 1,700 feet across the canyon, piling up wreckage on the opposite mountains.

A third slide came down at 3 o'clock, about one mile below the Liberty Bell mines, and Gus von Fintel, John Powell and Paul Dalpra, who were on their way to the scene, were swept away.

Shortly afterward the fourth slide caught a party going from Telluride, killing two.

The buildings of the mine occupied a bench on the mountain side, and were erected in a location that was supposed to be protected from snowslides by a ridge which it was thought would divert the course of any avalanche that might be started. The vast accumulation of snow within the last two weeks, however, gave the slide



These are the mountain side lodging-houses of the men of the Liberty Bell mine at Telluride, Colo., which were carried away by the great snowslide while they were full of men. Seventeen men were buried beneath the first rush of snow and ice which took the houses and by the succeeding snowslides, which caught the rescuing parties.

of digging out bodies was going on, the second slide came down almost in the track of the first. The mountain-side is steep and the descent of the snow mass was so swift that twenty-four of the rescuers were caught, two

such a volume that nothing could stay its progress until it reached the bottom of the canyon.

In six months the death loss by mine accidents in this vicinity has aggregated 292.

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