

BURIED IN AN AVALANCHE OF SNOW AND ICE

(By Associated Press.)

Telluride, Colo., Feb. 28.—The mine buildings and bunkhouse of the Liberty Bell mine were completely buried under an avalanche of snow and swept to the gulches, hundreds of feet below at 7:30 o'clock this morning.

At this hour (12 o'clock) it is impossible to ascertain the number of lives lost, but it is estimated to be anywhere from 10 to 60. The bunkhouse, which was crushed like an eggshell by the mountain of wet and frozen snow as it came tearing down the steep mountain side, was crowded with miners at the fatal moment.

A few of these managed, by almost superhuman efforts, to extricate themselves from among the broken timbers and dig their way out of the snow. Many, however, who were not killed outright, were maimed into a state of helplessness and carried down in the awful maelstrom of debris, snow, earth and ice to a horrible death in the gulches below.

Bodies Recovered.

At 12 o'clock a courier arrived from the scene of the accident with the news that many of the bodies had already been recovered and were being carried down the mountain sides upon the shoulders of those who escaped, to the morgue at Telluride. Of the dead, two have already been identified. They are:

FRED CLEMMONS, boarding house keeper.

CHARLES HALL, miner.

Communication with the mine is entirely shut off and until the messengers, who were hastily sent to the mine upon receipt of the news of the accident, return, the full details of the awful catastrophe will not be known.

The trail leading to the Liberty Bell mine is fully 37 miles long, and is one of the most difficult to ascend in the entire San Juan country. Especially hard is the trail to climb at this season of the year, when the snow is deep and the weather severely cold.

At 1 o'clock this afternoon a powerful glass was directed toward the trail lead-

ing up to the Liberty Bell. Squads of miners, carrying bodies of their unfortunate companions, could be seen coming down.

Bringing Down the Bodies.

It required from two to four men to convey each body and the descent is necessarily slow. Every now and then one of the men assisting in this gruesome task, could be seen to lose his footing, stumble and fall, carrying those near him down.

It was a scene never to be forgotten by those who witnessed it—the risking of life to bring back to their desolated homes the bodies of those who a few hours before had been full of life and hope.

Several Finns who were caught in the slide reached the city at noon, but were too excited and frightened to give any details.

The foreigners are superstitious and believe that accidents like this morning's are pre-ordained and come as a punishment.

Today's catastrophe, following so soon after the terrible fire at the Smuggler-Union, a few months ago, in which a score or more of lives were lost, has completely unnerved the miners.

Another Slip Occurs.

2:30 p. m.—Another snowslide occurred on the Smuggler Mountain this afternoon, burying about 40 men who were engaged in rescuing the men buried in the first slide.

Following is a list of the dead, whose bodies have been recovered:

S. C. CLEMMER, timekeeper at the Liberty Bell.

JOHN MARSHALL.

HENRY BAUES.

S. C. LENNER.

CHARLES L. SUMMERLAND.

GUS SWANSON.

JAMES HENNESSEY.

HARRY TROWBRIDGE.

Charles Hall, who was reported to have been killed, has been rescued alive.

It is believed that the loss of life in the first slide will not exceed thirty.