

65 MEN BURIED BENEATH A SNOW SLIDE

Telluride, Colo., Feb. 28.—Between 60 and 70 men are reported dead beneath a snow slide which wrecked the Liberty Bell mine shaft house. The slide came down at 7:30 this morning. It is reported there was between 60 and 70 men in the bunk house at the time it was carried down into the gulch below. Communication with the mine is shut off, and the names of the victims cannot be ascertained.

Fred Clemmon, boss of the boarding house, and Charles Hall, a well known miner, were killed. The present storm is the worst since 1895 and slides are expected any minute at Ophir and other places.

A Later Account.

Telluride, Colo., Feb. 28.—The mine buildings and bunk house 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 this morning. At this hour (11 o'clock) it is impossible to ascertain the number of lives lost, but it is estimated to be anywhere from 10 to 60 or 70. The bunk house, which was crushed like an egg shell 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 Escapes.

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. 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 on the shoulders of those who escaped, to the morgue at Telluride.

Communication with the mine is entirely shut off and until the messengers, who were hastily sent to the mine upon receipt of the first 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 three 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.

Saving the Wounded.

At 10 o'clock this morning a powerful glass was directed toward the trail leading up to the Liberty Bell. Squads of miners, carrying bodies of their unfortunate companions could be seen coming down. 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.

The Finns Panic Stricken.

Several Finns who were not 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 score or more of lives were lost, has completely unnerved the miners.

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