

THREE SNOW SLIDES KILL TELLURIDE MINERS

Denver, Colo., March 1.—A special dispatch from Telluride to the Republican says:

At the Liberty Bell mine and the Cornet Creek basin, below yesterday, three separate snowslides descended and as a result fourteen men are known to be dead, an unknown number are buried in the snow, and twelve badly injured ones are in the hospital, while several other men who were hurt are at their homes.

The first slide occurred at 7:30 o'clock yesterday morning, coming from above the Liberty Bell mine, and wrecking the boarding and bunk houses. Seven men were killed here.

As soon as the news reached the city a large force of rescuers started out, and while they were at work digging out the dead and injured a second slide descended which buried an unknown number of men. Three bodies were recovered.

This alarmed the rescue party, and as a fierce storm was raging, and there was danger of other slides, word was sent to the city to send no more men out. The rescuers started for home to await the cessation of the storm, and were overtaken by a third slide and four were killed.

It is believed that few if any more bodies can be recovered until the snow melts, when it is thought the list of dead may be swelled to at least a score.

The most lucid and connected account of the first disaster is that given by L. M. Unsted. Mr. Unsted is employed in packing ore from a crusher to the tram station. He had just come from breakfast and was in the stable saddling his animals, when he heard a terrific crashing and rattling sound, and, stepping to the door, he opened it and found the outside totally dark and the air filled with flying snow.

Thinking it was a terrific gust of wind, he slammed the stable door shut and waited a few seconds. He peered through a crack and as it grew light again he opened the door and saw the tram cable swinging about and buckets rolling down the hill. As the snow in the air settled he stepped out a few feet and looking up toward the boarding and bunk house, could see no signs of these buildings. Then looking down the hill, he saw boards and timbers sticking out of the snow and scattered about.

He then went up to the ore and tram house, or where it had stood, and saw what he thought was a piece of overalls. Grasping it and attempting to pull it out, he found he had hold of a man's body.

Tearing away the snow and boards, he pulled out the body of Gus Kraul. The body was terribly mangled and the head crushed till it was no thicker than the two hands laid flat together.

He then started toward the boarding house and met his brother, Charlie Unsted, who told him what had happened. Charlie was employed in the boarding house and escaped by being out at the time after a bucket of water. But for this Charlie must certainly have been among the victims, as none of the boarding house occupants escaped.

The first slide occurred at the Liberty Bell group of mines, located in Cornet Creek basin, three and a half miles north of the city, at 7:30 o'clock this morning. It was one of the largest snow slides known in the country, and sacrificed the lives of seven men. It started one-half mile above the Liberty Bell boarding and bunk houses and came down the mountain side so rapidly that scarcely any one had time to evade it.

The worst snow storm known in this section since 1895 has been raging for the past three days and it is said that the snow and fog were so dense this morning when the slide came down that it was utterly impossible for one to see ten feet ahead.

By some fortunate circumstance a large number of the miners employed on this property, and there are between 200 and 250 on the pay roll, came to town last night and as it happened did not reach the mines, until after the first avalanche of snow came down. Had they been in their bunk house the loss of life would have been appalling.

The accident, of course, broke the telephone circuit, and it was an hour before word of the disaster reached town, being brought down by one of the workmen who escaped.

All the doctors available and many citizens at once started up the trail to lend such assistance as was in their power in digging out the buried and injured men and it was well toward noon before any authentic information

could be secured as to the extent of the awful disaster.

First reports placed the dead at all the way from fifty to seventy-five, but it is now thought the death list will not exceed twenty. At noon five dead bodies had been recovered. Five of the injured had also been brought to town and placed in the hospital. Most of those who escaped serious injury came to town with the injured and the dead.

Just before noon bulletins over the signature of the Tom Boy company were posted, calling for all the men available to work on the slide. Snow had been drizzling down for a day or two, probably a foot of fresh snow accumulating up to last night. Just before midnight the snow began falling in earnest and from midnight to noon to-day nearly two feet had fallen. About 11 o'clock the clouds lightened up slightly and showed a disposition to break away. The snow came down less heavily for a few moments, but the respite was brief and by noon it was snowing harder than ever.

F. C. Clemmer, it is said, was sitting at his desk and making out the time of the employees of the company when the crash came and all the books of the company recording the names of those on the payroll at the mine were destroyed.

While at this hour it is positively known that fourteen men are killed, whose names are given below, it is believed by many that with the advent of spring, when the snow melts, there will be some startling disclosures in Cornet Creek gulch. The company cannot tell from its books how many men are lost, for the reason that the miners who survived have not reported.

Among those who at once rushed to the scene of the disaster were John Herron, manager of the Tom Boy Gold Mines Company, and J. W. Lyons, formerly foreman of the Tom Boy mill. The latter was caught in the edges of the second slide, which broke some what higher up the mountain and came down in the path of the first. He says some of the miners acted like madmen and did not appear to know what they were doing.

At 1:30 word came from the Liberty Bell office asking that bulletins be posted asking for all the help possible, as a second slide had come down, covering the rescuing party.

The second slide, which came down in the track of the first and caught the rescuing party, killed Harry Chase, L. S. Stanley, George R. Lauer and W. S. Gregory. Only the body of Chase was recovered.

The following received injuries more or less serious in this slide:

Lee Carroll, Stockton Smith, Knute Tolson, John Isakson and Charles Hall.

A third slide came down and killed four. After the rescuers quit work and started for town a party was caught in a slide near the curve station on the tram, and four men were killed. They were: Gus Von Finter, John R. Powell and Paul Dalpra.

Dr. Allen was in this party and received injuries, but got out safe.

None of these bodies were recovered.

Several men from the mine came to town last night and after the first slide others started down. As fast as the injured were taken out crews started to town with them, hence it is difficult to determine who and how many were missing. And it is not known who nor how many were in the crowd of rescuers caught by the second slide. Men from the mine who came down since the second slide seemed to think the dead there will number a dozen or fifteen, or perhaps more.

A large party of men were at work shoveling in the slide of the morning and when the second slide came they had recovered seven bodies. At 2:15 p. m. word came to town to send no more men; that the storm was so severe that the work of rescue could only be carried on under the most extreme danger to the living and that the men buried in the snow were all dead beyond question.

It is not known certainly how many of the rescuing party were caught in the second slide. All the men have now come off the hill and no attempt will be made to recover the bodies until the storm subsides and the snow settles.

The list of known dead follows: L. D. Stanley, Harry E. Chase, W. S. Gregory, Gus Swanson, George Rohmer, H. S. Summerland, Harry Golden, Gus Kraul, F. C. Clemmer, Wade Crow, E. Bishop, Gus Von Finter, John R. Powell, Paul Dalpra.

The injured men are: Lee Carroll, Stockton Smith, Knute Tolson, John Isakson, Charles Hall, Charles Goodo, Ferdinand Zamzaki, Henry Paner, Talk Hale, Jack Marshall, Jacob Golden, Jim Conlon, W. A. Latshaw.

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