

TWENTY BURIED ALIVE.

MANY BODIES CREMATED.

Whole Streets Swallowed by Haverstraw Pit of Quicksand.

As a result of a sudden landslide late Monday night, which dumped the northeastern corner of the Hudson River village of Haverstraw into a yawning clay pit, at least twenty men and women lost their lives. The bodies of some of them were destroyed by the fire which was raging even before the dust of the slide had blown away. Others are buried under hundreds of tons of clay and debris, which is pushing them deeper into the quicksand which underlies the clay beds.

A hundred volunteers worked in the pit all day yesterday. They shovelled clay as only excited men can, and picked around in the debris in a frenzy, but up to a late hour last night not a single body had been discovered.

These workers were in great danger, as several times in the day there were warnings that more of the bank was about to come tumbling down.

Eleven houses and stores have already gone into the pit, and eight or nine more are certain to follow.

The disaster rendered thirty families homeless, and the charity of the little village has been taxed to the utmost. All of the survivors were housed before dark, however, and last night a mass meeting was held, at which measures were taken to care for the destitute and the orphans. This meeting was also one of thanksgiving for the escape of the village from a general conflagration, which threatened for several hours.

Although the houses which went into the pit were occupied by large families, not a child was lost. A desire to save valuables, after placing their little ones in safety, is responsible for the death of all but four or five heavy sleepers who did not hear the warning cry. Several of those who perished died in their efforts to save others, and curiosity is responsible for the death of at least two persons.

WERE WARNED OF DANGER.

The danger of the undermining of this portion of the village by the brickmakers has been known for months, and repeated efforts have been made in the courts to halt the work. Monday afternoon the streets of the district began to crack, and a personal warning was carried to every tenant by the Chief of Police. The people had lived so long on the rim of the pit that they thought a day or two longer would make no difference, and did not move. The District Attorney declares that he can plainly see criminal responsibility for the disaster, and that the guilty will be speedily punished.

The list of missing, all of whom the Haverstraw authorities declare are unquestionably dead, is as follows:

AILDEN, Rabbi.
ALBERT, Joseph, butcher.
BARRY, Michael, riggerman.
COYNE, William, brickworker.
COYNE, Mrs. William.
DALY, Mrs. Joseph.
DIAS, Abram.
EIDENBAUM, David, Vernon-ave., Brooklyn.
HEFFERNAN, Edward.
HUGHES, William.
LYNCH, Thomas.
MANION, Lawrence.
MANION, Mrs. Lawrence.
M'CURDY, John, barber.
M'GOVERN, Bartley.
NELSON, Heskell, clothing merchant.
NELSON, Benjamin; his son.
PROVITCH, Wolf.
SILVERMAN, Mrs. S.
SILVERMAN, Abe; her son.

Mrs. Beauchamp, the only one of those who went into the pit to escape alive, is the worst injured, suffering a broken leg and countless scratches. Moses Nelson, whose father and brother were lost and who had a miraculous escape, has a broken nose. A score of others are suffering from cuts, bruises and exposure.

For a century the clay banks at Haverstraw have attracted brickmakers, and the entire stretch of waterfront is filled with kilns. One of the finest beds stretched back from the river at the northern end of the town. The Excelsior Brick Company, the Gilles estate and Eckerson Brothers have been the chief operators. The last named have carried their operations further inland, and it is against them that the village has been endeavoring to secure restraint from the courts.

The operations of the brickmakers have formed a vast pit three-fourths of a mile long and one-fourth of a mile wide. The river overflowed into this pit two years ago, but the brickmakers pumped it out and continued their work. Since that time the people living on the bluff have had many warnings of the slide which came on Monday night. The streets on the bluff form an "L," with Rockland-st. the perpendicular line for six hundred feet or more, and Division-st. the horizontal line for some five hundred feet. The houses facing west on Rockland-st. overhung the pit.

Monday afternoon word was carried to James Call, Chief of Police, that there was a strange looking crack in the centre of Rockland-st. Investigation showed that the long apprehended landslide was about due. Personally the chief went to every householder along the edge of the pit and warned them to move. The people were poor, moving was expensive, and besides a small blizzard was raging and it would be most inconvenient to turn out.

"I guess the bank will hold a while longer," was the way Heskell Nelson put it when the chief visited his clothing store, and the others thought the same. No one moved.

SAW HOUSES SWALLOWED UP.

At 10:30 o'clock Monday night John Russell, Ben Nelson and Joe Levy were talking in a sheltered doorway at Division and Rockland sts. They heard a strange rumbling from the pit and then the crashing of timbers, down Rockland-st., near the corner of Liberty. Looking that way they saw the Beauchamp house slowly sinking into the big hole, and heard it land at the bottom with a crash. The Novack house disappeared in a similar way. After that no one kept count.

Russell had been visiting at the home of William Coyne and rushed there to warn the family. Breaking a window with a rock, he cried out the danger to Mrs. Coyne, who answered his call. Several members of the family hurried out. As the house began to totter on its foundations Mamie Coyne, the eldest daughter, a pretty girl of twenty, appeared at the window. Russell grabbed her and raced across the dangerous ground, which crumbled under his feet as he ran.

Dan Williams tells the rest of the story of the tragedy at the Coyne household. He says that as the house began to settle he could see the father coming down stairs, lamp in hand, leading his wife, who had run back to warn him. Suddenly the house toppled over and was broken to pieces a hundred feet away. Before there