

FIFTEEN MEN KILLED IN SNOWSLIDES NEAR HAILEY

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afternoon to cease further efforts to dig for bodies in the debris. For a time 90 men had been engaged in taking out the dead and injured.

General Manager E. Percy Smith quickly reached the scene of the disaster, and personally directed the rescue work. Assistant Manager Chapman directed the work from the company's office in Hailey, sending telegrams to relatives of the dead and injured. The company has exerted every effort to relieve the situation, and aid the injured.

Several of the dead men had been residents of Hailey for years. Fleming, LaBarge and Russell leave families surviving them there. Vaughn, Welch, Kistie, McKelvey and Schmidt were also Hailey residents.

New Snow and Rain Cause.

Conditions for slides throughout the district have never been more favorable. There is two and one-half feet of new-fallen snow, and the storm of rain and snow is still raging. As a result, slides have been occurring at points where they were never before experienced. It is reported here that two small slides have occurred on property of the Silver-Lead company, which adjoins the North Star.

Rather than risk the lives of other employees, officials of the Federal company announced Sunday that they will keep their mine shut down for the remainder of the winter. At the time of Sunday morning's disaster they had 60 men employed at the North Star works and 115 at the mill, located two miles below the works.

Bodies Still at Mine.

Bodies of the victims were left temporarily at the mine, the difficulty of getting even the injured men over the 12 miles from the property to Hailey making this arrangement necessary. Because the storm was still raging and any kind of travel extremely difficult, arrangements for bringing out the bodies were not completed Sunday evening.

The Federal Mining & Smelting company took the North Star group of mines under a purchase bond in the spring of 1916 and immediately began extensive development work. The company has spent large sums of money in draining the old workings and in building mills to treat the ore by the most modern methods.

The mines are situated on the east fork of the Wood river, six miles east of Hailey and before the Federal company took the property over expert engineers in the company employed sampled 2,000,000 tons of ore in sight which promised good returns

by application of scientific and modern methods of treatment.

The company is popularly known as the Guggenheim company but it is said that 90 per cent of the stock is held by New York financiers other than the Guggenheims.

OFFICIAL REPORT TO INSPECTOR R. N. BELL ON SLIDE DISASTER

A disastrous series of three snowslides occurred Sunday morning shortly after 3 a. m. at the North Star mine on the east fork of Wood river which wrecked three of the main mine buildings including the bunkhouse, compressor building and warehouse, which included the office quarters of the mine superintendent, Thomas Jay, who escaped alive, and the timekeeper, F. P. Menino, who was killed.

The list of those killed who were mostly caught in the wreck of the bunkhouse was telephoned to State Mine Inspector R. N. Bell from the company's main office at Hailey Sunday afternoon.

The bodies of the first nine had been recovered at 3 p. m. Sunday when the work was temporarily suspended by E. P. Smith, general manager of the company, who was in charge of the rescue work, on account of the extremely precarious condition of the snow which kept coming down the steep mountain slopes and eminently threatened the lives of the recovery crew with other large slides. Twelve men escaped alive from the bunkhouse wreck, three of whom were seriously injured. One of the injured victims, A. E. Wood of Meridian, had his hip broken.

Location of Property.

The property at which this disaster occurred is a complex zinc lead ore mine being operated by the Federal Mining & Smelting company of Wallace, Ida., and was employing about 100 men in mine and mill.

The mill is at the mouth of Star gulch, 12 miles above Hailey, and six miles up the east fork of Wood river from Gimlet station on the Wood river branch of the Oregon Short Line railroad.

The mine is situated about a mile up Star gulch from the mill at the edge of the valley and about 800 feet higher. The gulch is very steep with smooth, steep, treeless, grassy slopes. The enterprise was only started last spring and the buildings destroyed were all newly erected last fall. Bunkhouse destroyed was placed well above the bottom of the gulch on the safest site that could be picked with snowslide possibilities in view when it was built.