

15 Dead Taken From Wreckage; Fifty Missing

Two Boarding Houses, Methodist Church and Several Homes Crushed When Slide Sweeps Down Mountain Side in Highland Boy District of Bingham Canyon; Fire Adds to Horror of Catastrophe

FIFTEEN persons are known to have been killed and the bodies of 50 more are believed to be buried in the ruins of eight buildings demolished by a snow slide at Bingham Canyon early today, according to Associated Press and special dispatches reaching The Standard-Examiner. The bodies of 15 victims had been taken from the debris at noon.

Hundreds of workers are putting forth every effort to rescue victims who may have been injured and are still alive in the mass. The slide, which descended on the buildings at 9 o'clock this morning, occurred in what is known as Sap butch, a small side canyon off Carr's Fork and near the Highland Boy mining district.

Added to the horror of the slide itself, fire broke out in the debris of the smashed buildings as the result of overturned stoves. It was feared by the workers that many persons caught in the crash but not killed may have perished in the flames which followed. The heavy snowfall of the past 24 hours also is hampering rescue operations.

CHURCH DESTROYED

Included in the structures demolished by the slide are five dwellings, two boarding houses and a Methodist church.

The disaster occurred when thousands of tons of material from the Highland Boy dump, mixed with an avalanche of snow, rocks and trees crashed down the steep canyon wall. According to meager details received in Ogden, the slide was started by a slipping of the mine dump after a heavy snowfall.

The moving waste from the mine quickly gathered momentum, gathering and starting immense quantities of heavy snow as it descended the side of the canyon. It was accompanied by a terrific roar after gaining momentum, but the warning came too late for score of persons to escape from the buildings in the bottom of the gulch.

Many of the victims who were either killed instantly or died from injuries beneath the mass were miners who had come off the night shift and gone to bed in the two boarding houses. There had been no authentic list of the dead and injured compiled by the authorities at Bingham.

SITUATION DESCRIBED

The Reverend Lester J. Fagen, pastor of the First Methodist church in Ogden, recently was pastor of the Methodist church in Bingham. He said today the church destroyed in the slide is not the principal Methodist edifice in the district but is a branch church in the Highland Boy district about three miles from lower Bingham.

The canyon has rather steep sides at the point where the slide took place, the minister said, with many small homes on the hill-sides.

Men employed in the Highland Boy mine, the Utah Metals and others live in the boarding houses near the church, which were in

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MANY DEAD IN BINGHAM SLIDE

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the path of the slide.

LITTLE HOPE HELD

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—At noon 15 bodies had been taken from the ruins of several buildings, including the Methodist church, which were buried under the snow slide in Sap gulch, in the Highland Boy mining district near Bingham, 18 miles southwest of here, this morning.

Estimates of those entombed in the avalanche of snow, rock and brush, that slid down the mountain side, range between 50 and 100. Little hope is held out for their rescue alive.

Fire, burning in the buildings which were crushed under hundreds of tons of debris, imperiled those who may have escaped instant death when their homes were crushed.

No attempt has been made to identify the dead. As fast as a body is dug from the rocks and snow it is placed on a small hand sled and taken to the morgue, in Bingham proper, several miles down the narrow canyon, which is completely closed at the scene of the slide.

MAKES LONG SLIDE

Rescue parties are working from each side of the slide. The heaviest loss of life is expected at the J. T. McDonald's and William Rimby's boarding houses, which were completely covered by the snow. The snow, which slid one and one-half miles down the mountain, lodged near the Utah-Delaware mine in Sap gulch.

An emergency hospital was being erected at Bingham proper and the entire force of doctors and nurses available was on hand.

Work is proceeding rapidly but little hope is held out for 50 or more entombed.