

# DISASTROUS SNOW SLIDE AT MAXWELL

## Mill Completely Destroyed And Damage Estimated at Between \$25,000 And \$30,000.

M. H. Knapp, of Baker City, vice president of the Highland, came up this morning with definite information in regard to the disastrous slide which swept away the mill at the Maxwell, in the Rock Creek district, yesterday morning. Mr. Knapp conversed with men who came in from the property and has the account straight from them.

The slide occurred about 11 o'clock yesterday morning, and is by far the most destructive this season. A vast body of snow, loosened by the thaw, came thundering down into the gulch, taking everything before it. The ten stamp mill of the Maxwell was in the path, and suffered almost complete demolition. The plant, together with connected buildings, was carried far down the mountain and left in a state of ruin. The

boarding house, bunk house and other buildings were not in the path of the slide, and consequently escaped. Fortunately no one was injured. The snow was banked up at one of the Highland tunnels, but no damage was done. Mr. Knapp thinks that the amount of loss at the Maxwell will amount to between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

Incidentally, he remarks upon the unfortunate mill site chosen by the Maxwell company. The mill is located in a gulch directly in the track of snow slides. This is by no means the first one within the memory of residents of this locality, and it is unfortunate that such a site should have been selected. The configuration of the country makes these disasters possible, and the course taken by the last one is the favorite route.

## CUT RATE BROKERS NOT ON TO THE JOB

### Playing a System Against Human Nature That is Sure to Lose.

There are many people handling mining stocks in the capacity of brokers who are deliberately and systematically biting off their noses to spite their faces, although they either do not realize the fact or else are intentionally blind to it.

Hardly a day passes that the daily papers and trade journals do not contain cut-rate quotations from cut-rate brokers. These quotations are in many cases so absolutely misleading that instead of attracting general capital they repel it. An investor's interest in any one particular company, be it a mining company or not, cannot be awakened by continually implying that the company is not worthy of confidence. This is practically what is done when the quoted price of a stock is kept down to a low level.

There are stocks quoted today at almost exactly the same prices that they were a year ago, yet in the interim the properties have developed finely, and are just about to enter the list of dividend payers. In view of these facts, the stocks are certainly worth much more now than when the properties which they represent were hardly more than prospects.

This is the way an outside investor figures. Consequently, when he is approached with a rosy tale of how good the present condition of a certain company, is and what brilliant prospects the future has in store for it, he is utterly at a loss to understand why the price does not advance in like proportion. Therefore, instead of becoming interested to the point of buying, he becomes suspicious and dismisses the whole business from his mind. Such an action is perfectly natural and in absolute accord with human nature.

How much better would it be for these brokers to consider the average human nature as it is, and mold their lines of business accordingly. They would find that not only would their business increase, but their own individual standing as brokers and upright business men would be raised in the eyes of the business world in general.

If an investor has decided to invest in a mining stock at a certain price, and within a short time is offered more stock in the same company by some one else at about one-half the price he originally paid out for it, instead of eagerly grasping the opportunity of increasing his holding at a lower price, he puts on his thinking cap and says: "What's the matter with it?" eventually refusing to buy.

He feels exactly the same as a man who is offered a horse at \$100 when he knows that \$200 had been the price ordinarily paid. He is not impressed with the intended bargain. If, on the other hand, the price asked had been \$250 he would not feel suspicious, because he would know that a profit was being asked, implying thereby that the animal was perfectly satisfactory, and was being parted with as a matter of business. —American Mining Review.

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