

TWO DEATHS IN BIG SLAG SLIDE AT COPPER CLIFF

Huge Body of Material Broke Away From Main Pile

KILLED
JAMES ARMSTRONG, Bakerman.
STEVE MARCO, Slag dump laborer.

Two fatalities accompanied a second huge slide of slag at the smelter dump of the International Nickel Co. at Copper Cliff last night, when a chunk of the outer edge of the pile, about one thousand feet long and two hundred feet wide broke away from the main body and settled down about an average of fifteen feet. While the accident came without warning, the huge pile of material did not take a precipitate drop, but virtually slid into a new resting place. An engine and ten empty slag pots were on the tracks on that portion of the dump that broke away and went down with the slide. All the slag pots excepting one remain in normal position on the tracks just as they were before the slide. The engine, however, turned over on its side. The engine crew had a miraculous escape, receiving only minor bruises and steam scalds.

The death of Armstrong and Marco is presumed to have occurred through both men seeking safety by attempting to reach the mainland of the slag dump, and in doing so fell into one or other of the numerous cracks or fissures which opened up when the slide occurred. Up to noon today neither of the bodies had been recovered, although the company has engaged every available man in the search.

Immense volumes of steam and smoke accompanied the slide, making the work of those first on the scene a precarious undertaking. The engine crew was rescued promptly and the search for the train crew proceeded through the night.

A similar slide occurred at the Copper Cliff slag pile on July 20 last, and last night's occurrence was in practically the same place, but of very much larger proportions. No cause for the slide occurring has yet been established by the company officials, although the nature of the ground, which is boggy, is believed to be the reason. The weight of material which broke away from the main dump is enormous, being about ten million cubic feet of iron ore slag. There will be several days dislocation to smelter operations owing to the accident, due to disruption of facilities for handling the slag dumps.

A new slag dump, the trestle work of which has been under construction for the past two or three months, is now nearing completion.

James Armstrong, one of the victims of the accident, has been a resident of Sudbury and Copper Cliff for the past fifteen years. He was a prominent Oddfellow, and a Past Grand of Sudbury lodge. He was in his 33rd year and leaves a wife and family of three small children. His parents are also residents of Sudbury.

Steve Marco, the second victim, is a naturalized Austrian who has long been a resident of the district and a trusted employee at the smelter for many years.