

TURTLE MOUNTAIN, FRANK, ALBERTA.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

Report of Landslide of 1903.

Under date June 12, 1903, Messrs. R. G. McConnell and R. W. Brock of the Geological Survey of Canada, acting as a commission appointed by the Honourable the Minister of the Interior, submitted a report on their examination of the Frank landslide which took place on April 29, of that year. The slide entailed the loss of about seventy lives of people in the town of Frank, together with the destruction of much property, including nearly 7,000 feet of the Crows Nest railway.

In their report, Messrs. McConnell and Brock say that the slide was due, not to a single cause, but to a combination of causes, among which the opening up of large chambers in the mine, situated under the base of the mountain, may have been a contributory cause. Speaking of the North peak and shoulder of the mountain overlooking the town, they say "the closing of the chambers in the mine, after the coal has been withdrawn, perhaps long after the inhabitants of the town have lost all dread of another disaster, may precipitate it suddenly in a second destructive slide. Since this possibility must always overhang the town, it certainly seems advisable that it be moved a short distance up the valley beyond the reach of danger."¹

More Recent Observations.

Since the report was published, officers of the Geological Survey have visited Frank from time to time and have examined the mountain. From several examinations he has made of the mountain, Mr. Brock has decided that cracks have formed in that part of the mountain overlooking the town, and that one or two cracks in the vicinity of the north shoulder have gradually widened

¹ Extract from Part VIII, Annual Report, 1903, Department of Interior, page 17