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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SNOWSLIDES

There are, says D. S. Olson, of the U. S. Forest Service, two distinct types of snowslide; viz, those confined to narrow canyons and those occurring on broad slopes. The former are much the more destructive. After a slide has once occurred in a canyon, slides will continue to take place there, because the first one sweeps away the brush and debris, leaving a smooth bed for its successors. There are many places in western America where these nature-made snow-chutes border a railway, and here it is necessary to construct snowsheds, over the roofs of which the avalanche may pass on its downward course.

"The location of a new canyon slide cannot always be predicted," says Mr. Olson, "and it is the first slide that is the most difficult to clear away, because in it the snow is mixed with stumps, trees, boulders and other debris, which make the mass almost impossible to cut through." In one case a slide of this character buried railway tracks to a depth of 50 feet, tied up traffic for a week, and had to be cleared from the tracks by blasting.

Slope slides do not travel so far as canyon slides, and are not so deep. They give trouble to the railroads, however, because the extent of road along which they occur is so great and the places of occurrence are so uncertain that it is not economical to erect snowsheds as a means of protection.

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