

For Release
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Avalanches! These tremendous rushing masses of snow are generally associated with Switzerland, but we have them in Washington, Idaho and Montana. The causes are (1) steep slopes, (2) loosening of the anchorage of the snow layer, (3) thickness of the snow layer, (4) consistency of the snow. There are three kinds recognized: (1) the common ground avalanche, caused by loosening of the anchorage due to melting; (2) the glacier avalanche, consisting of huge masses of ice and snow which detach themselves from a glacier; (3) the dry avalanche, which is the most dangerous as it starts with the least provocation and also produces winds of hurricane speeds.
