

103015 - c

51/8

DISASTER IN THE ALPS

Thundering avalanches, rearing and crashing into the villages below the towering peaks, bring Switzerland the worst disaster in her history. Heavy falls of snow, piling up in weather too warm for it to set, begin to slide down the steep slopes, compressing into rocks of ice as they hurtle downwards, carrying all before them. In their paths villages are obliterated, hundreds killed, scores still missing. All round Switzerland the grim story repeats. Trains swept off the line and buried, stations destroyed, the great St. Gothard tunnel choked. And everywhere rescue crews ply pick and shovel digging to find the missing.

Even the most up-to-date snowplough finds the mass almost impenetrable. For those beneath there can be but little hope.

To the playground of the world, Nature has struck a tragic blow and to Switzerland and her people goes the sympathy of all.