

CITIES AND TOWNS WIPED OUT; HUNDREDS DEAD IN AWFUL FLOODS IN CENTRAL STATES

Vast Areas From the Missouri River to Alleghany Mountains Ravaged by Angry Rush of Swirling Waters

Impossible to Accurately Tell Loss of Life but it May Run into Thousands ---Property Damage Many Millions.

HEAVIEST LOSS OF LIFE IN DAYTON WHERE HUNDREDS ARE KNOWN DEAD

Chicago, Mar. 25.—Swept by wind and rain storms of terrific violence for three days, vast areas of the middle west, from the Missouri River to the Alleghany Mountains, tonight are inundated, many persons have been drowned and enormous property losses have been caused.

Ohio, Indiana and parts of Illinois and Missouri suffered most severely. Terre Haute, Indianapolis and Lafayette, Ind., and Delaware, Dayton, Columbus and Youngstown, Ohio, present particularly pitiable spectacles. In all of these cities there was some loss of life, according to reports available in each city the property loss was heavy. In Delaware, Ohio, 19 persons are known to have lost their lives and thirty to fifty others missing. Terre Haute, swept by a disastrous tornado last Sunday, today was partly inundated, interfering with the removing of stricken families. The death list still remained at 20, while the list of injured aggregated 250.

At Dayton, Ohio, where three rivers, the Miami, Stillwater and Mad, and another stream known as Wolf Creek, conjoin, there was heavy loss of life and destruction of property.

Levees Burst.

For the most part the city lies on a level with the level of the streams. The streams are protected by levees 25 feet high. The levee protecting the Miami river broke at six o'clock this morning and the flood was augmented by the rapidly rising waters of other streams. The situation was made worse by the breaking of the Laramie reservoir, fifty miles above Dayton.

The waters swept through the city. One report which lacked confirmation said the water in the Main street was 15 feet high. All wire communication except one slender phone line to Fonetown, a station in Dayton was broken and information regarding the status of affairs in Dayton was difficult to obtain. The telephone company said no lives had been lost, but opposite reports were persistent. Railroad and wagon bridges across the Miami river were swept away and others were in momentary danger. The river still was rising rapidly. At a late hour and fears were entertained that several other towns between Dayton and the Ohio river would suffer.

Hundreds of Lives Lost.

No definite information as to what actually happened at Dayton could be obtained until tonight, when information from Cincinnati came that hundreds of lives had been lost. Practically the entire city was under water and the residents had been forced to flee for their lives. Many of the more intrepid sought refuge on the house tops.

At three o'clock this afternoon a young woman telephone operator at Dayton was in direct communication with Governor Cox at Columbus. She said she was the last person remaining in the exchange building and that there was seven feet of water in the main street. As she was talking, she said, the Leonard building, across the street, collapsed. Many persons were believed to have been in the building at the time.

Columbus also suffered enormous damage from the flood. Railroad traffic was paralyzed early in the day. Fires in three large factories raged for many hours and for a time threatened a considerable portion of the district. Because of the flood firemen were unable to respond to the appeals for assistance.

Conditions Worst in Years.

Conditions in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Kokomo and other places in Central Indiana were the worst in many years. At Lafayette two spans of a bridge went out. Two are reported dead. West Lafayette, where Purdue University is located, was cut off late in the afternoon when the levees were broken by the force of the waters of the Wabash River. The river is two miles wide and is rising rapidly.

At Indianapolis 1,500 families had been driven from their homes and

four deaths were said to have resulted from drowning during the day. The pumping plant was forced to suspend operations and the city is without fire protection. At Peru property damage of a half a million was done by the flood, it was reported. Logansport also was under water.

Governor Ralston this afternoon received a frantic appeal from Connersville, Ind., for aid for many sufferers there from the flood. It was said that the White River had broken over its banks and that there had ensued great loss of life.

The entire business district of Rushville and part of the residential section is under water. One person is reported drowned. No trains entered or departed from that city today. The court house practically was the only dry place in the city and it was crowded with refugees who had been driven from their homes.

Cloudburst Started It.

Cincinnati experienced a cloudburst early today which started the Ohio river rising rapidly and flooded many of the streets. Families in the low lands below Milford were warned to flee and fled to higher ground before the sweep of water reached that place. A big dam a short distance north of Akron, Ohio, burst this afternoon, and the report was hurried throughout the valley in different directions to warn the populace of the impending danger. Hundreds of farmers with their families fled to higher ground. The great bridge over the Miami river at Middletown, Ohio, went out this afternoon. Fifteen persons were reported missing. Several houses were seen floating down the river, which was a raging torrent.

Sweeping up the Ohio valley from the west, the third storm in ten days, devastated different sections between Louisville and Cincinnati, in Kentucky and in extensive districts in Illinois, southern Indiana and Indiana. At Louisville the wind maintained a velocity of 60 miles an hour.

A number of persons were reported killed at Mahanada, Illinois, although the report could not be confirmed.

A freight train was blown off the track of the Illinois Central Railroad and two of the crew were killed. Other cities affected by the flood and storm are:

Lima, Ohio, flooded by the Ottawa river. Ten miles of farms held up there by washouts at Middle Point, Springfield, Ohio, Mad River and Buck Creek both out of their banks and several hundred houses flooded. Many families compelled to flee.

Laruse, Ohio, inundated. Many persons homeless and much suffering reported among the poor.

West Liberty, Ohio, Mad River overflowing its banks here.

Fort Wayne, Ind., St. Joseph, Maumee and St. Mary rivers on a rampage. Town without lights and water famine threatened. Highest water reached in twenty years.

Marion, Ind., five hundred persons forced to flee for their lives.

Woodrow, Ind., three hundred persons homeless.

St. Louis, Mo., One person known to have been drowned and many families in the western part of the city forced to leave their homes by sudden rise of the Des Peres River.

Broad Ripple, one thousand feet of railroad track washed out.

Youngstown, O., fourteen thousand men are idle by reason of the closing down of the mills and factories. The food is the worst that this city has experienced in many years.

1,000 Reported Drowned.

Cincinnati, O., March 25.—A message from Fonetown said that a report was received there that the reservoir at Hamilton broke at 8:10 o'clock tonight and that one thousand persons were drowned.

A newspaper man who is a refugee in the office of the telephone company in Hamilton, admitted this might be true, but that owing to darkness he was unable to confirm it.

WHOLE VILLAGE WIPED OUT

Cincinnati, March 25.—Sixteen persons are dead at Hamilton, Ohio, according to a local correspondent. The light plant of the town is out of commission and the town is in total darkness.

THE DISASTER IN BRIEF

THE CAUSE.

Storms in Central States caused rivers and streams to overflow their banks and many towns were inundated.

THE RESULT.

Dayton, Ohio—Estimated loss of life 200 to 5,000. Water from 13 to 40 feet deep in streets of city. Millions of dollars damage to property. Residents fleeing to hills to escape floods.

Peru, Indiana—200 drowned, remainder of residents grouped in hills waiting for relief.

Piquette, Ohio—Hydraulic dam washed out, unconfirmed report says 540 drowned.

Indianapolis—Many reported drowned, 1,500 homeless, lower part of city under water. Millions of dollars damage to property.

Akron, Ohio—Fifteen missing, hundreds homeless. Mounted couriers sent to warn residents higher up in valley of approach of floods.

Columbus, Ohio—Enormous damage. Bridges and railway tracks washed out. All traffic tied up.

Springfield, Ohio—Hundreds of houses flooded, factories forced to close, all business paralyzed.

Hamilton, Ohio—Reservoir burst, 1,000 people reported drowned. City in darkness. Great property damage.

Vast areas from the Missouri river to the Alleghany Mountains inundated. Many hundreds estimated to have perished but detailed toll of dead will not be known for days.

ness. Cries for help can be plainly heard from blocks in every direction, but the lack of boats prevents even a semblance of rescue work.

The same correspondent reports that Croke Otto, a hamlet with a population of 100, has been wiped off the map and the fate of its inhabitants is unknown.

Dying Like Rats.

Richmond, Ind., March 25.—Frank Purviance, an employe of the Terre Haute, Indianapolis and Eastern Traction Company, at Dayton, over the long distance telephone tonight, said scores had been drowned there.

"They are dying like rats in their homes. Bodies are washing around the streets and there is no relief in sight," he said.

Purviance said the catastrophe was caused by the breaking of the Lewistown reservoir dam north of Dayton. He said the water stood twenty to forty feet deep in the streets.

A telephone operator in the Dayton office, who established communication with Richmond for a few minutes, said bodies were floating past the window of the office. The operator begged the local offices to send an appeal for aid to Governor Cox of Ohio.

A telephone operator at Liberty, Ohio, a small town several miles west of Dayton, established communication with the local exchange late today. He related the story told by the Dayton operator. Just before the wire to Liberty failed the operator said the levee near the Main street bridge had just gone out and the water was pouring into the town like a tidal wave. He asked that aid be rushed to the town.

Fleeing to Safety.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 25.—The White River levee on Morris street broke here at six o'clock and fifteen hundred persons were forced to make hasty retreat from their homes. The water spread over several blocks, getting into the first floor of many houses. Troops and police hurriedly were sent to lend whatever assistance possible.

5,000 Dead, 30,000 Homeless.

Springfield, Ohio, March 25.—The Mayor of Dayton in an appeal made to the Mayor of this city reported at eight o'clock tonight that the water is thirteen feet deep in the Union station in Dayton, and that according to unconfirmed reports, 5,000 lives have been lost and fully 30,000 are homeless.

The Hydraulic, a dam at Piquette, has gone out and reports, unconfirmed, were sent to lend whatever assistance possible. The Mayor of Dayton in his appeal

HON. MR. PUGSLEY WAS LEGALLY GUILTY OF COMMON ASSAULT

SYLVIA PANKHURST TELLS ABOUT HORRORS OF FORCIBLE FEEDING

Suffragette Released from Holloway Prison Writes of Experiences—Tube Forced Down Throat by Doctors—Placed in Solitary Confinement for Twenty-six Days.

London, March 25.—The prison experiences of Sylvia Pankhurst are described in a statement issued by her this evening. Miss Pankhurst, who is the daughter of Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, the leader of the suffragettes, was released from Holloway prison on March 21 where she was serving a term of two months, for window smashing.

Immediately on her incarceration, she was put on a hunger strike. After three days she was told she would be subjected to forcible feeding unless she consented to take food voluntarily. She refused to do this, and the doctors, to throw things at the doctors, but when six women attendants entered she could not bring herself to attack them.

The women seized her and forced her down on the bed. "After this, I came walking in; they hadn't the courage to show themselves until I was securely held."

Miss Pankhurst tried her hardest to keep her teeth clenched, but by the aid of a steel instrument, the doctors succeeded in prying her teeth apart, after causing her great suffering, and then she was forced down her throat. "I was seized with severe nau-

sea," she continues, "and after they had pulled the tube out, they left me with sobs. The same thing happened in the evening, but I was too tired to fight so long."

After two days of forcible feeding, the prisoner was ordered to solitary confinement for refusing food, and was deprived of books. The forcible feeding continued daily.

After being imprisoned for twenty-six days she was allowed to exercise with Miss Zelle Emmerson, of Jackson, Mich., who was also serving a two months term for window smashing.

Miss Emmerson, too, was on a hunger strike.

"At first," says Miss Pankhurst, "I could hardly believe it was she, her figure was so much changed, only half the size it was when she entered the prison with me."

According to her account, Miss Pankhurst by this time was a physical wreck, her eyes "like two cups of blood," her nerves shattered. She gave way frequently to fits of screaming and crying. Just when she had concluded that she could keep up the fight no longer the doctors held a consultation and decided to recommend her release on medical grounds.

Opinion of Hon. W. T. White Referring to Scene in Commons

RIGHTS OF SPEAKER DEBATED YESTERDAY

Liberals Claim Speaker Sproule was in Error in Taking Chair During that Saturday Night Row of March 15 — Conservatives Quote Precedents in Support of His Action.

Ottawa, March 25.—There was much harking back to English history to the days of the Stuarts in the House this afternoon when the opposition again contested the right of Speaker Sproule to take the chair, as he did on the evening of March 15 last, during the unhappy tumult that marked that sitting of the House. There was one historic occasion much cited today and that did yeoman service as a precedent. It was an event of the year 1675, when British parliamentarians almost came to bloodshed. To avert that possibility the speaker of the day had lost no time in taking the chair, forgetting all past precedents, and ignorant of the fact that nearly 250 years later the parliament of British Dominion, then unborn, would gravely debate the right and wrong of his action. The government benches were agreed that he did right, the opposition on the other hand were inclined to believe that the "evil that men do lives after them."

As he listened to the debate from his days this afternoon, Speaker Sproule probably had visions of his own action being brought into question by generations of parliamentarians yet unborn.

Mr. Emmerson Starts Ball.

Hon. H. R. Emmerson was prompt to raise the legality of the Speaker's action when the House assembled today, after the short Easter vacation. His contention was that the Speaker had no right to take the chair until the chairman of the committee had reported a condition of disorder. (With the House in committee the Speaker was only a member "like a sphynx or stone dummy," as far as his official authority was concerned. Nor had he any power to direct the chairman how to rule, or the privilege of saying enough when the debate had gone far enough.)

This view was stoutly opposed by Arthur Melghan, Portage La Prairie, who quoted precedents from the parliamentary authority. Sir Esaukin May, and told of the time in 1675, when bloodshed was threatened in the British House of Commons. The Speaker, on that occasion, took the chair without receiving a report from the committee in order that he might quell the disturbance that existed.

A Condition of Disorder.

"It could not be argued otherwise," said Mr. Melghan, "that that a serious condition of disorder existed in the House on the evening of March 15th, and this disorder justified the Speaker's action."

Hugh Guthrie (South Wellington) thought Speaker Sproule had fallen in to error through lack of time to consider a question that came before him suddenly. He held that the Speaker was in error in no less than four particulars, first, in taking the chair before a report came from the committee, second in giving direction to the chairman he himself, being a member of the committee and subject for the time being to the chairman, third in closing the debate in committee which he had no power to do, fourth in naming an hon. member who could not be out of order unless the Speaker was in the chair legally.

Hon. Mr. White Scores Pugsley

Hon. W. T. White strongly supported Mr. Sproule's action. The preservation of proper order was, he said, one of the prime duties of the office. Further, the Speaker had a continuing authority that did not end when the

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THREATENED TO SHOOT SON

Man Named Morrell Faces Serious Charge at Gagetown—Gregory Lister Victim of Accident.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, March 25.—Before Judge Wilson at Gagetown a man named Morrell, appeared for trial under the Speedy Trials Act, on the charge of threatening to shoot his son-in-law. In the event of the season of navigation opening in the meantime Judge Wilson will probably go down to Gagetown at an earlier date and hear the case.

Relatives in this city of Gregory Lister, who has been employed for some years past in the C. P. E. shops at McAdam, received word yesterday that he had been the victim of a serious accident. One of his ankles was fractured, and he had a narrow escape from being killed. Details of the accident have not been received, but Mr. Lister has been taken to the Chipman Memorial Hospital at St. Stephen for treatment.

Fred P. Robinson leaves tonight for St. John to attend the special meeting of the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners tomorrow re New Brunswick Telephone Company's application.

Rev. Neil MacLauchlan, president of N. B. and P. E. I. conference has decided to remain pastor of the Methodist church here for a full four year term.

MATLAND IS FIRE SWEEPED

Three Buildings Destroyed at Loss of \$10,000 — Blaze Broke Out Suddenly and Raged for Two Hours.

Special to The Standard. Matland, N. S., March 25.—A fire broke out here, suddenly, this evening, which destroyed three buildings with contents, and caused a loss of \$10,000.

The fire started at 8:30 o'clock in the store of Everett Eaton. It spread to that of R. B. Eaton and Son, and then to a vacant warehouse, owned by the Captain McArthur estate.

The stock as well as the buildings were totally destroyed. The only insurance was on the property of Everett Eaton, which was half covered. At 10:30 the fire was under control. The origin is unknown.

FEAR BIG STEAMER FOUNDERED AT SEA DURING HURRICANE

Sydney, N. S., March 25.—Some anxiety is felt here for the safety of the S.S. Heracles, which left Cardiff on March 1st bound for Sydney under charter to the Dominion Iron & Steel Company.

She is a week overdue, and has not been reported for ten days. The Heracles was launched in November last, and is owned by Burmeister & Co., Norway. This was her first trans-Atlantic voyage.

buildings of Amherst, for some time, and when I. C. R. Officer Brownell told the man to get away from the station this afternoon he answered impudently, and used some strong language, whereupon Mr. Brownell pinched him. He will be arraigned before the court in the morning.

QUEBEC FARMER IS KILLED BY TRAIN

Quebec, Mar. 25.—Francis Rochon, farmer of Belair, Portneuf county, and his horse, were killed instantly today by the Canadian Pacific Railway train from Montreal.

ST. JOHN MAN UNDER ARREST IN AMHERST

Special to The Standard. Amherst, N. S., March 25.—A man by the name of Murphy, and who says that he belongs to St. John, living on the Marsh Road in that city, was arrested in Amherst this afternoon.

This man has been hanging around the I. C. R. station and other public

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Dayton Plant on Fire.

Cincinnati, Ohio, March 25.—A telephone message from Fonetown, at 9:10 o'clock tonight said that the vast National Cash Register plant at Dayton, is reported to be on fire.

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