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men to sell stock and the Fonthill Nurseries, 1600 acres, steady employ weekly. Stone & Co.

\$1.00 PER YEAR, STRICTLY IN ADVANCE, TO ANY ADDRESS IN CANADA, UNITED STATES, OR GREAT BRITAIN.

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VOL. 34.

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VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1903.

NO. 39.

## SURVIVORS TELL OF TERRIBLE CLOUDBURST

### Later Particulars Regarding Disaster Which Overtook Heppner--How People of Lexington Were Warned.

Portland, June 15.—The following dispatch has been received from Heppner, Oregon, this afternoon:

"Two thirds of Heppner was swept away by a terrible flood. Fully 250 people were drowned. The weather is hot today and the bodies cannot be recovered on account of the debris and the lack of men. The business portion of the town is left with small damages. Outside assistance is needed to bury the dead and clear away the wreckage."

All the telegraph and telephone wires are down, and no accurate information can be obtained, but the estimate of the loss of life is based on the most reliable reports received up to tonight. Reports from Ione, 17 miles from Heppner, is to the effect that 300 bodies have been recovered.

A messenger who arrived at Ione said that a wall of water 20 feet high rushed down into the gulch in which Heppner is situated, carrying everything before it. The flood came suddenly, so sudden that the inhabitants were unable to seek places of safety, and were carried down to death by the awful rush of water. Almost the entire resident portion of the town was destroyed. Huge boulders weighing a ton were carried down by the current, and many people were killed by being crushed against the rocks. Early in the afternoon a thunderstorm set in, many of the small streams overflowing their banks in a short time. Bridges were swept away like straws. As soon as possible after the flood had subsided the work of relief was commenced by the citizens of the town.

Dozens of bodies were found lodged along the bends of Willow creek, and several places they were piled over one another.

Up to 2 o'clock this afternoon 200 bodies had been recovered almost within the city limits. Hundreds of cattle, sheep and hogs that had gone into the creek bottoms for water, perished.

News of the disaster did not reach the outside world until to-day, all the means of communication having been cut off. As soon as possible news was sent by couriers to the nearby towns.

The Oregon Railway & Navigation company started a relief train with physicians and supplies from the Dalles shortly after noon. At 1.30 this afternoon another relief train started for the scene from the city. The citizens of Portland started a relief fund as soon as the news of the disaster spread over the city, and within a few hours \$5,000 was raised. Supplies will be rushed to Heppner as soon as they can be assembled.

Fifteen buildings in the town of Lexington, nine miles below Heppner, on Willow creek, were washed away, but with no loss of life. At Ione, 17 miles away, considerable damage was done to buildings, but no loss of life is reported.

Preparations of relief for Heppner are in progress at various points from Portland to Pendleton. Dozens of wagons with supplies, and doctors are being sent to Heppner from nearby towns.

Heppner, the county town of Morrow county, is a town of some 1,200 people, situated some distance from the Columbia, and is on a branch line of the Oregon Railway & Navigation company. It is the centre of a large stock and grain district, and the gateway to the John Day placers, from which much gold has been taken. It lies in an area used extensively for sheep and cattle raising.

Lexington, another of the stricken towns, where death ridden ranches stood on the flood, is a town of some importance on the Oregon Railway & Navigation company's system beyond the Dalles, and is next in importance to Walla Walla and Portland. It is a shipping point for large quantities of grain, sheep and cattle.

Portland, Ore., June 16.—(Associated Press).—A dispatch from Ione, Ore., says: "David McAtee, a business man whose residence is on a 'bench' above Heppner, was an eye-witness of the disaster. 'On Sunday afternoon,' said McAtee, 'there had been a severe rain storm, accompanied by much wind and lightning. I was standing in front of the house and noticed a cloud of remarkable density approaching. I turned for a moment when a roar caused me to look again. I saw a wall of water rushing down the mountain, carrying immense trees and timber on its crest and tearing the very rocks from their foundations. 'The terrific storm struck the upper part of the town first. The residence of Thomas Howard was the first to fall, and the entire family were drowned. In the Krug also every person was drowned, as was the case of the Hale and Saling residences. All of these houses were about four or five blocks above the business centre. The house of Abram Hammett was demolished. The Palace hotel was the first building to stem the tide, and the guests were saved, but the houses below that structure were wrecked. The residence of G. A. Rhea was carried away, and his wife and three daughters, and Miss Adkins, a cousin, were lost. Mr. Rhea was in Portland attending the Masonic convention. C. E. Redfield, whose residence was completely destroyed, was also absent. His wife and baby were drowned."

"A. C. Gieger's house was carried away, and Mr. Gieger was drowned. His family is in the east."

"George Conser's house was reached next, but the family succeeded in saving their lives by rushing to the upper stories, the house being carried down the creek three-quarters of a mile. 'Rescuers found that the house had been cut in two and Mr. Conser was standing in water up to his neck, holding his wife on the roof. Dr. McSwat and Jayers, who were living in the same residence, were drowned. 'Oscar Miner's house was next demolished and Mrs. Miner drowned. The rest of the family succeeded in saving their lives by clinging to the roof. All of the Wells family but two were lost, and the house was carried away. With F. Wells's residence went the house of Geo. Swaggert. Mr. Swaggert's two married daughters were drowned with their five children. The Malloy house was carried 150 yards and lodged against a stone. Mr. Malloy, a crippled old man, was found safe, holding the baby. 'James Matlock's house was next. Mr. Matlock was drowned, but his family was saved. Dr. Higz's house also went, and one child was drowned, but the rest of the family escaped. The houses of Mr. Boyd and Mr. Walton were also destroyed, and both families lost. 'Mr. Barton succeeded in saving all the persons in his residence, although they were badly bruised. The house itself was washed away. 'Perhaps the greatest loss of life occurred at the Heppner hotel, which was carried away. It was supposed there were about fifty guests in the hotel, and all are reported lost. The two proprietors were saved, but their families are among the dead. 'The houses of Benjamin Patterson, Mr. Bunn and Mr. Noble were entirely demolished, and all persons in the three families drowned, as were the families of James Jones and Henry Blair. 'The entire residence portion of Heppner was destroyed, but the business houses, being on higher ground, and generally built of brick and stone, were not so badly damaged. The school house and the court house, which stand on a side hill, were saved, but two churches, the Methodist and the Presbyterian, were completely wrecked. 'Around the depot the rising water left great heaps of drift wood piled higher than the roof of the station, and the rescuing parties were forced to demolish these pyramids of timber in order to extricate the bodies, which were tangled in the brush. Undoubtedly many of the bodies were carried by the rushing water down the valley. 'Every available man from a radius of sixty-five miles has been pressed into service at Heppner to clear away the debris, and bury the dead. About one hundred persons were buried in Heppner's graveyard yesterday. Owing to the entire absence of proper facilities for caring for the dead, victims were for the most part interred in common crates. 'A relief train sent from the Dalles reached Ione last night, and will proceed to Heppner as soon as possible. A wrecking train with gangs of men to repair both tracks and telegraph wires left here last night. It is expected that communication with Lexington, 17 miles from Heppner, will be restored to-day. 'Lord Goschen had raised, and was committing themselves to a radical departure from free trade principles. He wished it to be clearly understood that the government had not proposed any measure to the country. The plea put forward was not one to which any members of the government was committed. It had been broached simply because the signs of the times showed that such a discussion soon would be inevitable. It was impossible, after the resolutions passed by the colonial conference, to brush those suggestions lightly aside. But the government was going to the investigation with a perfectly open mind. The collection of statistics would be the objection rather than the supporting of any particular view or theory.

district from the relief trains at Heppner Junction, 45 miles away.

**CAUGHT IN THEIR HOMES.**  
Many People Were at Evening Meal When Torrent Struck the Town.

Spokane, June 16.—(Associated Press).—A dispatch from Echo, Oregon, says: "N. I. Tooker, of Portland, who was at Heppner when the disaster happened, was the first to bring out news. He says the rushing torrent came at 5.30 in the evening when most of the inhabitants were at their evening meal. 'All were taken so suddenly,' said Mr. Tooker, 'that nothing could be done to save them. Homes, stores and buildings in the main portion of the town were torn loose and driven onward. 'A low estimate places the dead at three hundred. The town has a population of 1,500, but only about one half of the population of the town could be located. We do not know where they have gone. 'From the time the flood came until it went into the regular channel of the creek, flowing through the town, was about two hours. 'It was about 5 o'clock when the storm first started to gather to the west of Heppner. It was a small, dark cloud at first, but it rapidly grew worse, accompanied by heavy wind and lightning. The cloudburst struck fairly in the canon of Willow creek, six miles above Heppner, and there was no warning until the mighty wall of water had reached the town. 'As it came rushing down the creek bed it tore down everything in its path. When it reached Heppner the water was more than fifteen feet high, splashing, falling, leaping and creating a mighty, roaring, rushing flood. 'Those who were on the streets shouted warnings as they rushed madly to the hills for their lives. In some cases men returned to save members of their families. Many were carried to their death in their efforts. Those who had reached the high ground in safety immediately formed themselves into rescuing parties. Persons were seen in mid-stream, and their cries for help were heard, but we could only stand and see them go to their death. 'It is estimated that the damage done to property was \$500,000. Some of the brick and stone buildings were swept from their foundations. The goods in several buildings were saved, and the owners immediately told the relief committee to take what was wanted. 'People came by wagon and on foot from all directions to the assistance of the suffering. They could not come by rail for nine miles of the track below was washed away. All wire communication was cut off. 'Leslie Matlock, at the first warning of the flood, mounted a horse and rode at breakneck speed down to the canon, in front of the rushing water, to notify the people at Lexington, a small town nine miles below. He arrived at Lexington just ahead of the flood. The people were warned and immediately left for the hills. When the flood had passed only two houses were left standing."

**EYE-WITNESS'S STORY.**  
Heppner Hotel Among Buildings Swept Away—Fifty of the Guests Drowned.

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**TERRIFIC RAINSTORM.**  
List at Ione Rushed to Places of Safety.

Ione, Ore., June 16.—(Special).—For over an hour last night not a living soul remained in Ione. A fearful electric rain-storm broke over the village at 5.30 and the inhabitants took to the hills in fear of a repetition of Sunday night's catastrophe. Every gully was a rushing torrent in a few seconds, and the streets were covered with water within a few inches of the mark of Sunday's flood.

**EXPLODING THE RUINS.**  
Eighty-five Identified Bodies Have Been Buried—Railway Agent Perished at His Post.

The Dalles, June 16.—A telegram message from Ione states that the latest explorations in the ruins of Heppner indicate that the loss of life will be much greater than at first supposed. The list will foot up to 500, and many of the bodies will never be recovered. The property loss and destruction of buildings alone will aggregate probably a million dollars. This is regarded as a conservative estimate. One hundred and fifty of the best residences were swept from the earth. The relief work progresses to-day at a satisfactory pace.

Among the incidents of the catastrophe at Heppner was the saving of three lives by Julius Kettley, 70 years old, who rode a mile and a half and saved three people.

James Kernan, the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company's agent, met his death at the inquest key, trying to call Portland, to inform the outside world of the impending calamity. His little daughter, Katie, who was saved, said her father and mother were lost in the whirl of the waters. Katie stood by her father while he was promising the Portland office, when the flood swept in the lower floor and curled round him. Mrs. Kernan rushed out of the house and started for a high point of ground, but was drowned.

One of the most thrilling adventures was that of Tom Shuter, who, with his family, was carried down stream in his house for a mile and a half. His wife and children were in the upper rooms, below the town the house was shot across the creek to the west side, where it lodged in the debris, 150 yards from the canyon bank. Shuter then took his little ones and swam two hundred yards. He landed the children and then rescued his wife.

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Marriage of Miss A. Blair.  
Miss Andrew Blair, daughter of the Minister of Railways, was married to Dr. Geo. MacCarthy, of Ottawa, here to-day.

**THE EXTENSION MINES.**  
Over Two Hundred Men Are Ready to Return to Work at Once.

Nanaimo, June 16.—Another attempt will be made to reopen the Extension mine this week. Two hundred and twenty-five miners have signed a petition signifying their willingness to return to work at once. This will be forwarded to J. Dunsmuir immediately.

A report from Ladysmith to-day states that Mr. Dunsmuir has left the entire solution in the hands of Andrew Bryden, manager of the Wellington collieries, who is very popular with the miners, and who in all probability will be able to effect a settlement.

News also comes from Ladysmith this afternoon that the company intend running a train to Extension this week, and all men who wish can return on the old scale with the understanding that the unions is not to be considered by either side at present.

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The Stewart River Development Co., to charter a company to exploit the resources of the Yukon, was referred to-day by the private bills committee to a sub-committee. The company is capitalized at a million dollars.

May He Withdrawn.  
Senator Longhead's bill to prevent foreign agitators coming to Canada to incite strikes has been referred to a sub-committee. It is probable he will have it withdrawn.

Mr. Tarte, in the House, on motion to go into supply, moved an amendment that it was the bounden duty of the government to revise and adjust, without any delay, the present tariff so as to maintain a fiscal policy adequately and firmly protective of the large national interests at stake; and also that it was the duty of the government to carry out the electric transportation policy. Mr. Tarte's speech was nearly all statistics. He quoted from United States figures showing how that country had prospered under protection.

Marriage of Miss A. Blair.  
Miss Andrew Blair, daughter of the Minister of Railways, was married to Dr. Geo. MacCarthy, of Ottawa, here to-day.

**THE EXTENSION MINES.**  
Over Two Hundred Men Are Ready to Return to Work at Once.

Nanaimo, June 16.—Another attempt will be made to reopen the Extension mine this week. Two hundred and twenty-five miners have signed a petition signifying their willingness to return to work at once. This will be forwarded to J. Dunsmuir immediately.

A report from Ladysmith to-day states that Mr. Dunsmuir has left the entire solution in the hands of Andrew Bryden, manager of the Wellington collieries, who is very popular with the miners, and who in all probability will be able to effect a settlement.

News also comes from Ladysmith this afternoon that the company intend running a train to Extension this week, and all men who wish can return on the old scale with the understanding that the unions is not to be considered by either side at present.

**EX-SERGEANT DEAD.**  
Vancouver, June 16.—J. W. Johnston, a former sergeant in the Vancouver police force, died to-day at Kamloops.