

## Vast Areas Are Under Water Property Loss Is Enormous Floods Sweep Large Cities

Immense Territory From Missouri River to Alleghany Mountains is One Huge Lake—Ohio and Indiana Are States Which Suffer Chiefly, While Parts of Illinois and Missouri Are Also Submerged.

CHICAGO, March 25.—(Can. Press).—Swept by wind and rainstorms 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, and in each city the property loss was heavy.

In Delaware, Ohio, 19 persons are known to have lost their lives and 50 to 60 others are missing. Terre Haute, swept by a disastrous tornado last Sunday, was particularly hard hit, interfering with the removing of stricken families. The death list still remains at 20, while the list of injured aggregates 250.

### MEETING OF RIVERS.

At Dayton, Ohio, where three rivers, the Miami, Stillwater and Mad, and another stream, known as Wolf Creek, conjoin, there was great loss of life, according to some reports, and destruction of property. For the most part the city lies on a level with the four streams meeting almost in the heart of the place. The streams are protected by levees 25 feet high. The levee protecting the Miami River broke about 6 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, 50 miles above Dayton.

The waters swept thru the city. One report, which lacked confirmation, said the water in the main street was 15 feet deep. All wire communication, except one slender telephone wire, was cut. A station six miles away, 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.

Further Disaster Feared. Railroad and wagon bridges across the Miami River were swept away and others were in momentary danger of collapse. The river still was rising at a late hour, and fears were entertained that several other towns between Dayton and the Ohio River would suffer.

No definite information as to what actually happened at Dayton could be obtained until tonight, when information from Cincinnati came that sixty 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 intruded sought refuge on the housetops.

At 2 p.m. a young woman telephone operator at Dayton could be contacted with Governor Cox at Columbus. She said she was the last person to be contacted with the governor, and that there were 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 Suffers Heavily. Columbus also suffered enormous damage from the flood. Railroad traffic was paralyzed early in the day. Three large factories raised for many days, and for a time threatened a considerable portion of the city. Because of the flood, firemen were unable to reach the apparatus. The city was in a state of panic.

Conditions at Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Kokomo and other places in Central Indiana were the worst in many years. The levees were broken by the force of the water. The city of Indianapolis was in a state of panic. The city of Fort Wayne was in a state of panic. The city of Kokomo was in a state of panic.

Driven From Homes. At Indianapolis, 1500 families had been driven from their homes and four deaths were said to have resulted from drownings during the day. The pumping plant was forced to suspend operations, and the city is without fire protection.

At Peru property damage of half a million was done by the flood. It was reported. Logansport also was under water. Gov. Ralston this afternoon received a frantic appeal from Connersville, Ind., for aid from the state. The city was in a state of panic.

Cloudburst at Cincinnati. Early today which started the Ohio River rising rapidly, and flooded many of the streets. Families in the lowlands below Milford were warned in time and fled to higher ground before the sweep of the water reached the place.

A big dam a short distance north of Akron, Ohio, burst this afternoon, and horses and men were hurled through 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 are reported drowned. Several houses were seen to be floating. The river, which was a raging torrent.

Sweeping up the Ohio Valley from the west the third storm in ten days descended early today. The city of Louisville and Cincinnati, in Kentucky, and in extensive districts in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio were in a state of panic. The city of Louisville was in a state of panic.

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### Noted Soldier Passes



Viscount Wolsley, whose death occurred in France in his 80th year.

LONDON, March 25.—(Can. Press).—Lord Marshal Viscount Wolsley, one of the most famous of modern British soldiers, died today at Mentone, France, in his 80th year.

The career of Viscount Wolsley has been watched with peculiar interest by Canadians, because of the fact that as a colonel he commanded the Red River expedition of 1870 against Louis Riel, in which expedition the Duke of Connaught, then a youth of 20, participated.

Being a military expedition, the force of British regulars and Canadian volunteers could not pass by train thru U. S. territory, even though intended to quell a revolt against the government, and the troops had to take the tortuous route of the fur traders up around Lake Superior and thru 500 miles of difficult wilderness.

When the expedition reached Fort Garry (now Winnipeg) there was nothing for it to do, for Riel had fled. Fighting Career. Garnet Joseph Wolsley, who was a native of County Dublin, Ireland, entered the army in 1852, and in that year and the next saw service in Burma, being severely wounded in the Crimean war, which began the following year, he served in the trenches before Sebastopol, was again wounded and lost the use of one eye, but he won the French Cross of the Legion of Honor. Then came the Indian mutiny (1857-9), and he shared in the siege and capture of Lucknow, and took part in all the engagements fought by the force under General Sir Hope Grant. In 1860 he was fighting in China.

Ten years later he led the Red River expedition, and in 1874 he was now K.C.M.G. he commanded the force in Ashanti (Africa) against King Coffie. On his return he received the thanks of parliament and was given a grant of £25,000.

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## INDIANA NEARLY ALL SUBMERGED

Entire State is Described as One Huge Sea—Vague Idea of Loss of Life.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 25.—(Can. Press).—With tens of thousands of people homeless, seven dead and a property loss of several million dollars, Indiana tonight is experiencing the worst flood in its history. The entire state practically is one huge sea and every brook, creek and river is taking its toll of damage.

Public service corporations of the entire state are helpless, railroads and traction lines have canceled nearly all trains. Many cities are without fire protection and without light.

Dwellers along streams today devoted their labors to rescuing those trapped in the houses and to removing furniture and merchandise to higher ground.

During the day many reports of loss of life were received but none of these have been verified because wire service is paralyzed. Seven are known to have been drowned, two at Lafayette, three at Newcastle, one at Frankfort and one at Rushville.

The appalling swiftness with which the waters have risen caught the entire state unprepared. Streams that were brooks Easter morning have become raging torrents during the last 24 hours. Persons who retired in apparently safe homes last night, this morning were rescued from second-story windows by boats, and lowlands free from flood water yesterday, tonight are vast lakes.

Conservative estimates place the number driven from their homes at near 100,000, and the property loss, it is said, will reach the twenty million dollar mark. These figures are made up from reports received from towns thru 500 miles of difficult wilderness.

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## PENNSYLVANIA IN YEAR OF FLOODS

Continued Heavy Rainfall Makes Situation Serious—Conditions Grave at Oil City.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 25.—(Can. Press).—With a continued heavy rain fall over a wide territory of Northern and Western Pennsylvania, the flood situation at many points is growing serious tonight. No fatalities had been reported, but a number of persons have been injured and the property damage will be heavy.

Oil City, Titusville, Greenville, New Castle, Sharon and the lowlands of this city and vicinity are battling with flood water.

A number of buildings and dwellings, weakened by high water, collapsed at various places today. Many points are without electric light, water, transportation lines and gas. A score of bridges are out of work and are swept away by swollen streams.

The situation at Oil City is grave. The big Spartansburg bridge, which today, sending a great wall of water towards Oil City. At 9 o'clock tonight the Allegheny River at Oil City had reached 18 feet and was rising a foot an hour. Oil Creek is out of its banks and a large portion of the city is under water.

The dam at Spartansburg is the same which let go and caused the disastrous flood and fire in 1892.

PHONE OPERATOR  
STICKS TO POST

Buildings Nearly Collapsed, Exchange Marooned, and Hello Girl Works Alone.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 25.—Gov. Cox telegraphed the Red Cross at Washington today appealing for aid from Ohio, and for representation of great loss of life there.

Gov. Cox was in direct communication with Dayton shortly before 2 o'clock. The young woman telephone operator told the governor that she was the last one left in the exchange and said as she was talking to him the Leonard building, opposite the city hall, had just collapsed, with many persons in it. Many other buildings, she said, had collapsed.

The building section of the city, she said, was seven feet in water. The Daily News, owned by Gov. Cox, was deep in water, but was holding out against the flood.

Three firemen have broken out in the west side of Columbus, and the flames are spreading as the firemen have no water supply. Two bridges there were swept away by the floods.

Three companies of the Ohio National Guards have been sent to Hamilton to help preserve order.

Canton is shut off from railroad communication.

Larue, Marion County, sent an appeal for help to Gov. Cox. The town is inundated and people in some instances have sought refuge on the roofs of their houses.

The number of known dead in the City of Delaware is 19, and 30 to 40 are missing. It is reported that Mayor B. V. Lees, is among the drowned.

In West Liberty an engine and one car rolled down an embankment washed out by the flooded Mad River. Conductor Philip Hem is reported drowned, and Engineer James Wood and Fireman C. E. Clifton fatally injured. Several bodies were seen floating away, and it is feared a number of passengers in the two cars were drowned.

Fifteen hundred homes in Columbus are flooded. Firemen and National Guardsmen have formed a rescue corps.

Forced to Leave City. In Cincinnati a cloudburst has raised the Ohio River to flood stage and hundreds of people have been forced to flee from their homes.

The number of people who were compelled to close in Springfield. Many sections of the city are under water.

In Akron more than five hundred families are homeless. The rubber factories, the chief industries of the city, were forced to close down, railroad and trolley traffic is paralyzed, and it is feared that the state reservoir south of the city will break. Only one death, that of an electric light man, who was electrocuted, was reported.

A tornado struck Martin's Ferry. Several carriages in a funeral procession were blown over an embankment. No one was killed.

The Ohio River is rising rapidly at Steubenville. It is reported that the levee holding the waters of the Buckeye Lake reservoir have been cut and that a great volume of water is rushing down on that city.

The electric light plant at Norwalk was inundated, schools and public buildings closed and traffic on the lake shore railway was halted by the flood.

In Total Darkness. At Marion the day's power supply is cut off, schools were dismissed and the city is in darkness as the lighting plant is inundated. The railway bridges have been wiped away and the mayor has asked Governor Cox for assistance.

In Mansfield the streets are flooded and the property damage is heavy but there has been no loss of life.

At Zanesville the districts above the edge of the city are under water, and Wesley King, five years old, was drowned.

Napoleon is flooded, and at Findlay hundreds of residents have fled to the highlands.

In Barboursville all of the factories have closed on account of the flood. John Neuman, while trying to cross Wolf Creek, was drowned.

HAMILTON, OHIO, INUNDED.

CINCINNATI, March 25.—(Can. Press).—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. Cries for help can be plainly heard for blocks in every direction, but the lack of boats prevents even a semblance of rescue work.

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

## Immense Torrents of Water Swept Hundreds of Cities Doing Incalculable Damage

Death Toll in Ohio Catastrophe May Be the Worst in History of America—Financial Loss Reaches Many Millions—Dayton, Cleveland, Columbus and Other Centres, Flooded and Paralyzed, Sent Out Call for Help—Number of Bodies Washed Down City Streets.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 25.—More than 200 are dead and more than 25,000 are homeless and property damage estimated at many millions has resulted from the floods which swept Ohio today. The heavy rainfall, the most copious known in years, sent every stream over its banks, and hundreds of cities tonight are in darkness as the result of electric lighting plants being inundated.

Dayton, Delaware, Findlay, Hamilton and Middletown have appealed to the state for aid, and companies of National Guardsmen are being rushed to these cities to aid in pressing order and in rescuing the inhabitants.

The worst flood conditions are at Dayton. Early today the great Miami Reservoir, 15 miles north of the city, broke and let down an immense torrent of water into the Miami River. The levees in the city were swept away, and the whole city, of 125,000 people, was inundated. According to late reports more than 60 are known to have been drowned, and it is probable that the loss of life will be far above the hundred mark.

The wall of water rushing down the Miami poured into Middletown and, in the latter city, it is estimated that from 10 to 75 were drowned. In Middletown, while no deaths were reported, 15 persons are known to be missing.

CLEVELAND PARALYZED. Cleveland was paralyzed by a flood that inundated miles of her territory, made hundreds homeless, flooded a hundred factories, cut off the town from outside communication and caused millions of dollars of property damage. Scores had narrow escapes from death in the swelling waters.

Life-savers rescued 75 people from homes near Denison and Harvard avenues. Seventeen were babies. Lumber valued at \$600,000 was swept down the river in Cleveland and eight miles of docks were inundated at a damage of \$300,000. Nearly every factory and plant in the Cuyahoga Valley was flooded. Twenty thousand men will be out of work at least a week.