

The Toronto World

PROBS: Strong N. E. winds; unsettled and cold, with falls of rain or sleet.

FOURTEEN PAGES—WEDNESDAY MORNING MARCH 26 1913—FOURTEEN PAGES

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7,000 ARE DROWNED, 250,000 HOMELESS

SCORES OF CITIES AND TOWNS ARE UNDER FIFTEEN FEET OF WATER, INCLUDING CLEVELAND, COLUMBUS AND DAYTON

PROPERTY LOSS RUNS INTO HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS

MAYOR OF DAYTON WIRES THE WORLD

LOSS OF LIFE AT LEAST SEVEN THOUSAND

Thousands of Miles of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri Under Water—Death and Destruction Everywhere—Cities and Towns Swept by Floods—Terror-Stricken People Take Refuge on Hills and Trees.

A midnight despatch to The World from The Cleveland Leader says the loss of life in Ohio by the flood is at least 7000. This estimate is based on the belief that 5000 are dead in Dayton, 1000 in Hamilton, and 540 in Piqua.

Later—The mayor of Dayton has sent a message to Cleveland putting the dead in Dayton at 5000.

LOGANSPOUT, Ind., March 25.—The mayor of Peru over the long distance telephone at 11.50 tonight says:

"Tell Gov. Ralston that from 200 to 400 are killed on south side. We want provisions, clothing and coffins."

REPORTS ARE APPALLING

CHICAGO, March 25.—(Can. Press.)—Reports concerning the appalling nature of the floods in Ohio and Indiana, which in most instances it was impossible to verify, were received tonight from widely scattered sources. The most serious of these were:

An unconfirmed report from Springfield, O., that 5000 lives had been lost at Dayton, and 500 at Piqua.

A report, apparently more fully authenticated from Indianapolis, that from 200 to 500 had been drowned at Peru, Ind. This was later denied by a train despatcher at Peru.

1000 Drowned at Hamilton.

A message received at Foneton, Ohio, that the reservoir at Hamilton had broken and that 1000 persons had been drowned. Western Union office in Chicago representatives say that its Cincinnati office had worked with the Western Union office at Lindenwald, one mile south of Hamilton. At that time no mention was made of such a disaster and continued efforts at verification were futile.

An unconfirmed but persistent rumor from Marion, Ind., that the Grand reservoir at Galina, Ohio, had gone out, causing an unprecedented flood in the Wabash Valley.

Latest reports from Delaware, Ohio, said 75 to 100 are dead, but more conservative figures cut these reports in half.

The telegraph companies in numerous instances made unavailing efforts to confirm many of these rumors, but in few cases were they able to trace them to definite source.

Cannot Estimate Loss of Life.

CINCINNATI, O., March 25.—(Can. Press.)—Dayton, except for its most remote suburbs, tonight was covered with a seething flood of water from 8 to 20 feet deep.

Any attempt to estimate the loss of life is hopeless.

It is sure to run into the hundreds, and very likely into the thousands.

The property loss will total millions of dollars.

The flooded district comprises a practical circle with a radius of a mile and a half, and in no place is the water less than six feet deep. In Main street, in the downtown section, the water is 20 feet deep.

Fires Add to Horror.

The horror of the flooded districts is heightened by more than a dozen fires which can be seen, but out of reach of fire fighters.

Most of the business houses and nearly all the residences have occupants. Downtown the offices are filled with men, fathers unable to get home, and on the upper floors and on some of the roofs of the residences are helpless women and children. Hundreds of houses, substantial buildings in the residence district, many of them with helpless occupants, have been washed away.

The number of drowned cannot be estimated until the flood subsides.

Big Hospital Swept Away.

The St. Elizabeth Hospital with 600 patients, was reported to have been washed away. The building was known to be in many feet of water, and indications are that the report may prove true.

The electric light plants were put out of business early in the day and total darkness, coupled with a torrential downpour, added to the horrors of the night.

Famine also became an immediate possibility.

All of the supply and grocery houses are in the submerged

Death and Devastation by Floods

This estimate of yesterday's terrible disasters is believed to be conservative:

Ohio.

Dayton—City inundated. 5000 reported dead, 30,000 homeless.

Delaware—19 dead, many missing, 400 homeless.

Hamilton—1000 reported killed by breaking of reservoir.

Lima—Flooded by Ottawa River.

Springfield—Mad River and Buck Creek both out of their banks, hundreds of houses flooded, factories closed.

West Liberty—Mad River overflowing its banks.

Youngstown—Fourteen thousand workers idle by reason of closing down of mills and factories.

Piqua—Five hundred and forty lives reported lost.

Total deaths in state, 7182 (unconfirmed).

Indiana.

Indianapolis—White River, Pleasant Run and Eagle Creek are out of their banks; street car traffic suspended; water and gas plants suspended; thousands homeless.

Fort Wayne—St. Joseph, Maumee and St. Mary Rivers on rampage. Town without lights, and water famine threatened.

Marion—Five hundred persons forced to flee for lives.

Elwood—Three hundred homeless.

Brownsville—One thousand feet of railroad track washed out.

Lafayette—Wabash River bridge washed out, carrying two or more to death.

West Lafayette—Purdue University and town cut off from water supply, and isolated from the world. One student drowned.

Richmond—Whitewater River out of its banks; city in darkness; two Pennsylvania Railroad bridges east of city washed away; more than twenty highway bridges torn down; 100 homeless.

Rushville—Flat Rock Creek waters rise with a roar, and changing fire bells warn people to flee; business section submerged.

Kokomo—Wildcat Creek is one-quarter of a mile wide in heart of city, which is in darkness; people taking refuge in second stories; 1500 homeless.

Muncie—Dyke and water plant breaks; city without fire protection; White River's water force hundreds to abandon homes; Big Four, Chesapeake and Ohio bridges gone.

Anderson—Green's Branch, a narrow creek, is a raging torrent; municipal light plant wall breaks and city is in darkness.

Tipton—One hundred families driven from homes.

Noblesville—White River highest in 33 years; two are reported drowned; big hydraulic dam threatened.

Selbyville—Little and Big Blue Rivers break levees; city in darkness; Big Four tracks washed out.

Logansport—Wabash River out of banks; city isolated; two reported drowned; ten houses washed down stream.

Peru—Damage is already \$500,000; business houses six feet under water; Chesapeake and Ohio bridge gone; thousands are homeless; 500 reported dead.

Terr Haute—Wabash out of banks, flooding resident section; railroad traffic suspended; 500 miles under water; water highest in fifty years. Total dead in state, 1000 estimated; total homeless, 100,000; property damage, \$20,000,000.

district, and at midnight it was said there was not enough bread to last the survivors another day.

Appeal for Food.

John H. Patterson, president of the National Cash Register Co., who headed the relief work in the south end of the city, sent out an appeal for food supplies and for doctors and medicine. Tonight 3000 homeless were housed in the Cash Register offices.

A fire, which started from an explosion in the Meyers Ice Cream Co., near Wyoming street, spread and burned the block on South Park, a block from Wyoming. Another big fire is reported to have burned a downtown block.

Big Reservoir Gives Way.

The breaking of the Tarleton reservoir which supplies the drinking water, left the city without water and physicians declared there was great danger of typhoid in the use of the flood water.

There are no boats in Dayton which can breast the current, and those on the outside early gave up any attempt to reach the business section.

How many houses have been swept away and how many occupants were carried to their death cannot be learned until the waters recede.

Crept Along Cable.

At Wyoming street, on the south side, where the National Cash Register Co. centred its efforts at rescue, many saved their lives by creeping on a telephone cable, a hundred feet above the flood. At first linemen crept along the cables carrying tow ropes to which the flat bottomed boats were attached. When the flood became so fierce that the boats no longer were able to make headway against it, men and women crept along the cables to safety. Others, less daring, saw darkness fall and gave up hope of rescue.

Those willing to risk their lives in the attempt to rescue, found themselves helpless in the face of the water.

Half of Population Homeless.

Half of Dayton's population, it is reported, are homeless. The National Cash Register plant, on a high hill, offers the only haven in the south end.

Three women became mothers in the halls of buildings tonight.

In the woodworking department of the National Cash Register Co., boats were being turned out at the rate of ten an hour, and these were rushed to where the water crossed Main street in a sort of gully.

But the waters crept up and the strength of the current was far too strong for the crude punts, tho they were the best that could be made in a hurry.

Trip after trip was made and hundreds of refugees were taken from this stretch.

FLOOD BULLETINS

BIG COLUMBUS BRIDGE GOES

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 25.—(Special.)—Broad street bridge over Scioto River, was swept away at 1 o'clock this (Wednesday) morning. This was last link connecting east and west parts of city.

FIVE THOUSAND DROWNED.

SPRINGFIELD, O., March 25.—The mayor of Dayton, in an appeal made to the mayor of this city, reported at 8 o'clock tonight that the water is thirteen feet deep in the Union Station in Dayton, and that according to unconfirmed reports 5000 lives have been lost and fully 30,000 are homeless.

The hydraulic dam at Piqua has gone out, and reports say that 540 lives have been lost.

COMMUNICATION CUT OFF.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 25.—A Western Union Telegraph operator at Brookville, O., tonight established communication with the Associated Press office here. He said: "Practically half of Dayton is under water from the Scioto River. The city is without electric lights. It is impossible to estimate the damage. There is no communication with the outside world. Many persons were caught in their homes, with all avenues of escape cut off. The water still is rising and a heavy rain falling."

CINCINNATI SUBURBS.

CINCINNATI, March 25.—It is reported that the railroad embankment at Cleveland, seven miles below Cincinnati, broke tonight and that part of the town is under fifteen feet of water. The operator at Cleveland said he distinctly heard cries for help, but he could not learn if there was any loss of life or the extent of the property damage.

HUGE RESERVOIR BURST.

MARION, Ind., March 25.—Unconfirmed rumors are current here that the Grand reservoir at Galina, O., the largest of its kind, has gone out. This, it is said, is causing the unprecedented flood. The report was brought here by a deputy sheriff, who insists it is true. It is impossible to reach Galina.

INDIANAPOLIS HOSPITAL IN DANGER.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 25.—The waters of Fall Creek are threatening the city hospital, where a large number of patients are confined. Governor Ralston has ordered out the National Guard to aid in removing the sick to a large hall. It appears that the removal will be made hurriedly.

NEW YORK STATE INVADED.

OLEAN, N. Y., March 25.—Olean Creek is over its banks and hundreds of families in the flood zone are deserting their homes. Tonight a huge iron oil tank 90 feet in diameter was floated over a quarter of a mile and lodged against a row of houses. Portions of North Olean are under ten feet of water. A Boardmanville people are leaving their homes in boats.

UNABLE TO CHECK LOOTING.

DAYTON, Mar. 25.—House looting began early in the night, and while the local militia are on duty they are wholly incapable of handling the situation.

Incidents without number are narrated of persons in the flooded district waving handkerchiefs and otherwise signaling for aid, being swept away before the eyes of the watchers on the margin of the waters. Many of the rescue boats were swept away by the current against what had been fire plugs, and the boats were crushed. How many died in this way no one knows tonight.

DAYTON BURNING STATE REPORTS

Special to The Toronto World.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Unconfirmed reports at Cleveland and Cincinnati says Dayton, Ohio, is burning, the flames having started in the huge works of the National Cash Register Co. Eastern agents and officials of this company are at their offices in New York at 11.10 tonight making desperate efforts to get details. They express amazement at their factory and stock have very little wood about them.

FOR SALE

ADELAIDE—Corner Portland Street; 5275 per foot; lot 86 x 80 to a lane. Splendid light on three sides; yielding large revenue. Extremely easy terms.

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Four Hundred Children Are Drowned at Dayton School Is Swept Away

Raging Torrent Three Miles Wide Sweeps Thru City, and Terrible Scenes Are Witnessed—Surviving Inhabitants Are Plunged in Misery.

DAYTON, Ohio, March 25.—(By Phone via Xenia).—Dayton is tonight nothing less than a seething river three miles wide, a mile and a half on each side of Main street, its principal thoroughfare, while it is estimated that from 2000 to 5000 people have perished.

Gloom reigns supreme. The Algonquin Hotel is submerged in water up to its third story, and above this level in the downtown district, office buildings and hotels and business houses are places of refuge.

FOUR HUNDRED CHILDREN DROWNED.

A school building that was known to have housed no less than 400 school children shortly before the waters rushed in that direction is entirely submerged, and, as far as can be ascertained, all of the little ones met a watery grave.

Thousands of those who were fortunate enough to have escaped the first rush of the waters are being fed tonight on short rations, and appeals for help are being sent out by many of the leading men of the city.

SUFFERING FROM HUNGER.

Three trainloads of foodstuffs have arrived from Xenia, but as yet there has been no chance to deliver them, and suffering from hunger, as well as exposure, is bound to occur within the next few hours.

The rain and the waters are still rising.

The Union Railroad bridge that adorns all except one of the railroads into the city, was dynamited this afternoon, but the effect was not felt to any marked degree.

Quarter Million Homeless Says Governor Cox of Ohio

Several Cities Are in Throes of Most Disastrous Flood in History of the State—Nine Feet of Water Floods Dayton, Where Lone Phone Operator, Helpless, Stays on Duty—Financial Loss Cannot Be Approximated.

Special to The Toronto World.

To Editor Toronto, Ohio, March 25.—Replying to your enquiry, there are probably two hundred and fifty thousand people homeless and here can be no estimate of the loss of life, because which cannot even be approximated, as the result of floods in the valleys of the Scioto and Great Miami Rivers.

The first call for help came early this morning from Larue, in Marion Co., the statement being that a hundred women and children were penned up in the second floor of a home, and that the waters surrounding the buildings were too swift to admit of escape by raft. It was impossible to reach the place by rail, but boats were dispatched from Russell Point, about 15 miles overland by wagon.

They should have reached the place 4 o'clock. As telephone communication was later severed, we have no means of knowing whether this assistance was of any avail.

Destruction in Columbus.

By 9 o'clock Columbus, the capital city, was in the throes of a great flood and the whole western part of the city was inundated within the lapse of a couple of hours. The state and town bridges were swept away about noon. Railroad tracks were washed out, roadbeds destroyed, and railroad bridges appear from distant observation to be damaged. State institutions lie on the hills west of the city and they are thrown open tonight to take care of the comparative few that the capacity of the places will admit.

Appeals soon followed from Delaware and Prospect, along the route of the Scioto.

By ten o'clock the news started coming from the Miami Valley. Singularly, the first word from Dayton came thru the Red Cross Association at Washington. I have been able to communicate all day with an operator in the Bell Telephone Company at Dayton, but it has not been possible for him to reach anyone in or about the Dayton telephone exchange.

Water Nine Feet Deep.

According to the report which he submits, the level broke at Dayton at the Main street bridge at least 10 o'clock, and within three-quarters of an hour the business district was flooded to a depth of seven feet. The waters continued to rise until some time after noon. This evening the whole business section of Dayton is under water to the depth of between seven and nine feet. During the last three hours the waters show no appreciable rise.

Horses were drowned by the streets. The operator, John Bell, by name, knows of one building having collapsed. A man went up in a boat and told him of this. North Dayton,

Riverdale, West Dayton, and Edgemont, in addition to the business section of Dayton, are under water.

It is estimated that 30,000 people are homeless and here can be no estimate made as to the loss of life, because the only communication with the city is by word of mouth or telephone, who can go to the top of his building and make observations with reference to the work of devastation in the city, but can gain no information by word of mouth or telephone, communication with anyone else.

Phoneton, which is the connecting link in long distance telephone operations between the east and west, lying about twelve miles north of Dayton, advised us this morning that twenty-three bodies had been seen floating down the river at Troy. This confirmed previous reports that Sidney was probably wrecked. The belief is that the reservoir close to the city burst its banks.

There has been no communication with Sidney for the last two hours, while connection with Piqua ceased about noon. If the reservoir left its banks north of Sidney, then there is no telling the extent of destruction and loss of life at Piqua.

We hope to have full information by morning.

The Worst Calamity.

The troops were ordered out at Columbus for duty at the capital city. The naval reserves are on duty in that city, presumably. The Cincinnati companies were dispatched to Hamilton and Middletown, which lie in the Miami Valley, and which sent out distress signals soon after noon.

If our worse fears are confirmed, it will be necessary for us to call on the outside world for tents and supplies in order to make provision for the worst calamity that has ever befallen this state.

(Signed) James M. Cox, Governor.

The Real Tango.

The Tango has been adopted by society as the correct dance this season. It had its origin in Buenos Ayres and it comes to us by way of Paris. There are many variations of the tango, but the only genuine way to dance it is the manner in which it is performed at the Princess Theatre by the graceful dancers of "The Girl From Montmartre" company.

Dineen's English Hats.

Heath's, Hillgate's, Christy's and all the famous English makers of hats are imported by Dineen's in complete variety. Also the Dunlap and other famous American makers. Practically an unlimited variety of hats for every man shopper to choose from. W. and D. Dineen Company, Limited, 140 Yonge street, corner Temperance.