

## 7,000 SWEEPED TO DEATH BY FLOODS IN STATE OF OHIO

Dayton Engulfed by Wall of Water—Five Hundred Said to Be Dead.

540 LOST AT PIQUA

Bursting of Dams Result in Terrible Loss of Life and Property Damage Will Reach Millions.

30,000 ARE WITHOUT HOMES

Thousands People Said to Have Been Drowned at Hamilton, Through Giving Way of Reservoir—Indiana Also Suffers From Inundation—Five Hundred Die in Peru.

Springfield, Ohio, March 25.—The mayor of Dayton in an appeal made to the mayor of this city reported Tuesday night that the water was thirteen feet deep in the Union station in Dayton, and that, according to unconfirmed reports, 5,000 lives had been lost and fully 30,000 are homeless. The dam at Piqua has gone out and reports, unconfirmed, say that 540 lives had been lost.

Cincinnati, March 25.—Scores of persons were reported drowned and 30,000 rendered homeless in Dayton, Ohio, Tuesday following the breaking of the Miami river levee and the Laramie reservoir, fifty miles above the city.

It is impossible to estimate the loss of life, and it is said that only a miracle could prevent it from going into hundreds or even thousands. One report declared 5,000 were dead in Dayton.

A cloudburst between Cincinnati and Dayton Tuesday night brought down the only telephone wire between the two cities. Telephone wires also were damaged.

A relief train on the Pennsylvania railroad was forced to remain in Cincinnati because of the washouts. Railroads have abandoned their schedules and it is impossible to send aid to the stricken city.

The climax of the flood in Dayton was reached Tuesday night when it reported the water was from twenty to forty feet deep in many streets. Bodies were floating past the windows of office buildings and the catastrophe assumed the proportions of a tidal wave.

Fires Add to Horror. Hundreds of fires, impossible to fight, broke out and added to the horror of the scene. Rescue boats were unable to get further from shore than their low lines would permit because of the raging current.

Lectors are said to have shot down people protesting their property. "Eight thousand have perished. People are dying like rats in a trap," came one message from the inundated city.

A telephone operator in the Dayton office, who established communication with Richmond, Ind., for a few minutes, said bodies were being swept by the window of her office and begged that an appeal for aid be sent to Governor Cox.

Marooned in office buildings in a part of the town, hundreds of persons are vainly awaiting rescue. Streets heretofore considered miles from the danger line are running up to twenty feet of water, the torrential force of which precluded rescue in boats.

Loss Throughout State. Other sections of the state report a heavy loss of life and enormous property damage.

At Delaware 15 persons are reported dead, many children and 400 families homeless. A wall of water is inundating the town.

A report from Hamilton said the reservoir near there, containing millions of gallons of water, has burst and 1,000 persons are dead.

Ohio, a hamlet of 100 persons is said to have been destroyed and the fate of the inhabitants unknown.

Governor Cox received a report from Cincinnati, six miles from Dayton, saying that 30 Indians have been swept away from the Ohio river.

This report seems to verify the story of the heavy loss of life at the city, Sunday evening, which was reported partly wiped out by the flood.

Laramie Dam Breaks. The catastrophe at Dayton was caused by the breaking of the Laramie dam fifty miles north of the city early Tuesday morning. This immense reservoir, said to be the largest in the country, released millions of gallons of water, which flowed into the Miami river, converting that stream into a raging torrent.

This wall of water, augmented by two rivers, the Millwater and the Mad, and another stream, known as Wolf creek, swept down upon Dayton, breaking the 25-foot levee and inundating the city. The waters swept through the city with terrific force.

Railroad and wagon bridges across the Miami river were swept away and others were in momentary danger of collapse.

Telephone to Governor. At 3 p. m. 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 were seven feet of water in the main street. As she was talking, she said, the Leaning building, across the street, collapsed. Many persons were believed to have been in the building at the time. Other buildings were expected to be demolished.

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Frank Brandon, vice-president of the Dayton, Lebanon & Cincinnati railroad, reached Cincinnati Tuesday night with the first eyewitness story of the disaster. He said the situation was appalling and beyond all control.

"At least sixty are dead," he said.

People Need Boats. "What the people need most of all is boats. The water is high in every street, and assistance was simply out of the question. At least sixty have perished, and probably a great many more."

"We are rigging up several special trains, and will make every effort possible to get into Dayton."

Admiral suffered also enormous damage from the flood. The washout of several bridges across the Scioto river in and near the city resulted in almost total paralysis of railroad traffic.

The West side levee broke and a large area of the western part of the city was inundated. 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.

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wrecking train carrying a crew of 30 men, crashed through a weakened bridge. Only six of the crew have been accounted for.

Train Goes Through Trestle. Washington, O., reports the death of the engineer, dressed in a blue uniform on train No. 52 of the Wheeling Lake Erie railroad, as the result of the train going through a trestle at Whipple Hill.

Ten solid miles of trains stretch from Lima, O., to Lafayette, Ind., as a result of a washout at Middle Point. Other trains are being added hourly to the string.

Tuesday all railroads out of Cincinnati cancelled their trains to Dayton, explaining that it was impossible to reach the city because of flood conditions.

Pittsburg Out Off From West. Pittsburg reports a complete stoppage of traffic from the west as a result of the high winds and floods. The New castle division of the Pennsylvania railroad into Pittsburg has given up trying to run.

The high tides have covered several bridges on the Erie and Pittsburg division of the same road, causing the abandonment of trains by that route. Four washouts are reported near Titusville, Pa.

Over 500 Die in Indiana. Indianapolis, March 25.—With at least 10,000 persons driven from their homes, street car service paralyzed, the public schools closed, the water supply shut off and the Indianapolis gas company on the verge of being put out of commission, Indianapolis faces the worst flood situation in the nation.

Fire Chief Cook issued a warning to the people to beware of fires because there will be no water pressure to fight them.

Five hundred or more people are drowned at Peru, Ind., according to a message received by Governor Ralston from that place.

White, Fall creek, Big and Little creeks, Pleasant Run and Pogue's Run have broken out of their banks and are inundating the adjacent lowlands, driving people from their homes and causing immense property loss.

Millits Ordered Out. Mayor Shank applied to Governor Ralston for aid. Two companies of militia were ordered out to report at once at police headquarters. From there they were distributed throughout the city to protect the danger points all along the streams and aid in rescue work.

1,000 Homeless in Fort Wayne. Fort Wayne, Ind., March 25.—One thousand people are homeless here as the result of the greatest flood in the history of the city. Four suburbs are under water—Spay Run, Nebraska, Bloomdale and Lakeside. The section of the disk surrounding Lakeside was broken out by the flood and the water came through with a terrific roar and rush.

One person was drowned.

150 Nobleville Homes Ruined. Nobleville, Ind., March 25.—One hundred and fifty homes have been destroyed by the flood. The extent of the damage is unparalleled.

Floods Hit New York. Buffalo, N. Y., March 25.—The tremendous downpour of rain throughout western New York during the past two days has developed one of the worst floods in fifty years. The entire area of South Buffalo is under water; street car service is suspended and row boats are plying down the streets.

A score of big manufacturing plants along Buffalo river have been inundated and the loss there will reach thousands of dollars. The Buffalo river and Cassin's creek, both went over their banks with a rush and the water in the South Park section of the city had no chance to escape. Hundreds of homes were soon flooded. Firemen were sent out in boats to rescue those who desired to leave.

It is still raining and it is feared that at least two of the big railroad bridges will be swept away. Hundreds of workers are marooned in distant parts of the city and are unable to reach their homes.

Throughout western New York and northern Pennsylvania the situation is most serious. A message from Hornell, Steuben county, says that the Carleton river is on a rampage and that the valley is flooded for a distance of thirty miles. In Hornell street cars are out of commission, railroad tracks are washed away and many homes have been wrecked and damaged.

In the Genesee river valley the situation is even more serious. Mount Morris, Danville and other villages are inundated.

To the south of the city traffic is at a standstill. The Buffalo and Southwestern tracks between the city and Jamestown have been swept away in many places and the loss is many thousands of dollars.

The village of Salamanca is inundated and a heavy loss has been sustained there. Scores of homes have been damaged by the flood. The total loss throughout western New York is well over \$1,000,000.

Following Instructions. "This story of yours is fat," announced the editor, "Well," explained the reporter, "I read a book called 'Adventures to Young Women' and the very first thing it tells you is not to tell your manuscript."—Judge.

United Girl. "I would have you to know, sir, we came over with William the Conqueror." "It must have been some kind of a conquest who could make you come over with him."—Judge.

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## NEWS BREVITIES OF ILLINOIS

Aurora.—Somewhere in a swampy place on the edge of the town, between Elmhurst and Ingall, Michael McMahon, a wealthy Elmhurst resident, dug a hole and buried his watch and a box of money. He doesn't recollect where he hid his treasure.

Peoria.—A fire attributed to an insane negro patient endangered the lives of 150 Kwanaid patients in one of the cottages of the State Hospital for Insane at Bartonville. Prompt discovery of the blaze prevented loss of life. After the fire was extinguished an investigation showed that rags and papers had been packed between the floors and these touched off.

Elgin.—Fred Powell, an attendant at the state insane hospital here, was arrested and discharged for alleged brutality to an inmate. A Chicago patient is said to have refused to put on his overcoat and to have been kicked by Powell. Several cases of maltreatment of patients recently have been investigated by state officials.

Alto Pass.—Missing their two-year-old child, Mr. and Mrs. Van Cavanagh living on Hudsons Creek west of town, went in search of it and found its dead body floating in the creek.

Mount Vernon.—Word has been received that J. Lee Crowders died as the result of injuries inflicted by the trucking trust in an attempt to rob the bank at Elgin where he was cashier. Mount Vernon is Mr. Crowders' home.

Rockford.—The conference of the United Evangelical church adjourned its annual meeting at Chadwick. Bishop S. F. Wengel announced the following appointments: Southern Illinois district, E. J. Kwanaid, president; El Paso, Anna and Jonesboro, W. F. Borge; Bishop, Ora Davis; El Paso, D. J. Kopp; Gilman, J. H. Johnson; Grayville, F. H. Born; Groveland, L. W. Schweitzer; Joliet, F. B. Blansky; Manhattan, A. L. Schaefer; Ottawa, G. H. Wylie; Radcliff, J. D. Butler; Reddick, J. W. Mitchell; Roberts, Charles; Streator, Charles Stockhous; Symerton, H. E. Blesler; Terre Haute, F. R. Caldwell; Waterfall, R. F. Mase; Weston, J. E. Boston.

President Wilson's edict against the use of liquor at White House banquets received the hearty approval of ministers attending the conference. A resolution commending the president for his stand was unanimously adopted and forwarded to him.

Herrings.—Teggs blew the safe in the post office at Fordville, south of here, and got \$50 and a quantity of stamps.

Kings.—Mr. and Mrs. C. Hayes celebrated their sixty-first wedding anniversary at their home in Kings.

Champaign.—Charles D. Norton, vice-president of the First National bank of New York; Howard S. Eiting, president of the Chicago Association of Commerce, and Harry A. Wheeler, president of the chamber of commerce of the United States, will speak at the dedication of the new Commerce building at the University of Illinois April 15 and 17. The Commerce building will house courses in various lines—banking, accounting, journalism, insurance and railway administration.

Bloomington.—The State Homeowners' association will be in convention in Bloomington on April 15 and 16.

Moline.—Moline has taken the initiative in Illinois for bird reservation where the feathered tribe will have protection. Curtis H. Wilson, local representative of the Audubon society, is one of the leading spirits. The reservation will cover several square miles and owners of the territory will co-operate to extend protection to birds.

Quincy.—William McFarland, thirty years old, while cleaning a revolver in his home in Camp Point, near Quincy, was accidentally shot in the abdomen and died a few hours later.

Peoria.—Fire destroyed the factory of the J. A. Spencer Hat & Shoe company at Dwight. The loss is \$75,000 to \$100,000. The factory was Dwight's chief industry and the Spencer company is one of the leading ones in the city.

Peoria.—Fire also damaged a large grain elevator of Harless Bros.

Bloomington.—Mrs. Goodwin, a prominent brick and the manufacturer of Illinois, died suddenly from the effects of a paralytic stroke, aged forty-two years. Her husband was the late Sir G. C. Menard of Chicago.

Quincy.—Mrs. Homer Green, thirty years old, wife of a Quincey brick maker, died last night at her home in Quincy. She was born in Quincy and was married in 1897. At the age of twenty years, and before she was born and the death of her husband.

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## Checks

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