

INDIANA ONE VAST STORM-SWEPT SEA

Plight of Indianapolis Precludes Giving of Aid to Outside Districts.

COLD ADDS TO SUFFERING

Militia Aids Police in Patrolling Stricken District—Situation in Smaller Towns Is Bordering on Desperate.

(Continued From First Page.)
State is held out by the Government Weather Bureau. "Rain and colder" is the forecast for tonight and tomorrow. Besides higher water, untold suffering to the homeless will come with the drop in temperature.

Rescue work is being carried on by volunteers, police, firemen and the state militia and every place where there is a dry home, it has been thrown open to the flood refugees.

City's Streets Stop.
Indianapolis is in the grip of its worst flood. Streets are stopped running at noon, at which time the water and gas plants were forced to suspend. Two electric light plants are operating, but may be compelled to close down.

Seven thousand persons were driven from their homes here by the overflow of the White River, Eagle Creek and Pleasant Run. They are being cared for by charitable institutions and in private homes. The militia is patrolling the flooded district aiding the police.

City authorities late today called for volunteers to aid in protecting the threatened levees. Mayor Shank asked the board of public safety to appropriate \$2000 for the relief of flood sufferers.

Parts of Fort Wayne, Lafayette, Richmond, Marion, Terre Haute, Muncie, Rushville, Kokomo, Peru, Connersville, Petersburg, Newcastle, Frankfort, Anderson, Tipton, Noblesville, Hartford City, Elwood, Bloomington, Shelbyville, Logansport, Portland and other smaller towns are under water with many of the residents driven from their homes and others living on upper floors.

Aid Cannot Reach Sufferers.
From many of these places frantic appeals for aid have been received, but lack of transportation and crippled wire service forced the submerged towns to rely on their own resources.

The helplessness of the state and city to aid the outside sufferers is the more accentuated by the hopeless straits in which Indianapolis finds itself.

Judging by the condition here the situation of the smaller towns must be fast approaching the desperation stage.

At Lafayette the Wabash River, rising a foot an hour, has passed all previous high-water marks. There a huge bridge went out, carrying two and possibly more persons to their deaths. Leonard T. Woolley, a student at Purdue University, as drowned while trying to rescue two of the men who were caught when the bridge was carried down stream. West Lafayette is without water supply and the town where the university is situated is totally cut off from the world. The total loss at Lafayette is estimated at \$1,000,000. Thousands are homeless.

Richmond, on the White, tonight is in darkness. The city is being hit having been flooded. More than 20 bridges in Wayne County have been torn down, and travel in and out of Richmond is at a standstill. A hundred persons were driven from their homes.

Venturesome Boats Swamped.
A half million dollars' damage was done by Flatrock River at Rushville, when the stream swept down upon the town, submerging the entire business and parts of the residence districts. Fire bells warned the people of the onrushing water, but in many instances only fast work with boats saved many from death. In many of the streets the current was so strong that it swamped all boats that ventured into it. Thousands are homeless and those whose homes are not flooded are confronted with a problem of housing and feeding the refugees. An appeal has been made for state aid here.

State militia patrolling the streets of Kokomo last night and today commanded persons whose homes were threatened to move to higher ground. More than 1500 are homeless, with water and gas plants inundated. The city tonight is without lights or fire protection and the property loss is more than \$1,000,000.

Dyke at Muncie Breaks.
Schools and all business has been suspended. Wildcat Creek there is a quarter of a mile wide in the heart of the city, five feet above the previous high water mark.

The dyke at the water plant in Muncie broke late this afternoon and the employees fled for their lives. This left the town without fire protection. White River, with the floods coming from upstream, is steadily encroaching on the town and more persons are being forced to abandon their homes.

Just after a train had passed over it the Big Four bridge there collapsed and a Chesapeake & Ohio bridge also was destroyed.

Schools were dismissed and all traction lines and most of the railroads there are at a standstill.

Branch Stream Is Torrent.
Greensburg at Anderson, ordinarily a little stream, is a raging torrent. Thousands have been forced to desert their homes. Water burst through a wall into the municipal light plant and in a few seconds was nine feet above the employees barely escaping with their lives.

More than 100 homes at Marion are filled with water to the second floor through the breaking of the Mississippi River levee.

At Tipton, a hundred families were driven from their abodes and much suffering is resulting.

Noblesville reports White River there higher than in 55 years and it is said two persons were drowned. One hundred families are homeless.

The big hydraulic dam north of the town is threatened and persons living below it have been told to evacuate.

Water Approaches Public Square.
The Little and Big Blue rivers broke the levees at Shelbyville, and the water has reached within a block of the public square. The water and light plants are out of commission, schools were dismissed and the city commandeered all wagons to aid in taking out families whose homes are under water. Two hundred feet of the Big Four tracks have been washed out. The surrounding lowlands are covered with water.

Logansport is cut off from railroad and telegraph communication by the "Chel" and Wabash rivers. Two deaths by drowning are reported near there.

MEN WHO ARE DIRECTING RELIEF WORK FOR VICTIMS OF EASTERN FLOODS.



AT LEFT—MAYOR LEW SHANK, OF INDIANAPOLIS; AT RIGHT (ABOVE)—GOVERNOR J. M. COX, OF OHIO; (BELOW)—GOVERNOR S. M. RALSTON, OF INDIANA.

TROOPS CANNOT AID

Torrents in Streets Keep Soldiers From Hamilton, O.

RESCUER LOSES HIS LIFE

Cries for Help Are Heard but Lack of Boats Prevents Even Attempt at Rescue—Hamlet of 100 Is Wiped From Map.

HAMILTON, Ohio, March 26.—The Champion Coated Paper Company, a \$2,000,000 concern, took fire early this morning and it is at the mercy of the flames, as all fire-fighting is out of the question. The glare of the fire helps somewhat in rescue work.

HAMILTON, O., March 25.—Twelve persons are known to have been drowned, while it is believed over a score or more are dead as a result of the flood of the Miami River that swept Hamilton today, and is rushing through the streets tonight to a depth of from three to six feet.

The known dead are: N. C. McRoberts, O'Dell, Herman Tieman and Dr. Leon Intel.

Total lost his life trying to save others. Tonight the residents are gathered in the principal buildings of the town, which is in darkness. Three companies of militia from Cincinnati arrived in South Hamilton tonight, but owing to the swiftness of the currents in the street have not been able to detain.

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 Kokoto, a hamlet with a population of 100, has been wiped off the map and the fate of its inhabitants is unknown.

2000 ARE BELIEVED DEAD

(Continued From First Page.)

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 attempts 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.

At Wyoming street, on the South Side, where the National Cash Register Company centered its efforts at rescue, many saved their lives by crawling to the top of a telephone cable, 100 feet above the flood.

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

Seventy thousand 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 its office building tonight. Main street near Apple street was one of the concentration points. In the woodworking department of the National Cash Register Company boats were being turned out at the rate of 15 an hour and these were rushed to where the waters had crossed Main street in a gully.

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 way against it, men and women crept along the cables to safety. Others, less daring, saw darkness fall and gave up hope of rescue.

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

Apple street was made and hundreds of the refugees were taken from this stretch of houses.

Fire Jumps Main Street.
Then came the path of the flames starting at Vine and May streets. It jumped Main street and the houses on the other side were soon aflame.

In the middle of the street were a few frame houses that had been washed from their foundations. These were swirled about for a time and as

though to aid in the passing of the section by fire they were cast into the path of the flames.

Persons hurried from their roof tops, where they had been driven by the flood, to the roof tops of adjoining houses.

Then the sun went down leaving a desolate, weird light from the fire showing as from one isolated spot against the sky.

The first to seek safety by sliding his body along the telegraph conduits was a man. Then came four women. The first of the women was Mrs. Lelia Meyer. She is a widow, with a son in knee breeches. Her son got out on the wire with the agility of a cat and was soon across. But Mrs. Meyer when over the boiling torrent awayed as though faint and slipped. The crowd stood by with bated breath.

By a lucky chance her senses came back to her. She could grasp one of the wires. Hand over hand she was able slowly to pull herself to the nearest pole, where she rested before again making the trial. This time she did not falter, but when she was picked up by the rescuers at the farthest pole she was limp and near exhaustion.

Babe Saved in Pillow Slip.
Then came the two more women and under the advice of the people standing on the safe ground they kept looking up and were not subjected to faintness. Then came a young man and his wife. The wife he sent first and when she reached safety she refused to get into the ambulance without her baby.

Another five minutes and her husband had been brought out to safety. He had the baby in a pillow slip and the youngster celebrated his first arrival to the ground by a lusty yell. Others followed to safety.

The worst of the flooded districts includes all of North and West Dayton, all of the downtown sections, the south side as far as Oakwood and all of the residence suburb of Glendale. The district has a normal population of more than 50,000.

Marooned People Without Food.
Rescuers and those at the hospitals said an estimate of 5000 dead might be as accurate as an estimate of 100.

At the edges of the inundated districts the water ran from eight to ten feet deep. That would be 20 or 30 feet down town. While those marooned in office buildings and hotels are in no immediate danger of drowning, there is no food or drinking water for them.

Those in the residences, however, are in constant danger both by flood and fire. First the frailer buildings swept into the stream, many showing faces or heads of women and children peering through the windows. They were followed by more substantial brick buildings, until it became evident that no house in the flood zone was safe.

As a flood came as a rule were washed, but a few blocks before disintegrating.

The body of one woman floated down the stream only a few feet from the wreckage at South Park street. Which body caught on a guard rope, but was swept clear and was gone before it could be recovered.

The flood came soon after daylight this morning, after the residents had spent last night in terror.

The main levee of the Big Miami broke at Webster street about 8 o'clock. An hour later the water was through in a dozen places and a wall of water ten feet high swept through the main street just above the business section of the Big Miami and the Mad River and where the water of Stillwater poured into the Miami the flood reached its height and rolled into the business section, wall 30 feet high.

The Dayton News was soon under 20 feet of water, the flood rose to the second floor of the Algonquin Hotel and all along May street occupants were driven to the rafters. What happened to them since no one on the outside can tell.

Looting Begins Early.
House looting began early in the night, and while local militia are on duty, they are wholly incapable of handling the situation.

Incidents without number are narrated of persons in the flooded districts waving handkerchiefs and otherwise signalling for aid being swept away before the eyes of the watchers on the edge of the waters.

Many of the rescue boats were swept by the current against what had been tree plugs, trees and houses. They were crushed. How many died in this way no one knows tonight. Canoes and rowboats shared the same fate.

What life exists in the district that the water covered is in constant danger and helpless until the flood subsides.

There are numerous unconfirmed reports of men shooting their families and committing suicide when they saw escape from flood or fire impossible.

SOUTH LEBANON IS CUT OFF

Rivers and Creeks South of Dayton

Swirl Hourly by Heavy Rain.

LEBANON, O., March 25.—South Lebanon is cut off from Lebanon by a



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raging current that is sweeping farm lands south of here, entailing a property loss of thousands of dollars.

All rivers and creeks south of Dayton to Lebanon are being swelled hourly by a heavy rainfall that has continued throughout the day and night.

FORT WAYNE DYKES GO

MORE THAN 3000 HOMES IN SUBURBS SUBMERGED.

Water Flowing Into Second Stories of Houses—Council Provides Money for Sufferers.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., March 26.—More than 3000 homes in the three low-lying suburbs of Fort Wayne are submerged this morning, the last to go under being Lakeside, which was protected by dykes along the St. Joseph and Maumee Rivers. The water is flowing into the second-story windows of the homes.

Letting the City Council appropriate \$5000 for immediate use in relieving the flood sufferers.

EFFORTS TO PASS FLOOD BILL

Phoneton People Unable to Get Nearer Than to Dayton Suburbs.

PHONETON, O., March 25.—(Via telephone to Chicago).—From this place, six miles north of Dayton, it is possible to reach by the edge of the flood-stricken city, but communication beyond that so far has proved impossible. Telephone communication has been maintained intermittently throughout the day. The wire chief of the telephone company, however, is penned up in the top of a four-story building and can tell only of what he sees.

Past this office, which is on one of the main thoroughfares, he saw carried on the flood a frame house, on the top of which were a woman and a child. The woman was beckoning and crying for aid, while the child lay motionless at her feet. The house was carried over the dam and both the woman and child disappeared. Numerous fires have burned throughout the day and several of the buildings have burned to the water's edge.

Tippencanoe City, on the Ohio-Indiana state line, is reported to be half under water.

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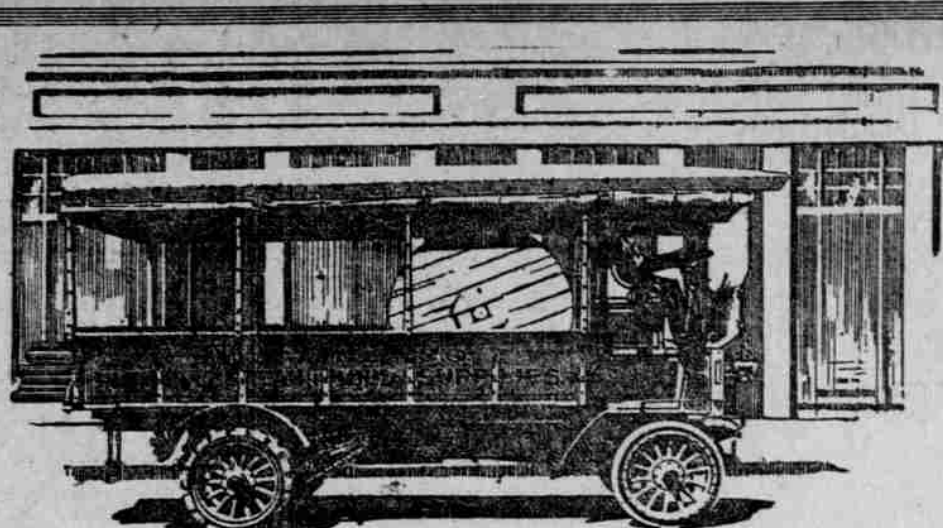
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ADMEN TO HEAR SPEECHES

Addresses on Commission Government to Be Made at Luncheon.

This is Commission Government day at the Portland Ad Club and with George L. Baker as chairman of the luncheon at the Portland Hotel at noon, two prominent speakers will outline the essential features of the proposed commission measures that will come before the citizens at the next election. R. W. Montague will talk on "Responsible Government," and W. F. Woodward will talk on "Citizenship Supreme." This meeting is to be the first of a series that will encompass all of the civic and business clubs of the city, charter.



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