

TOWNS ARE WRECKED

Cyclone Sweeps Louisiana, Doing Damage to Property.

SEVEN KILLED; MANY INJURED

Communication Interrupted and Later Resorts May Increase Number of Casualties.

Shreveport, La., May 14.—Seven persons are known to be dead and many others are injured as the result of a tornado which swept across Northwest Louisiana late yesterday. The little town of Gilliam, 25 miles north of Shreveport, was destroyed and the town of Bolinger, on the east side of the river, in Bossier parish, was badly wrecked.

Communication with the greater portion of the storm-swept section is interrupted, and it is believed certain that the later reports will increase the number of dead and injured. It is said the work of destruction at Gilliam was complete, only two houses remain intact. The town had a population of about 800. The dead at Gilliam are said to be Mrs. T. F. Gardiner and three negroes. Arthur Vaughan is said to be badly injured. At Bolinger the dead are Mrs. Mitchell Davis and two negroes. Mrs. Davies' mother is reported to be dying from injuries. Charles Ison and family of six are reported among the injured. It was reported that Oil City, in this parish, was wiped out by the tornado, but this rumor is probably untrue, although great damage is thought to have occurred, involving the wreckage of a great many oil well derricks.

FIFTEEN DEAD IN NEBRASKA.

Fifty Persons Injured and a Property Loss of \$500,000.

Omaha, Neb., May 14.—Reports which came in slowly today from the tornado-stricken district south of this city add three victims to the list of dead, making a total of 15, and place the monetary damage at half a million dollars. The casualty list continues to grow as communication is partially restored with the five towns which suffered most from the storm, and the list of the injured, some of whom are fatally hurt, will reach at least 50. Two railroad laborers employed in a sand pit near Louisville were found dead, and Ed. Miller, who was injured near Papillion, died of his injuries. At least three other persons are believed to have received fatal injuries. Five Italian railroad laborers were injured on the line of the Burlington railroad between Council Bluffs and Pacific Junction. Nearly every one of the five towns in the path of the storm—Bellevue, Papillion, Richfield, Meadows and Louisville—were badly wrecked, and the village of Fort Cook, and the post at that point suffered heavy damages. There are battalions of the Sixteenth Regiment stationed at the fort, and the men were put to work clearing up the debris and putting the barracks in shape. Many of the large buildings were partially unroofed, and a dozen or more large chimneys were blown down and scattered over the fort grounds. Nearly all the trees were blown down.

10,000 CHINESE KILLED.

Wall of Water 28 Feet High Sweeps Down River at Hankow.

Victoria, May 14.—News of one of the greatest disasters that China has known, a sudden tidal wave in the Yangtze river, which caused the loss of nearly 10,000 lives at Hankow, was brought by the steamer Titan, which arrived Tuesday night. A wave 26 feet in height, without warning, bore down the river, overwhelming some large river steamers. Some 3,000 Chinese sleeping in sampans, and small craft and mat sheds and huts by the river side at Hankow were enveloped by the great tidal wave, which swept the broken junk, splintered sampans and a mass of debris with swarms of drowned Chinese, mixed with the wreckage. The scenes for many days after the disaster were horrible, with the river side strewn with dead, and the debris of wrecked craft for many miles.

Condensed Hog is Latest.

St. Paul, Minn., May 14.—Minnesota has developed a hog that is all hams and shoulders. He is a stubby little animal, sadly lacking in spare ribs. One of the new variety has been sent to Chicago for exhibition purposes, and to convince the world that this state can raise pigs that are all quality. A curious feature about the animal is that he has to kneel down when eating in order to get his snout to the ground. He has no neck. When he moves from one place to another he turns around and around as though waltzing.

Take Children From Leprous Parents.

Honolulu, May 14.—Thirty-one boys and four girls, non-leprous children of leprosy parents, have been brought here from the leper island, Molokai, to be permanently housed away from the leper settlements. The children range in age from 2 to 15 years, and several of them were old enough to appreciate their situation. Despite their dreadful home surroundings, the unfortunate youngsters were grief-stricken by the separation from their parents.

Chinese Students Uphold Japs.

Tokio, May 14.—Chinese students in Tokio are protesting against the anti-Japanese boycott being maintained in China. Twelve hundred of them have joined the movement, and are daily holding meetings to voice their feelings. Three hundred students who uphold the Chinese government in this matter are trying to break up the meeting by making noisy demonstrations.

SECURE BIG HAUL.

Robbers in New Mexico Get \$35,000 Intended for Miners.

El Paso, Tex., May 15.—Pursued by men and bloodhounds, three robbers with \$35,000 of loot in their possession, are fleeing through the rugged mountain passes north of French, a little station 89 miles from East Las Vegas, N. M., on the Santa Fe railroad, in an effort to escape the clutches of the law.

At French, late last evening, they broke down the doors of the depot, bound and gagged the station agent and special guard, blew open the safe, took the money and rode away, leaving their victims helpless.

A tramp wandered into the station half an hour later, released the almost unconscious men and gave the alarm. The news of the daring robbery was wired to every town in the neighborhood of French, and a special train bearing 30 deputies and 50 horses left East Las Vegas in half an hour, hot on the trail of the fleeing robbers. A special with four men left Dawson also, and a message was sent to the territorial penitentiary at Santa Fe for bloodhounds, which were brought through as fast as a special engine and car could carry them.

The stolen money was sent from Albuquerque to pay the coal miners at Dawson, N. M.

TAFT GETS OREGON.

Ohioan Is Endorsed by State Republican Convention.

Portland, May 15.—Two republican parties, or factions, fought in yesterday's republican conventions, the one Fulton, the other Bourne. This showed the party is not yet harmonized, though the two factions pledged support to the ticket.

The Fulton men had things all their own way, and ruled with an iron hand. They gave their rivals nothing and took away from them everything. The Taft power, overwhelmingly strong in Oregon, was in their hold, and they used it to shut out their opponents. The delegates, alternates and electors chosen were:

Delegates to national convention—At large—C. W. Fulton, of Clatsop; George H. Williams, of Multnomah; A. N. Gilbert, of Marion; C. G. Huntley, of Clackamas. First congressional district—Ralph E. Williams, of Polk; C. A. Schilbred, of Coos. Second congressional district—Dr. H. W. Coe, of Multnomah; Asa B. Thompson, of Umatilla. Alternates—At large—J. H. Brown, of Portland; W. A. Williams, of Forest Grove; A. L. Tetu, of Portland; H. C. Kinney, of Grants Pass. First district—Frank Ira White, of Klamath Falls; E. D. Cusick, of Albany. Second district—J. R. Gault, of Burns; J. W. Kelly, of Portland. Presidential electors—R. R. Butler, of Gilliam; A. C. Masters, of Douglas; J. D. Lee, of Multnomah; Frank J. Miller, of Linn.

FEAR A PLOT.

Government Orders Strangers Kept Out of Engine Rooms.

San Francisco, May 15.—A special order has been issued by Admiral Thomas directed to the fleet captains directing them to take every precaution to prevent any strangers from gaining access to the engine or fire rooms of their ships.

The issuance of the order has caused a great deal of comment among the officers of the fleet, as a general order is already in force prohibiting strangers from visiting the engine rooms.

That the government is in possession of information directly connected with the issuance of the order is the general belief of the officers. A feature of the fleet's visit to this port which has passed without notice until the present order was issued is the fact that not a single Japanese has been aboard one of the ships since the arrival of the fleet here.

Taken in connection with today's order, the sentiment is openly expressed by a number of the officers that the leaders of the local Japanese colony, knowing that the government was in possession of information leading to the belief that an attempt might be made to injure some of the ships, advised their countrymen to keep away from the ships.

No information concerning the issuance of the order except that it is a natural precautionary measure is given out from the flagship.

Death List Grows.

Atlanta, Ga., May 15.—Meager reports coming in slowly indicate that perhaps more than 100 persons are dead today in various parts of Louisiana, and that considerable property was ruined as the result of the tornado that swept that state late Wednesday afternoon. It is feared that in Gilliam, Louisiana, alone, 100 inhabitants were killed. Unconfirmed reports also say that the loss of life in Oil City and Bolinger may also be heavy, though the storm was not so severe in these two towns as it was in Gilliam.

Volcano Scares People.

Hilo, Hawaii, May 15.—Not for many years has there been such a wonderful activity in the pit of Halemaumau as has developed during the last ten days. There has been fire in the pit ever since the overflow a year ago last January, but the fire was fluctuating and uncertain. It would blaze brilliantly for a day or two, then would shrink away slowly. For some time past, however, the pit has been gradually filling up.

Meet Next at Portland.

Boston, May 15.—Having adopted several important resolutions, electing officers and voting to hold the next annual convention at Portland, Or., the eleventh annual convention of the National Retail Grocers' Association adjourned tonight.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

FRUIT PROSPECTS GOOD.

Umpqua Valley Fruit Men in Good Spirits.

Roseburg.—The report of President H. N. Cobb, of the Douglas County Fruit Growers' association, shows the fruit crop in the Umpqua valley will be very good this year. The strawberry crop is good, and the berries are coming in pretty fast now. The peach crop is fair, and the last frost was a detriment in only a very few sections. The pear crop is fair. Apples will be good. The prune crop will also be good, as only a few of the small sections of the county were late enough to be caught by the frost. The cherry crop is good. All kinds of berries are excellent. The crop in general was not damaged to any noticeable extent, and the fruit growers are greatly pleased to note that this section, while it was reported to have been damaged by the late frost, will be as good or even better than last year, and will be first in the market with all kinds of berries and cherries. Many large shipments of berries will be made to Portland the latter part of the week. Several small shipments have already been made. The local markets will be supplied with home-grown fruits of all kinds from now on.

COLONY IS ASSURED.

Settlers Arriving to Found New Center of Fruit Culture.

Wolf Creek.—Wolf Creek colony is now a settled fact. Development work goes steadily on. The freight house has shown a congested condition for some time, several Eastern families bringing considerable of their belongings with them, and on their great satisfaction household goods shipped from Pennsylvania less than two weeks before they started awaited their owners on arrival here.

For a week a surveying party has been at work on the outside lines, running through to government section corners, then making corrections so that the work may be of a satisfactory character. Several tracts have been staked out in subdivision No. 1, and tracts Nos. 2 and 3, comprising 78 acres, were purchased last evening by a young man from Chicago, who has been on the ground for three weeks, awaiting the survey. Inquiries are being received from all parts of the country, and the "no-saloon" feature is commented on and commended more than any other single feature.

Wolf Creek is the first valley south of the Umpqua divide, introducing the traveler southward on the scenic Southern Pacific to the famous Rogue River Valley. In formation, soil and climate this southernly sloping valley is much like the first valley north of the Siskiyou divide, in which is situated, on rich red soil which so abounds here also, the A. D. Helms Newtown apple orchard, which, without a single failure, has yielded its owner net annual average profits of \$791 per acre for the past seven years.

Recent showers have wonderfully stimulated growing crops, and a considerable acreage of corn is now being planted.

Klamath Canal Holds Water.

Klamath Falls.—Klamath county land holders will pay but \$1.50 an acre for water again this year. It is expected that 10,000 acres will be signed under the temporary arrangement, and if more is signed the rate will be reduced, as it is intended to charge only for maintenance and operation. Next year the regular rates will prevail. Water is now flowing in the main canal, and out very little trouble has been experienced with the breaking of banks. They have settled during the past season, and the squirrels have done but slight damage.

Corvallis Cannery Completed.

Corvallis.—The Corvallis cannery is complete, and has been accepted by the cannery company. It is a thoroughly up-to-date plant, well equipped, and ready for business. L. W. Gill, of Wisconsin, a man of ten years' experience, has been engaged as "processor," and is already on hand. W. K. Taylor, manager of the plant, reports that he has a sufficient quantity of tomatoes contracted for the season's run, and all together the prospect is bright for a successful season for the new enterprise.

Improving Walnut Trees.

McMinnville.—George C. Payne, the walnut expert from California, has been in this vicinity for the past several days, doing grafting work in the walnut groves and along the streets and on the lawns, or wherever there are walnut trees that do not seem to be up to traditional requirements. He has inserted English walnut scions on a large number of eastern and California black walnut trees that were formerly planted for ornament and shade.

Rains Help Growth.

Brownsville.—Warm rains have fallen in this vicinity for several days. They have been a boon to farmers, as the earth was getting dry. This section will produce good crops now without any more rain, although more will be welcome a month later. Strawberries are getting ripe, and roses are blooming.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Apples—Select, \$2.50 per box; fancy, \$2; choice, \$1.50; ordinary, \$1.25.
Potatoes—Select, 70c per hundred; Willamette Valley, 45c per hundred; East Multnomah, 55c; Clackamas, 55c per hundred; sweet, 5 1/2c per pound.
Fruits—Strawberries, Oregon, \$3@3.50 per crate.
Vegetables—Turnips, \$1 per sack; carrots, \$1.50@1.75; beets, \$1.25; parsnips, \$1.25; cabbage, \$2 per cwt.; beans, wax, 12 1/2@13 1/2c per pound; head lettuce, 35c per dozen; celery, 85c @ \$1 per dozen; artichokes, 50c per dozen; asparagus, 7@8c per pound; egg plant, 25@30c per pound; parsley, 25c per dozen; peas, 6@7c per pound; peppers, 20c per pound; radishes, 15c per dozen; rhubarb, 2@3c per pound; spinach, 85c per crate.
Wheat—Club, 89c per bushel; red Russian, 86 1/2c; bluestem, 91c; valley, 89c.
Barley—Feed, \$24.50 per ton; rolled, \$27@28; brewing, \$26.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$27.50@28 per ton; gray, \$27.
Hay—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$17 per ton; Willamette Valley, ordinary, \$15; Eastern Oregon, \$17.50; mixed, \$16; clover, \$14; alfalfa, \$12; alfalfa meal, \$20.
Butter—Extras, 24c per pound; fancy, 23c; choice, 20c; store, 16c.
Eggs—18 1/2c per dozen.
Poultry—Mixed chickens, 13@14c per pound; fancy hens, 14 1/2@15c; roosters, old, 9c; fryers, dozen, \$4; broilers, doz., \$4.50@5; dressed poultry, per lb., 1c higher; ducks, 16@17c; geese, 8@9c; turkeys, alive, 17@18c; dressed, 19@20c.
Hops—1907, prime and choice, 4@6 1/2c per pound; olds, 1@1 1/2c per pound.
Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 11@15c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 10@12 1/2c.
Mohair—Choice, 18@18 1/2c per lb.

TORNADOES IN NEBRASKA.

Destroy Four Towns and Kill at Least Fourteen People.

Omaha, Neb., May 13.—Twelve persons are known to have been killed and a score injured by a tornado which swept over the northern part of Sarpy county at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The storm, which gained in velocity on its way south, started in Omaha about 4:30.

At Bellevue the college buildings were damaged to the extent of probably \$50,000, and several persons were injured, none fatally. The storm then moved on to Louisville, Litchfield and Springfield, where the principal damage and loss of life occurred.

The storm was the most severe that ever struck Eastern Nebraska. The damage to the college buildings at Bellevue was heavy. The tower was blown from Park Hall, and the building wrecked. Lowry Hall and Rankin Hall were unroofed. The panic-stricken students ran to the basement and in this way many fatalities were probably avoided. The college stables were wrecked and all the horses killed. A number of small buildings and stores in the village were blown down.

Moving south, the tornado struck Fort Cook, damaging several of the barrack buildings, but nobody was injured. In the town of Fort Cook, however, a number of buildings were entirely wrecked and other damage was done.

Three Towns Are Wrecked.

Springfield, Neb., May 13.—A tornado late yesterday afternoon wrecked the towns of Louisville, Bellevue and Richfield and killed several persons and injured large numbers.

The heaviest losses of life and injured are reported from Louisville, a junction point of the Missouri Pacific and Burlington railroads, in Cass county. The number of deaths is unknown, and no names have been secured, but it is said between 40 and 60 are injured, many seriously and some fatally.

The town of Bellevue is declared practically wiped out, but it is not known that there are any fatalities. Bellevue is the seat of the Presbyterian college.

The storm destroyed part of the village of Richfield, where Elmer Leader was killed and his father was badly injured. Ed. Fuller, a farmer near Richfield, was fatally injured.

Louisville Is Blown Away.

Lincoln, Neb., May 13.—It is difficult to get any definite news from Louisville. Reports are to the effect that the town is blown away and the people are in a panic. The Burlington station was torn to pieces, most of the business houses were wrecked and 30 residences destroyed. The Missouri Pacific station is standing, but both the telegraph and telephone wires are down. There were four distinct tornado clouds as seen at Springfield, and they made their appearance shortly before 5 o'clock.

Heavy damage was done in the country, and it is feared there was some loss of life. Dispatches received at Lincoln say there were severe storms along the Missouri river further south at Nemaha City and Falls City.

IMPROVEMENT BONDS VOTED.

San Francisco to Spend Millions for Greater City.

San Francisco, May 13.—Citizens generally are enthusiastic over the result of the bond election. The vote was 10 to 1 for the bonds. The first step to be taken by the supervisors will be to estimate the cost of the improvements made possible by the sale of the bonds and the amount of money to be expended. Possibly by the middle of August work will begin on the projects which are to make San Francisco a larger and more beautiful city than ever.

For an auxiliary fire system and lands necessary for it, bonds amounting to \$5,200,000 were approved.

For a city sewer system, \$4,000,000. For school buildings and lands for ample sites, \$5,000,000.

For public hospitals and necessary lands, \$2,000,000.

For a new city hall and county jail, \$1,000,000.

For a suitable garbage system and crematory, \$1,000,000.

Few Sailors Desert.

San Francisco, May 13.—The numerous desertions from the Atlantic fleet, which it was prophesied would follow the arrival of the fleet at this port, have failed to materialize. Less than 100 absentees are reported today, and a number of these are men of long service who have overstayed their shore leave but are expected to report before the fleet sails for the north. Very few of the young bluejackets who are on their first cruise and were expected to desert are reported absent. The morale of the fleet is excellent.

Robbers Secure \$15,000.

Seattle, Wash., May 12.—E. J. Perrine, Great Northern express messenger on the train which left Seattle at 8:10 this morning for Vancouver, B. C., was beaten over the head with his own gun and tied hand and foot by two men who entered the train just as it was leaving Seattle, and who, after overpowering the express messenger, looted the strong box of a sum of money estimated at from \$1,000 to \$10,000. The robbers escaped. Perrine is in a serious condition.

Tillman Fears Paralysis.

Washington, May 13.—Threatened with paralysis, Senator Tillman is in a sanitarium here, declining to see visitors. On Saturday he will sail for Europe, accompanied by his wife, returning in November.

GOVERNORS UNITE

Plan Permanent Organization to Hold Regular Meetings.

MAY ACCOMPLISH MUCH GOOD

Result of First Conference Expected to Be Far Reaching—All Favor Preservation of Resources.

Washington, May 16.—The first conference of the governors of the states of the American Union ended yesterday. Like many of the important events of history, time is to reveal the epoch which the president and governors have been made. The accomplishments of the conference, which have been in session at the White House for three days, cannot be set forth with mathematical precision. That its immediate results are more than ample to the expression of President Roosevelt, who brought it about, and of the governors who participated.

The printed record of the conference, which will later be available to every American home, will be a compilation of facts, startling in their meaning, convincing in their universal conclusion, that the states and the nation cooperate to the end that to the whole people of the nation may accrue the lasting benefits of its natural resources. Besides the compilation of facts by the experts and the freely expressed opinions of the governors, the conference leaves as its permanent record a thousand words of "declaration," not a "declaration of independence," but a declaration of cooperation.

Perhaps greater in importance than all else was the determination of the governors of the states to perfect a permanent organization, whereby a heretofore unknown intimacy may be developed among the executives of the 48 sovereign states made strong by a common purpose and made potent by pronouncements which may not lightly be disregarded.

Of the last day the story is one of many features. The set programs were swept aside. The president presided throughout. He interjected remarks and speeches. He brought to the platform men who made plain the prevailing feeling that thoughtful care must be exercised for the future. The prepared papers were not presented, but they will be printed in the permanent record. Their place was first taken by the "declaration," which was adopted after discussion which brought to light no serious objection to its affirmation. Then William J. Bryan was presented by the president. He touched the same chords which had produced the vibration of harmony and cooperation. A governors' discussion brought many state executives to the platform, but the product was altogether that of harmony, and the sentiments expressed were applauded alike by all.

PRESIDENT UPHELD BY COURT

Negro Dismissed at Brownsville Loses Suit to Recover Pay.

New York, May 16.—The right of President Roosevelt summarily to dismiss a negro soldier of the Twenty-fifth infantry for alleged participation in the riot at Brownsville, Tex., was sustained today by Judge Hough, in the United States district court. Oscar W. Bell, the soldier, sued the government to recover \$122 as wages from the date of his dismissal to the expiration of his enlistment. District Attorney Simons contended that the president had a right to dismiss the soldier. Judge Hough sustained this contention and directed a judgment in favor of the government.

Judge Hough in his decision, held that the president was entirely within his rights in dismissing the soldier of the Twenty-fifth regiment, inasmuch as the enlistment papers and oath provided that a soldier shall serve "for the period of three years unless sooner discharged by proper authority."

Atrocities in Congo Free State.

London, May 16.—Rev. J. H. Harrie, a missionary who has just returned from the Congo Free State, declares the atrocities being practiced there by the Belgian soldiers are increasing, and that within the past 10 years no fewer than 3,000,000 human beings had been sacrificed. He had seen men flogged with hippopotamus hide whips until they were insensible. Soldiers employed by King Leopold's agents raided villages and killed and ate the natives. The sufferings of the women and girls were absolutely indescribable.

Seven Killed in Wreck.

Muskogee, Okla., May 16.—Six or seven passengers were burned to death this afternoon and several were injured when the "Katy" flyer on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad, wrecked a mile east of this city, according to word just received here. The report says the passenger car collided with a freight train, and that the coaches immediately caught fire. The passengers who are reported dead were evidently caught under the debris and roasted alive.

Troops May Fight Locusts.

Tunis, May 16.—Troops may be called out to exterminate millions of locusts that have invaded the district between Kairuan and Tunis on an unprecedented scale. The authorities have decided that this is the only means of getting rid of the insects.