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## THOUSANDS DIE IN THE MAD RUSH OF SWIRLING WATERS; FLAMES ADD TO THE AWFUL HORRORS OF DAYTON DISASTER

### CONFLAGRATION THREATENS TO DESTROY BALANCE OF DAYTON

(By Associated Press.)  
COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 26.—Governor Cox received word from Dayton at 2:47 this afternoon that the entire business section is on fire and the indications are that it will be destroyed. People were reported to be jumping from roof to roof of buildings to escape the flames.  
(By Associated Press.)  
PHONETON, (via Chicago) March 26.—A bad fire has broken out in the central part of Dayton's business district and the area threatened is in the midst of the flood district. The fire is reported to have started from the explosion of an oil tank containing hundreds of gallons and which bumped into a submerged building near Fourth and Jefferson streets.  
Direct communication with an independent telephone company at Dayton was established for a few minutes this afternoon and then broke.  
An operator named Davis reported frightful conditions, water running through the streets to the second and third stories and bodies of human beings and dead animals passing by.  
The building in the rear of the Home telephone office, from which the information came, had just caught fire and the Beckel House, nearby, was burning. Refugees were jumping from house to escape the flames. The fire was approaching the Home Telephone office from which the operator was talking. Communication finally ceased and it is believed that the operator had to flee for his life.  
(By Associated Press.)  
PHONETON (by Telephone to Chicago), March 26.—Telephone reports from Dayton late this afternoon said no explosions had occurred. The operator at Dayton, however said that there was a fire a block or two away, but that he did not wish to talk about it over the telephone for fear that the telephone girls who were marooned in the same building would be thrown into a panic.  
(By Associated Press.)  
WOLF CREEK, Ohio, March 26.—(Two miles west of Dayton)—According to reports that have reached here, at least 1000 persons lost their lives in Dayton. Most of the victims are residents of North Dayton and were caught without warning. The city in some places today is under fifteen feet of water.  
WOLFE CREEK, Ohio, March 26.—"There has been an explosion in the middle of Dayton and the town is on fire. The loss of life has been increased. People are burning up. We have no way to get to them or the fire, either, now."  
This message came from the Western Union operator this afternoon.  
All but two railroad bridges leading into Dayton have been washed away.  
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 26.—A further message from Wolfe Creek says: "Every hour or so explosions occur in Dayton due to fires. The condition is simply frightful and indescribable."

### DAYTON HORROR IS GROWING WORSE AS THE AFTERNOON ADVANCES

(By Associated Press.)  
COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 26.—Fire has started in a row of buildings in Third street, Dayton, between Main and Jefferson. The fire is burning south.  
Fire has started in a row of buildings in Third street, Dayton, between Main and Jefferson. The fire is burning south.  
Fear is expressed that the wholesale liquor district would burn.  
For the reason that Third street is wide and the Court House intervenes, it is thought that the flames could be checked before they spread to other sections of Dayton.  
The fire is within a block of the telephone exchange (the Bell Telephone Co.) from which John Bell has for than 24 hours kept the outside world informed as best he could of conditions in Dayton.  
Edward W. Hanley telephoned from Dayton to a Springfield newspaper that while impossible to estimate the number of dead, he is of the opinion that not more than 3000 lost their lives.  
At 4 o'clock, Governor Cox received a message from Dayton saying that the Fourth National Bank building had burned down.  
estimates were based on conjecture.  
Danger from fire seemed to have disappeared at noon. The flood still presents a barrier that prevents boats reaching nearer than a

### The Times Will Receive Contributions for Flood Sufferers

THE great and overwhelming disaster that has befallen the people of the Middle West must touch all hearts. The immensity of the misfortune grows greater with each fresh report, until it has become, as President Wilson states in his appeal for aid, "a national calamity." The generous people of this favored section are always quick to respond to any call for aid that comes from those in distress and The Times feels certain that President Wilson's appeal will not go unheeded.  
Until such time as a local relief association is organized or other definite movement is made to take action in the matter, The Times will receive contributions, make acknowledgement and turn same over to the proper authorities. Owing to the great distance the only contributions available will be cash offerings.  
**PRESIDENT ASKS COUNTRY FOR AID.**  
(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, March 26.—President Wilson issued today the following appeal to the nation to help flood sufferers in Ohio and Indiana:  
"The terrible floods in Ohio and Indiana have assumed the proportions of a national calamity. The loss of life and infinite suffering involved are such as to prompt me to issue an earnest call to all to aid in however small a way and to assist the laborers of the American Red Cross. Send contributions at once to the Red Cross at Washington or to the local treasurers of the society. We should make this a common cause. The needs of those upon which this sudden and overwhelming disaster has come should quicken every one capable of sympathy and compassion to give immediate aid to those who are laboring to rescue and relieve."  
"WOODROW WILSON."

### GOV. COX'S SECRETARY SAYS 2000 MAY BE LOST IN DAYTON

**DAYTON MARINE INFERNO.**  
(By Associated Press.)  
DAYTON, Ohio, March 26.—No one can picture the sickening situation. Last night Dayton was marine inferno. Fires lighted the sky, illuminating the rushing waters and the swirl of the rain and swirl of the currents sounded a sibilant requiem for unknown and uncounted dead.  
(By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.)  
DAYTON, (via Lebanon, O.) March 26.—Dayton is devastated. No one can even estimate the number of victims. Beneath the yellow sea that is seething through the city may sleep ten thousand or mayhap the death list may not exceed one thousand.  
Rambo, chief of the fire department at Dayton, was believed to be drowned and that Adjutant General Wood was marooned and cannot act. The Dayton police are unable to cope with the situation. The governor, upon receipt of the message, requested the Associated Press to notify mayors of all cities and towns surrounding Dayton, who could reach that point, to make haste with boats, as the buildings were burning up with people in them.  
**Need Drinking Water.**  
Governor Cox received a message by telephone from Dayton, from a telephone operator, in which it was stated that 200 bodies had been found. The bodies found were in some instances a mile from the river on Wayne avenue. Governor Cox established communication with a relief committee at Dayton and was told that the greatest need of the flood sufferers was drinking water. Governor Cox was told that there was no loss of life at Sidney.  
**Fire Chief Lost.**  
Secretary Burba said that Frank

### OMAHA BUSINESS MEN TRY TO SUCCOR STORM VICTIMS

(By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.)  
OMAHA, Nebr., March 26.—Burying the dead and work of reconstruction occupied the people of Omaha today. Funerals were held in all parts of the city during the night and early today, the work of rescue continued. But few bodies were recovered. The authorities are taking steps to uncover all wreckage at once. Plans for rebuilding the stricken district are being worked out by a big company of Omaha business men.  
Martial law is still in force in the stricken district. The health authorities are actively engaged in bringing about sanitary conditions.  
Another period of unseasonable cold followed yesterday's snow storm and increased today the already long list of sufferers from the storm. Vehicles of all kinds were commandeered to carry relief to the storm victims, fuel being most in demand.  
Among the victims of the Omaha storm were:  
Dead—William Fisher, Mabel McBride, Nels Larsen, G. F. Copley, Walter Peterson, Sam Denegler, P. B. Harris, Mary Harris, T. B. Norris, Benjamin Barnes, Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. E. F. Fitzgerald, Jean B. Brooks, Henry Bleauvert, A. B. Stanley, Bert H. Fields, Infant son of Morris Christianson, Mrs. E. A. Sawyer, Mrs. J. D. Hogg, Ferguson, Bach, Mrs. Holm and baby, Barnes, C. B. Nelson, Henrietta Grieb, Helen Nowns, Cliff Daniels, mail carrier, Mrs. Cliff Daniels and two daughters, Mrs. R. R. Van Dovan, Mrs. Ada Newman, Miss Freda Hulting, Mrs. Davis, Baby Thelma, Sam Riley, Roxie, Miss Corallie Lorriss, Mrs. Mrs. B. Davis, C. F. Copley, Jimpson, Miss Helne and sister, J. B. Nichols, Peck.  
Dead at Council Bluffs—Mrs. William Poole, J. R. Rice, Mrs. J. R. Rice, Mr. Schools and wife, Baby Norgaard, Benjamin Benninghoff, Dutch Hollow.  
Dead at Ralston—H. E. Said, Mrs. H. E. Said, Mary Marian, Mrs. Edith Kimball, Winnipeg, Can., Frances Kimball, two years old.  
Known seriously injured in Omaha—W. D. Crutchers, Isabel Doyle, Kenneth Patterson, Anson H. Bigelow, chest crushed, Cecelia Bigelow, internally injured, Frank Guy, Waterloo, Neb., Mrs. Frank Guy, William Schultz, Elkhorn, Neb., Frank Bell, Elkhorn, Neb., Mrs. Cora Curtiss, Lawrence O'Connor, hurt internally, Clarence Cady, dangerously, may die, George Anderson, may die.  
(Continued on Page Two.)

### BETWEEN 2,000 AND 12,000 DROWNED IN EASTERN STATES

(By Associated Press.)  
CHICAGO, March 26.—Definite figures on the loss of life in the great floods that swept Ohio and Indiana are not available, but the latest estimates based on reports from the scenes of disaster or from nearby points did not diminish the earlier estimate of a minimum of practically 1300. It is more than likely that scores and even hundreds of persons are not counted in the estimates that perished in the country districts. The figures available early this afternoon are as follows:  
Dayton ----- 1000 to 2000  
Delaware ----- 50 to 100  
Sidney ----- 25 to 50  
Tippecanoe ----- 3  
Total Ohio ----- 1890 to 2750  
New Castle ----- 3  
Indianapolis ----- 100 to 200  
Scattering ----- 3 to 25  
Grand Total ----- 2020 to 12,870  
Piqua ----- 50 to 540  
Middletown ----- 50 to 100  
Hamilton ----- 12  
Scattering ----- 50 to 200  
Peru ----- 30 to 40  
Lafayette ----- 2  
Noblesville ----- 2  
Indiana ----- 130 to 282

The estimates of the property loss is fifty million dollars or more. Factories, farms, homes and railroads were destroyed throughout the affected territory. Bridges were wrecked at hundreds of points between the Illinois and Pennsylvania state lines and livestock in hundreds of thousands were lost in the deluge.  
In addition perhaps one million persons were thrown out of employment while the loss to business cannot be figured.  
Cities all through Indiana and Ohio, including Indianapolis are isolated. Roadways are flooded and railroads are washed out so that train service has been abandoned on many lines.  
Plans for the relief of the sufferers have been put under way in various places and by various societies.  
The condition of the survivors in many towns in the deluged districts is pitiable, it is reported. Late reports indicate that the worst is over so far as the flood is concerned. The crest has passed and a recession of waters is noted in several places.  
Officials of the Pennsylvania railroad says the flood damage in Indianapolis will amount to twenty-five millions of dollars to the railroads alone.

### 300 DROWNED AT PERU, IND

**Flood Inundates All Except One Block of City—No Bodies Recovered.**  
(By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.)  
SOUTH BEND, Ind., March 26.—An official report received by Mayor Goetz of South Bend this morning was that 300 people were drowned at Peru, Ind., that no bodies had been recovered and that there was less than one block of the entire city that was not under the water.  
The mayor has received word from a relief party sent to Peru that only two feet of the upper portions of the houses in the submerged districts could be seen.  
Twelve bodies were recovered from a single house in the southern part of Peru. This is taken to indicate that the loss of life in that section of the city is great. The court house and factory buildings are crowded with refugees.  
Mayor Goetz received a message from the relief party at Peru, saying at least 300 were drowned. In the belief that 15,000 people of Peru are hungry, another trainload of provisions was started this afternoon with 3,000 loaves of bread in the shipment.  
**Thousands Suffering.**  
At Peru, 5,000 are camped without shelter, in a park on the hill. The court house is crowded with 1,000 survivors, the hospitals with 1,000 and 3,000 children are imprisoned in school houses. No fires are allowed to be lighted and there is great suffering from cold dampness.  
The bravery of Edward Mack, a fisherman, is credited with saving 600 lives. He ran through the darkened streets warning the unsuspecting inhabitants.  
A third relief train is being prepared here to go to Peru. Two hundred twenty-five are injured and suffering at Peru, and will be taken to Plymouth, Ind. Cots to establish hospitals at Plymouth were sent from here.

(By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.)  
CHICAGO, March 26.—Between one thousand and six thousand persons perished yesterday and last night in a storm which swept over Ohio and Indiana. With towns flooded by swiftly rushing torrents, which boats could not stem, and with inky darkness owing to the prostration of lighting service, and with wire communication almost prostrated, no estimate, even approaching accuracy, was possible during the night.  
Dayton, Ohio, was the worst sufferer. Here it is estimated to run from considerable less than 1000 lost to 5000.  
Peru, Ind., comes next with an estimate that ranges from less than 100 to over 500.  
Besides these innumerable cities, towns and villages have been flood-swept and in many of these the death toll is known to run as high as 20.  
From Columbus west and southwest, clear across western Ohio and through central Indiana, here and there in Illinois and in a few instances states across the Mississippi River, river after river and creek after creek has broken over its banks and spread out into the lake.  
Ohio and Indiana are, in fact, said to be almost one vast sea, so numerous are the swollen streams.  
The cities and towns where the conditions are the most serious include:  
Columbus, Dayton, Hamilton, Middletown, Piqua, Cincinnati, Zanesville, Lafayette, New Castle, Frankfort, Peru, Kokomo, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Marion, Lebanon, Richmond, Terre Haute, Muncie, Connorsville, Anderson, Petersburg, Noblesville, Tipton, Elwood, Hartford City, Bloomington, Elwood, Shelbyville, Logansport.  
Estimates of the damage are placed at not less than \$50,000,000. The weather bureau last night gave no encouragement for present relief of weather conditions.  
Throughout the night strenuous efforts at relief work were in operation. Governor Cox of Ohio had ordered out the entire state militia to aid in the work of rescue in the various cities and official appeals for help were sent to neighboring states. Preparations are being made to secure quick action by the state legislature.  
(Continued on Page Two.)

(By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.)  
DAYTON (via Lebanon) March 26.—George W. Burba, representing Governor Cox and J. H. Patterson, head of the local relief work, agreed at noon that the loss of life was between 500 and 1000. Both declared, however, that the