

6,000 PERISH IN TERRIBLE FLOODS

WATERS REPORTED RECEDING IN FLOODED DISTRICTS

Wires are Down and Information is Still Very Meagre.—Fire Still Raging at Dayton

Reports this afternoon are that the waters are receding through the flooded districts, but that it is impossible to get any authentic reports because of the wires being down.

Dayton, March 27, 2 a. m.—That the fire which appeared to be sweeping through the half submerged business district of Dayton late tonight had destroyed the Beckel House where there is supposed to be more than 200 flood refugees was the opinion of scores of watchers on the top of the National Cash Register building nearly two miles from the scene.

A report that the dam above Dayton threatens to break added to the city's terror tonight. If the dam breaks it will pour in a volume of water that will retard the rescue work for days.

Dayton, March 27, 1:30 a. m.—Soon after midnight the flames seemed to be wavering. Many persons conversant with the district, watching from a distance, did not agree that the Beckel had succumbed to the fire.

The business section of the city is under water and it is estimated the loss of life is appalling. Fires are adding to the horror and increasing the death toll.

Dayton, Ohio, March 26.—Flames that destroyed eight buildings in Dayton's submerged business section tonight cast a weird glow over the flood-stricken city that added to the fears of thousands of refugees and marooned persons and led to the apprehension that there may have been many of the water's prisoners burned in the buildings.

Soon after a notice was posted by the emergency committee declaring the city under martial law several militia companies from other Ohio cities arrived. These were employed to patrol the edges of the flooded district and prevent further looting of homes outside the flood area.

Rescue squads worked frantically today to throw back the veil that hides the true story of the disaster.

Late tonight the arrival of more boats gave hope that by tomorrow the northern section of the city now cut off may be penetrated and then may be learned the fate of hundreds imprisoned there.

The victims of the water's wrath suffered again today in a cold rain that fell steadily throughout the day. The rescue work went on and by nightfall about 3,000 persons were housed in places of refuge. At least 65,000 persons are imprisoned in their homes and in the business buildings. It is feared their two days' imprisonment with accompanying hunger and fright has caused tremendous suffering.

Two carsmen who braved the current that swirled through the business section reported that the water in the Algonquin Hotel was 15 feet deep. From the windows in the hotels and business buildings hundreds begged piteously for rescue and food.

A shortage of provisions was threatened this afternoon when it was reported that relief trains would be stopped by high water. It was believed, however, the relief trains might creep into Dayton during the night.

Encouragement was received from the mayor of Springfield, who said he was sending six big trucks loaded with provisions. With the arrival of motor boats tonight it was hoped that at daylight will begin the distribution of provisions.

Arcanum, Ohio (phone from Milton), March 26.—The Associated Press headquarters were established in Dayton tonight in the Van Cleave school house after much difficulty, and it will be early tomorrow probably before the accurate condition at Dayton can be sent out.

The west levee of the Big Miami river that went out yesterday morning carried death and destruction in its wake. The immensity of the district is beyond description. Fire broke out in the business section of the city tonight and a drenching rain led to the discomfort.

The dead are being removed from the streets in North Dayton and it is apparent the death list will run into the hundreds and perhaps the thousands before the extent of the catastrophe is known. Refugees are being cared for in the public schools and churches.

The fire has already destroyed many of the largest buildings and hotels and the city hall and police headquarters have been abandoned. The river has fallen six feet in the last 24 hours and many buildings were undermined.

The water supply has been cut off in the business district and it is impossible at this time to estimate the loss. A heavy snow which began falling at 1 o'clock continued until late tonight, hampering the relief work, but was a blessing in that it afforded pure water. The marooned residents scraped up the snow and when melted furnished the only pure drinking water to be had.

The fire that appeared to threaten the business section tonight was confined to one block. It is impossible to get within two miles of the fire, and from that distance it is apparent explosions made the fire seem of larger proportions than it was. It appeared to have burned itself out and it is not believed it would spread to other blocks. It is impossible to ascertain even approximately the number of persons who might have been marooned in this section and who died after being trapped by the flood and fire.

Delaware, March 26.—The bodies of 14 persons were recovered and as many more are missing tonight as a result of the overflow of the Oleontangy river. The damage is estimated at \$2,000,000.

Sandusky, March 26.—The list of dead at Fremont has been increased to 11. The water in Main street is 15 feet deep.

Other Great U. S. Floods. 1874—Mill river valley, Massachusetts, 144 drowned. 1874—Floods in Pennsylvania, 220 drowned. 1889—Johnstown, Pa., reservoir burst, 2,209 drowned. 1900—Galveston, Texas, 6,000 lives lost, 3,000 buildings destroyed in tidal wave and storm. 1903—Kansas City, Mo., great property loss by floods throughout Mississippi valley; few drowned. 1903—Heppner, Ore., cloudburst, 188 drowned.

Ashland Should Help Sufferers

Ashland should not be backward about assisting the sufferers from floods in the Ohio valley. While it is true that the Dayton relief committee wired, "Do not send money, we cannot use it," yet it is equally true that supplies from the far west cannot get there under a week or ten days.

The Ashland Tidings will receive and forward contributions. Manager Routledge of the Western Union Telegraph Company states that while he has received no instructions in the matter, he will assume the responsibility of guaranteeing that the money is forwarded by telegraph without cost.

25 INDICTMENTS FOUND SUMMARY OF DEATHS

Thirty-Three Matters Are Probed and 76 Witnesses Were Examined by Grand Jury.

The grand jury which completed its work last Saturday investigated 33 matters and examined 76 witnesses at the last term. They returned 25 true bills and five not true bills. They were impaneled in December and were adjourned by the court until October 20, subject to the call of the court.

The circuit court began its hearing of the cases Monday, the day being occupied in legal formalities incidental to the opening of a new term of the court. The Medford saloon men indicted for selling liquor to minors were arraigned and will appear Wednesday. They are represented by Attorney A. E. Reames with Judge Holbrook Withington, associate.

Odd Fellows Funeral Notice. All Odd Fellows are requested to meet at I. O. O. F. hall at 9:30 a. m. Friday, March 28, to attend the funeral of Brother Louis Dewees. W. H. FLAGG, N. G. GEORGE W. TREFREN, Sec.

Tabulated Statement of Deaths From Storm Throughout the Middle West.

Table with 2 columns: Location, Deaths. Includes Chicago, Omaha, Terre Haute, etc.

—Secure your seats at Rose Bros. for the concert next Monday evening at the Elks Temple Strollers Male Quartet. Admission 50 cents. \$7-11

Ashland Lecture Course ELKS TEMPLE, MONDAY EVENING, MAR. 31



THE STROLLERS QUARTET.

U. S. TO THE RESCUE POLYTECHNICS TO PLAY

United States Government Buses 50,000 Tents and 1,000,000 Rations to Flood Districts.

Washington, March 26.—Secretary of War Garrison this afternoon ordered that 50,000 tents and 1,000,000 rations be rushed to Ohio from Philadelphia for the relief of the flood sufferers.

Appalled by the flood situation in Ohio and Indiana. President Wilson voiced today a personal plea to all American citizens to aid the flood victims. In a statement issued from the White House the president said:

"The terrible floods in Ohio and Indiana approach the proportions of a national calamity. The loss of life and infinite suffering prompt me to issue an earnest appeal to all who are able to assist the labors of the American Red Cross Society to send contributions to the headquarters of the society in Washington or to its local treasuries. We should make this a common cause.

"The needs of those upon whom this sudden and overwhelming disaster has come should quicken everyone capable of sympathy and compassion to give immediate aid to those laboring to rescue and relieve.

—Bicycles and bicycle sundries at cost at Settles' Harness Shop. \$7-ft

"The Stubbornness of Geraldine" to Be Produced by Students Friday, April 4.

The students of the Ashland Polytechnic school are preparing a drama which will be put on Friday evening, April 4, at the high school gym, the directors having kindly donated the use of the room to the Polytechnic students. The play is entitled "The Stubbornness of Geraldine." The following is the cast of characters: Geraldine Lang, Lauretta Hines, Vi Thompson, Cora Ganiard, Fraulien Handt, Della Bayly, Mrs. Harry K. Whipple, Ruth Van Dyke, Mrs. Wrighton, Belle Moore, Mrs. Dreed, Opal Eastlick, Mrs. Mathewson, Ruth Van Dyke, Miss Piney, Belle Moore, Mrs. Jars, Florence Farnham, Mollie Lansing, Opal Eastlick, Lord Tilbury, George T. Watson, Mr. Wrighton, Orville Whitley, Japs, Walter Smith, Mr. Crager, Pete Heninger, Ship Doctor, Ernest Buck, Steward, Gene Carpenter, Baggage Man, Arthur Erickson, Baggage Man, Don Stevens, Thornton, Earl Hill, Mr. Houston, Otis Buck, Count Kinsey, Lynn Purdin.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS BRING NEWS OF GREATER LOSSES

Floods in Middle West Worst Calamity in the History of the Country

Chicago, March 26.—Indiana and Ohio are covered with water. Probably 6,000 are dead, possibly 8,000. Property loss is many millions. Rain is still falling and conditions appear to be growing worse. Rescuers from outside territory are unable to reach Dayton, Peru, Ind., and many other points in the flooded section. Raging torrents make rowboats unsafe, and motorboats are not to be had. There is a cry everywhere for food.

Reports drifting in from the centers of population tell of deaths numbering from five and ten to estimates as high as a thousand. The country districts probably fared worse. A death list cannot be accurately compiled.

Here are estimates based on reports up to noon today: Ohio—Dayton, 1,000 to 2,000; Miamisburg, 4,000 (rumored); Piqua, 540 (rumored); Sydney, 230 to 500 (rumored); Delaware, 50; Middletown, 50 to 100; Hamilton, 12; Tippecanoe City, 3 to 5; scattering, 15. Total Ohio, 5,900 to 7,222.

Indiana—Peru, 60 to 300; Indianapolis, 200; Newcastle, 3; Lafayette, 2; Noblesville, 2; scattering 3; Fort Wayne, 2. Total Indiana, 272 to 512.

Grand total, 6,172 to 7,734. Governor Cox estimates the homeless in Ohio at 250,000. The Indiana homeless are estimated at 150,000.

Chicago, March 26.—Six thousand have perished in the deluge that swept the northern half of the Ohio river valley. Probably half a million people were made homeless in Ohio and Indiana, and property damage in both states will be at least one hundred million. These figures were compiled late today from reports received from various points in the stricken district. Further reports may increase the number of dead and it is unlikely that any decrease in loss can be expected.

Additional horror was reported early this evening from Dayton. The fire there which seemed widespread and apparently uncontrollable probably brought death to many who had sought refuge previously from the flood by climbing to the upper floors of the buildings. Following are the revised figures of death:

Unconfirmed reports say that 14 persons lost their lives in Fremont and 50 at Tiffin. It was rumored early today that 200 were drowned in West Indianapolis, and while this number was later reduced to 14, it was believed more than the latter number perished.

South of Indianapolis the flood is said to have caused deaths in a number of small towns. Railroads were the chief sufferers in property damage. It was said tonight by engineers that strips of railroad a half mile long had been washed out in several places in Indiana and that bridges were swept away or damaged. The loss from these causes is estimated at \$25,000,000, while the loss by cessation of traffic cannot be estimated.

Less reliable dispatches from the same region declare the smaller towns of Metmor, Cedar Grove and Trenton were swept away completely. Peru is the most completely demoralized city in the great flood district in Indiana, but Fort Wayne, Logansport, Lafayette and Terre Haute have experienced a loss of life and great property damage.

Indianapolis has suffered a certain loss of life in the western part of the city (foreign quarter) and along the White river and inestimable property loss in the most substantial residence district through the overflow of Fall creek. At Logansport the flood waters are 16 feet deep on the floors of the Pennsylvania Railroad station.

The situation in West Indianapolis added many pitiable tales to the horrors of the flood story during the day. Night fell there on an uncompleted work of rescue after more than 500 persons had been saved. The poorer classes live in this section of the city and nearly all in one-story homes now covered by water.

It is this situation that makes so uncertain the estimates on the loss of life. It is feared entire families here may have been trapped like rats.

Governor Ralston visited this section of the city and the suffering he saw combined with the reports of disaster throughout the state led him to issue a proclamation calling for

contributions of money, food and clothing.

Secretary of War Garrison offered the assistance of the War Department, but the governor said he would not call for this aid unless Indiana citizens are unable to take care of the situation.

At Delaware, 25 miles north of Columbus, the inhabitants are still flood bound. The dead number 33.

From Sidney comes the report of from 100 to 500 drowned. Tiffin reports at least 50 lives lost. Stratford, a town near Delaware, according to unconfirmed report from a farmer who reached Delaware today, was swept away and 100 drowned. According to a wireless message received at the Ohio State University here this afternoon, from Mount Vernon, probably 100 have lost their lives in this town. This report could not be verified tonight. Meagre reports from Hamilton, in the Miami valley, are that half a dozen lives were lost.

Polytechnic is Assured for Next Year.

The Polytechnic School's future is now assured. The Commercial Club committee has secured enough students to guarantee that the 20 scholarships can be secured, and this morning Mr. Talcott, chairman of the committee, received from Mr. Gibson a letter containing the following guarantee:

"I can, therefore, say to your Commercial Club that if they carry out the original agreement, viz., to furnish us with 50 scholarships, we can assure them that the school will be maintained at least for another year, and we sincerely hope for many years to come."

Of the 20 scholarships to complete the guarantee, there are at least half all ready to sign up and about enough more are in sight to complete the 20. Therefore those who contemplate attending, if they have not already done so, should notify the committee at once if they wish to take advantage of the opportunity to borrow funds of the Commercial Club.

LOCAL PEOPLE WORRIED.

Those Having Relatives in Ohio Are Very Anxious.

There is anxiety in many an Ashland home today because of loved ones in the country devastated by floods. Among those who have relatives there is W. M. Barber of the Tidings force, whose aged mother is living at Zanesville, from which point 15 deaths are reported by drowning.

The telephone has invaded Jerusalem, a system having been installed that connects official points, business houses and some residences.

A Parisian chemist has invented dyes said to make dresses change color hourly.