

OVERFLOW OF RIVERS CAUSES GREAT LOSSES

Tremendous Damage Done Each Year Especially in Middle West—Havoc of Floods of 1903—Waste of Valuable Resources.

By **FREDERIC J. HASKIN.**
(Copyright, 1908, by Frederic J. Haskin.)

The recent devastation of cities and farms by the waters of the Ohio, Missouri, Red and Kaw rivers places more vividly before us the fact that the people of the United States lose by flood each year an average of \$100,000,000. Two weeks ago the 12,000 inhabitants of Armourdale, in Kansas City's packing house district, had to abandon their homes as the water backed in. Down the valley of the Big Sioux 100,000 acres of farm land were laid waste the early part of June. Cedar City, Mo., saw its population move out en masse when the Missouri river left its banks on June 14. Two thirds of the bottom lands within sight of Jefferson City were under water, with wheat fields swamped in from six to 18 inches of water—a million dollars loss to farmers. The usually harmless little Shunganunga surrounded Topeka with water on June 13, and wrought havoc next only to that of the flood of 1903.

The Columbia, encouraged by heavy rains and melting snows in its headwaters, rose until the pumping station at Wenatchee, Wash., was carried away, and lumber interests were greatly threatened. At Emporia, Kas., the Neosho, and its tributary, the Cottonwood, brought the worst flood that section has experienced. The far northwestern flood plain suffered most. Continued rain and snow of early June days set the rivers and creeks rushing from their banks, telegraph and telephone communications were cut off and trains on the Northern Pacific were tied up for 19 days. Anacostia, Butte and Helena were cut off from the rest of the world, until the old-time pony express was revived to meet the emergency. Lines in that region were closed and business operations in the city suspended. At Missoula a giant mill was injured to the extent of \$50,000 or more, and communication with Spokane cut off for days.

And so on through the list of floods that have recently swept a wide area of the country in the west, the lowlands of Arkansas and Texas, the valleys of the Ohio and the rivers on the Atlantic slope. In the trail of each overflow has come loss of property in the shape of crops, homes and stock and sometimes loss of life. In the trail of all has come a greater and a more abiding loss in the shape of eroded mountain and hillside, corroded river banks and silt-choked river beds. And greatest of all has come the great waste of water that rushes unimpeded toward the sea, depriving the earth of the moisture it needs for the summer and fall crops, retarding the rivers of the water necessary to maintain that even current and depth throughout the year, so necessary to the support of the great traffic which the nation hopes to see on her inland waterways.

Deplorable Waste.
And the deplorable thing about it, the thing which is a sad commentary on our material thirst and intelligence, is that the greater part of this great waste and incalculable loss is our own doing. The great bulk of these overflowing rivers lie among the mountains which, in the beginning of things, a wise creator set with forests that were assigned to conserve the winter snows and vernal rains, and then release them later through underground springs and rivulets to the valleys below. The river courses lay through plains set with trees and undergrowth that would hold the water in the sponge of fallen leaves, the roots, and old logs, until such a time as the winds of the soil asked it to be huried.

Man, in his misguided idea of property, is denuding the slopes of their trees as rapidly as human and mechanical agency can effect it, and when the snows and heavy rainwater find no abiding places, as in olden days, and rush down the valleys bringing death and destruction in their wake, this same man sits and wonders at the dispensation of a providence which will so interfere with his material prosperity and happiness! As the first settler of the country, the white man began the work of deforestation as a protection to his home from Indian ambush, and as a means of acquiring tillable land. Later, he did it to acquire needed building material, fuel, etc.

In Three Centuries.
In the three centuries of his progress as an axe man and pathmaker for commerce he has in his legitimate industry the flood evil from a practically negligible volume to its present startling strength. With Old World lessons in flooded areas below naked hills fresh in his mind, he has nevertheless proved little better than his Indian neighbors, that great foe which first depopulated America of part of her forests. Scientists tell us that the great prairies of the west were once forest lands, from which the prehistoric American burned the vegetation when gathering nuts, destroying trees of countless acres through countless centuries. At the

foot of the Appalachians the flames passed because the vegetation was damper there and less easy to destroy. With the increase in floods comes the yearly increase in danger to the riparian cities of the nation. The earliest cities were naturally built on waterways to secure the needed transportation facilities. Eighteen of Illinois' 31 biggest cities are on rivers, 16 of Indiana's 18 biggest ones, nearly all the leading ones of Missouri, and two-thirds of those of Pennsylvania. Over half the population of Iowa is riparian, and in Ohio there are not over a half dozen big cities in the uplands. Of 255 cities lying below the "fall line" of eastern rivers between New England and the 100th meridian, 204 degrees, with an aggregate population of about 8,000,000 are river towns. All these cities, through their churches, pray weekly for deliverance from war, pestilence, fire, flood and famine, and through the exercise of modern invention and discovery have proved their ability to successfully combat all but one. The flood problem has not been met and grows bigger every year.

Dwellers by Rivers.
Dwellers in these river towns and in the valleys have learned to expect a flood at periods of three, five, or, at most, ten years. The more intelligent, those who have really awakened to the gravity of the situation, are asking government aid in defending themselves against these floods. They ask for great storage reservoirs at the headwaters of the principal rivers, where the surplus from the thaws and spring rains can be held and sent down the rivers later on, in the west, diverted to the irrigation projects.

They ask for the building of levees and cutoffs on flood plains, as a temporary measure, but above all they are asking for a preservation of the forests on mountain and hill, and a careful reforestation of all denuded slopes. The total area of the watershed of the Mississippi is 1,258,000 square miles, and during great floods it discharges 2,000,000 cubic feet of water every second. It carries an alluvial deposit that has formed new land from forty feet deep at Omaha to 300 feet deep at New Orleans, covering 80,000 square miles, a surface the size of the state of Montana, with an average of 170 feet of alluvial soil, and using material stolen, unchallenged, from the hills and farm lands. The yearly decrease of the habitable part of the whole earth is reckoned at 3,500 square miles. It goes to the sea in the form of silt, and much of it can be charged to man's carelessness.

Cause of Floods.
Floods come from early spring rains falling on frozen ground, from the melting of sudden ice masses in streams, from unusual local rainfalls, from landslides, and like phenomena, but the usual ones come from the lack of means for holding the early spring waters on the mountain sides. The floods of the Missouri and Mississippi usually last longest, sometimes from June to July, because of the slow advance of the sun over the widely diversified headwaters. Those of the Ohio, the most terrible on the earth's surface, are usually precipitated suddenly by the releasing of all the snows at once in the headwaters which lie parallel to the equator. The water released, forms a volume 100 feet high, 600 feet wide and 300 feet long, to be huried suddenly at civilization.

Last spring the loss caused by the Ohio floods aggregated over \$100,000,000, about one fifth of that which congress would have to appropriate to purchase the whole Appalachian system of river headwaters, and establish enough storage reservoirs to hold the surplus, and protect billions of dollars worth of property indefinitely. The geological survey shows that the loss of 1,850 square miles, or thirty-five per cent of the drainage area of the Monongahela can be stored, and released in dry weather to increase the depth of the channel six feet, and incidentally protect other watersheds of the thirty miles cause a storage of from four to six inches more water annually. A minimum of 2,000,000 horse power is developed in these headwaters every year, and according to the geological survey, fifty per cent or more is available for economic uses and would bring a rental of \$28,000,000. By storing the spring floods and releasing them for deepening the water in the river, enormous sums for dredging and improving river beds would be saved. The government has spent \$30,000,000 in improving the rivers of the Appalachian system and is spending \$56,000,000 more, expecting to increase the 15,000,000 tons of freight shipped annually over water routes to a much greater amount.

Floods and Business.
Floods bear a direct relation to business depression and the relation to human suffering property loss and spread of disease is vital. During the 1807 spring flood, 100,000 working people in Pittsburgh were rendered idle for an average period of a week, and many were homeless. The floods of 1847, 1852 and 1853 were followed by cholera and other epidemics. In the spring of 1902, 2,000,000 acres of land were laid waste in the west and \$40,000,000 worth of property destroyed. In 1901 and again in 1902 the southern Appalachian district lost \$10,000,000. In 1883 the loss to Cincinnati alone was \$1,500,000 and the Mississippi valley suffered to the extent of \$50,000,000. The flood of 1897 cost the valley \$15,000,000, while the flood in the Monongahela valley cost western Pennsylvania \$1,000,000.

The lesson of the Old World is before us. Southern Europe and Asia are as skeletons of former selves, for each nation in turn has given its forests to misguided civilization. Northern Africa, once having a climate of our Gulf states is now ninety-five per cent sterile. Greece is becoming more barren, Sicily is typhus-infested, France had been damaged to the extent of \$100 million before she undertook to reforest her hills. The Rhone, the Po, the Adigo, the Ebro, the Guadalquivir, and the Mariza, localities were floods, almost unknown in the world's dim dawn, now annually threaten to depopulate their valleys. Storage reservoirs have recently been tried by various European countries to conserve the flood waters, but all with the United States, will eventually be driven to the plan of Mehmed All of Abyssinia who set out 15,000,000 trees on his barren hills over half a century ago to hold the floods and redeem his country.

LITTLEFIELD SCORES ROOSEVELT SHARPLY
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Chicago, June 27.—Theodore Roosevelt and the Sherman anti-trust law were the objects of caustic criticism by Congressman Charles E. Littlefield of Maine, in an address delivered to the members of the Illinois Bar association at the closing session yesterday afternoon. Referring in an effort to show that all previous laws with similar provisions had failed of their purpose, he characterized the Roosevelt administration as one of "proclamations instead of performance in the enforcement of the law."
Mr. Littlefield said that seven convictions had been secured under the Sherman law since September 14, 1904, and continued:
"It may be that the predatory rich are lurking in every corner and the malefactors of great wealth abound. If this be true and they have been going about seeking whom they may devour, the extent to which the wicked have thus far gone unwhipped of justice seems upon the grotesque."

MUSIC AND FUN

Special Offer to Readers of The Journal

We Pay Freight Charges—10 Days Free Trial—Eight Months Credit—No Interest



\$29.55

Our Outfit No. 7

Illustrated above, includes genuine Edison Standard Phonograph with neat black horn, one dozen genuine Edison Gold Moulded Records—Bottle Phonograph Oil—Oil can and one automatic brush attachment—sent free—does not cost you a penny unless satisfactory. **Take no risks—buy only after a free trial and without expense to you. Cut out coupon and send at once—today for the catalogue—Circulars and full particulars of this Great Offer to readers of The Journal. This announcement will not be published again. Do not delay—orders filled numerically as received, and this extraordinary liberal offer will tax our efforts to furnish the outfits. Be sure to send the coupon**

Eilers Piano House

353 Washington Street

Largest Dealers in Talking Machines and Records in the Northwest—and the Only Place Where All the Different Makes Can Be Found Side by Side for Comparison and Sale.

Coupon
Eilers Piano House
353 Washington St., Portland, Or.

Gentlemen—Please send Catalogue, Circulars, etc., your "free trial offer" Edison Phonograph to readers of The Journal.

Name.....
P. O. Address.....
Rec'd.....No.....

The Finest and Best Talking Machine Proposition Ever Made. Free Trial.

American Restaurant

- CORNER THIRD AND COCKE STS.
OPEN DAY AND NIGHT
Dinner From 11 a. m. to 8 p. m.
Chicken Soup, Free With Meals
- Lettuce 10c
 - Sliced Tomatoes 10c
 - Chicken Salad, Mayonnaise 20c
 - Fried Razor Clams 15c
 - Fried Halibut 15c
 - Fried Shad 15c
 - Fried Tenderloin of Beef 15c
 - Sauce 15c
 - Fried Salmon 15c
 - Boiled Mackerel, Drawn Butter 20c
 - Steamed Little Neck Clams 15c
 - Clam Bouillion, with Toast 15c
 - Boiled Beef Tongue and Spinach 20c
 - Chicken Pot Pie 20c
 - Sherman's Calves' Brains 20c
 - Pork Spare Ribs and New Cabbage 20c
 - York Ham and Cauliflower 20c
 - Olympia Oyster Patties 20c
 - Small Tenderloin Steak and Onions 25c
 - Clam Chowder and Potatoes 20c
 - Pork Tenderloin, New Potatoes 20c
 - Short Ribs Beef Spanish 20c
 - Beef and Potatoes 20c
 - Sauces 20c
 - Codfish in Cream 20c
 - Boiled Beef Hash and Egg 15c
 - Pork and Beans 15c
 - Half Spring Chicken on Toast 15c
 - Boiled Chicken with Dressing 20c
 - Boiled Veal with Dressing 20c
 - Roast Pork with Dressing 20c
 - Roast Beef with Brown Gravy 20c
 - Roast Lamb with Mint Sauce 20c
 - Boiled Cucumbers 10c
 - Green Onions 10c
 - Boiled Potatoes 10c
 - New Cabbage 10c
 - Strawberries and Cream 10c
 - Red Raspberries and Cream 10c
 - Strawberry Short Cake 10c
 - Strawberry Ice Cream 10c
 - Curry Bread and Potatoes 10c
 - With All Meals
 - Dining Room for Ladies
- Dinner From 11 a. m. to 8 p. m.

FILM SERVICE

That Will INCREASE Your Box Office Receipts, and No REPEATERS

WE RENT YOU FILMS AT THE FOLLOWING RATES:

- 2 changes per week, 1000 feet to each change, including song service, \$12
- 3 changes per week, 1000 feet to each change, including song service, \$16
- 4 changes per week, 1000 feet to each change, including song service, \$21
- 5 changes per week, 1000 feet to each change, including song service, \$25
- 6 changes per week, 1000 feet to each change, including song service, \$30


MOTION PICTURE MACHINES, PHONOGRAPHS, RECORDS, SONG SLIDES, FILMS, ORCHESTRATIONS, ETC.

We SELL and RENT CHEAPER Than Any House in the United States

NEWMAN MOTION PICTURE CO.

293 BURNSIDE ST., BET. FOURTH AND FIFTH. PHONE MAIN 8458

NOTE—We will start you into the Motion Picture Theatre business. Have several desirable locations. Motion Picture Theatres earn \$500 to \$2,000 monthly. START ONE IN YOUR TOWN.



LOW RATES East

Will Be Made This Season by the

O. R. & N.

AND

SOUTHERN PACIFIC

(LINES IN OREGON)

FROM PORTLAND

To	As Follows	Overland
Chicago	Street \$72.50	\$87.50
St. Louis	67.50	82.50
St. Paul	63.15	81.75
Omaha	60.00	75.00
Kansas City	60.00	75.00

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE


June 5, 6, 19, 20
July 6, 7, 22, 23
August 6, 7, 21, 22

Good for return in 30 days with stop-over privilege at pleasure within limits.

REMEMBER THE DATES

For any further information call at the city ticket office, Third and Washington streets, or write to

WM. M'MURRAY
General Passenger Agent,
PORTLAND, OREGON.



TEETH WITH OR WITHOUT PLATES

OUT OF GOWN PEOPLE

We can do your entire Crown, Bridge and Plate Work in a day if necessary. Positive Painless Extracting Free when plates or bridges are ordered. Sensitive teeth and roots removed without the least pain. Ten chairs. Only the most scientific and careful work.

30 YEARS IN PORTLAND.

W. A. WISE AND ASSOCIATES
Painless Dentists,
Falling Bldg., Third and Washington
2 p. m. to 8 p. m.; Sundays 8 to 12.
Painless Extraction, 50c; Plates, \$4.00.
Both Phones, A and Main 2028.

FREE TREATMENT

WE WILL GIVE YOU ONE MONTH'S TREATMENT FREE!

If you have any contracted disorder, blood trouble, rheumatism, or any nervous disease, you will find that our treatment will cure you promptly, painlessly and quickly. Call and see us.

Hours—10 a. m. to 8 p. m. Sunday, 10 to 12.

IMPONDERO-THERAPY CO.
PORTLAND, OR.
502 Merchants Trust Bldg.
Foster & Kleiser Signs