

# 1000 BELIEVED TO HAVE PERISHED IN FLOOD AND BLAZE

## Man Who Visits Scene of Disaster Says Early Estimate of Deaths Far Too Low—Other Town Suffers.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Port Alleghey, Pa., Sept. 30.—With fire and water still working havoc in the little city of Austin tonight, Burgess Murrin, who escaped death in the disaster, declared he believed when a final list of the dead was made, it would be found that 1000 persons had perished in the flood.

### Town Under Water.

"I never expect to again witness such a sight as greeted me when I reached Austin," said Resenor. "The entire site of where the town once stood is under 15 feet of water. Bodies are floating everywhere. There are few uninjured to care for, though.

"The citizens who were not drowned outright when the first avalanche of water struck escaped one death only to soon be mashed down under the timbers that followed.

"The entire scene was lighted up in a ghastly fashion by the lights of fires, rapidly destroying every portion of the buildings left above water. We could see men and women, evidently badly injured, struggling wildly in the water, attempting to hold on to floating timbers. Then they went down.

"The main street of Austin is so narrow and so hedged in by hills that the water ran through as though confined in a canal. There is no doubt in my mind, nor in others who have visited the scene that possibly 150 persons were drowned at Costello, only three miles away. The waters are still pouring over the devastated town.

"The only rescue work that is being carried on is being done only by the light from the burning structures. It will be impossible to rescue many bodies until daylight. With the great amount of timber turned loose in the flood, no boat can live in the waters, and the workers have mostly to stand on the edge of the flood and drag out such bodies as they can reach with poles.

"All of the money in the Austin National bank may be safe. The cashier heard the roar of the waters as it broke loose from the dam and having, for the past two years, lived in fear of a flood, he knew what it meant. The money was quickly gathered together and thrown into the vault. This was locked and the office force fled."

### Pianos Selling Fast

Read "Last Days" announcement Kohler & Chase piano clearance sale, page 7, section 1, this paper.

# IMPRISONED WATERS BREAK BONDS, RUSH UPON HUNDREDS

(Continued from Page One.)

bodies caught in the wires and terribly torn. Many bodies are being recovered along the banks of the river, some having been swept five miles below the city. Rescuing parties are busy fighting the flames tonight, seeking to save the bodies, buried there, from incineration. Many were imprisoned in houses washed onto high ground by the flood, but soon they were into the fire zone.

State Senator F. A. Baldwin narrowly escaped death in the deluge. His father and his mother were drowned. Baldwin fought gallantly against the waters to save his aged parents, but without success.

Fire departments from Smithport, Coudersport, Bradford and Keating Summit were rushed here to fight the flames.

### Fire Completes Work.

The wreck of the buildings left the gas mains open and the flames spread rapidly. All of the buildings not completely destroyed by the flood were swept by the fire, which blazed along the ruins, jumping from gas pipe to gas pipe.

Clothing is being collected at Coudersport and Emporium for the hundreds now destitute and homeless.

The Austin hospital was soon filled with injured and bodies were piled up in rows on the lawn outside. Two trains from Keating Summit carried food and clothing, doctors, nurses and medicines into the destroyed town and brought injured on their return. The hospital is situated on a high hill and escaped the flood.

Among the first refugees to reach Keating Summit was the chief druggist of Austin. He had seen his mother caught in the falling walls of their home, behind the store, and killed. He had barely escaped with his life. When the water swept past the mountain of broken wood, of tumbled stone and brick and of warped wires at the intersection of Main and Turner streets, it was flooded 20 feet deep and of still increasing momentum.

The schoolhouse of Costello, like the hospital at Austin, stands on a hill. But it was destroyed, and that tells in a nutshell the damage to the town.

Not one quarter of Costello's buildings was so well situated. The people of Costello heard the on-rushing waters in time to escape.

### Warns, Then Escapes.

The first alarm of the dam breaking was given by a telephone lineman who saw the advance of the water from the top of a pole. He tore up a long distance wire and notified Galeton with his test set and then fled to the hills, barely escaping with his life.

The country around Austin is filled with wells of natural gas and the gas in the mains began to burn, adding to the horror of the scene.

The fire apparatus from Olean, N. Y., which arrived at Austin early in the evening was practically useless as all water connections in the town had been destroyed by the flood. Cries of the victims imprisoned in demolished and burning buildings were heard in every section of Austin.

In January, 1910, the concrete dam across Freeman's Run at Austin, Pa., erected at the Austin plant of the Bayless Pulp & Paper company of Binghamton, N. Y., was dynamited when it was feared that a heavy flood was going to cause it to give way and destroy the town. A small section of the dam was blown out, relieving the weight of the water back of it and saving the town at that time.

The Bayless company's paper mill and a large part of the town is located near the creek and as the valley is very narrow and the surrounding hills very steep, rising for half a mile below the dam to a height of 500 feet, there has always been apprehension at Austin during seasons of floods.

Freeman's Run has a water shed, of approximately 35 square miles which is quite mountainous.

In the summer and fall the water in Freeman's Run was not sufficient to operate the pulp mill and 12 years ago a dam was built a mile above the mill, to impound 25,000,000 gallons of water. The construction work was done by C. J. Brittain and Company, Binghamton, N. Y. The dam was completed December 1, 1908. When it was completed there was one small vertical crack about 50 feet to the right of the spillway. This crack extended from the top to the ground level. It was about one-sixteenth of an inch wide. Within a month after the completion of the dam, another crack appeared. Neither of these was the result of water pressure, as no water had as yet been let into the dam.

### Warning Given.

During the week of January 17, 1910, the weather grew warm, rain fell, snow on the mountains melted and in three days the dam was completely filled. The town of Austin was greatly alarmed, fearing that the dam might give way.

Engineering News in its issue of March 17, 1910, stated that appearances clearly indicated the movement of the dam downstream, as a part of the dam was constructed in freezing weather.

Engineering News reported on March 17, 1910, as follows:

"Nothing has been done toward reinforcing this dam. It is now being used and at this writing carries a depth of 33 feet of water and no further movement has been noticed."

### BUILDINGS JAMMED AND PILED SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET HIGH

(By the International News Service.)  
Keating Summit, Pa., Sept. 30.—It was an eye witness to the deluge that, hurried itself down the Sinnemahoning valley, swept through Austin, picking up its buildings as though they were kindling wood, jamming them into the little gully below, on the town and burying its inhabitants in the debris," said C. J. Buckley, who rode nine miles on horseback to report the disaster.

"With my own eyes I saw whole families—entire family—connections swept away.

"Then the flood passed and I saw dozens of persons lying dead in what had once been streets. I cannot describe the horror of the scenes. I fled nine miles on horseback to tell the world of the disaster.

"As I sped away from Austin I turned to look back upon the scene and dashed away in terror, for everything was gone—beautiful homes, big brick buildings, the opera house—all in a heap at the mouth of the gully and piled several hundred feet high.

"All out of this gigantic pile the flames were creeping.

"I could see women tearing their hair and hear them screaming as they crept through the heaps of dead and dying. Already the priests and clergymen were busy. The Rev. Father O'Brien and the Rev. Mr. Harter were doing heroic work. They administered the last rites.

"Some of the victims were without legs and arms; the heads of some were crushed. It was appalling.

"Thousands of people lined the hillside as I spurred away. Some of them were without clothing. All of them were without food and many were so badly injured that they could not walk.

"Everything I have in the world is swept away. I am penniless, but I am fortunate to have escaped with my life."

# ONLY WOMAN HARNESS MAKER ON COAST WORKS IN SALEM



Mrs. R. E. Clark, who says there is no part of the harness trade she can't do.

(Salem Bureau of the Journal.)  
Salem, Or., Sept. 30.—Mrs. R. E. Clark of Salem enjoys the distinction of being the only woman on the Pacific coast actively engaged in harness making.

Commercial travelers who have covered every city on the coast handling leather workers' supplies declare they have investigated this claim for Mrs. Clark and know it to be true. In the entire United States, they say, they know of but two other women harness makers, any they are in New York city.

"I have been running this shop entirely alone for several days this week while Mr. Johns is away," said Mrs. Clark yesterday, "and I have not turned away a bit of repair work. I make every part of the harness and do all kinds of harness repairing. I can assure you there is at least one woman

in the world who knows more than to put a collar upside down on a horse or put the crupper over his head.

"I fell into the knack of mending harness while a girl in my home in England, where my uncle had a harness shop. I loved the smell of leather and spent all my spare time in the shop, making loops and riveting on buckles. After I had been married and we moved to America my health completely broke. I was weighing 34 pounds when I decided to work in the harness shop to regain my strength. I have now been at the work six years and weigh 148 pounds and believe I am as strong a woman as can be found in Salem. I believe the smell of leather has saved my life."

Mrs. Clark has a cozy home, where she lives with her husband, a carpenter by trade, and her little daughter, 19 years old. The little girl starts to school each morning soon after her mother goes to the harness shop to begin her day's work. Mrs. Clark, while at work wears a heavy blue man's shirt, a velvet topped skirt and the regulation harness maker's apron. She is employed by J. W. Johns, where she has worked four years.

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"The estimates do not mean that the city will have to fix a tax levy to meet them, for it is annually the custom of the ways and means committee of the city council to consider the recommendations of various department heads and to bring the figures submitted.

Mayor Bushlight says he will, if necessary, further cut down the list after the ways and means committee has finished its work, so that taxpayers need not be alarmed.

"I will examine all the estimates filed to date:

Fire department \$772,870; police \$410,950; park department, \$173,032; mayor's office, \$6300; city attorney's office, \$19,995; municipal judge, \$4850; inspector of buildings, \$26,515; health office, \$21,250; dock commission, \$19,054.29; civil service commission, \$3060; street cleaning department, \$274,874.80; poundmaster, \$7255; city garbage crematory, \$32,450; janitor service, city hall, \$19,840; city museum, \$2500; plumbing inspector's office, \$28,492; city treasurer's office, \$16,744; city auditor's office, \$63,560; miscellaneous, \$182,000.

### Comforting the Old Man.

From the Silent Partner.  
Mother (in a very low voice)—Tommy, your grandfather is very sick. Can't you say something to cheer him up a bit?

Tommy (in an earnest voice)—Grandfather, wouldn't you like to have soldiers at your funeral?

Toronto, Canada, labor men may enter municipal contests next January.

# ESTIMATE IS MADE OF BUDGET FOR '12 FOR MUNICIPALITY

## Total, if Not Cut Down, Will Be \$2,267,962; Mayor Has Pruning Knife Ready to Make Big Swipe.

Twenty municipal departments have filed their estimates of expenses for 1912, and with a number of estimates still to be filed, the total cost of the departments referred to, if the estimates should not be cut down, will be \$2,267,962. The expenses that have not been officially estimated as yet are those for lights, street repair, the free employment bureau, the sealer of weights and measures, the city engineer and other miscellaneous expenditures.

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# More Portland Prosperity Figures

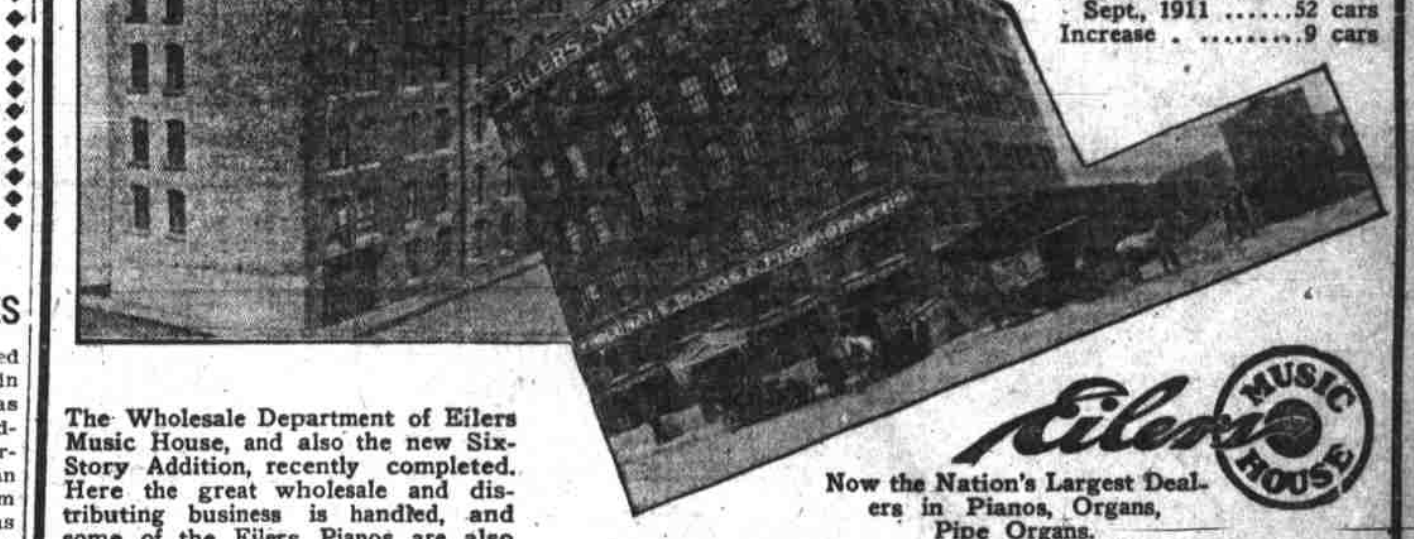
## Activity at the Eilers Music House Wholesale establishment, upon the half block at Pettygrove, between 15th and 16th streets, shows a remarkable increase

IN

Shipments January 1, 1910, to September, 1910 ..... 113 cars  
Shipments January 1, 1911, to September, 1911 ..... 133 cars  
Increase ..... 20 cars

OUT

Shipments January 1, 1910, to September, 1910 ..... 43 cars  
Shipments Jan. 1, 1911, to Sept., 1911 ..... 52 cars  
Increase ..... 9 cars



The Wholesale Department of Eilers Music House, and also the new Six-Story Addition, recently completed. Here the great wholesale and distributing business is handled, and some of the Eilers Pianos are also being made here.

Now the Nation's Largest Dealers in Pianos, Organs, Pipe Organs.

Headquarters for All Makes of Talking Machines.

# A STORE WHERE LADIES CAN TRADE

# National Wine Co.

# Family Liquor Store

The Largest Mail Order House in the Northwest Highest Qualities and Attractive Prices at All Times