

DISASTROUS FLOOD IN TEXAS

Great Dam at Austin Is Carried Away.

THIRTY OR FORTY LIVES LOST

Similar to the Johnstown Disaster—Great Loss to Property—Part of the City Inundated.

Austin, April 10.—This city is tonight in pitch darkness, with a raging river, one mile wide, swollen far beyond its natural banks, roaring and surging through all the lower portion of the town, having spread death and destruction in its wake. In addition to the vast loss to property interests, it is calculated that between 30 and 40 lives have been sacrificed, and the reports coming in from the tributary country tonight do not tend to improve matters. The flood is not unlike the disastrous Johnstown flood of some years ago, in that a raging river, already swollen far beyond its capacity, bore to heavily upon an immense dam spanning a river, breaking it and letting loose a reservoir of water 30 miles long, half a mile wide and 60 feet deep, to aid in carrying destruction down the valleys of the Colorado river. The great dam in the Colorado gave way at noon from the enormous pressure of water and debris, and with a roar and crash swept the valley below the city, wrecking the immense light and power plant and drowning eight workmen.

Last Wednesday night it began to rain very hard at this place, the storm extending north of here along the watersheds of the Colorado river. The precipitation continued until this morning, the downfall averaging six inches within an hour. All this vast quantity of water all along the watersheds of the Colorado river rapidly swelled the current until at 8 o'clock this morning the river, which had been rising steadily since last evening, was a raging torrent, having risen 40 feet within 10 hours.

After daylight this morning it became evident that the situation was serious. The river began to rise so rapidly that it became evident that the dam, power house and contents, costing \$500,000, were in imminent danger. To add to the danger of the situation, small frame houses, trees and debris of every description commenced descending the river, and piled up against the upper face of the dam. This weight was augmented every moment until by 10 o'clock there was a mass of debris lodged against the dam which threatened the safety of the structure. In addition, millions of gallons of water, muddy from its long journey, was whirling and plunging to the 60-foot fall, and it was evident that no wall could withstand the immense pressure.

Breaking of the Dam.

The crisis came shortly after 11 o'clock, when suddenly, with a report like the roar of the ocean, a great wedge, 25 feet high, 500 feet wide, and about 8 feet thick, rolled out of the center section of the dam, down the face of the 60-foot fall, deep into the river below. This left a hanging gap in the very middle of the dam, through which the debris and water fiercely poured, while the flood, already raging, was threatening everything in its path. The released water poured into the power house, catching eight employees at work there, drowning all of them.

Within a short time all the valleys to the south and west of Austin were filled to overflowing with water, and the southern portion of the city, tributary to the river, was inundated. Large crowds collected on the river banks, and several persons were swept into the river when the dam broke, but all were saved by boatmen.

A crowd of white people, numbering about 30, living just below the dam in tents, were seen at their habitations just before the dam broke and have not been accounted for since. It is generally believed that all of them were swept away.

A family of six negroes living in the valley south of the city are known to have been drowned.

It is estimated that more than 100 houses have been destroyed, and the loss to property will be great. The breaking of the dam engulfed the old water company's plant below the city, and it is tonight lying 15 feet under water, while the city is in darkness and without water.

Caused a Serious Train Wreck.

Laredo, Tex., April 10.—The north-bound passenger train which left here over the International & Great Northern railway this morning, was wrecked by the spreading of the rails near Two-hig, about noon. The entire train, except the engine, went into the ditch. Mail Agent Sobright was seriously injured, and several others seriously hurt. Further details have not been received here.

The Rio Grande has come to a stand at 26 feet, without damage to the bridges here, but the waterworks machinery is submerged, and the crops along the river have been destroyed.

SANNAS POST AMBUSH.

Boers Captured Valuable Papers and Plans From the British.

Brandford, Orange Free State, April 9.—Burghers who are returning from the scene of the Sannas Post ambush (also referred to as Karre and Korn Spruit) furnish interesting details of the occurrence. It appears that when the first retreating British wagon entered the drift the ambushers shouted "Hands up," removed the officers and let the cart through. The process was repeated several times, until the wagons arrived in a bunch, when the ruse was discovered and a disorderly fight followed. In one cart were two officers, to whom Commandant Dewet shouted "Hands up." One of them obeyed, whereupon the other shot his comrade dead, refused to surrender, and was immediately shot. The burghers lost three men killed and 110 wounded, including a field cornet. Among the wounded was Dutch Military Attache Nix, who received a bullet in the chest. Altogether the Boers captured 389 prisoners throughout the day.

The significance of the battle must not be underrated. It was fought by a force of Free Staters, on a flat plain, and without shelter. The Free Staters are now desirous of marching on Bloemfontein, and the Transvaal officers are anxious to emulate the successes of their late allies. All the Southern Boer forces have now formed junctions with the main Boer army, and form a large force of veterans. The burghers, who were previously short of food, now have plenty. Commandant Dewet sent the British guns, wagons and prisoners to Winburg.

Perhaps of greater importance than the victory is the capture of British secret papers, including maps and plans of 1897, 1898 and 1899, outlining elaborate schemes for the invasion of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, and giving a plan for reaching Johannesburg from Mafeking along Dr. Jamieson's route, amended so as to avoid mistakes. Another gives the plan for a march from Bloemfontein to Kroonstad. Advice from Vientersberg, Prieska and Kenhardt show the colony is full of rebels. The Kenhardt rebels are marching on Calvinia, and others are on their way to Fourteen Streams.

A dispatch box was found at Sannas Post containing oaths signed by Free Staters. The signers have been sent for in order that the general may explain the invalidity of oaths under compulsion.

APPEAL TO THE POWERS.

President Steyn's Speech to the Free State Raad.

Pretoria, April 9.—In his speech at the opening of the Free State Raad, President Steyn declared that, in spite of the surrender of Bloemfontein, he had not lost the hope of the triumph of the republican cause. The war, he said, was forced upon the Transvaal, and nothing remained for the Orange Free State but to throw in its lot with its sister republic, in accordance with the terms of the treaty. The war, he continued, was begun with the object of maintaining the independence secured with the blood of the forefathers of the nation, and had been so successful that it had caused the greatest wonder throughout the world, and even to the Boers themselves.

After paying a tribute to the memory of General Joubert, Steyn said the British, notwithstanding their overwhelming numbers, were violating the flag of truce and the Red Cross, and he was compelled to report the matter to the neutral powers. The president further remarked that the attempt to create dissension among the burghers by issuing proclamations had failed. Referring to the correspondence between the South African presidents and Lord Salisbury, Steyn proceeded:

"Not only were those efforts made, but the republics dispatched deputations to Europe and America to bring the influence of the neutral powers in order to secure cessation of bloodshed, and I greatly desire that these efforts be crowned with success."

GOES TO CONFERENCE.

Hawaii Territorial Bill Passed by the House.

Washington, April 9.—The house, after four days of debate, today passed the substitute for the senate bill providing for a territorial form of government for Hawaii. The bill now goes to conference.

The most interesting feature of the day's proceedings was the attempt of Hill, of Connecticut, to secure the adoption of two amendments, one providing for a resident commissioner in stead of a delegate in congress, and the other declaring that nothing in the act should be interpreted as a pledge of statehood. Both were overwhelmingly defeated.

Deboe, of Kentucky, today gave notice that he would move to refer the credentials of ex-Senator J. C. S. Blackburn, as a senator from that state, to committee on privileges and elections. During the greater part of the session the senate had under consideration the Indian appropriation bill. Sullivan, of Mississippi, delivered a speech in favor of seating Hon. M. S. Quay.

AMERICANS TOO FEW.

Not Sufficient to Keep Filipino Insurgents Down.

Manila, April 11.—Reports of encounters between the Americans and the insurgents continue to arrive from many points. On Friday Captain Sturgis, while reconnoitering, struck an insurgent outpost on the Nevaliches road, five miles distant from Manila, killing two and capturing 10. All were in full uniform. Unfortunately Captain Sturgis' force was not large enough to pursue the main body.

A detachment of the Forty-second infantry, while scouting in Laguna province, was pursued by the insurgents and obliged to take refuge in a church at Paeto, where the Americans repelled the rebels until reinforced.

Lieutenant Gordon, with a company of the Sixteenth infantry, while scouting near Aparri, Cagayan province, engaged 250 insurgents. Lieutenant Gordon was wounded.

The insurgents made a night attack upon Calbayon, Island of Samar. They killed the sentry, swarmed into the town, and searched the house of Major Gilmore, of the Forty-third infantry, who was absent. They killed his cook. Ultimately the Americans drove them out of the town, killing four and capturing 12.

General Young, commanding in North Luzon, has made several requests for reinforcements, representing that his force is inadequate; that the men are exhausted by the necessity of constant vigilance; that he is unable to garrison the towns in his jurisdiction; that the insurgents are returning to the district and killing the amigos, and that it is necessary for him to inflict punishment in several sections before the rainy season shall begin. General James Bell, who is commanding in Southern Luzon, has made similar representations. He says his forces are inadequate, and he merely holds a few towns, without controlling the territory.

The president of Samar, province of Baar, Luzon, and another prominent native, have been assassinated because they were known to be friendly to Americans. The president of another town has joined the insurgents because they had threatened to kill him if he did not.

THE FLOODED COLORADO.

Situation at Austin Is Slightly Improved.

Austin, Tex., April 11.—The flood situation is improved here somewhat but the reports from points below indicate that the full effect of the immense volume of water is being felt in Wharton and Fayette counties, everything being inundated and much loss of property and livestock being reported.

In Bastrop county the flood has caused much damage, and something like 50 washouts and losses of bridges are reported by the railways. Advice from the area surrounding the county seat of Bastrop county are to the effect that there has been some loss of life among the farming class, as their homes were inundated without warning by the tidal wave, but outside of an unconfirmed report that eight lives were lost, nothing can be learned.

In the southern part of this county several persons are missing, the number representing a family of six Italians, and two negro families, whose homes have been washed away. The river is receding rapidly at this point and above, notwithstanding the fact that another heavy rise was reported early this morning on the Concho, 125 miles north of here.

Reports tonight from La Grande, in Fayette county, are to the effect that while much of the lower part of the town is under water, the property loss is small. No one is missing.

SECTARIAN SCHOOLS.

Senate Rejected the Amendment Providing for Them.

Washington, April 11.—After some further discussion today, the senate rejected the sectarian school amendment to the Indian appropriation bill, offered by Jones, of Arkansas, by a vote of 30 to 16. As has been the practice for two or three years, the free homes measure was offered as an amendment to the bill, but it was ruled out on the point of order that it was general legislation, and, therefore, not germane to an appropriation bill. Without division, the bill was passed. The measure carries about \$8,414,000. An unsuccessful effort was made to agree upon a date for a vote on the resolution relative to the seating of Quay as a senator from Pennsylvania. The effort will be renewed tomorrow. During the last two hours of the session, the Alaskan civil code bill was under consideration. An amendment offered by Hansbrough concerning the title to mining claims in the Cape Nome district provoked a warm debate.

This was a dull day in the house. The agricultural appropriation bill was under consideration, and was made the vehicle of considerable desultory debate on irrelevant political topics. Good progress was made with the bill after the close of the general debate, 25 out of the 37 pages being covered before adjournment.

A great many Christians are dead wires because some one small part of the life is switched off from God.

NORTHWEST NEWS.

The Immediate Future of Pacific Coast Seaport Towns Appears Particularly Bright.

In an article entitled, "Possibilities of the Pacific," Bonds and Mortgages, published in Chicago, spoke as follows:

There is no section of the prosperous West which is attracting the eyes of the financial world more at present than the cities of the Pacific coast. The vast and rapidly growing trade of the Orient and the tropics, the gold discoveries in Alaska, the growth of Australia and New Zealand, the opening up of the vast steppes of Russia and of the great Chinese empire, all bespeak commercial and financial opportunities unparalleled in the history of the country. The scene of the future human drama has been shifted to the Pacific coast. Two-thirds of the world's population awaits us at our Western gates, separated from us only by a great ocean highway, free from the possibilities of toll or monopoly, and affording every accommodation necessary for the transaction of an enormous volume of new business.

Already American commerce with the islands and countries of the Pacific shows a greater gain in the year 1899 than that with any other part of the world. Our total exports increased \$20,000,000, and our exports to Asia and Oceania alone increased over \$19,900,000; our total imports increased \$164,000,000, and \$48,000,000 of this increase was from Asia and Oceania. Exports to Asia and Oceania increased 27 per cent, while imports from that part of the world increased 40 per cent.

With these interesting and instructive figures before us, the immediate future of the Pacific coast seaport towns appears particularly bright. The greatest activity prevails in the younger and more progressive cities of the Northwest, with Seattle, Portland and Tacoma eagerly vying with each other for commercial supremacy. The heavy investments made during the past year by Eastern capitalists in this section reflect the fullest realization of existing conditions by the far-sighted investing class. The Pacific Northwest is just emerging out of the hour of dawn to bathe in the most brilliant rays of prosperity which ever shown upon any country.

Fruit Cannery.

The farmers of Eagle valley, Or., are about to erect a fruit cannery. At a meeting held at the schoolhouse at that place the farmers of the valley subscribed \$3,000 for the purpose. The total cost of the plant will be about \$5,000, and, as this is the first meeting held, the farmers are confident that no trouble will be met with in raising the full amount. The establishment of the cannery will be of much benefit to Baker City, as well as to the farmers of the valley, where a large amount of fruit is raised annually. The cannery will be conducted on the co-operative plan, and it is the intention to take all the fruit offered by the farmers. Much of the product will find a market in Baker City, as the home consumption is large and is steadily increasing.

Des Chutes to Be Utilized.

A company has been organized to take water out of the Deschutes at a point near the Three Sisters known as Lava island, and conduct the water to the desert lying east of the river. The point of diversion is said to be one of the best on the river owing to the absence of rocky bluffs. From this point water will be taken east to the old river bed, 15 miles, covering large tracts of excellent farming lands.

Northwest Notes.

A new Methodist Episcopal church is to be erected at Cottage Grove, Or., to cost \$3,000.

Washington papers are saying complimentary things about Harry Yoomons, of Spokane, who helped Harvard win the intercollegiate debate from Yale.

Blodgett & Greenbaum have begun work to double the capacity of their fertilizer plant at Fairhaven, Wash., and hope this season to handle all the refuse of the fish canneries in their vicinity.

The sacrilegious pastor of a Baptist church at Albany, Or., took the following for his subject Sunday evening, "Would Jesus Vote the Republican or Democratic Ticket?" The vice of Sheldonism is spreading.

A Bellingham bay man, named Canfield, has a big bed of pansies planted, and will attempt to raise them for seed. The only pansy seed product in the West is in California, and the best varieties come from France and Belgium. If he raises as good seed as he planted, Mr. Canfield will get \$30 a pound for it.

A large number of Washington's shingle mills, probably 75 per cent, are observing an agreement for a short shutdown. The reason given therefore is that "the backward spring in the East has caused a falling off in orders, which makes a curtailing of the supply necessary to the equilibrium of prices." The Eastern buyer may think this is the action of a trust, but, of course, it isn't.

The bulb farms at Fort Bellingham, Wash., are now at their handsomest. One man has a vast number of tulips and 3,500 hyacinths in bloom.

SPRING TRADE SITUATION.

Favorable Weather Brings an Improved Retail Distribution.

Bradstreet's says: Favorable features continue in the majority in the general trade situation. The hopes for the advent for seasonable spring weather have been realized, and nearly all markets report an improved distribution at retail. This, as explained heretofore, is really the key of the general merchandise situation. The industrial situation is a rather spotted one. April 1, instead of May 1, seems to have been fixed upon as a date for presenting new demands as to wages and hours.

Wheat crop advices are on the whole favorable except from the Central West. Sympathy is shown with corn, which in turn has been influenced by the steady advance in hog products and by the known smallness of reserves in cribs and in store.

Cotton goods are seasonably quiet at first hands, but a fair jobbing business is doing, and retail distribution is encouraging. Wool is on the whole weaker, but reports from the woolen goods branch are quite favorable. Cancellations reported are the smallest there is record of. Lumber has shown some weakness, a widely separated market this week pointing to not altogether satisfactory outlook in the building trades, whether because of heavy advances in prices or of unsettled labor conditions.

Wheat (including flour) shipments for the week aggregate 3,864,963 bushels, against 2,962,349 last week.

Business failures in the United States for the week number 182, as compared with 178 last week. For the first quarter of the year, failures are fewer in number than in 1899, and liabilities are 7 per cent smaller.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, \$2.00 to 2.75 per sack. Lettuce, hot house, 45c per doz. Potatoes, new, \$17 to 18. Beets, per sack, 75 to 85c. Turnips, per sack, 60c. Carrots, per sack, 75c. Parsnips, per sack, 75 to 85c. Cauliflower, 75c to \$1 per dozen. Cabbage, native and California, \$1.00 to 1.25 per 100 pounds. Apples, \$1.25 to 1.50 per box. Prunes, 60c per box. Butter—Creamery, 25c per pound; dairy, 17 to 22c; ranch, 17c per pound. Eggs—15 to 16c. Cheese—Native, 15c. Poultry—13 to 14c; dressed, 14 to 15c; spring, \$5.

Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$18.00 to 19.00. Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23. Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$20; Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.25; blended straight, \$3.00; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; graham, per barrel, \$3.00; whole wheat flour, \$3.00; rye flour, \$3.80 to 4.00. Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$13.00; shorts, per ton, \$14.00. Feed—Chopped feed, \$19.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$20; oil cake meal, per ton, \$20.00.

Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, 7 1/2 to 8c; cows, 7c; mutton 8c; pork, 8c; trimmed, 9c; veal, 8 1/2 to 10c. Hams—Large, 13c; small, 13 1/2; breakfast bacon, 12 1/2c; dry salt sides, 8c.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 54 to 55c; Valley, 54c; Bluestem, 57c per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$3.00; graham, \$2.50; superfine, \$2.10 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 35 to 36c; choice gray, 34c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$14 to 14.50; brewing, \$17.00 to 17.50 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$13 per ton; middlings, \$19; shorts, \$15; chop, \$14 per ton.

Hay—Timothy, \$9 to 10; clover, \$7 to 7.50; Oregon wild hay, \$6 to 7 per ton. Butter—Fancy creamery, 40 to 45c; seconds, 40c; dairy, 30 to 37 1/2c; store, 25 to 32 1/2c.

Eggs—11 1/2c per dozen. Cheese—Oregon full cream, 18c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.50 to 4.50 per dozen; hens, \$5.00; springs, \$2.50 to 3.50; geese, \$6.50 to 8.00 for old; \$4.50 to 6.50; ducks, \$5.50 to 6.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10 to 11c per pound.

Potatoes—40 to 50c per sack; sweets, 2 to 2 1/2c per pound. Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 75c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, 1 1/2c per pound; parsnips, 75c; onions, \$2.50 to 3.00; carrots, 50c.

Hops—3 to 8c per pound. Wool—Valley, 16 to 18c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 10 to 15c; mohair, 27 to 30c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 4 1/2c; dressed mutton, 7 to 7 1/2c per pound; lambs, \$2.50 each. Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$5.00 to 6.50 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$4.00 to 4.50; cows, \$3.50 to 4.00; dressed beef, 6 1/2 to 7 1/2c per pound.

Veal—Large, 6 1/2 to 7 1/2c; small, 8 to 8 1/2c per pound.

Tallow—5 to 5 1/2c; No. 2 and grease, 3 1/2 to 4c per pound.