

WEATHER REPORT

Occasional rain tonight and Thursday.



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RELEASE OF WINTER'S GRIP CAUSES DEATH AND DISASTER

AVALANCHE SWEEPS TRAINS OVER BRINK OF PRECIPICE

OVER SCORE OF PASSENGERS KILLED IN FALL

Great Mass of Snow, Ice, Stones and Trees Precipitated Upon Two Great Northern Trains.

Terrible Avalanche Sweeps Down Mountainside at Wellington, Washington, Carrying With It Spokane Express and Overland Mail Train to Bottom of Canyon, 200 Feet Below—Over Score of Sleeping Passengers Are Known to Have Met Death—No One Escapes Injury in Awful Catastrophe—Superintendent O'Neill's Private Car in Wreck But Official Escapes—Great Slide Did Much Other Damage.

Seattle, March 2.—The traffic manager of the Great Northern officially announced this afternoon that 25 persons are dead. From 16 to 25 are missing and 12 were injured in the Wellington avalanche. The Great Northern has a man struggling through the snow from Wellington to Scenic Hot Springs, where he will telegraph the list of the dead. The man had not reached Scenic at 1 o'clock.

Everett, Wash., March 2.—Twenty-three bodies recovered, twenty-five still missing and twenty injured in the summary of today's casualties in the snowslide that swept two Great Northern passenger trains down the mountainside at Wellington early yesterday. Two trains, three engines, four electric motors, one rotary and Superintendent O'Neill's private car were hurled to the bottom of the deep canyon at the west portal of a tunnel. Though the slide occurred at 4 in the morning it was 10:50 before the passenger train could be located, so enormous was the volume of snow and debris. Everything was completely buried.

Reports that Wellington also was swept away by the slide are erroneous. The two principal buildings in the village, the depot and hotel, are standing and no damage was done to them. Trains were all standing on the sidetracks a few hundred yards from the station.

News from the scene of the catastrophe is coming in slowly owing to the blockaded condition of the tracks and the prostration of telegraph wires.

Passengers Feared Slide. John S. Rogers, a real estate man, who with nine others struggled through the drifts from the stalled train, told the following story today:

"By the time we reached the mountain the train had about seventy passengers aboard. Early Wednesday morning we were stopped at the east portal of the Cascade tunnel and stayed there until Friday. On Friday night we left the east portal and a few hours later an avalanche wiped out the bunkhouse, killing two men. We pulled through the tunnel as far as Wellington. Sunday we noticed on top of an old switchback far above us an enormous cap of snow hanging precariously on the side and clinging to sparse timber. On the same day I saw a slide coming down on the east side of the hotel, carrying timber with it in a great avalanche of snow. That night there was another slide which filled the fifty-foot gullies. We began to fear for the safety of the train. The menace of that immense snowcap was a pall on our spirits. It was the most enormous accumulation of snow ever known in the mountains. During all of the time we were there it snowed continuously with terrific winds driving drifts."

The Dead and Injured. Those reported dead are—Trainmaster A. L. Blackburn, Everett; A. C. Longcoy, secretary to Superintendent O'Neill, Everett; Legis Walter, Everett.

The seriously injured—Fireman J. D. Kurdee. Slightly injured—Engineers Osborne, F. S. Martin, Carroll, Jergensen and D. E. Techtmeier of Everett; Firemen Gillman, Bennington, Jinks, Meuk, E. A. Bates and Fred Nelson; Conductor M. A. White; Brakeman Ross; Mail Clerk A. H. Hurdell; Porters A. S. Smith and L. Anderson, and Trainmaster W. Harrington.

Trains Piled on Top Each Other. The wrecked trains lie piled on top of each other 200 feet below the sliding upon which they stood when the avalanche swept over them. The

cars were crushed into kindling wood and no one on the trains escaped injury. The slide filled the shelf upon which the tracks at Wellington are laid and rolled over the edge on down the mountainside into the valley below. The danger from slides is not over. Warm weather in the mountains is melting the snow and frequently an avalanche is heard thundering down the mountains. Not far from the scene of the disaster a slide four miles long rushed down into the canyon yesterday afternoon. The snow is 18 feet deep on the level and in the canyons it is piled up in drifts more than 50 feet deep.

Most of the dead are believed to have been passengers on the west-bound Spokane express, which has been stalled in the mountains since February 24. The other train was a fast transcontinental mail. It carried no passengers. The names of the passengers on the stalled train are not known here and wire trouble in the mountains has interrupted communication with the scene of the disaster. The two trains were in charge of Conductors Parzybock and Pettit, both of Everett. The fate of the train crews is not known.

O'Neill Escapes Injury. It is feared that A. E. Longcoy, Superintendent O'Neill's private secretary, is among the dead. He was in the private car which was buried and the messages received here make no mention of his escape. Superintendent O'Neill, who has been directing the work of fighting the snow blockade for the last ten days was not in the car when the slide occurred and escaped injury.

The avalanche swept down the mountainside shortly after 4 o'clock in the morning. It was half a mile long and the snow, loose stones and uprooted trees were piled several feet deep. Most of the passengers in the train were asleep and received no warning of the danger. The trains and locomotives were completely buried in the debris from the mountainside and it was six hours after the avalanche before the rescue parties made up from workers sent to attack the snowdrifts located them. Willing hands at once proceeded to the task of removing the bodies of the dead.

Aid Leaves Everett. An appeal was sent at once to Everett for help and a train load of physicians and rescuers was started for the scene. Owing to previous slides which have blocked the line and carried out sections of track the rescue train can go only as far as Scenic. Wellington is at the west portal of the Cascade tunnel and is one thousand feet above Scenic and almost directly over the little resort. If the rescuers follow the tortuous windings of the railroad as it climbs the mountainside they will have to walk ten miles, but they can by taking a mountain trail cut off this distance to three miles. A second rescue train containing a wrecking outfit and additional workers and undertakers left Everett at 8 o'clock last night.

Power House Destroyed. Reports received here say that the Great Northern's power house, which furnishes electric power to operate trains through the Cascade tunnel, the depot and water tanks were swept away by the avalanche, and that the railroad boarding house was badly wrecked. A number of the dead and injured are railroad men and residents of Wellington.

The Spokane express has been stalled at Wellington since last Thursday. The passengers have been eating at the railroad eating house and at nearby cottages, but have returned to the Pullmans to spend the night. Two days ago, several of the passengers, fearing a catastrophe of this kind, asked Superintendent O'Neill to have the train moved back into

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MINE CHANGES HANDS INVOLVING \$750,000

AYERS SELLS INTEREST IN RICH BAKER MINE

New York Capitalists Acquire Control of Gold Coin Mine in Which Local People Are Interested—Other Stockholders Sell.

One of the largest mining deals ever made in eastern Oregon is reported by Tom Ayers of this city. The deal represents about \$750,000 and includes a controlling interest in the Gold Coin mine in Baker county. Nearly all the stock has been owned by Pendleton people, but the new owners are New York capitalists.

Mr. Ayers held the controlling interest in the mine and this is what has been sold though all the other stockholders have the privilege of letting their stock go under the same conditions to the same people. It was for this purpose that Mr. Ayers returned to Pendleton. It is understood that most of the local holders of stock are selling and according to Mr. Ayers they are all making 150 per cent or more on their investment. Ayers will return to Portland in a day or two to close up the transaction.

AN INFANT TRAGEDY.

Little Girl Slaps 3-Year-Old Brother, Who Retaliates by Burning Her to Death.

Kansas City, March 2.—Because she slapped her baby brother, Doris Blond, aged 3 years, is dead today from burns when the little fellow, only three years old, set fire to her dress in a spirit of revenge. The children were playing in the nursery. The boy teased his sister, who slapped him, and the other seized a newspaper, thrust it into the open grate and touched it to his sister's skirt. She died within an hour.

IRWIN TO WRITE ARTICLES ON AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

San Francisco, March 2.—Will Irwin, the newspaper man and magazine writer and author, is here today gathering material for a series of articles on the American newspaper and its relation to the times. He expects to spend several months on the coast making a study of his subject and will visit all of the important cities of the northwest. He denies he intends muckraking.

Irwin says in a general way the American newspaper is rapidly improving. Sensational journalism is going out of fashion. He doesn't know why, he says, but perhaps because the public is growing tired of too much sensation.

ATHENA ELECTS OFFICERS IN SPIRITED CONTEST HELD

Athena, Ore., Mar. 2.—The annual city election was held yesterday and Mayor McEwen was reelected. Chas. Betts and George Gross were elected councilmen. R. B. Richards, recorder, Byron Hawks, treasurer. The election was a very spirited one and the total vote cast was larger than for many years.

L. Swagart, the Athena grower of blooded hogs, returned home this morning from his home at Athena and is transacting business in this city.

WHITES ROB INDIAN CAMP; NOW IN JAIL

TWO YOUTHS TAKE ALL OF REDMEN'S VALUABLES

Harry Ray and Cleveland Gould are Miscreants—Were Employed by Indian—Stolen Property Found in Their Possession.

Charged with plundering an Indian camp of everything of value they could lay their hands on, Harry Ray and Cleveland Gould are now occupying cells in the county jail. As they were caught with much of their plunder in their possession when they leave the jail it will probably be to go to the state penitentiary at Salem.

The two young men are about 19 or 20 years of age and had been employed by Captain Sumkins, the Indian policeman, to cut wood. While engaged in this work they were staying with Mrs. White Bull, the well-known Indian woman whose camp is near the reservation line, just east of the city.

It is alleged that while the squaw and the other Indians were away from the camp that the two white woodchoppers entered the camp, and took everything in sight that was loose or had any value. They broke up a trunk and took four beautiful new Pendleton Indian robes, four new shawls, a watch and chain and a ring. They also took a suit and half of clothes, two shirts, a hat and finally wound up by taking a horse and bridle. All of these things were found in the possession of the accused men.

Both have been lodged in the county jail though no formal charge has yet been preferred against them. They will probably be given a hearing before Justice of the Peace Joe H. Parkes, tomorrow.

LOOKS LIKE GENERAL STRIKE IS IMMINENT

Philadelphia, Mar. 2.—An unofficial canvass of the ranks of union labor here today shows a great body of union men and women are willing to respond immediately when called for a general strike. Leaders are preferring plans for calling the men out Sunday.

It is not likely the street car companies can recede from their refusal to arbitrate. Pratt, Mitchell and other leaders will confer this evening with Eugene V. Debs in a final effort to find a way to avert a general strike.

PATTEN SAYS SPECULATION IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

New York, Mar. 2.—"Speculation is the spice of life," said Wheat King Patten today as he was departing for Europe. "There's nothing like taking chances. It keeps you young and happy." He denied the report that he would retire within a short time and says it is impossible to corner the wheat market.

NEWS OF HIS DISMISSAL KILLS NEGRO POSTMASTER

Edwards, Miss., March 2.—The shock caused by the news that he had been supplanted as postmaster is believed to have killed E. B. Perkins, the only negro postmaster in the United States. When told the president had appointed a white man to fill his place, Perkins fell unconscious and died in a short time.

PINCHOT AND WILSON CLASH AT BALLINGER INVESTIGATION

Washington, Mar. 2.—The expected clash between Gifford Pinchot and Secretary of Agriculture Wilson over the disputed question as to whether the secretary had given the former forester permission to write to Senator Dolliver the letter which resulted in Mr. Pinchot's dismissal, came yesterday before the Ballinger-Pinchot investigating committee.

Mr. Pinchot declared he had discussed the matter at length with Secretary Wilson and that he understood his superior officer had given him express permission to write to Senator Dolliver.

Secretary Wilson immediately took the stand and asserted that while he had given Mr. Pinchot permission to write to Senator Dolliver concerning "department affairs," he never did and never would have given his permission to write a letter criticizing the president of the United States.

Under cross-examination conducted almost wholly by the democratic members of the committee, Secretary

Wilson was uncertain as to just what passed between himself and the forester and became somewhat mixed as to just what letter the committee-member referred to in their rapid fire of questions. The secretary repeatedly said he never saw or heard of the letter Mr. Pinchot wrote until it was read in the senate.

Mr. Pinchot declared that he and Secretary Wilson went so far as to discuss the executive order issued by President Taft forbidding subordinates of the various departments to give information to congress, and added that the secretary said: "You and I will have no trouble about that order."

Admits Poor Memory. Admitting that his memory failed him as to certain points, Secretary Wilson always came back to the statement that he never, under any circumstances, would have given Mr. Pinchot permission to write the letter that caused his retirement from the service.

FLOOD WATERS ARE RAGING THROUGHOUT THE NORTHWEST

SEVERAL PERSONS LOSE LIVES BY DROWNING

Reports From All Over Northwest Indicate High Water is Threatening Life and Property.

Umatilla River Is Rising at Rate of Inch an Hour—Water Less Than Three Feet Below Great Flood of 1906—Two Men Drowned at Oakesdale, Wash., and Another at Beverly—Colfax Is Submerged—Flood Rages in Caldwell—Streets of Davenport Flooded—Walla Walla Is Threatened at Many Points—Garfield Is Flooded—Worst Flood in the History of Pullman—Much Damage at Boise.

Kamela, Ore., March 2.—There has been a steady chink here for the past 36 hours. About 12 inches of snow has gone off and eight-tenths of an inch of rain has fallen in this length of time. The weather at noon is calm and cloudy but no rain is falling. The snow will continue to melt very fast today.

The entire northwest is floodswept according to reports being received from every section of the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Apparently Oregon is suffering the least of the three states but conditions in this state are hourly growing more serious. Telegraph and telephone as well as railway lines are badly crippled in all directions and from present indications no permanent relief can be expected for many hours. Apparently not satisfied with doing damage to property to the amount of many hundreds of thousands of dollars the floods are also claiming human lives as toll.

So far the Umatilla river has been on its good behavior but the water has now reached a flood stage and is still rising rapidly. A continuance of the present warm wind and rains will probably bring the water to a stage rivaling the great high water mark of four years ago, when the lower end of the levee was washed away and many families were compelled to move to higher ground. There is not the slightest danger of a repetition of this disaster, however, for the levee is now in a condition to successfully ward off from the city all the water that can possibly come down the stream.

The ranchers in the lowlands are not so fortunate, however, for many farms are already partially inundated and the river is half a mile in width in many places. The line of the O. R. & N. from the town of Umatilla to the top of the mountain is still intact, but it is threatened in scores of places and is being watched carefully to prevent disasters. The higher the water comes the more danger the road will be in at the threatened points.

Traffic Demoralized. The west end of the line is badly out of working order and traffic is also shut off east of Huntington. The only train to arrive yesterday from the east was a stub made up at Huntington and containing one coach, one baggage car and one mail car. Another similar train passed through this morning. Trains No. 2 and 8 were two and four hours late, respectively, last evening. While Nos. 6 and 10 from the west did not arrive today until afternoon and all trains from the east are annulled. The Washington division trains are being operated as far north as Walla Walla only.

The Northern Pacific is operating trains to Pasco and from Pasco to Walla Walla and Spokane, but its other lines are blockaded. Report comes from Walla Walla that Elder Wedrell and Maurice O'Brien of Tekoa were drowned in a swollen stream at Oakesdale, Wash., at noon yesterday. With two companions, L. D. Schwartz and L. F. De Grote, they were driving home and were warned not to attempt to cross a bridge over which water was running. They determined to cross, but changed their minds, and in turning their rig they were swept into the stream. Schwartz and De Grote were saved by persons on the bank.

Ben Putnam, a member of a Northern Pacific surveying crew, was swept off a raft into the Columbia river at Beverly, Wash., yesterday and drowned. Because of the swift current his

companions were unable to rescue him.

Colfax Under Water. At Colfax, Wash., people are fleeing from their homes and places of business in order to get beyond the reach of the roaring waters of the Palouse. The main thoroughfare of that city is under water to a depth of five feet and the waters continue to rise.

At Caldwell, Idaho, a flood is raging. Damage amounting to \$300,000 has been done and a report to this city last night was that the waters were still continuing to increase in their fury.

At Davenport, Wash., a stream running through the town rose rapidly yesterday afternoon and the business streets are flooded. It is estimated that damage will be done to the extent of \$15,000.

Settlers Driven to Hills. Rising waters in Cowichee creek, near North Yakima, have caused settlers to move out their household goods and take refuge in the hills.

Garfield, Wash., is flooded. Silver creek overflowed at noon yesterday and waters have spread through the business district. Ground floors of offices and stores are several inches under water. Trains on the Northern Pacific and the Oregon Railroad & Navigation and the Inland Electric lines are stalled by washouts. Many thousand dollars worth of property in Whitman county is damaged.

Wenatchee, Wash., is practically isolated from the outside world. Great torrents of water are rushing down from the hills and doing immense damage.

At Pullman Wash., the flood has been the worst in history. City streets in some places are five or six feet under water. Six bridges were washed away today. For a time yesterday the water rose at the rate of two feet an hour rushing through Main street and deluging the stores. The damage will reach many thousands of dollars.

Boise Idaho is hit hard, damage amounting to \$50,000 has already been done there. Wallace, Idaho, from whence the first news of the Mace avalanche came, has been cut off entirely. All wires to that city went down about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Walla Walla in Flood's Grip. Last night was one of unrest in Walla Walla. Up among the hills at the headgates of the city water works, Superintendent Richard McLean and half a hundred men battled with the turbulent waters of Mill creek while guards were stationed at each bridge in that city, armed with a lantern and long iron hook, the latter used to pull debris from the creek in order not to give it an opportunity to lodge against the bridges.

Where the Yellow Hawk branches from Mill creek is a pier projecting out into the stream intended to divert 40 per cent of the water from Mill creek into the other stream. Those who witnessed the installation of this work say it is unlikely that this will be washed out, but should it give away property would suffer greatly.

Reports from all along the foothills are that bridges have been washed away, and there is no semblance of what were once roads. Fields are flooded.

The mountains seem to be a veritable spring, ever pouring forth water from crag and crevice to rush down upon the lowlands spreading disaster and ruin.

Walla Walla River Steady. Reports from along the Walla Walla river at a late hour last night were that all immediate danger of that river flooding its banks was over at least for the time being. The water was running bank full until a late hour last evening when it showed signs of receding.

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