CAN YOU SWIM?

If Not, Don't Go To Sioux City

FLOODS ALL AROUND THERE.

Loss of Life and Damage to Property Everywhere—The Rivers are Gradually Rising and Further Damage is Threatened.

SIOUX CITY, Iowa, May 19—According to the latest telegram the flood is more disastrous than at first anticipated. The estimate as to the loss of life varies from 60 to 100. No list of the dead can be given. In fact the terrorized people sought refuge in so many quarters that it is impossible to exactly judge what number is on the death roll.

There were some heroic scenes witnessed it attempts to save the victims at Omaha bridge, where the West family met with disaster. Mrs. West and her 5-year-old girl were unable to get away from the flood in time. The father and two children were safe and the rescuing party returning for Mrs. West and child, found the waves had swept the house away.

They floated down with the roaring current until the bridge was reached. An engineer succeeded in saving the woman, her strength failed her and she was compelled to relinquish her hold on the child. With a despairing cry of "mamma" the child disappeared beneath the waves.

At a suburb of Leeds directly in the valley, nine persons are known to have drowned, four were drowned at Springdale just below Leeds. An observer on a high bridge counted 15 bodies swept under it. One of the men attempted to wade out carrying two children, but was struck by a floating timber and so hurt that he dropped one of them. Matt Roe, an old sailor, saved the lives of 28 persons. A young woman managed to wade to a box car, and was their siezed with labor pains and gave birth to a child, and two hours later was saved.

SIOUX CITY, May 19—The Floyd river was almost back in its banks at noon. Hundreds are returning to their abandoned homes. Scores of houses were swept from their foundations, and others were washed away. The damage to movables in the houses not floated off is large Fifty or sixty retail stocks on the low ground were destroyed or badly damaged. The river cut across the bend and scooped out a great channel, starting about Eighth street. All the houses in that vicinity, except a few, were utterly wiped out.

The loss to the railroad is estimated at $200,000. The citizens' relief committee is hard at work. All the refugees were sheltered last night. Searching parties to look for the dead began work early this morning. At noon they had recovered only three bodies, viz: Peter Anderson, an engineer in a foundry and Mrs. Frank Henderson and her child of Leeds.

DES MOINES, May 19—The Des Moines river has risen 10 inches since this morning and is still rising. All the lowlands are under water. Hundreds of houses are abandoned north of the city. The river here is several miles wide, sweeping through farms and residences with terrific force. Central Place, South Des Moines, the packing house district, is all under water. The railroad tracks and bridges are in great danger. The sewers are filled with backwater; the cellars and the business portion of the city are full of water. The damage will be enormous. Already from the country come reports of stock drowned and planted fields ruined. The indications are that the river will rise much higher; some predict two feet more. This will flood the lower business portion of the city. No loss of life here.

KEOKUK, Iowa, May 19—The Egyptian levee which protects a vast area of bottom lands broke this morning at 5 o'clock. The waters of the Des Moines river flooded the entire district. The high wind prevailing will cause inestimable damage. The whole town of Alexandria, Mo., is completely submerged.

ST. LOUIS, May 19—The Nedderhut warehouses entirely collapsed today. They were filled with thousands of dollars worth of tobacco, sugar, malt and other goods, all of which went into the river and are a total loss.

CHICAGO, May 19—Advices to the Associated Press from many points west show a dreadful state of affairs in the flooded districts. St. Louis reports in addition to a prospective coal famine there is threatened a milk famine, the water on the Illinois side having cut off the dairymen from the city. The deserted dwellings in the flooded districts are systematically robbed of their contents including furniture. The stealing is said to have amounted to over $100,000.

At Sioux City, among other things, the stock yards, with animals in them, the corncribs and all buildings were carried away by the flood.

At Clarksville, Ark., the flood in the Arkansas river led to the drowning of five people.

At St. Joe, Mo., the river has risen nearly two feet, and is now at the highest point.

At Marysville, Kas., the river, which has been falling, is again rising. The city is cut off from railroad communication.

At Texarkana, Ark., the Red river flood weakened all the railroad bridges, so no trains were run over them. There has been no mail since Saturday.

At Perryville, Mo., the men employed on the Bois Brule levee have returned and report the water breaking over all along. The bottoms will be flooded.

At Minneapolis a few more inches of water will cut the log booms loose, causing great loss.

Cincinnati reports the rain all to be nearly two inches in the Ohio valley. A tornado passed over the southwestern part of Hamilton county yesterday afternoon plowing a furrow of destruction nearly three miles long. A number of dwelling houses and barns were destroyed and several persons injured.

At Des Moines the Des Moines river rose three feet during the night and is still rising. The city water works are surrounded and there is great danger of the water supply being cut off. At Duncomb, five miles south, the Stucco mills are flooded, and the occupants are fleeing for their lives. The reports from the country are contradictory but enough is known to say the loss of live stock and other property is enormous. The indications are that many persons are drowned. The situation in Little Sioux valley is very serious but not so bad as that in Floyd valley. Reports from there place the loss of life at 25 to 100, and 65 lives were lost in Sioux City.

At Lincoln, Neb., the waters are subsiding and communication was opened with Omaha last night over the Burlington road. The Rock Island is cut off from here. The Union Pacific can start no trains. Its loss in grades and bridges is very heavy. The electric light and gas plants are flooded and the city was in darkness last night. The damage to business is very heavy and the city is caring for four hundred people driven from their homes.

At Kansas City the river is rising again. The Kaw rose three feet and Argentine and Armourdale are two to seven feet under water. It is still rising and will probably go two feet higher. The packing houses have suspended.

CHICAGO, May 19—The bicylists carrying General Miles' message to New York, made a fine showing on the first part of the trip despite the bad weather and muddy roads. They were composed of crack riders from the various Chicago cycling clubs and carried the document through South Bend, Ind., half an hour ahead of the schedule, thereafter, however, conditions grew even worse and time was lost.

TOLEDO, Ohio, May 19—F. H. Tuttle, the bicycler bearing General Miles' dispatch, came in on foot at 11 this morning five hours late, completely exhausted. He traveled through the mud six inches to a foot deep and broke a pedal Bollmeyer took up the journey to Wauseon along the railroad, as the wagon roads are utterly impassable. Route and Young, of Chicago, and Perrin, of Toledo, will take a relay to Perrysburg.

The business portion of Sioux City is situated on a flat bounded upon one side by the Missouri river, upon the other by the Floyd river and another by Perry creek. A range of hills almost entirely encircles the business portion of the city and access to the country beyond the hills is had through the narrow valleys of the river and the creek. The hills rise to a great height on either side and terminate in high table lands upon which the residence portion of the city is located. Near the confluence of the Floyd with the Missouri are located all the large packing houses, stock yards and manufacturing industries.

The Floyd river flows from the northeast and Perry creek from the north through the city. On the low land adjacent to the confluence of the Floyd and Missouri are located the stockyards, packing houses and manufactories.

Along the banks of the Missouri high bluffs terminate in precipices and it is from the brow of an immense hill within 300 feet of the Floyd river that the approach to the great steel bridge crossing the Missouri is had, the graded roadbed leading thereto passing within an easy stone's throw of the largest packing houses. All along the banks of the Floyd are situated the plants of the various manufacturing industries, the railway car shops, mills, etc. The land rises gradually from the Floyd to the Perry where it is 10 or 12 feet higher, beyond the Perry it rises abruptly on a ten or 15 per cent. grade.

The supposition is that a cloud burst in the narrow valley of the Floyd river some distance from the city caused the narrow valley to fill suddenly with water, and burst the several small mill dams at intervals along the stream, each adding its volume to the flood until by the time the water reached the opening in the hills at the Sioux City flats it became a veritable wall of water. Reaching this opening the water spread rapidly over the lower portions of the city giving no time for escape to the thousands employed in the manufacturing districts and inundating the homes of the poorer people who dwelt on the low lands. The better class of residences and the most valuable business property have not suffered by the flood, being above the limit of possible danger.

THE SALE RATIFIED.

Bondholders of Oregon Pacific Railroad Accept the Agreement.

NEW YORK, May 19—The bondholders of the Oregon Pacific Railroad Company held a special meeting yesterday to take action on the decree granted by the Circuit Court of the United States for the district of Oregon against the company. The suit was brought for a provisional injunction to prevent the sale of $1,000,000 worth of railroad property and it was granted.

Seeplin Job purchased the property, and it was agreed to refrain from other efforts to set aside the sale, provided no other litigation was begun by the bondholders or other interested parties. The committee, being given ten days to accept the stipulation, called a meeting of the bondholders. The report of the committee favored the acceptance of the proposition and suggested a clause exonerating the complainants from any blame for bringing suit.

The clause gave rise to a heated discussion and after an unavailing effort by the adherents of Colonel Hogg to have it stricken out, the other side got unanimous consent to have the protest recorded. The recommendations of the committee were adopted and the agreement was indorsed by the bondholders by a vote of 9,621 to 1,565.

His Unwelcome Presence to be Exorcised by Law.

CHICAGO, May 18—Dr. Cyrus Teed has had an opportunity of explaining his principles to a committee appointed to inquire into them recently. He was examined at length last night, and in general defended his conduct, denying that he had anything but worthy motives in starting his home. Tonight a mass meeting will be held to denounce him. There is also talk of taking legal steps which will lead to the ejection of himself and followers.

Dr. Teed is the Messiah of a new religion the chief outward feature of which is the gathering together of the believers to live in one building which the Doctor calls "Heaven." He was anxious to secure a large private residence in a fashionable quarter of Chicago, but the price asked—$35,000—was too much for the means of the new association. Dr. Teed therefore made a pilgrimage to California where he gathered together a number of new converts. Twenty-five of these were brought to Chicago on his return, the remainder being left to spread the light in the Golden State. As private property is not permitted in Dr. Teed's heaven the twenty-five young women, some of whom were well off, contributed their money to the cause, and the cause was sufficiently advanced to enable Dr. Teed to secure the much coveted residence for his "Heaven." The neighbors are unsympathetic however, and even allude to the society as a scandal to the neighborhood. They are doing all they can to rid themselves of the company of Dr. Teed and his fair disciples.

Solid for Cleveland.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 18—The Democratic State convention met at noon today. Chairman Atkinson, of the State central committee, in calling the body to order, made a speech in which he said the Democracy could carry the State for either Cleveland or Hill.

NORSELAND NEWS.

A New Phase In Sweden of the University Extension Scheme.

In learned circles in Sweden the question has been raised, and is eagerly being discussed, whether there is not a mode of spreading enlightenment and devoting the thoughts of the general populace of the land, and which would not cost the state a cent. It is proposed that the students of the universities of Upsala and Lund, numbering some 3,000, during the long summer vation should give popular free lectures to the farmers, mechanics and laborers in their various places of sojourn. A vast deal of good may be looked for as a result from such a great number of young and enthusiastic teachers in their several branches, and the promoters may be congratulated upon striking a happy medium, the Eureka between the drivelings of fanatical cranks and the ravings of anarchial ditto, which at present engross the attention of the comparatively illiterate multitude. It is already proposed to induce a few of the wealthier students to visit their equally mentally obfuscated countrymen in America, which would be a welcome antidote for many people, who do not yet understand enough English to benefit by lectures and instructions so liberally supplied in this free and enlightened country.

Fifty-four young conscripts have been imprisoned in the city of Stockholm alone during the first three months of the year for having neglected to present themselves for temporary enlistment.

The lady teachers in the schools of Schlessoiz have been forbidden to marry by the Prussian minister on public instruction. Should they do so, however, they will have to leave their positions at the end of the year.

Two hundred and fifty men working at the deepening of the harbor of Copenhagen have struck and the entire number at the Freehaven threaten to follow suit. The draymen who transport bricks have struck and all building is at a standstill. Four hundred diggers and two hundred carmen and a great number of bricklayers are without work in consequence of the lockout. The majority demand a raise in wages of ten marks. They, however, declare themselves displeased with their socialistic ring-leaders.

The governor of Gothenburg has issued a circular to the bailiffs of his district asking how long a time it would take to mobilize the conscripts of the district. One of the bailiffs answered that "it would take 24 hours, but that if the matter regarded Norway, they would be ready in 12 hours."

The elections to the Danish Folhething resulted in a great victory for the government. The new Folkething consists of 102 members. The Radicals have hitherto been in the ascendant, but this time lost eleven because of the union that had been agreed upon between the Conservatives and the moderate Liberals. Among the defeated Radicals were Mr. Hoernp, the editor-in-chief of the Politiken and his colleages, Rev. Henning Jensen and Mr. Bing. But Edward Brandes, the author, was elected. The outcome of the election was the greatest victory the present cabinet has scored and the government will now for a long time be able to carry successfully its reactionary measures.

King Oscar has left Stockholm for Biarritz. He is expected to return in the latter part of June. The latter part of the summer he intends to spend in the south of Sweden and in Norway. The queen has gone to Germany and is living near Bonn, where she will be visited by her sister the Dowager Princess of Wied. She returns to the Chateau of Sonhiero in the south of Sweden about midsummer after which she goes for a month to Norway. The Democratic Prince Engen will visit California shortly to make studies for a grand sylvan picture which he intends to exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair.

A terrible accident occurred the other day at Gamvik, in the northern part of Norway. Early in the morning, when the fishermen just had pushed their boats off the shore, a sudden storm commenced to rage, causing many of the small crafts to capsize. As far as is known at least twelve people were drowned.

The third general assemblage in favor of general suffrage in Sweden has met at Stockholm. Seventy delegates and thirty members were present. A resolution was passed to assemble again next year before October 1 if at least 20,000 people, half of whom were to be farmers, would unite in electing delegates.

More than 5,600 people emigrated from Sweden during the first three months of this year, the majority of whom went to America. Also 800 people, mostly from Finland and Russia, joined the Swedish emigrants for our shores.

Five American students, of whom two are from Philadelphia, two from Washington City and one from Boston, have arrived at Stockholm, with the intention of botanizing during the summer in the northern parts of Sweden and Norway.

Uddgren is the name of a Swedish journalist and venturesome sportsman. He lately crossed the North sea in an open rowing boat. At present he is giving popular lectures to the fishermen on the west coast. He is also an excellent horseman and intends to ride across the American prairies next summer and spend most of his time on horseback until the Chicago fair, when he will write special articles for several Scandinavian newspapers. After that he plans to make a rowing detour among the Grecian archipelago, where smooth water favors such an undertaking.

Receipt for a Good Town.

Grit,
Vim,
Push,
Snap,
Energy,
Schools,
Morality,
Harmony,
Cordiality,
Advertising,
Talk about it,
Write about it,
Cheap property,
Speak well for it,
Help to improve it,
Advertise in its papers,
Good country tributary,
Patronize its merchants,
Elect good men to office,
Help all public enterprises,
Honest competition in prices,
Make the atmosphere healthy,
Faith exhibited by good works.

Fire all loafers, croakers and dead beats. Let your object be the welfare, growth and promotion of your town and its people. Speak well of the public spirited men and also be one yourself.—Mansfield Item.

VISSCHER ON EVERETT.

Many Facts and Some Prophecy.

THE NEW SOUND CITY.

The Eloquent and Witty Colonel Obeys Orders and Tells "the Truth" About the City in Which Henry Hewitt Is So Largely Interested.

[Tacoma Daily News.]

He is indeed a man of limited vision who, knowing anything whatever of the Puget Sound region, cannot see the probability of at least a dozen great cities within the next two or three decades along the shores of this beautiful and resourceful inland sea. He who hoots at the mighty possibilities of Western Washington generally proclaims himself an owl, and the owl, though he has a wise look and large eyes, is the biggest fool of all birds and he can see less than any of them.

In the Puget Sound region are gathered more opulent resources than in any other country of the same area on the face of the earth, and it has tributary resources that are incalculable in value. Besides, it is blessed in other advantageous ways—ways that will bring hither in the future, as it has within the past few years, the best kinds of people for the upbuilding of the State. The delightful climate, the excellent water, the grandeur of scenery, the salubrity of the atmosphere, all of which assist in the cultivation of health, contentment and good taste, are ours, and these are necessary also to the advancement, prosperity and happiness of any population.

Concerning climate, a comparison here seems to be in order. A short time ago, beginning on the 5th day of January of this year, this writer was on a trip to the East and south until the 16th of March. He left Tacoma one bright morning when the sun was shining, the grass green, flowers blooming and birds singing. Four days afterward he stepped out of a Pullman car and its comfortable temperature at St. Paul, where the mercury stood 19 degrees below zero. Thence through a series of blizzards, snow storms, sleet and all the chilling discomforts of winter he went on to Kentucky and Tennessee, some four weeks on the way, and not until he had reached middle Alabama and Florida did he find any abatement of miserable winter, and there he found continuous and unpleasant rains. Yet through all this he was asked by acquaintances whom he met all along: "It rains all the time in Washington, doesn't it?" The question became exasperating and suggested the reply of the parrot vendor who, when asked by a stammering stranger, "C—c—c—can that b—b—bird t—t—talk?" he indignantly exclaimed, "Supposin' he no talker so besser as you zen I kill um, quick!"

The fact is that when we are having our winter wet on Puget Sound they of the East are having rain, snow, sleet, ice, wind and every kind of bad weather that ever vexed humanity.

Here we have the last of the best countries in the world to be settled. Here within the next ten years we will have a vast population, the present probably quadrupled or sextupled, and here will be many greater cities than even the greatest of those we have now. Among the great cities will be Everett, on the peninsula at the mouth of the Snohomish river and on Everett harbor, an arm of Puget Sound, 35 miles north of Seattle.

Having some other business there, this writer was requested by the editor of the NEWS to write the truth about Everett. The writer went to the place prejudiced against it for several reasons, among them because he had only seen that portion of it through which the railroad runs; because he had been frequently told that it was simply "a boom," and because in its start it had enticed away from the young city he was deeply interested in seeing advance—Fairhaven on Bellingham bay—a very large part of its business population. He was, however, astonished, impressed, even delighted with the things he saw there, and which had for their effect the entire eradication of his prejudices. Riding in a cab from the dock on the bayside, over a broad and substantial street, to East Everett, on the river side of the peninsula, a vigorous and well-built town of perhaps 3,000 population came in view. All along the route laborers and mechanics, by the hundred, were excavating for the foundations of great buildings, erecting others, completing others, and yet ten months ago a gentleman, who was then in the same cab, had, with a party of friends, been LOST IN THE WOODS on the same ground occupied now by these graded and paved streets that are margined by homes and business houses, and where sewer and water and gas systems are being placed underneath, and telegraph, telephone and other electric wires are suspended and being suspended above, and over which, on every hand, the spirits of Energy and Enterprise are stalking and planting, and where with the besom of progress the forests have been swept away.

Everett is a many-sided place. Its location, aside from being a beautiful and convenient one, is remarkably well adapted to the building of a great city, and it must be that, in a comparatively short time, else every indication must be an unnatural and far-fetched failure. At present there are four separate and distinct settlements within the purview of the proposition. The first seen by the visitor is the comparatively small town at the docks, on the bay side, where the present railway station of the Great Northern is located and where are also the nail works, a bank, some general business houses and on the hill above the handsome new hotel, "The Colby." East Everett is the largest settlement. That is on the river side of the peninsula as before remarked, a busy place with all the accessories of a live city and rapidly increasing them in every direction. Further east and south about two miles up the river, is Lowell, where the great paper and pulp mills are being completed, and at the north end of the peninsula lie the docks and works of the Pacific Coast Steel Barge Company. On the area lying between the paper mills, the nail works and the barge works lies the projected and rapidly building city of Everett, of which all these great works are part and parcel, while many other and almost as important enterprises, respectively, are coming. Among the latter is a great smelter, the material for which has been purchased, and will be erected at an expense of two millions of dollars. This smelter is being constructed by the parties in interest at the Monte Cristo mines to which great treasury of precious metals a railway, called the Everett and Monte Cristo Railroad, is now in course of construction. To these mining enterprises more than any other one thing the people of Everett look for material advancement, and with good warrant.

The writer visited the town of Lowell and made a thorough examination of the vast concern called the paper and pulp works, and when told that some antagonistic person had said that the works were simply an Everett adjunct for a boom and that the machinery was simply a lot of second-hand refuse, etc., he knew at once that any one saying such a thing could not have seen the works or was else a wilful liar or a pitiful fool. Having been engaged at one time for nearly a year for the sole purpose of writing up the manufactories of Indianapolis, the greatest manufacturing centre in the Mississippi valley outside of St. Louis and Chicago, and having been brought up about a machine shop, the writer claims to have some knowledge of such things, and he asserts that the paper mills at Lowell, or South Everett, are positively bewildering in their vastness, and every part of the machinery from belts to boilers are of the very newest and best improved pattern and make, and the works are the largest in the United States and most probably in the entire world. The great buildings are over 500 feet in length with an average width of perhaps 100 feet, of brick and stone as to the superstructure, and altogether it is an enterprise that will reflect credit upon the State and the nation. Already many thousand cords of wood have been cut that are to be used for pulp, and the processes will be such that fir and other resinous woods will be used for that material as well as cottonwood and other deciduous woods. The company have, even now, standing orders for the product of these mills from Australia that will work them to almost their best capacity for years and absorb a large part of their output.

Even greater as an employing factor will be the works of the Steel Barge Company, the whaleback vessels which will shortly be concerned in the commerce of every sea.

The nailworks incorporated under the style and name of The Puget Sound Wire Nail and Steel Company has a working capital of $300,000, and its officers are A. R. Whitney, president; Henry Hewitt, Jr., vice-president, and A. R. Whitney, Jr., general manager. The main building at these works is 450 feet long by 100 feet wide, with a brick boiler house 42 by 30. There are also buildings 100 feet square, the cleaning house and a coopering establishment connected with the works, 40 by 90 feet, beside large warehouses and an immense dock and wharf. This is the only nail factory on the Pacific coast except a small affair at San Francisco.

These are a few of the fixed facts concerning Everett and the certain enterprises projected will make it a mighty manufacturing center. There really is nothing of a boom nature connected with this place. It is simply a great beginning of a great thing. The land company there is grading and paving streets without expense to real estate owners, other than the company itself. The water and light systems are being put in in the same way. The people are active, energetic and one-minded, here being no local jealousies but all working together to one end. The place has an intelligent, patriotic and enterprising population, and advantages in the matters of topographic and geographic situation, as well as picturesqueness that are admirable and valuable in a remarkable degree, and if this article shall be read in a few years from now the reader will find it was prophetic at the time of its inditement. Moreover, it is not written as an advertisement or with any hope of pay, but simply as a following out of the editor's adjuration "to tell the truth about Everett." All of the very favorable truths cannot be crowded into the space allowed.

WILL L. VISSCHER.

POLITICAL PARAGRAPHS.

Cleveland still continues to get delegates. Hill's name is scarcely ever mentioned in the Democratic State convention as a probable candidate.—Port Angeles Tribune-Times.

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Senator Long is being referred to in the State papers as a man who knows all about politics that is worth knowing. The Centralia News seems to be responsible for all this. It has taken a mean advantage of the Senator, and not even the Nugget can uphold it. The Senator knows absolutely nothing about politics and thinks he is too old to learn.—Chehalis Nugget.

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A nickname has made many a man. James Hamilton Lewis may be "Dude," and he also may be the next governor of the State of Washington. He is very taking with the people.—Aberdeen Herald.

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The Democratic indorsement of John Collins for the position of delegate to the Chicago convention ought to have been given more gracefully. Mr. Collins has been a faithful worker for the Democratic party in King county for many years, and certainly did as much as any other man to keep it alive when it apparently had little to live for. His modest ambition to go to Chicago should have met with no opposition from his brethren in the faith.—Seattle Telegraph.

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The country is getting as full of candidates as a colt gets full of ticks and cockleburrs in a Missouri pasture. This county has her full quota and several precincts to hear from. The candidates who desire office most are the ones who say in a crowd that they are not in the field, and that the office must seek the man. It has ever been thus "since childhood's happy hours."—Pomeroy Independent.

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Allen Weir has abandoned for the time being his ambition to put M. C. after his name, and will now be content with being continued in the office of secretary of state. It is to be feared that Allen will be disappointed even in this modest desire and that he will be given an opportunity to obtain in private life the laurels which he cannot win in public life.—Seattle Spectator.

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Fred Grant will not be a candidate for the lieutenant governorship, but he aspires to be a member of the national committee for the State of Washington. Seattle Spectator.

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Fred R. Reed is strongly talked of for lieutenant governor. Reed would make an excellent run. He is popular, energetic, and just the type of man to succeed in capturing the office. He would run well in Central Washington. He is identified with the upbuilding of Central Washington, and has helped to make it what it is, and is a good man, too.—Ellensburgh Localizer.

Cloud-Burst at Sioux City.

OMAHA, May 18—It is reported here that many lives have been lost in a cloud-burst at Sioux City, Iowa. The wires are down and particulars are unobtainable.

THE PRESBYTERIANS.

Opening Day of the Conference.

BRIGGS' CASE TO COME UP.

Dr. Green Absent on Account of Illness and His Sermon Read for Him—A Review of the Briggs Case—An Important Conference.

PORTLAND, Or., May 19—The one hundred and fourth session of the Presbyterian general assembly opened today with an invocation by Dr. John G. Riheldoffer, of Redwood Falls, Minn., the oldest clerical commissioner present, because of the absence of Dr. Green, of Princeton, the moderator, on account of illness. Dr. Rufus S. Green, of Orange, N. J., followed with a scripture reading. A prayer was then delivered by John M. C. Holmes, of Albany, N. Y. The sermon of the retiring moderator was read by stated clerk, Dr. Roberts.

Following is a synopsis of the sermon: Isaiah xlv:15—"Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O, God of Israel, the Savior." The doctor said the Hebrew prophets were men of faith. God did not interpose to rescue them from their present foes and from the troubles that then threatened them. He himself was hidden from their sight. The mystery of his ways they were unable to fathom, but that he was, nevertheless, pervading, directing, controlling all, they never for one moment doubted. Their faith was that to which Isaiah gives utterance in the text. The faith thus commended in a God unseen is demanded of us, of all, and in every situation. Faith refuses to admit that the corporeal senses are the sole test of truth, or that the invisible and intangible is therefore non-existent and unreal. The religious life is only maintained by constant exercise of faith in the unseen. If some palpable result invariably and promptly followed which we could trace to God's immediate agency and associate it with our act of worship it would be an unspeakable relief. But if our faith is thus maintained, what is there to test the reality and strength of our faith in God's word, where that word stands simple and alone? He demands our implicit, unreserved unreasoning faith. This absolute submission of ourselves is a fundamental requisite of true discipleship. Hence it is that God hides himself. God hides himself likewise in his providential dispensations. The unequal distribution of good and evil in the world is one of the inexplicable mysteries connected with his moral government. But the Most High gives no account to us of his sovereign dealings.

This, however, answers an important end in moral training and the discipline of men. But it is perhaps in the afflictive dispensation of God's providence that the most distress is felt and the most perplexity created by His hiding himself as He does. One thing, however, is evident: We cannot divine the issue of the various paths that open before us. Our wisdom is to commit all into His hands for the present and for the future, content with the assurance that what we know not now we shall know hereafter. The Lord further hides Himself in his relations to His church, which is its mystical body and He is its invisible, though ever-present head. But when we turn from the ideal church to the church as it actually is and has been, how strange the contrast. Is it strange that the world fails to see it in its true light? Yet the church is the Lord's, only He hides Himself from natural sight. And it is with each member of the church as with the church at large. He has the promise of the Lord's presence with Him. Nevertheless He sees no fruit or little fruit from long and faithful labor. Where is his promised helper? God has hidden Himself again. He has not forsaken his servant. God is thus training you to walk by faith but God still hides Himself even when He makes the amplest disclosures and confers the largest benefits. To whatever extent He makes Himself known the revelation is but partial and far more is kept in reserve than is shown forth. All that we have ever discovered or can discover is as nothing to that which lies beyond. The Infinite must be ever infinite and incomprehensible, must remain incomprehensible. And forever and forever more the confession of the heavenly hosts will re-echo the universal experience of this lower world. Verily, Thou art a God that hidest Thyself. O, God of Israel, the Saviour.

After the sermon the assembly was constituted with a prayer by Dr. Riheldoffer, the temporary moderator. Dr. Brown, of Portland, Or., then presented the report of the committee on arrangements. The report provides for sessions to be held from 9 in the morning until noon and from 2 in the afternoon until 5, and in the evening, popular meeting at 7:45; for the sacrament tonight served by Dr. C. Parsons, Nichols and Dr. Herman D. Jenkins, and for subjects of popular meeting in the evenings as follows.

Friday, Sabbath school work; Monday, freedmen; Tuesday, home missions; Wednesday, foreign missions; Thursday, higher education; Friday, temperance. The report also includes invitations for a trip up the Columbia river on Saturday next and down the river to Astoria on Saturday week and the other side trips at the convenience of the commissioners. The morning session closed with prayer. The first business of the afternoon session will be the election of moderator.

Probably no general assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States was ever more fateful to the church at large, or excited more interest than this.

Aside from the great interest taken in the revision of the confession of faith, the celebrated Briggs case, as it is called—the question, substantially, whether Dr. Briggs is orthodox or unorthodox in his teachings as professor of systematic theology in the Union Theological Seminary, as judged by his writings—will also come before the assembly; and on the decision or determination reached by the general assembly in that case depends, according to the very general belief, whether there shall be another division in the church, a division between the old and the new school and the consequent creation or organization of another church.

The Briggs case cannot very well come up in the general assembly until the 23d inst., and it is more than likely it will not be reached until the end of the month. The only way in which it can come before the assembly is on the appeal of the prosecuting committee of the New York Presbytery against the decision of that body dismissing the case. That appeal will probably in the first instance be referred to the judicial committee when appointed. The general assembly, however, may decline to entertain the appeal. In any event it will be very difficult for the general assembly to prevent a discussion to some extent on the merits of the case, even on the question whether the appeal shall be entertained or not. It is believed that the committee of prosecution will find themselves checkmated at the general assembly by the complaint to the Synod of Dr. Briggs and his friends against the ruling of the Presbytery last fall when the case against him was dismissed.

It will be remembered that after the case was dismissed a motion was made to dismiss the committee. The moderator declared the motion out of order on the ground that the committee was a committee of prosecution, representing the Presbyterian church in the

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United States of America, and therefore an original party independent of the presbytery. On an appeal being made to the house against that ruling, the moderator was sustained by a vote of 64 to 57. Against that decision Dr. Brown and others gave notice of a complaint to the synod. That body meets next autumn. According to the law of the church, the general assembly must, in obedience to its own laws, reject the appeal of the committee against the decision of the Presbytery, while the question is sub judice before the synod, and, in the language of one divine friendly to Dr. Briggs, "pack the committee of prosecution off home again."

The complaint of Dr. Briggs and his friends to the Synod against the ruling of the Presbytery has been regularly made. It shows clearly the strength of Dr. Briggs's position, and also the interesting fact that the Presbytery has already practically reversed its own judgment in the matter. According to section 85 of the Book of Discipline, "whenever a complaint, in cases non-judicial, is entered against a decision of a judicatory, signed by at least one-third of the members recorded as present when the action was taken, the execution of such decision shall be stayed until the final issue of the case by the superior judicatory." The complaint of Dr. Briggs and his friends against the ruling referred to has been regularly taken, all the forms according to the Book of Discipline have been complied with, and it is believed that it will prevent the General Assembly entertaining the appeal of the committee of prosecution, especially as that committee has itself also a complaint before the Synod in the same matter, and are thus appealing on the same matter to two different bodies at the same time. They are supposed to have taken that course so that if they fail before one judicatory, they can fall back on the other.

The most interesting thing, however, in the complaint of the Rev. Dr. Briggs and his friends against the ruling of the New York Presbytery on the question whether the Committee of Prosecution was an original party or not is the fact that it is signed by 114 members of the Presbytery, many more than the required number. The Moderator's ruling, it will be remembered, was sustained by 64 votes to 57, the total number of those voting being therefore 121. Of these 121 members of the Presbytery 66 have actually signed Dr. Briggs' complaint, thereby patetically reversing the Presbytery's ruling, and consequently overruling the Moderator by 66 votes to 55. From this it is clear that nine men who voted on the question of sustaining the decision of the chair have changed their minds, presumably because they did not understand the question. The question, Shall the Chair be sustained? is always decided without debate.

Among the 114 signatures to the complaint are those of the Rev. Dr. Francis Brown, the Rev. Dr. Thomas S. Hastings, the Rev. Dr. John R. Paxton, the Rev. Dr. Henry van Dyke, the Rev. Dr. Charles L. Thompson, the Rev. Dr. C. H. Parkhurst, the Rev. Dr. John H. McIlvaine, the Rev. Dr. George Alexander, Stealy B. Rossiter, C. P. Leggett, William E. Dodge, D. Willis James, John Crosby Brown, Cleveland H. Dodge, William A. Ewing, W. W. Atterbury, Henry B. Chapin, Theron G. Strong, Charles H. Woodbury, Robert Jaffray and others.

THE CIRCULAR A FRAUD.

San Francisco is Not in Need of Laborers From the Sound.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 19—A circular calling for 3,000 men to come to San Francisco for work on the cable road has been distributed at Seattle on steamers sailing to this port. It has created a good deal of curiosity in the Sound city, so much so, indeed, that a resident of that place has made inquiries regarding it. The circulars read as follows:

"Help Wanted — Three thousand men wanted to work on a new cable road. Apply at office, International hotel, San Francisco."

One of the hotel proprietors was shown the paper last night. He said he knew nothing about it, but believed it was the work of an enemy named Swan Lewis, who keeps a lodging house at Seattle. So far there have been no applications in reply to the call, which is thought to be either a practical joke or a vengeful trick. It is certainly a fraud.

The Miners at Roslyn Differ Very Widely in Their Opinions.

ROSLYN, Wash., May 18—At the coroner's inquest yesterday the testimony adduced did not tend to satisfactorily explain the origin of the explosion. The miners who have investigated claim that the explosion originated in the seventh east level, at the very bottom of the mine or on the fourth east near the top. The management and experts insist upon their original theory that a blast was fired at the sixth east by Wright and Deuster.

Officers Investigating the Landing of Chinese in Mexico.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., May 18—Three United States officials arrived here Sunday and took a boat for a trip of two or three weeks down the coast. The officials appeared to be on a secret mission, for the object of the trip was not divulged to any one. It is believed that the landing of Chinese at Mexican ports is to be investigated.