WANT MORE MEN TO CLEAR DEBRIS

Two Hundred Bodies Recovered and Many Are Missing

A SCENE OF DESOLATION

Work of Rescue Going on Without Interruption ---Frightful and Stirring Experiences Described by People Who Witnessed and Were Caught in the Dreadful Disaster at Heppner

PORTLAND, Ore., June 16.—It is believed that all estimates of the number of lives lost in the flood Sunday have been too high. Tonight 130 bodies have been recovered and many believe the total number of dead will not greatly exceed 200.

HEPPNER, Or., June 16.—The work of burying the dead, who lost their lives in the terrible calamity Sunday evening, has progressed steadily today and this evening nearly 200 bodies had been recovered and buried. At least 150 more are missing and at this time the most reliable estimates place the number of dead at 300, though it may reach 500. All day long help in the shape of provisions, blankets and men, who have come to bury the dead, or to help restore order out of the confused conditions, has poured in.

The O. R. & N. track was opened as far as Lexington, nine miles away, this afternoon and from now on the work of relief can proceed more expeditiously, as the wagon road from here to Lexington is good and supplies can be brought in by team in a few hours after they reach the end of the railroad. It will probably be several days before the track is opened into this place as the roadbed is washed out for almost the entire nine miles.

The scene from the hillside overlooking the town is one of desolation. Huge piles of wreckage, in many places fifty feet high, fill the canyon for a half mile below the town. As the debris, which is covered many feet by mud, is cleared away, more bodies are found. Immense boulders weighing tons were rolled along by the flood and deposited in the main street of the town or lodged against buildings. An appeal has been sent out for aid, the most pressing need being for men to clean the streets and to assist in searching the great mass of debris for bodies.

Redfield's Home(?) Coming.

It is certain that many bodies which were washed down the stream will never be recovered as they have been covered over by sand, gravel and wreckage of all kinds. Hundreds of men searched today for bodies along Willow Creek for ten miles. The body of Dr. McSword was found thirty-three miles down the stream.

C. E. Redfield returned early this morning to find his home, his wife and three children all swept away. As he stood by the scene of desolation he wept aloud in his anguish. His was one of the handsomest houses here and not a vestige remains.

Rescued Elizabeth Matlock.

Pendleton, Or., June 16.—R. D. Ball, a traveling man of Portland, arrived in the city today from the scene of the flood in Heppner. He said

"When the flood struck the city I was in the Palace Hotel. The water came without warning and before we knew what had happened houses were being swept down the street. Across the street from the Palace Hotel stood another hotel. We ventured out in the flood to warn a couple of brother traveling men stopping in the hotel. The store belonging to Geiger was sitting in the middle of the street and a cow was standing in the center of the store. We reached the hotel just as a house came around the corner and knocked the building off its foundation. The hotel settled down and did not float away. We then secured a rope and started down the street rescuing several. I discovered Elizabeth Matlock huddled under a pile of boards stiffened by the cold and barely able to move. Picking her up on my back I carried her out to safety.

Supplies Are Dispatched.

Portland, Or., June 16.—A carload of supplies left this city tonight for Heppner on the regular O. R. & N. train and with it went a committee who will take charge of the distribution. The train will reach Lexington, the end of the railroad track tonight and supplies will be forwarded by team tomorrow. The O. R. & N. Company has given notice that all supplies will be transported free of charge and every train, both east and west, brings relief in some form.

Pendleton, Walla Walla, La Grande, Baker City and The Dalles have all started relief committees with supplies of money, provisions or blankets for the stricken people. Seven thousand dollars in money has been raised in this city and more is pouring in. It has been suggested that the Fourth of July fund, amounting to $3000, be turned over to the flood sufferers, as was done in the case of the Johnstown flood sufferers in 1889.

Thick as Molasses.

Portland, Ore., June 16.—A special to the Oregonian from Heppner says: The slow movement of the flood after passing Heppner is a matter of general astonishment. At this point the hungry torrent raced through the town, but the deluge gathered no speed as it progressed down the valley. The immense quantities of mud, timber and wreckage which it gathered on its way seemed to increase its density, and retard its progress. Couriers who were not in the saddle until the crest of the flood had passed their starting point had no difficulty in overtaking and passing it. An eye witness said "the water seemed actually to roll forward like a stream of molasses and it seemed of about the same consistency."

The List of Dead.

Ione, Or., June 16.—Following is a list of the Heppner dead who have been identified and buried:

JAMES MATLOCK,
TWO HOCKETT GIRLS,
WILLIAM AYERS' BOY.
MANDY JONES,
A. C. GEIGER,
MRS. JAMES JONES,
PERCY DAWSON,
BABY DAWSON,
NORA FLORIN,
ADA CURTIS,
MRS. TOM MATLOCK,
MRS. C. R. REDFIELD,
MRS. PERCY DAWSON,
CHARLEY, a Chinaman,
UNKNOWN JAP,
J. M. KERNAN,
MRS. J. N. KERNAN,
MRS. KATY WALTON,
VESTA ANDREWS,
PEARL JONES,
JAMES WILLIS,
DAUGHTER OF FRED KRUGS,
MR. AND MRS. DOWLSON,
MR. AND MRS. KRUGE,
LEA STALTER,
FERN STALTER AND CHILDREN, number not known.
MRS. TOM HOWARD,
MRS. WELLS,
J. HARRY, of Long Creek,
MR AND MRS. LIPSE,
ANNA M'BRIDE,
MRS. M'BRIDE,
GEORGE WELLS,
MRS. CLYDE WELLS,
MRS. JESSIE KIRK,
MRS. PEARL JONES,
BABY ASHBURN,
BABY UNIDENTIFIED,
DR. W. P. M'SWORDS' 4-YEAR-OLD BABY,
INFANT DAUGHTER OF KRUGE,
GEORGE THORNTON,
ROBIE STALTER,
LOUIE STALTER,
WILFRED M'BRIDE,
FRANK HARYMAN,
ALEX. GUNN AND WIFE,
MABEL HOWARD,
THOMAS R. HOWARD AND WIFE,
MRS. PAT BURG,
MAUD LEFFLER,
GROVER WRIGHT,
MRS. JAMES LONG,
ORA ROBERTS,
ALMA M'BRIDE,
MAUDE KEITHLEY,
MRS. R. F. HIND AND TWO BABIES.
INFANT DAUGHTER OF EDWARD ASBAW, a farmer below town.
FRANK OXLEY,
WILBUR BEARD,
FLORENCE FRENCH,
SEIDDA M'DOWELL,
NELLIE HOWARD,
GEORGE KRUGE,
MRS. WILLIAM AYERS AND TWO CHILDREN,
PEARL JONES AND TWO CHILDREN.
FREDERICK WILLIS AND INFANT SON.
MRS. ANDREW ROOD AND LITTLE GIRL.
PRESS LOONEY,
MRS. HANBY,
MRS. R. C. HART,
MRS. JAMES ROBERTS,
A. AMBRAMSICKS, who died from injuries last night.
MRS. S. N. MORGAN,
MRS. ELIZA WILLIS,
MISS MABEL ANDREWS,
DORAS THORNTON,
ZELMA JONES,
HARRY HANBY,
R. S. BAUGHN,
MRS. R. S. VAUGHN,
T. R. HOWARD,
STELLA JENKINS,
JAMES JONES,
MRS. BANKS.
HAZEL HAYNES.

Among the unidentified dead is a woman 38 years old, a 4-year-old boy, a 6-year-old boy, a man 30 years old, dark complexion; six babies. About 150 persons are missing.

Details of Flood.

One of the most thrilling adventures was that of Tom Shuler, who, with his family, was carried down the stream in his house for a mile and a half. His wife and two children stayed in the upper rooms. Below the town the house was shot across the current to the west side, where it lodged in the debris 150 yards from the canyon bank. Shuler then took his two little ones on his shoulder and swam 200 yards in the boiling torrent, contending with obstructions. He landed the two children and then struck out for the house, got his wife and rescued her safely.

Prisoned in Their Home.

The McBride family, which was lost, went down in their house. The daughters screamed and beckoned from the windows to Louis Kinney, who, with his family, ran in the nick of time from their house to escape the death-dealing tide. Kinney watched the whole McBride family perish. Most of the bodies have been found.

Zedda McDowell, 7 years old, ran to tell her mother to save herself when she herself was drifted to death.

Had Narrow Escape.

H. K. Bennett was just finishing his day's work in the store when he felt that something fearful was going to happen. It had been raining and thundering, but no more than ordinarily. He hastened to his home and told his wife they had better go up on high ground. She laughed at him, but he insisted so strongly that she at last accompanied him, and they had hardly reached the safe limit when they saw a wall of water fully twenty-five feet high sweeping down the canyon.

He rushed down below the First National Bank building, and aided many in getting out. He said the roar was fearful, and the crash of the buildings, grinding together and pulverized by the flood, will long be remembered. When the flood was at its height the water was knee deep in the bank.

Sight Was Appalling.

Mitchell Myberry was sitting on the porch of a boarding house on Court street when he heard the roar of the oncoming water, and when he looked up to find the cause, he saw a house coming toward him, borne on the crest of the flood. He beat a hasty retreat to higher ground and reached safety just in time. He says his experience was fearful. To see people drowning and no possible help, to see buildings swept with tremendous force down the canyon, was appalling.

No Time to Lose.

Dr. H. K. Higgs, who had an office in the Odd Fellows Block, on Main street, was attending a patient when he heard the roar of the water. He rushed out of the building and saw the water coming down the canyon, and he tried to reach his house, but it started to go. He had just time enough to flee to the hillside, but part of the way was running in water knee deep.

August Landell succeeded in reaching his home and got his three children, but the water overtook him before he had reached safety. He clung to a tree and held on until the water had subsided enough for him to escape.

He Saved His Family.

Oscar Heppner had one of the most thrilling experiences. He saw his house going, and determined to save his family. Crawling over logs, trees, parts of broken houses, etc., he reached his home and succeeded in saving his family. He was badly bruised by his perilous trip, but seems only too pleased to see his family alive.

George Conser's Experience.

George Conser, cashier of the First National Bank, was downstairs in his house when the flood came. He took his wife and rushed upstairs just as the house started. The water was up to his neck part of the time, but by holding his wife up he was able to save her from drowning. They drifted down the canyon for about a mile, and landed against another house. Mr. Conser kicked a window out and succeeded in climbing on to the roof and escaped, dragging his wife after him. Mrs. Conser was nearly overcome by her wild experience.

A Father's Sacrifice.

Mrs. Estes' boarders were lost, and John Binnos escaped with one of her little girls. Blanch Estes was imprisoned in the wreckage, and called piteously to her father to save her. He made the attempt, but in vain, and perished within an arm's length of his daughter.

Ghouls in Evidence.

Sheriff Shott has sworn in a force of extra deputies, who guarded the town last night. Robberies and looting commenced early Monday morning, soon after the flood had subsided.

Died in Each Other's Arms.

Locked in each other's arms Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Vaughn were found this morning under a pile of wreckage below the site of their destroyed home. When the wave struck the town Mr. Vaughn made a bold attempt to save his wife. They left the house and tried to get to high ground. But before a place of safety was reached the flood caught them, and whirled them away into the darkness. When the volunteers uncovered their bodies this morning the husband still clasped tightly to him his wife.

Need Laboring Men.

In response to a message offering tents and other state aid to the homeless and suffering of the Heppner disaster, Governor Chamberlain last night received the following dispatch from Mayor G. W. Phelps, of Heppner:

"The people remaining in Heppner appreciate your message. We require laboring men and money to pay them. It will take 200 men at work to clean debris. People of state responding nobly."

Governor Chamberlain yesterday also received an inquiry from Adjutant General C. U. Gantenbein, at Portland, as to whether he should forward tents to relieve the homeless at Heppner. The Governor answered in the affirmative and instructed him to forward at once any tents or other aid he had at his command.

George Noble and family were formerly residents of Salem, Mr. Noble having been employed in the Dearborn harness shop several years ago. He served one term as sheriff of Morrow county.

Thomas Howard, another of deceased, was formerly a Clackamas county boy, and was a brother of Mrs. M. M. Hall, of Monmouth, Polk county. He was the sheriff of Morrow county, which office he has held for two terms.

A. C. Geiger, a merchant of Heppner, who was drowned in the deluge, was a son-in-law of H. H. Spaulding, who resides on the Garden Road near this city, and who departed for Heppner yesterday morning. Mrs. Geiger and her mother, Mrs. Spaulding, are both visiting in Kansas and thus escaped the floods and death.

J. S. Hockett, another merchant of Heppner, who, with his two daughters, was drowned in the flood, is the father of L. C. Hockett, an employe of the Salem Steam Laundry, who left yesterday morning for the scene of the disaster, and also of Miss Stella Hockett, who was visiting her brother in this city.

Ed. C. Herren, the hop dealer of this city, has a brother, David Herren, living in Heppner, and as soon as he learned of the storm, he started for the scene of the disaster as fast as steam and horses could carry him. He hoped to reach there early yesterday morning. However, his brother's name has not yet appeared among the list of the drowned, and it is hoped he may have escaped.

Dr. and Mrs. B. F. Vaughn who were drowned in the Heppner disaster, were the parents of Mrs. Thomas Jones, of this city, and they received a telephonic despatch yesterday confirming the sad news. The shock prostrated Mrs. Jones with grief, and she has been under the care of a physician since. Mr. Jones will leave for Heppner this morning and if Mrs. Jones is able she will acompany him.

B. R. Parker, clerk in Attorney General Crawford's office, has a brother who recently opened a law office in Heppner, and as Mr. Parker was unable to get any word as to whether or not his brother was one of the victims of the flood, he started on the overland train yesterday afternoon for the scene to make sure.

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REALTY MEN ASK DAMAGES

Allege the Negligence of Telegraph Company Employes Causes Them Loss

MESSAGE INSTRUCTING THEM TO CLOSE DEAL FOR TWO FARMS NEAR SALEM IS CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN DELAYED FIVE DAYS IN DELIVERY.

From Wednesday's Daily.

In Deptartment No. 1 of the circuit court for Marion county, P. L. Frazier and J. M. Long, partners, doing a real estate business under the firm name of Frazier & Long, yesterday commenced an action against the Western Union Telegraph Co. for damages in the sum of $475 on account of the alleged failure of the company to deliver to them for five consecutive days, a certain telegram. The complaint is quite long and alleges, among other things, that the plaintiffs procured a purchaser for two farms near Salem. The purchaser agreed to telegraph from Ashland whether he would take the two farms, one the Shepard place and the other the Schutte place, for $4000 and $7000, respectively. Frazier & Long claim that they had the land deal all completed and that their buyer telegraphed them from Ashland that he would take the land, but that the agent of the Western Union Telegraph Co., at Salem, failed to deliver the telegram to them for five consecutive days from the 18th to the 23d of last February and that when they finally got the telegram it was too late and the owners of the farms had otherwise disposed of them.

Frazier & Long claim that the telegraph company was guilty of gross negligence and claim $300 as their actual damages and $175 as exemplary damages, and allege that the company did not have a sufficient number of messengers or operators to look after its business at that time (in February) on acount of the extra work due to the Legislature and say that by the use of ordinary diligence the telegram could have been delivered in five minutes after it was received at 1:20 p. m. on February 18; and that if it had been delivered, even within a reasonable time the $11,000 land deal would have been consummated.

It seems that the telegram, which is the basis of the suit, was received at Salem about 1 o'clock on February 18, and delivered to Frazier & Long at their office in the D'Arcy building, on State street, February 23, 1903, the company claiming that they could not find the plaintiffs. The case promises to be an interesting one. Bonham & Martin are bringing the action as attorneys for Frazier & Long.

CAPTAIN EWEN LIONIZED.

LEXINGTON, Ky., June 18.—Captain Ewen was escorted to the Elks' Hall last night and given an ovation. Scores of young women clasped theirs hands and declared him the bravest man in Kentucky.

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NOTHING BUT SMOKE—

A fire alarm was turned in from Patton Bros.' book store at 7:15 o'clock yesterday morning, and the department as usual responded promptly. Arriving at the scene it was found that a flue had been left open in an unoccupied room over Evan's barber shop, in the Patton block, from which a large volume of smoke was issuing, filling the entire upper story and causing general alarm. The smoke was caused from a fire being started in the stove in the barber shop below, and no damage was done to the building.

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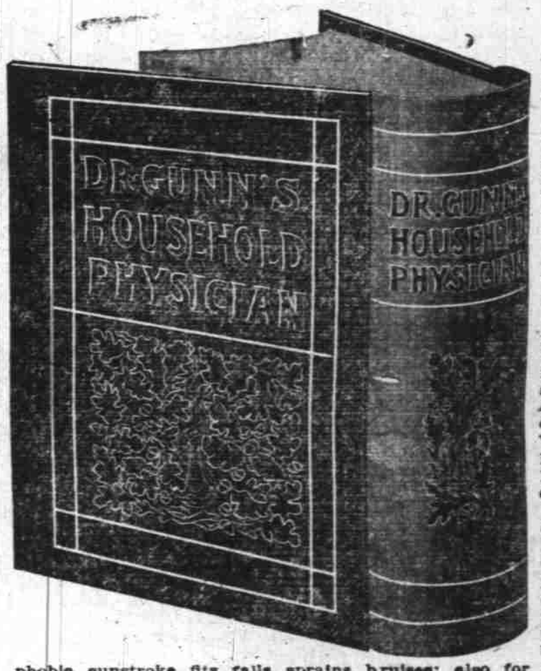

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