

dead. Late to-night the arrival of motor boats gave hope that by to-morrow the northern section of the city, now cut off by the Big Miami's impassable barrier, might be penetrated, and then the fate of hundreds imprisoned by the torrent may be learned.

It was reported late to-night that a number of dead had been found in houses at 5th and Eagle streets, but when rescuers worked their way into the partially submerged buildings they found a number of the flood's prisoners, weak from fright and hunger.

COLD RAIN FALLS.

Overburdened victims of the flood were compelled to suffer again to-day in a cold, smarting rain.

The flames to-night were confined to the block bounded by 2d and 3d streets and Jefferson and St. Clair streets. In the block are the Fourth National Bank, the Lattiman Drug Company, the Evans Wholesale Drug Company and several commission houses. It was impossible to get within two miles of the fire, and from that distance it appeared that explosions, probably of drugs, made the fire seem of larger proportions than it was.

It was impossible to ascertain, even approximately, the number of persons who might have been marooned in this section and who died after being trapped by flood and fire. Nevertheless, rescue work went steadily on, and about 3,000 persons were housed in places of refuge to-night, the majority of them in buildings of the National Cash Register Company.

At least 65,000 persons are imprisoned in homes and in business buildings. It is feared their two days' imprisonment, with accompanying hunger and fright, has caused tremendous suffering. The flood came with such suddenness that food supplies in homes were whisked away by the torrent that reached to second floors in almost the flash of an eye. Skiffs skirted the edge of the flooded district, attempting to take food to those whom it was impossible to carry off, but the fierce current retarded this work.

COMMUNICATION ESTABLISHED.

Dayton was practically cut off from wire communication until late this afternoon. Then two wires into Cincinnati were obtained, and operators plunged into great piles of telegrams from Dayton citizens, almost frantic in their desire to assure friends outside of their safety.

Two oarsmen who braved the current that swirled through the business section of the city to-day reported that the water at the Algonquin Hotel, at the southwest corner of 3d and Ludlow streets, was fifteen feet deep. From windows in the hotels and business buildings hundreds of the marooned begged piteously for rescue and food. The oarsmen said they saw no bodies floating on the flood tide, but declared that many persons must have perished in the waters' sudden rush through the streets.

Oarsmen who worked into the outskirts of the business section to-night reported that 250 persons marooned in the Arcade Building and 200 imprisoned in the Y. M. C. A. building were begging for water.

A shortage of provisions was threatened this afternoon when it was reported many relief trains bound to Dayton from neighboring cities had been stopped by high water. Every grocer in the city had been "sold out" before noon. It was believed that the relief trains might creep in during the night.

Encouragement was received in a message from the Mayor of Springfield to-night, who said he was sending six big trucks, loaded with provisions, that should reach Dayton early to-morrow.

MOTOR BOATS BRING HOPE.

With the arrival of motor boats to-night it was hoped to begin to distribute provisions among the marooned soon after daylight.

Messages from the flood's prisoners in the business section said children were crying for milk, while their elders suffered from thirst that grew hourly. Volunteers were called for to-night to man boats that will brave the dangerous currents to-morrow in an attempt to get food to the suffering.

A report that the dam above Dayton threatened to break added to the city's terror to-night. If the dam breaks it will pour in a flood that will hold up rescue work for days.

Reports that Fire Chief Ramby lost his life while attempting to reach a floating house have not been confirmed.

Expert oarsmen who braved the tide in the business section of the submerged city this afternoon came back nerve-racked to relate narratives of pitiable appeals made to them by hundreds marooned in upper floors of tall buildings about whose lower stories swirled a flood that threatened the structures' foundations. The dark colors in the narrative were lightened here and there by stories of bravery exhibited by many of the flood prisoners.

A woman with three children, marooned in the upper floor of her home on the edge of the business district, called to the oarsmen:

"Oh, I know you can't take me off," she cried, "but for the love of humanity please take this loaf of bread and jug of molasses to Sarah Pruyn, down the street; I know she's starving."

Twice the boatmen attempted to take the food, but waves that eddied about the submerged house hurled them back.

FABULOUS SUMS OFFERED.

Further on, in the exclusive residence district, they were offered fabulous sums for rescue by many of the flood's prisoners. Their narrative inspired an effort late this afternoon to launch a boat for navigation on the swirling river, but up to a late hour the craft had been unable to pass beyond areas already reached on the fringe of the flooded district.

"Our greatest need is a dozen motor boats and men to run them"—a sentence in an appeal sent out by J. H. Patterson, president of the National Cash Register Company and chairman of the relief committee—gives a good insight into the flood situation. Skiffs and rowboats cannot live in torrents rushing through the city's principal streets.

The big plant of the National Cash Register Company, in the southwestern part of the city, a portion least affected, has been made relief headquarters. As persons are rescued they are taken to one of several sub-relief stations, where their names are recorded and they receive first aid. At frequent intervals these lists were sent to relief headquarters and announced to crowds who waited in the rain for hours.

Thousands of persons are marooned in their homes without food, water or heat. Dawn came with a cold wind that became more penetrating before noon, when rain began to fall and continued throughout the day.

How great a death toll the deluge of Dayton has taken seemed to-night almost as much a matter of conjecture as yesterday, but acting on stories brought by survivors from the stricken districts, it was said, the National Cash Register Company had ordered five hundred coffins for immediate delivery. At 6 o'clock this evening J. H. Miller, secretary of the Board of Health, estimated that the death list would reach eight hundred.

George W. Burba, representing Governor Cox, said at noon that the loss of life would be between five hundred and one thousand persons.

Great loss of life is probable along the river in North and West Dayton, where the residents are almost entirely foreign born and where they refused to obey the warning to leave on the night before the levee broke.

Relief committees to-day issued the following statement:

"An awful catastrophe has overtaken Dayton. The levees have broken.

The centres of Dayton and the residence districts, from the Fair Grounds hill to the high ground north of the city, are under water.

"Some of our buildings are used as shelter for the homeless and sick of the south side.

"Bring potatoes, rice, beans, vegetables, meat and bread and any other edibles that will sustain life.

"We have cooking arrangements for several thousand. We are sending trucks to nearby towns, but ask that you haul to us, as far as possible."

Hundreds of neighboring farmers came to-day, bearing whatever supplies their own stores would permit. Wagons containing bushels of potatoes and vegetables and many loads of bread were delivered to the Cash Register Company, to be used by the refugees.

The rumor last night that the St. Elizabeth's Hospital, with six hundred patients, had been swept away proved to be untrue. Although it has been impossible to reach the hospital, field glasses revealed the building is still standing. The water is not thought to be much above the first floor of the building, and it is believed the patients have not suffered.

VANDALS AT WORK.

Numerous stories of looting have been told. In most cases the vandals had entered houses and had been searching for valuables. Repeated revolver shots last night gave rise to the reports that some desperate householders had shot themselves rather than drown. It was found, however, they had been fired by men in an effort to attract rescuers.

The crest of the Dayton flood passed about midnight, but the next few hours showed no appreciable lowering in the water. The inundated district is estimated at more than fifteen square miles, most of which is under from six to fifteen feet of water.

The crop of flood babies was increased to-day by two, making five little ones to be born in the hospital rooms of the National Cash Register factory within twenty-four hours.

Columbus, Ohio, March 26.—The fire at Dayton, which swept the block there bounded by Jefferson, 2d, 3d and Saint Clair streets, subsided somewhat to-night. All the people in the block were saved.

This final word came early to-night from Telephone Operator John Bell. "All the women and children who were in the block are removed to safety in the Beaver Power Building," announced the calm voice of Bell. "There were thirty of them."

Governor Cox said that the building is fireproof and the occupants will remain in safety. Sixteen persons are housed in the home telephone building, with a block and tackle rigged as a means of egress if the fire presses them.

Late this afternoon a message came to Governor Cox telling of one of many of the thrilling incidents of the day in Dayton. The Russell apartment house, in West 3d street, had been occupied as a shelter by hundreds of homeless persons. Suddenly the alarm spread that the building was on fire. Scores rushed up the stairways to the roof, trampling over weaker ones. When they reached the top of the house they saw tongues of flame leaping out from the window's beneath them, and a neighboring building burning furiously. Without stopping to think, one after another, men, women and children leaped down, to be killed against projecting obstacles or lost in the flood and drowned.

George B. Smith, president of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, who escaped from the stricken city yesterday, wired Governor Cox from Arcanum to-day asking that aid be given with all possible dispatch. He said the town was at the mercy of looters and fires. The Governor, in reply to Mr. Smith's appeal, said that troops would be sent as soon as the waters receded enough to permit trains to be moved.

MANY LOOTERS CAUGHT AMONG DAYTON RUINS

Rescue Work Continued in Mill Race Torrents Only by Tow Line Boats.

AUTOS CONVEY REFUGEES

Firemen Met by Wall of Water—Heroic Wire Chiefs Keep City in Touch with World.

Dayton, Ohio, March 26.—Numerous stories of looting have been heard to-day and many prisoners have been taken and locked up. In most cases these had entered houses and had been searching for valuables.

Repeated revolver shots gave rise to the reports that some desperate householders had shot themselves rather than suffer death by drowning. When some of the shots were traced to-day, however, they proved to have been fired by men in an effort to attract rescuers.

Rescue work has been continued in a disconnected fashion, and many hundreds of women and children were brought from the houses within a few yards of the shore. The powerful current on each cross street made it impossible for those manning the boats to toss a street crossing without the aid of tow ropes. Lines have been stretched in many places, and trolley boat paths along many streets. Every automobile in the city has been pressed into service and is used to meet paths, and the refugees are taken at once to the hospitals.

The rumor that the St. Elizabeth Hospital, with six hundred patients, had been swept away, which gained circulation last night, to-day proved to have been false. Although it had been impossible to reach the hospital, field glasses showed that the building is still standing. The water is not thought to be much above the first floor of the building.

A graphic story was told by Edsy Vincent, a member of the Dayton Fire Department. His engine house was within a few doors of Taylor street, where the break in the levee occurred. The department watches, fearing being flooded, sounded the fire call simultaneously with the break in the levee.

"When the horses, which were hitched in record time, reached the street," said Vincent, "we were met by a wall of water which must have been ten feet high. The driver was forced to turn and flee in the opposite direction to save the team and the apparatus."

Two hundred persons are marooned in the Young Men's Christian Association building. Across the street, in the telephone exchange, half a hundred telephone girls are being fed from the Young Men's Christian Association building. Lines have been thrown across the top of the buildings, and the food is sent over in baskets.

The water is still rushing in torrents in the main streets. One boat went by with two men in it, rowing desperately, trying to keep the bow to the waves. The boat overturned, but both men escaped drowning by swimming to a lamp post. They clung to the post for half an hour before a rope could be thrown to them. After repeated casts the line fell near enough to them to be caught, and the men were drawn into the second story window of the nearest building.

Chicago, March 26.—Two employees of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, M. D. Stohl, wire chief at Dayton, and C. D. Williamson, wire chief at Phenonon, Ohio, by almost unprecedented devotion to duty have kept Dayton in touch with the outside world.

At midnight they had been on duty continuously for forty-eight hours, and, although there was no prospect of their being relieved, they gave not the slightest indication of any inclination to leave their posts.

Mr. Stohl reached the Dayton office just before the flood broke in the small hours of Tuesday morning. The water came with such suddenness that all batteries and power were put out of commission

before any measure could be taken to protect them. This left the wires without current and effectually cut off Dayton.

Stohl ramaged around and found a man's "tool set." With this he made his way to the roof of the building, "cut in" on the line to Phenonon and reported to Williamson, whose batteries were still in condition. Over this meagre equipment messages were exchanged by means of the underground wires of the company, which held up until after the noon hour Tuesday before the cable in which they were incased gave way. The break, however, was south of Dayton, and Phenonon was still in touch with the flood stricken city.

Since then, except for brief intervals, Stohl has remained on the roof of the building suffering the discomforts of pouring rain and low temperature, in order that the waiting world might have some word from Dayton.

Delaware, Ohio, March 26.—Scores of persons who were marooned on house roofs and in the tree-tops early yesterday morning are still alive, although many of them have had no food for thirty-six to forty-eight hours. Walter Raines, who was washed into the river when the Big Four bridge went out at 11:25 yesterday morning, was still clinging to a tree in the middle of the river to-night. He had four knives with him, and kept waving his arms in an effort to keep warm. Large crowds gathered to-day to watch the rescuers attempt to get him. Several men, armed with ropes, were made to get ropes and boats to him.

Big coal fires were burned along the river banks to let the stranded people know that the rescuers were still vowing for them.

Zanesville, Ohio, March 26.—A number of boatsmen at Ozark this morning refused to remove persons from inundated homes in the flooded district unless paid. But a squad of militiamen which had been ordered out forced the boatmen at the muzzle of guns to assist in the work of rescue.

NATIONAL GUARD ALL ORDERED TO DAYTON

First Trainload of Provisions Arrives at Stricken City—Few Bodies Seen.

Dayton, Ohio, March 26.—A message from Governor Cox to-night ordered the entire Ohio National Guard to hold themselves in instant readiness to proceed to Dayton as soon as it becomes possible for them to enter the city.

"I understand the importance of having the militia there," the Governor telegraphed.

The first trainload of provisions from Cincinnati, together with a detail of policemen to help in the rescue work, reached here to-night after being twelve hours on the road. This, with two cars from Springfield during the day, relieved the immediate suffering. Word also was received that a carload of supplies was on the way from Detroit.

Late this afternoon a number of refugees brought in from Simpson street told stories that gave an insight into conditions in East Dayton, hitherto unexplored. The flood victims declared they knew of no loss of life in this section because a great number of the people had availed themselves of warnings and fled.

Mrs. Van Denberg, who remained until the flood enveloped her home, declared when rescued this afternoon that she had seen no bodies in the flood.

Nothing to-night had been heard from Mayor Phillips of Dayton, or from Adjutant General Woods, marooned, it was believed, in North Dayton.

TWENTY DROWN AT SHARON

Pennsylvania and West Virginia Face Serious Floods.

Pittsburgh, March 26.—Western and Northern Pennsylvania and parts of West Virginia are facing a serious flood situation to-night. A few fatalities have been reported. The property loss will run into several million dollars. Twenty persons are reported to have been drowned at Sharon, when the Shenango River overflowed its banks. The property damage in Sharon and vicinity is said to be close to \$2,000,000.

INDIANA'S LOSSES INCREASE HOURLY

Day of Heroic Rescue Attempts Has Done Little to Aid Thousands of Sufferers—Three Distinct Floods.

DEAD LIE ABOUT IN HEAPS

Twelve Bodies Recovered from Single House in Peru—Six Suffocated in Crowd of Refugees—Great Damage in Indianapolis.

Indianapolis, March 26.—Night fell upon flood-swept Indiana with but little comfort for its many thousands of flood sufferers. Conservative reports from throughout the state estimate the loss of life at not fewer than 196, while persistent rumors from various points indicated that possibly many more have perished. There is none to attempt even a guess at the property damage.

Communication established with Connersville, from where Governor Ralston on Tuesday received frantic appeals for aid that he was powerless to answer, brought unverified rumors that at least forty persons perished in Brookville, Franklin County, on Monday night. Unconfirmed dispatches from the same region declare that the smaller towns of Metmor, Cedar Grove and Trenton are swept away completely.

Late afternoon advices from Peru, sent by telephone through South Bend, say that twelve bodies were recovered from a single house there, and insist that the largest death figures for that city are not exaggerated. Peru is the most completely demoralized city in the great flood districts in Indiana, but Fort Wayne, Logansport, Lafayette and Terre Haute have experienced loss of life and great property damage, with practically all public service destroyed in each.

Damage Inestimable.

Indianapolis has a certain loss of life in the western part of the city from the great flood expanses along White River and an inestimable property loss in the most substantial residence districts through the overflow of Fall Creek. Water fell rapidly in the latter district during the day, but there was no consequential abatement of the waters in West Indianapolis.

Three distinct flood districts prevail throughout the state, each only a few miles wide, yet sweeping across the entire width of Indiana. In the north all the towns and cities along the Wash and its larger tributaries are affected. White River sweeps through Central Indiana, with Indianapolis the greatest sufferer, while White Water River drains a valley in the middle southern portion of the state, where many towns and small cities have been affected.

Efforts of all flood relief workers were directed to-day toward rescuing persons still in dangerous places and relieving the suffering and wants of the homeless. The Peru death list still is placed at from sixty to three hundred.

Six deaths were reported from Fort Wayne, three from New Castle, two from Lafayette, one from Rushville, one from Muncie and five scattering throughout the state, in addition to definite reports of deaths in several places yesterday.

Six Suffocated.

The most reliable information obtainable from Peru said that only a single block of the city remains altogether out of the water, and that thousands are packed into buildings in a small area downtown. Six were said to have suffocated in the crowds at the court-house, which still is out of water.

At Logansport flood waters of the Wash are sixteen feet deep on the floors of the Pennsylvania Railroad station, and cadets from the Culver Military Academy were rushed to Logansport to aid in the rescue.

In West Indianapolis one pitiable tale after another added to the horrors of the flood story during the entire day. Night fell there on an uncompleted work of rescue, after more than five hundred persons had been taken to a single landing station at Blaine avenue and Morris street, where facilities were increased to nineteen rowboats, a launch and two canoes.

Many women rescued in West Indianapolis were taken from their flooded homes unconscious, or succumbed to the excitement after realizing they were safe. Physicians were unable to meet the demand for medical attention for the refugees and worked at great disadvantage, for all the flood victims suffered much exposure, even after being removed from the water.

Declaring that a crisis was on the state, Governor Ralston issued a proclamation to-night calling on the citizens of Indiana to contribute means for the flood sufferers of the state. The Governor says the number of dead cannot now be approximated, but the loss of property will run into millions of dollars.

Hugh Dougherty, a banker of Indianapolis, was made trustee to receive checks or drafts, and Adjutant General George W. McCoy was directed to receive food and clothing.

Indianapolis streetcars remain standing in the streets where they were stopped yesterday morning when the power house was flooded, all interurban lines are at a standstill and the steam roads are having poor success in getting trains out of the city. The water service probably cannot be resumed within thirty-six hours. All available water supplies are being taxed to the utmost to provide a scant supply of good water.

E. L. Bryan, president of Indiana University, announced postponement of

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the opening of the spring term, which was to have been to-day, until railroad service may be re-established to Bloomington. No students have been able to reach the university.

The east span of the West Washington street bridge fell into the river late this afternoon, and shortly afterward a pier washed out beneath the Kentucky avenue bridge, nearly a mile below, which is momentarily expected to give way completely. This leaves only the Oliver avenue traffic bridge and two railroad bridges, which can possibly be used in rescue work in West Indianapolis.

Sixty passenger trains are shut out of the city on the lines entering from the west, and all the passengers are practically sharing the lot of the homeless refugees.

The Assumption Parochial School, in charge of Father Joseph Weber, is sheltering and feeding about one hundred women and children.

Peru, Ind., March 26.—Vivid details of the disastrous flood which visited Peru were learned late to-day, when rescuers succeeded in propelling boats through the inundated streets. The facts established were:

Number of persons drowned estimated from sixty to as high as three hundred, it being impossible to learn exactly, because many bodies are headless in houses still wholly submerged.

Number of persons homeless, 7,500; property loss, \$2,500,000.

Two hundred and twenty-five injured or sick survivors rescued and removed to a temporary hospital at Plymouth, Ind.

Winter quarters of a big circus menagerie destroyed, about five hundred valuable animals being drowned.

Citizens, finding lawlessness in every block of the city above water, organized a vigilance committee, with orders to shoot looters.

To-night several thousand persons are still marooned in the courthouses, hospital, factory buildings and other structures because the various relief parties sent from South Bend and other cities had not sufficient boats to carry them to the nearest dry land, three miles away. Snow is falling heavily, and the suffering is intense because of the lack of heating facilities. The city is in darkness except for a scant supply of lanterns.

Connersville, Ind., March 26.—Probably forty persons were drowned at Brookville, Franklin County, last night, when they were caught by the east and west forks of Whitewater River, which meet in that town. Survivors tell of attempts of men, women and children to escape by the light of lanterns after the electric light plant had been swamped. Cross currents rushing along streets and alleys carried them down to a united stream a mile wide just south of the town.

Five children, all of one family, were seen clinging to posts of an old-fashioned wooden bed, when they were swept into the main stream and lost.

TELEPHONE REPORTS TELL OF CONDITIONS

Persons in Sight of Dayton Describe Harrowing Scenes and Serious Fires.

From as close to the stricken districts of Dayton as telephone wires could be operated last night such news of conditions in the city and suburbs as could be gathered

cred was transmitted to the American Telephone and Telegraph Company's station at Phenonon, six miles north. From that point the messages received were forwarded in substance to this city and given out at the company's offices here.

At a late hour the company announced that it had established a telephone station at the flood limit in North Dayton, placed an operator in charge and turned the station over to the committee of safety for its uses. All day the telephone wires had been successively tapped by company employees at gradually nearing points to the flooded city and messages sent to the Phenonon station. These messages confirmed many points in other accounts of the disaster and the progress of the rescue work.

One of the most important messages received late last night, stated that the serious fires that had been raging had then died out.

Still later, however—nearly midnight—a message said:

"For the last hour burning buildings in Dayton have been plainly visible from our office here. The rain has subsided now, so the fire has practically nothing to check it."

A report received at the Phenonon station about the same time and transmitted here said the town of Piqua was on fire. There was no confirmation of this report.

"There is a school building said to contain six hundred persons and indications were that it would collapse in a short time. Two men seen using a pleasure boat to view the scene had to be pressed into rescue service by the police at the points of shotguns.

"People are being transferred to safety as rapidly as possible with the limited means at hand. Farmers and others for miles are trying to prevail upon rescued ones to go to the rescuers' homes, but in most cases families are split up and the members picked up refuse to leave until all have been rescued."

"The National Cash Register Company has hands at work making boats and coffins and has ordered 500 coffins from Cincinnati.

"The beautiful steel high school building is a wreck."

A summary of conditions in Dayton, as thus reported, includes the following:

"One of our employees who returned this evening from the north side of the submerged section of Dayton says the scenes there are indescribable. People are huddled in churches and public school buildings, and there is danger of these collapsing.

"Three babies were born in one church this afternoon. One was born in a boat while its mother was being conveyed to safety. The rain was pouring in torrents at the time and the mother had been for six hours or more without necessary aid. Such scenes are common.

"Last reports from our Mr. Anderson, who is stationed at a telephone, and who is heading a relief party in North Dayton, indicate that he thinks the reports of the loss of life have been exaggerated."

GOVERNOR COX FEARS VILLAGES WIPED OUT

Hardly Less Than a Miracle, He Says, if Some Are Not Destroyed by Floods.

Columbus, Ohio, March 26.—The following statement of the Ohio flood situation was issued by Governor Cox at 11 o'clock to-night:

"The exact extent of the appalling flood in Ohio is still unknown. Every hour impresses us with the uncertainty of the situation. The waters have assumed such unknown heights in many parts of the state that it will be hardly less than a miracle if villages and towns are not wiped out of existence in the southern and southeastern parts of the state."

"The center of the stricken cities, Columbus has apparently been filled with an accumulation of dramatic circumstances. Pitiful appeals have been made by men who were surrounded by water and confronted by the approaching conflagration in the city of Dayton."

"Every human energy has been exerted to give relief, and yet the measure of assistance has been comparatively small. It is the belief, however, that by daylight to-morrow those imprisoned in the business section of Dayton can be relieved."

"The day began with a storm signal from the Weather Bureau advising that there would be a dangerous rise in the waters of the Muskingum River. All the towns along its course, including Zanesville and Marietta, were advised."

"Before noon the situation assumed a critical aspect at Zanesville and the historic 'Y' bridge was blown up with dynamite. The loss of life in Zanesville is unknown, because all telephone communication ceased at noon. Marietta has further south on the Ohio River. It cannot be reached, but it is safe to assume that the same devastating results at Zanesville were carried on to Marietta."

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

Special Notice Account Western Floods

On account of floods in Ohio and Indiana all train service to points on the P. C. C. & St. L. Ry. (Pan Handle Route) via Pittsburgh has been temporarily discontinued.

Cincinnati is accessible via Washington, and the Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. Columbus, Ohio, can be reached via the Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. and the Norfolk & Western Ry.

Trains for Cincinnati via Washington leave New York, Pennsylvania Station, 9:15 A. M., 1:08 P. M. and through train at 5:08 P. M.

All train service to points on the Ft. Wayne Route west of Alliance has been temporarily suspended.

A limited number of Chicago trains are running through via Alliance, Cleveland and the Lake Shore Route.

The sale of tickets has been suspended to all points to which train service is interrupted, but will be resumed as soon as the train service is restored, of which prompt notice will be given the public. Consult ticket agents.

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