

Unsettled weather with rain today and probably tomorrow. Temperatures yesterday—Maximum, 77; minimum, 66.

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## FLOODS BRING DEATH AND DESTRUCTION TO CITIES OF MIDDLE WEST; 7,000 REPORTED LOST

# 7,000 LIVES REPORTED LOST IN OHIO FLOODS; BIG TOWNS WIPED OUT

### Dayton Swept by Torrent and 5,000 Go to Death in Surging Waters—1,000 Dead in Hamilton.

## GOVERNOR ASKS WORLD FOR ASSISTANCE

BULLETIN, 4 A. M.

Cleveland, Ohio, March 25.—More than 7,000 lives were lost in the fierce flood which swept through Ohio today leaving in its trail damage estimated far into the millions.

The State is paralyzed. Railroad, trolley, telegraph, and telephone traffic is blocked, and the cities in which hundreds of lives have been lost have been cut off almost entirely from communication with the rest of the world.

5,000 DEAD IN DAYTON.

According to reports which are believed to be authentic, 5,000 were drowned in Dayton, fully 1,000 in Hamilton, and 540 in Piqua. Millions of dollars damage has been done to property, fully 75,000 people are homeless, and appeals for aid have been sent out to the Red-Cross.

30,000 ARE HOMELESS.

In Dayton alone 30,000 people are homeless. The four days' continuous rainfall filled every reservoir in the State and a number of them today undermined dams and poured their contents into the valleys. A wall of water seven feet high rushed down into Miami Valley.

Columbus, Ohio, March 25.—Gov. James M. Cox, with the sanction of the Legislature, in session tonight, issued an appeal to the world for assistance for Ohio sufferers.

Hamilton Dam Breaks.

It was at first reported that 8,000 were drowned in Dayton. Later a message was received from a telephone operator in the Dayton exchange that he could see hundreds of bodies floating along through the streets past the telephone building. At 8 o'clock the Mayor of Dayton, who had escaped from the flood, sent a message, declaring that 5,000 persons were drowned in the city; that 25,000 were homeless, and that the situation was appalling. At 10 o'clock tonight the dam of a reservoir north of Hamilton, Ohio, burst and a great flood swept down upon the city. According to word from refugees, 1,000 were drowned.

In Piqua the river burst the levees, poured through the town and trapped hundreds of people in their homes. The swift current undermined the houses and it is estimated that 540 were swept to their deaths.

In Delaware the Olentangy River became a lake and covered most of the city. Many were drowned. People were left clinging to trees, roof tops and telegraph poles crying for assistance. Owing to the swift current in the river the work of rescue was difficult.

In Cleveland, while no lives were lost, the damage will reach \$2,000,000. The Cuyahoga River swept through the manufacturing district in the flats, broke down hundreds of mills and left more than 30,000 workers idle. The East Third Street bridge was destroyed when a big steamer was swept from its moorings and crashed into it. Thousands of dollars worth of lumber was swept from the river and out into the lake. Firemen were kept busy dynamiting lumber jams at the bridge.

In Youngstown 2,000 workmen were forced to quit work when most of the big industries were shut down because of the flood. All bridges in the city are guarded.

Naval reserves have been called to Toledo to render what assistance they can in caring for the dead and homeless.

Fire Threatens Columbus.

The big bridge of the Miami River at Middletown was swept away, fifteen persons are missing, and scores of houses are floating down stream. Three fires have broken out in the West Side of Columbus and the flames are spreading, as the firemen have no water supply. Two bridges were swept away by the flood.

Three companies of the State National Guard have been sent to Hamilton to help preserve order. Large Marine Corps sent an appeal for help to Gov. Cox. The town is inundated, and people have sought refuge on the roofs of their houses. Three companies of the Ohio National Guard are aiding the police.

Half of City Under Water.

Late tonight communication was established over the Western Union wires with Dayton. George Hurbank, an operator there reported that practically half of the city was under water, estimated to be thirty feet deep.

"At the lowest estimate," said Hurbank, "two hundred lives have been lost. The city is without electric light, street car service or water service. It is impossible to estimate the damage."

"There is much suffering and the people are in need of food and clothing. All bridges have been swept away. There is no communication with the outside

### SUMMARY OF FLOOD DAMAGE IN OHIO.

Dayton—Three-quarters of the city under water. Seven thousand persons reported dead. Business buildings burning. Property loss \$10,000,000.

Hamilton—One thousand lives reported lost. Big property damage.

Piqua—Five hundred and forty dead; many missing.

Findlay—Business and residential section of city flooded and hundreds of families driven from homes. Schools and factories are closed.

Springfield—The Mad River is on a rampage and scores of families are homeless.

Delaware—Nineteen persons drowned and several hundred others in imminent danger.

Columbus—Ten thousand people homeless and property loss running into the hundreds of thousands. City in darkness. Fire threatens.

Lima—Five hundred people have fled from their homes.

Zanesville—The districts about the edge of the city are flooded.

Wesley Klinger, five years old was drowned.

Napoleon—The Miami River is raging, having risen fourteen feet in the past twenty-four hours.

Troy—The Miami River will reach a record mark. Heart of the city is under water. Miami and Erie canal has broken its banks flooding the city.

Akron—Million dollar loss reported, hundreds rendered homeless.

Youngstown—Nearly all the big industries are closed down.

that are under the locomotive boilers has been extinguished. Several companies of the State militia have been called out, and trains are attempting to land them somewhere near Dayton, but the task last night was impossible. The Dayton bridge over the Great Miami River has been dynamited, as the vast amount of debris rushing down the river clogged the river and formed a dam, increasing the overflow.

Thousands of refugees fled the deluged city during the day, while thousands more were hovering on the outskirts of the city at dark. Hundreds of persons are marooned in trees and on house-tops. Boats are being used in the work of rescue, but this is attended with great danger.

Appeals to Red Cross.

Gov. Cox today appealed to the National Red Cross Association for aid in caring for the thousands of sufferers in Ohio who have been rendered homeless by the flood and wind.

The State Capitol and Memorial Hall, together with several public buildings in Columbus, have been thrown open to care for the homeless from the surrounding country.

A sudden cold wave and snowstorm struck Omaha yesterday, adding to the suffering of the tornado victims in that city. Mayor James C. Dahlman, in answer to the inquiry, reported that 150 persons had been killed, 300 seriously injured, several thousand driven from their homes, and a loss of from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 had occurred as a result of the storm.

Rescue parties continue to search the ruins of the public buildings and private houses there for bodies of relatives and friends. A large number of people are reported missing and many pathetic figures are haunting the ruins in hope of seeing once more some loved one.

Blizzard in Upper Michigan.

Sweeping up the Ohio River Valley yesterday, was another storm, almost as severe as the one raging over Ohio. Great damage was done in Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana. North of the Great Lakes in Upper Michigan, a blizzard is raging, while Northern New York is in the throes of the worst floods of its history. A cold wave is threatened for tomorrow.

Buffalo reported that the Buffalo River was rising rapidly and two of the big railroad bridges were in danger of being carried away before morning. The storm has severely crippled railroad service and telegraph and telephone communication, while the gas and electric lights

have been put out of order in many parts of the city.

Hennepin, N. Y., reported the worst flood in history, with one known dead, and damage by fire. The entire valley is inundated. The storm is general in its intensity over that section of New York State, and a considerable loss of life is feared. Many families are homeless in that region.

Montpelier, Vt., reports that the Windham and North Branch Rivers are flooded to the danger point and if the heavy rains, which have prevailed for the past sixteen hours continue, much damage will be done. A general alarm has been sent out warning all inhabitants of the valleys for miles around this section of the impending danger.

Indianapolis Stricken.

At Indianapolis the water and gas supply was shut off in the afternoon, when the flood reached the pumping stations and the gas plants, and the city was in darkness last night.

All transportation with the outside world has been cut off, and telephone and telegraph communication has been interrupted. Heavy winds have caused several serious fires in the best residential districts.

Throughout Indiana thousands of families have been driven from their homes by the floods which are raging along all of the rivers and streams of the State. Nearly every factory and mill in the State has been forced to close down. Food and clothing are being distributed by city officials in many places.

A general storm warning was sent out last night for all points along the Atlantic coast between Cape Hatteras and Eastport, Me.

A heavy wind and rainstorm is raging through a major portion of Connecticut, and considerable damage is already reported.

1,000 Homeless in Omaha.

Omaha, Neb., March 25.—One thousand persons are homeless in the wrecked territory here. Every second house is a hospital. All school teachers have volunteered as nurses. Central High School girls and boys, 200 volunteers, assisted by the militia, are patrolling the district. Local pride prevents acceptance of outside help.

Mayor Dahlman says it is useless to continue on Page Thirteen.

STOPS TOBACCO HABIT.

Elders' Sanitarium, located at 125 Main St., St. Joseph, Mo., has published a book showing the deadly effect of the tobacco habit, and how it can be stopped in three to five days.

As they are distributing this book free, any one wanting a copy should send their name and address at once.

### BLIZZARD GRIPS STRICKEN CITY

Arctic Weather Adds Horror to the Terrible Disaster in Omaha.

### RESCUE WORK DELAYED

Thousands Homeless and Hungry. Offers of Outside Aid Refused. More Bodies Recovered.

Omaha, Neb., March 25.—The rigors of an arctic snowstorm were added to the disaster from which Omaha is suffering and tonight shivering throngs of men are delving into the ruins of homes in the almost hopeless attempt to reach the dead or injured of relatives or friends buried under the wreckage left by Sunday's tornado.

At least 1,000 people are homeless in the wrecked territory. Every second house is a hospital. Late reports of the dead bring them up to 21 and many bodies are still believed to be in the ruins. The one fact that adds horror to the situation is that there must be many injured men and women and children still beneath the ruins.

Dynamite is being used to bring down tottering ruins and to block possible avenues of conflagration. Central High School boys and girls, to the number of 300 were pressed into service when they offered their aid, but the repeated offers from all parts of the United States of help of all kinds were declined with thanks.

Thousands Are Homeless.

Mayor Lathrop said tonight that it was useless to estimate the damage, or to comment on the conditions.

"It is a catastrophe," he said, "and we will have to face it."

The condition of those who resided in the wrecked section of the city is most pathetic. Little children are sitting in partially protected nooks, wrapped up in blankets and blankets, while their parents search the ruins of their homes for missing members of the family. Federal soldiers are patrolling the wrecked area, aiding in the work of rescue and protecting the ruined homes from the looter and vandal. Mayor Hartman, of the Port Omaha Signal Corps, is in charge of the rescue work and is directing the search for bodies.

Partial relief of the destitute was accomplished late today when city officials entered the lines set by the soldiers around the storm-swept district and distributed food and clothing to the needy. More than \$50,000 has been subscribed for their relief in the city—\$2,000 by the city commissioners and an equal amount by citizens.

More Bodies Found.

In the numerous improvised hospitals the injured are receiving the best care possible under the circumstances. Physicians of Omaha, Council Bluffs, and several of the suburbs have volunteered their services. Those least severely injured are taken to private homes and their places are given to others brought from the ruins by the searching parties.

To-night the weather has seriously handicapped the rapid repairing of lines for communication with the outer world. Telegraph and telephone companies are deluged with anxious inquiries from friends and relatives from all of the country seeking information. While the total injured in the improvised hospitals reaches 40, it is known that full twice that number have sustained more or less serious wounds.

Thirty-one bodies were taken from a negro pool-room today. The building was crowded when the wind wrecked it, and five men added to the terror of those caught in the ruins. Still other bodies are thought to be in this place.

### REPORTS OF DISASTERS GIVE MEAGER DETAILS

Last Words from Middle West Have Multiplied Their First Accounts.

Reports of the disasters of the Middle West are necessarily meager and disconnected. Each new casualty, and communication, silencing its own voice of woe.

First reports of death and destruction have given way swiftly to newer, more appalling reports of more and greater losses. Last words from cities and villages have multiplied their first tales of disasters.

The whole story must be told in bulletins and dispatches.

The summary of it is that never before in the United States, perhaps never before in the whole world, not excepting the tidal wave at Galveston, has there been so tremendous and horrible a violence of the forces of nature.

### DEPARTMENT WITHOUT NEWS OF DISASTER

Secretary of War Garrison said yesterday that the War Department had not been officially notified of the disaster in Ohio, and that no request for aid had been received from the people in the afflicted districts.

At the Red Cross headquarters here, it was said, Miss Mabel Boardman, executive director at the headquarters here, sent a telegram to Governor Cox of Ohio offering the assistance of the Red Cross if it were needed.

E. P. Bicknell, the Red Cross official who left Monday to direct the Red Cross relief work at Omaha and vicinity, reported yesterday that he had been detained eight hours in Ohio by floods.

Newark as Militia Ship.

The Navy Department yesterday agreed to turn over the unarmored Newark to the naval militia of Maryland for use as a floating armory and barracks ship. The vessel will be docked at Baltimore after the government has expended \$2,000 in repairing it for the new duty.

Philadelphia Excursion.

### TWO HUNDRED REPORTED DROWNED IN PERU, IND.; ASK COFFINS AND FOOD

### Governor Receives Startling News that Water Has Almost Completely Wiped Out River City.

### OTHER POINTS REPORT DISASTER

Indianapolis, Ind., March 25.—Two hundred lives are reported to have been lost by drowning in the flood which swept over Peru, Ind., according to a dispatch received from that place tonight by Gov. Ralston.

"Send 200 coffins and food and clothing at once," wired the Governor's informant, a man named Baker, who added, in ominous words:

LAST MESSAGE OMINOUS.

"This will probably be the last message you will get from Peru. Two hundred or more are drowned, and the remainder of the residents are grouped on a hill waiting for daylight."

Gov. Ralston has communicated with Senator Fleming at Fort Wayne, and the supplies requested will be forwarded immediately. An attempt to communicate with Peru by telephone failed.

REPORT 1,000 LIVES LOST.

A reservoir near Lewiston was reported to have broken and sent a further flood upon the stricken city. Another report was to the effect that more than a thousand persons had lost their lives and that the city had been engulfed by water to an enormous depth.

THOUSANDS HOMELESS.

Elsewhere in Indiana come similar reports of death and disaster in the wake of storm and flood.

Tens of thousands are homeless in various parts of the State, and the property loss will amount to several millions of dollars. Seven deaths have been reported in addition to the 200 drowned, of whom tidings came tonight from Peru.

From every city and town in Ohio with which communication is still possible, a tale of death and disaster is reported.

Among the towns which suffered the heaviest are Delaware, where nineteen persons were drowned when the Olentangy River flooded the town. Among the dead there are the widow and daughter of Sam Williams, a Georgia evangelist. The residential portion of the town is in ruins. Residents are marooned on house tops and in trees, and because of the small number of boats at hand, rescue work is slow. It is estimated that two thousand persons are homeless, and many are in a critical condition from lack of food and exposure.

The town of Findlay is food-swept and much rain has resulted in the business and residential sections. All schools and manufacturing plants have been forced to close.

11,000,000 Loss in Akron.

Akron reported a million dollar loss of property and several drowned and killed.

At Peru, Ohio, the Erie Canal and the Miami River have broken their banks and flooded the city. Several persons were drowned, and the inhabitants were forced to flee from their homes. A girl telegraph operator, the last to leave the exchange building in Dayton, was in communication with Gov. Cox at Columbus for a moment in the afternoon and reported that the Leonard Hotel, one of the city's skyscrapers, had just collapsed carrying many persons to death. Just as the girl told the Governor that the exchange had been deserted and was in imminent danger of collapse the connection was broken.

From seven to fourteen feet of water covered the streets as the result of the overflow of the Miami, Stillwater, and Mad rivers, and their creeks. The report from Dayton said that the levees restraining these rivers were in immediate danger of giving way and adding tremendous quantities of water to the damage. It was feared that the result would be some of the worst of the destruction of the city.

### HORNELL UNDER WATER; ONE DEATH IS REPORTED

Hornell, N. Y., March 25.—One dead, railroads and street car traffic tied up, practically the entire city of Hornell under water, and people compelled to flee to the upper stories of their homes, are the results of the great flood which swept down the Canisteo Valley this afternoon.

Fire which broke out in the resident section added horror to the scene and threatened for some time to do great damage when more rain quenched the flames. The Canisteo River, swollen by the thirty hours' rain, left its banks and completely inundated the First Ward. Shortly after Canisteo Creek, which runs through the city, overflowed and completed the work. The streets of the First, Second, Fifth, and Sixth Wards were soon raging torrents. All railroad traffic is suspended, and all interurban cars have been abandoned.

Eugene Porter, a farmer, residing two miles from the city, while attempting to save a pile of wood on the river bank, slipped and, falling into the raging waters, was swept from sight and drowned before the eyes of his wife. One thousand acres of fine celery land north of the city are under four feet of water. The Canisteo Valley for a distance of forty miles is under water tonight and the situation is appalling.

25.00—Philadelphia and Return.

25.00—Chester and Return; 25.00—Wilmington and Return; Pennsylvania Railroad next Sunday. Special train leaves Washington 7:20 a. m. Consult ticket agents for further particulars.

The total loss throughout Western New York is well over \$1,000,000, and with the rain continuing even more serious results may be expected before morning.