

SEE WEDNESDAY'S REPUBLIC FOR LEADING MERCHANTS' MIDWEEK BARGAINS.

KANSAS CITY SEVERELY CRIPPLED BY GREATEST FLOOD IN ITS HISTORY; TOPEKA DISASTER MAY CLAIM MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED VICTIMS.

FIFTEEN ARE DEAD AT KANSAS CITY, WHILE FIRE ADDS TO FLOOD HORROR.

MORE RAIN TO-DAY FOR FLOODED STATES. In the forecast issued last night by the Weather Bureau at Washington rain is predicted for to-day in Missouri, East Kansas, Southeast Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois.

DAY OF SUFFERING AND SORROW AT TOPEKA MARKED BY HEROIC DEEDS.

Twenty Thousand Persons Driven From Homes—Lowlands Are Many Feet Under Water, All Street Cars Are Stopped, Water Supply Cut Off and City in Darkness.



KANSAS AVENUE, ARMOURDALE, AS IT APPEARED SATURDAY AFTERNOON. Since this sketch was made the river has risen several feet and every foot of lumber and nearly all the residences in that section have gone down the river together. The low levees which sufficed to keep ordinary high water out of yards were as nothing before the mighty flood.

Estimates of Dead by Flood Vary From 175 to 250, While the Number of Fire Victims Can Only Be Guessed—Rescue Work at Last Becomes Effective.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. Kansas City, Mo., May 31.—With the Kaw River spreading from bluff to bluff, flooding even the Union Depot six feet deep; with great fires raging in all the lowlands and threatening destruction to everything above water, fifteen lives lost and many more in danger, Kansas City has come to a stern realization of the disaster that have befallen Topeka and other towns in Kansas.

The city is isolated. The bridges between here and Kansas City, Kas., were swept away to-night. One of them carried the main which brings the city its water supply, so that water is shut off.

The electric light and power plants are also disabled, so that the city is in darkness and not a car is moving on any of the roads.

Twenty thousand homeless persons driven from the low grounds in the course of the day, are sheltered in Convention Hall, in churches and in hastily erected tents on vacant lots, while the work of supplying them with food is under way.

Meantime the city faces a food shortage of the gravest character, for supplies are not large and it will be impossible for several days to obtain more. Three days of isolation, it is believed, will use up all the surplus food in the city, even with strictest care.

Fifteen Lives Lost in Lowlands, but Names Are Hard to Obtain at Once. Fifteen persons have been drowned in the west bottom to-day.

Because of the difficulty of recovering the bodies identification of most of the dead is impossible. The dead as reported are as follows: James Deerman, drowned on Osage avenue.

Unidentified man with two children, drowned at Mill and Osage. Unidentified woman dead in a mass of drift.

William Herbert and two other persons drowned at Second and Osage. Three men and two women were drowned by the capsizing of a boat near the Union Pacific bridge.

A man on a Belt Line engine, which was surrounded by water, was seen to disappear.

Fire Threatens Destruction to the Flooded Wholesale District. Kansas City is in the midst of the worst flood of its history, with the probability of an even greater rise of water.

Besides the west bottoms, the wholesale business district, already inundated by water from three to ten feet deep, is threatened by destruction from fire, which, this evening, was burning in five places. The Union Depot is one of the structures in danger.

The city Waterworks plant has been forced to shut down, as the water has put out the fires under the boilers.

The firemen are thus handicapped so that their efforts are practically fruitless.

The Third Regiment has been called out and 600 men, with blankets and service equipments, are on guard protecting property from looting.

Their orders are to shoot on sight any one who attempts to loot. Their presence is having a good effect.

A heavy rain all day here and in the surrounding country, drained by tributaries of the Kaw and Missouri rivers, has made the prospect of a continued rise certain.

The Union Depot is six feet under water. At noon to-day switch engines were sent on hurry messages to pull out what trains were then standing on the depot platform.

The water had just begun to cover the lower end of the terminals at that hour. Steadily it rose, while men were busy loading trunks and baggage into freight cars to haul them to a place of safety.

Five Hundred Houses Float Down River From Armourdale. Five hundred houses from Armourdale floated down the Missouri River this afternoon.

The foundations, weakened from two days of water, gave way. It seemed like a city as the houses, most of them with all the furniture and other belongings of their owners, traveled St. Louisward.

Nineteen men stood on the roof of the Schwarzschild & Sulzberger Packing Company's plant all morning trying in vain to attract attention by waving coats, shirts and whatever else they could find.

Finally they secured the company's flag and by alternately raising and lowering it attracted the attention of boats, which rescued them after six hours of imprisonment.

The plant is in momentary danger of collapse. It is deserted, efforts to keep out the water being useless.

Street cars are at a standstill. Most of the power is furnished by the two big power-houses on the Kaw, both of which are disabled.

The Missouri has broken through the Burlington embankment north of Harlem, a town opposite Kansas City, which is now only a mass of tree tops that appear like bushes over the current.

Should this channel deepen appreciably, the thing most likely to happen, the Missouri River will be three miles from Kansas City and the Kaw will flow in the channel vacated by its neighbor. This would mean new bridges and much expense to the railroads.

Twenty Thousand Homeless Persons Sheltered in Convention Hall and Churches. It is estimated that 20,000 people are homeless to-night in Kansas City.

Convention Hall has been fitted up for their accommodation and tents, which are being pitched. The churches are filled with refugees, Sunday night services having been suspended.

A relief fund approximating \$1,000 has already been raised. From up the river reports are equally discouraging.

would be very serious to a city already practically isolated. The wholesale grocery houses, the packing plants, the railroad freight houses and all bases of supplies are in the flooded district.

Reliance must be placed upon the stocks uptown, which, with the influx of people from the other side of the river, will soon be reduced to nothing. It is in this feature of the situation which is worrying the people more than anything else.

At 10 o'clock a man walked across Union avenue to get his breakfast. The street was dry. An hour later the water was three feet deep. Mules had to swim across one of the busiest streets of the wholesale district.

The stock yards are flooded. Fifteen hundred sheep were drowned there last night. Cars of cattle pland on tracks. There is no place to unload them. The loss will fall heavily on stockmen and others connected with that business.

The Cudahy packing plant was reported in great danger this evening. It faces the Kaw's current and is the first large building to feel the force of the water.

Every factory or plant using steam in the city was forced to shut down to-night because of lack of water. The newspapers tried to get out extras, but could not. Water is being hauled to their buildings in sprinkling wagons and transferred to the boilers by buckets.

the procession of houses, cars, trees and other debris that floated down. Crowds Line Banks Watching the Wreckage.

Twelve bodies were counted as they floated past. In nearly every instance they were lying across pieces of wreckage. On the roof of a cabin that came swirling down

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LEADING TOPICS

TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC

THE SUN RISES THIS MORNING AT 4:38 AND SETS THIS EVENING AT 7:19. THE MOON SETS TO-MORROW MORNING AT 12:37.

WEATHER INDICATIONS. For Missouri—Rain Monday and Tuesday, except fair and warmer Tuesday in west.

For Illinois—Rain Monday and Tuesday.

1. Flood Situation in Kansas. 2. Teamsters Resume Work To-Morrow.

Commander of Steamer Lee Says Best Steamboat Won. Shooting and Suicide End Sunday Debauch.

4. Irish Lead to Try in American Derby. 5. Scores Loyal for Not Changing Name.

Suicide Increase in America Rapidly Approaches a Mania. States Must Share Burden of River and Harbor Bills.

6. Editorial. 7. Stage News and Notes.

8. Construction Cost Caused Frisco Deal. Starving a Fugitive Among Explosives. Growth of Texas Irrigation Plants.

9. Republic "Want" Advertisements. 10. Republic "Want" Advertisements.

Cardinals Defeated by Chicago. Rain Prevents Game at Sportsman's Park.

10. Sermons and Services at the Churches. 11. Fruits and Vegetables.

Miscellaneous Markets. River News. 12. New Gushers Double Spindletop Field.

Home Organization to Be Arranged at Chicago. (For Her Husband and Caused His Arrest.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER NEAR DANGER LINE

Stream, Filled With Driftwood, Only Lacks 2.7 Feet of Reaching Flood Tide.

LOTUS SIMS LATE IN ARRIVING.

Fear Is Expressed That Thirty-Foot Stage Will Destroy 40,000 Acres of Wheat on Bottom Lands.

At 9 o'clock last night the Mississippi River at St. Louis showed a height of 27.7 feet, within 2.3 feet of the danger line.

The river is rising rapidly and the Weather Bureau predicts a height of 32 feet by Thursday. This prediction was made yesterday afternoon.

It is thought by river men that the heavy rains of last night will bring the river above the danger line by to-night.

The current of the river is swift and great masses of wood and debris are drifting downstream.

The Lotus Sims, the steamboat engaged in the recent race, and due to arrive at St. Louis at 6 o'clock last night, did not arrive until 2 o'clock this morning, and the fear was entertained that the craft had been disabled.

The Weather Bureau again notified Booneville and Hermann to prepare for high water. The danger line at Booneville is twenty feet, and the river registered one foot above this mark yesterday.

A big rise in the Mississippi River is greatly feared by farmers in the bottom lands between St. Louis and Cairo. It is said that 40,000 acres of wheat will be ruined if the water goes above thirty feet.

The river bulletin for May 31 follows: Danger Height Cg. in Rain in Line of River, 34 Fms. 24 Hrs.

St. Paul ..... 14 9.8 4.3 .50 Dubuque ..... 15 14.3 -0.1 .34

Davenport ..... 15 12.9 0.5 .38 Keokuk ..... 15 15.4 0.9 .58

Hannibal ..... 15 14.4 0.9 1.72 Grafton ..... 23 18.6 0.8 1.02

Omaha ..... 18 12.1 0.8 0.6 Kansas City ..... 21 27.5 2.5 .80

Booneville ..... 20 21.9 1.5 1.28 Hermann ..... 24 21.0 2.3 2.20

St. Louis ..... 29 25.4 4.8 .47

FARMS NEAR HANNIBAL ARE TOTALLY SUBMERGED.

Hannibal, Mo., May 31.—The sudden rise in the Mississippi River has brought heavy damage on the islands and in the bottom land in this locality.

Thousands of acres of fertile land between Hannibal and Keokuk, planted in corn and other crops, are submerged. Everything is ruined. Residents were compelled to flee yesterday and to-day to the Missouri shore for safety.

Only part of the stock was saved.

UNSELFISH HEROISM SHOWN BY TOPEKA MEN.

In the work of saving those imperiled by the flood at Topeka, were many instances of unselfish bravery on the part of the men.

Invariably women and children had precedence by common consent.

When Galveston was overwhelmed by her historic hurricane Kansas was among the first to express sympathy in substantial terms.

Now, in the time of Topeka's great sorrow, Galveston, true to her friendship, is one of the first to come forward with a liberal offer of funds for those who have lost everything by flood.

When the great Kansas River has subsided the truth of the awful calamity in the loss of life and destruction of property will be known.

To-night 500 persons are known to be in the second stories of buildings in North Topeka or to have been swallowed up by the raging torrent of water which covers that town to an average depth of twelve to fifteen feet.

At least 500 of the 10,000 inhabitants of North Topeka are not accounted for.

However, the steady downpour of last night and to-day all over Kansas does not give hope and courage to the heroic boatmen who are already fatigued with their laborious undertaking.

The best news Topeka has received since this awful calamity broke upon her was in a telephone message this morning that the water had receded ten inches at Manhattan.

but the same message said a heavy rain was falling throughout Central Kansas.

Up to 6 o'clock to-night the water gauge showed a fall here of ten inches. The river will have receded four or five feet within the next twenty-four hours to enable the rescuing parties to save the people still imprisoned in the higher buildings of North Topeka or set to them with provisions, for many of them have had nothing to eat for thirty-six hours.

Abandoned Hotel Used by Refugees. This afternoon it was found that rescuing parties could with safety locate refugees in the big elevator in North Topeka and also in the Union Pacific Hotel, which had been abandoned early Saturday morning.

The torrent around the hotel building was ten feet deep, but the rescued were deposited there safely through the second-story windows from the boats.

A high plat of ground near Garland Park was considered safe and here nearly 100 refugees are shivering to-night without shelter from the rain. Their hunger was appeased late this afternoon when boats brought to each four crackers and two hunks of cheese.

Another boat carried to those people brandy, whiskey and other stimulants to counteract the effects of cold and rain.

When the imprisoned people in upper stories and two-score who had been clinging to the roofs of their homes, preferring to remain there than to attempt to cross the river in the small boats, learned that they were to be taken to places of safety in North Topeka, the outcries for help were heartrending.

Only a half dozen good boats were at hand and not more than five persons could be carried with safety.

This moved the boatmen to greater efforts and to-night, with powerful searchlights and facing a beating rain from the north, which is almost turning to sleet, those rescuers are answering the appeals for help from men, women and children, who are suffering from hunger and severe exposure.

Women Taken From Burning Lumber Yard. E. L. Bailey and E. M. Alexander performed some of the most heroic work of the night.

In the darkness, about 3 o'clock this morning, at the greatest risk of their own lives, they succeeded in reaching one of the burning lumber yards and rescued a dozen women and children.

One man whimperingly tried to force himself into the already overloaded boat to the danger line, but was sternly pushed back by the rescuers.

On the way to the south shore, one of the women fainted from fatigue and fright and this all but swamped the boat. The men made superhuman efforts and finally reached the pontoon bridge with their precious cargo.

Here, willing hands seized and carried them over the Malan bridge to safety. This is only one of a hundred of thrilling tales of rescue attempted and made.

The most prominent man of the town donned oilskins, and in water up to their breasts, worked for hours in the cold, rescuing Russians, negroes, rich millmen, and their employes; men of high and low estate.

In some isolated instances men showed the white feather. In nearly every case.

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Hannibal, Brown Shoe Co's Shipments Shipments for May, 1903. \$ 62,350.00 Shipments for May, 1902. 67,351.00

Low ..... \$ 2,000.00 Shipments for 1902 to June 1, 1903. \$ 2,000.00 Shipments for 1902 to June 1, 1903. \$ 2,000.00

Gain

Gigantic Extent of Disasters in the Last Two Weeks.

Table with 2 columns: Disaster description and Estimated value. Includes 'Lives lost in flood in Kansas and Missouri' (215), 'Lives lost by tornado in four States' (42), 'Persons rendered homeless by wind and water' (50,000), 'Property damaged by tornado placed at' (\$ 2,000,000), and 'Property loss by flood estimated at' (\$10,000,000).