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GRAVE DIGGERS

Are Needed More Than Anything Else

Men Compelled to Dig the Graves for Their Own Families.

The Poor Fellows Act as Undertakers and Pall Bearers for Their

Dear Ones Who Were Swept Away by the Flood and Drowned.

The Once Prosperous Little City a Vast Charnel House.

Every Moment Now the Body of Some Poor Victim is Found.

The Valley Resounds With the Moans and Groans.

Two Thousand Ghastly Bodies Have Already Been Recovered.

And the Figure of Lives Lost is Still Kept at 10,000.

William Henry Smith Investigates the Dam Question and Finds That Instead of Being Constructed of Solid Granite It Was Built of Shale and Straw--Notes and Incidents.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., June 4.—A Pelion of calamity is piled with each passing hour here upon the Ossa of calamity already uncovered. Every moment now the body of some poor victim is taken from the debris, and the town, or the remnants of it, to write with accuracy, is one vast charnel-house. The scenes at the exterminated morgue are beyond powers of description in their ghastliness, while moans and groans of the suffering survivors, tossing in agony with bruised and mangled bodies, or screaming in a delirium of fever as they lie in the numerous temporary hospitals, make even the stoutest-hearted quail with terror. Nearly 2,000 bodies have already been recovered, and as the work of examining the wreckage progresses the conviction grows that the magnitude of the calamity has not yet been approximated. Conservative estimates this morning put the number of lost at 7,000, and many men of calm judgment and who are not wont to exaggerate, who have been upon the ground from the outset, place the number at 10,000. The debris wedged against the big Pennsylvania stone bridge is still burning, and the efforts of the firemen to quench or stay the progress of the flames are as futile as were those of Gulliver's Lilliputian firemen. The mass, which unquestionably forms a FURNACE FOR THOUSANDS of victims, who lie buried beneath it, is burning and is likely to burn for weeks to come. The flames are not active, but burn away in a sullen, determined fashion as though bent for once upon proving how futile are man's efforts when the fire god is aroused, and, perhaps, after all, the hand of Providence is in it, for the suggestions made by the physicians yesterday, that the bodies not buried be allowed to be cremated in the interest of public health, and which aroused such a storm of indignation among the surviving populace, is viewed with more calmness today, and there is a growing sentiment that it is, after all, the best solution of the problem. Weeks and months will be required to remove the stupendous mass by artificial means, and meantime the rotting, putrifying remains of poor humanity buried therein, would be dealing pollution and death to all the surrounding country. The awful desolation of the scene has been described often enough already to render a repetition of the attempt here unnecessary. These descriptions have been as truthful and graphic as it is possible for man to make them; but none have been adequate, none could be. Where once stood solid, unbroken business blocks for square after square with basements and cellars, there is now a level plain as free from obstruction or excavation as the fair fields of Arcadia, after they had been swept by the British flames. The major and prettier portion of the beautiful city is literally gone.

FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH. Crowds of strangers anxiously watched the wreck this morning from the railroad bridge and as far up the river on both sides as the eye can reach. At Johnston proper the rescuers continue to bring in bodies by the hundred. Thomas Williams, the husband who lost his wife and family, recovered his wife's remains and took them up the mountain, where he dug a grave and buried them himself. He said: "This is the most terrible thing I have ever done. But when I buried them all has been done." Mrs. Fredericks, an aged woman, was rescued alive from the attic in her house yesterday afternoon. The house had floated from what was formerly Vine street to the foot of the mountain. Mrs. Fredericks says her experience was terrible. She saw hundreds of men, women and children floating down the torrent to meet their death, some praying, while others actually became raving maniacs. Wreckers are working nearer the bridge today than at any time since the disaster. The special train of the Masonic Relief Association, which left Pittsburg at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon on the Baltimore and Ohio, did not reach here until just before midnight, at which time it was impossible to do anything. Under the circumstances, the party concluded to pass the night in the cars, which they did,

making themselves as comfortable as possible with packing boxes for beds and candle boxes for pillows. The party is in charge of W. S. Brown. It was met early this morning by Charles A. McFeely, who is in charge of the

DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF here and spent the morning placing sensible relief brought up yesterday among Masonic sufferers where it would do the most good. In addition to a large quantity of cooked food, sandwiches, etc., as well as flour and provisions of every description, the relief committee brought up 100 outfits of clothing for women and a similar number for girls, and a miscellaneous lot for men and boys. The women's outfits are complete, and include underwear, stockings, shoes, dresses, wraps and hats. They are most acceptable in the present crisis, and much suffering has already been relieved by them. All the gentlemen comprising the committee are indefatigable in their efforts to relieve suffering, and under the energetic and capable direction of Messrs. Brown and McFeely is doing excellent work today.

The searchers started to work early, and up to 9 o'clock 150 bodies have been taken from the ruins. Most of them are unrecognizable, and are being taken away and buried as fast as possible. One of the unfortunate things about the whole affair is that in a vast number of cases where the bodies are almost completely burned there is some clothing or something of the kind which makes the identity of the body almost complete. What is needed here today more than anything else is grave-diggers. This morning hundreds of bodies were lying around, and there was no one to dig graves. This morning there have at least

FIFTY FUNERAL PROCESSIONS passed the Associated Press headquarters. It was not an unusual sight to see two or three coffins going along one after another, followed by a number of mourners, all in the same family. It is impossible to secure wagons or conveyances of any kind, consequently all funeral processions are on foot.

William Gaffney, an insurance agent at this place, had a very pitiful duty to perform this morning. On his father's and wife's side he lost fourteen relatives, among them his wife and family. This morning he got a man to take his deceased relatives to the grave, and he had the mournful duty of digging his wife's and children's graves and burying them. In speaking of the latter this morning he said: "I never thought that I could perform such a sad duty, but I had to do it, and I did it. No one has any idea of the feelings of a man who acts as undertaker, grave-digger and pall-bearer for his own family."

The saddest sight to be seen on the river bank this morning was the case of Mr. Gilmore, who has lost his wife and family of five children. Ever since the calamity this old man has been seen on the river bank looking for his family. He insisted on the firemen playing a stream of water on the place where the house formerly stood, and where he supposed the bodies of his family lay. The firemen, recognizing his feelings, played the stream on the place for several hours this morning, and at last the rescuers got to the place the old gentleman said his house formerly stood.

"I know the bodies are there and you must find them." On went the rescuers after this plea. When at last one of the men picked up a burned, charred skull, evidently that of a child, this stirred the old man up, and he exclaimed: "That is my child. There lies my family, go on, and get the rest of them."

The workmen continued, and in a few minutes they came to the remains of the mother and three other children. THE HEADS WERE COMPLETELY BURIED OFF by there was enough of their clothing left to recognize them by. What was left was picked up and placed in coffins, the old gentleman following closely the men who were carrying the coffins.

There was a scene of considerable activity at the headquarters of Adjutant-General Hastings, on the east side, early this morning. The Sheriff at this place made a request on Gen. Hastings to call out one regiment of the National Guard. He stated that he did not want them called out on account of any trouble, but to guard against anything that might happen. Gen. Hastings immediately telegraphed Col. Ferguson, of Pittsburg, to order out the Fourth Regiment. They have not yet answered, but when they do they will be stationed in Johnston proper to guard the buildings from the acts of the thieves. Booth & Finn, the Pittsburg contractors, have a large number of men at work and have placards about the stone bridge calling for 2,000 men, and offering them \$2 a day. The Cambria Iron Works are already preparing to get their works in operation. It is probable that two of the furnaces will be in operation by the end of the week. Men were at work all day yesterday cleaning the dam out, and this morning the company had 600 men at work. Gen. Hastings was seen later in the day and when asked what caused him to order out the militia said: "There is no need of any troops to quell any disturbance, but now there are at least 2,000 men at work in Johnston clearing up the debris, and I think that it will not hurt to have the Fourth Regiment here, as they can guard the banks and all valuable. The Sheriff consulted me in the matter. He stated his men were about worn out, and he thought that we had better have some soldiers. I ordered them."

THE ILL-FATED TRAINS.

At Least Twenty Persons Lose Their Lives in This Way.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., June 4.—It is now definitely settled that at least twenty to forty people were lost on the two sections of the day express that left Pittsburg at 8 o'clock a. m., Friday, and the Johnston

accommodation that was about to leave Johnston that afternoon. There have been numerous conflicting reports about how many trains were caught in the flood, but from most reliable reports it has been ascertained that three trains were caught by the water. Mr. Edward N. McCullough, of the Westmoreland Coal Co., was among the passengers on the day express east, on Friday morning. He states positively that there were two sections of the day express and the Johnston accommodation caught in the flood. Said he, "It is my opinion that at least twenty people were drowned from the trains, in fact, I can count that many myself. And the death rate may go as high as forty. There was one parlor car and three sleepers on the express and several other cars."

"We did not know of the flood until about thirty seconds before it was upon us. We heard the whistling of the engines, and all who could ran to the hills. Among the passengers were two young ladies, one of whom I think, lives in Pittsburg, and the other, who had been visiting Pittsburg, lived in New Jersey. They heard the warning and ran out of the car, but it was muddy, and they went back for their overshoes, and before they could get away they were caught by the water and drowned. The next morning we found both of them cold in death. The lady from New Jersey had a bonnet which she brought from Pittsburg, and it was lying beside her."

"The colored porter and one woman were the last from one of the sleeping cars. The porter tried to save the woman and they were both drowned. In another car an old gentleman was lost, and in the parlor car a woman lost her husband and sister and another lady passenger and her three children were lost. The woman used a desperate effort to save the children, but was unable to try as the odds were so great against her. A woman named Christian, who lives in Mississippi, was lost from one of the cars and twelve passengers in the day coach are missing. The Pullman cars took fire and were totally destroyed. One of Daly's theatrical companies was on one of the trains, but I do not think any of the members were lost. At least eleven of the people lost from the trains were Pittsburgers, but it is impossible to ascertain any names. The railroad company have some names of the missing but refuse positively to give them out until they are certain the people have been drowned."

Adjutant-General Hastings in an interview this morning stated that he wished to deny stories published in certain newspapers to the effect that there had been some wholesale lynching and rioting here Sunday. Said he: "These reports are utterly untrue. I am sure that they will injure the papers that publish them. One here knows that there is no truth in these statements, but the people away from here have no means of obtaining information only through the newspapers. I think there is enough truth to tell here without publishing false and sensational stories."

SOMETHING ABOUT THAT DAM.

It Was Constructed of the Most Inferior Material--Wm. Henry Smith Talks.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., June 4.—I notice that one of the members of the fishing club said yesterday that the dam had not filed an indemnity bond, and that no complaints had been made about the safety of the dam by any of the Johnston citizens. He is undoubtedly correct about the bond, but is misleading as to the second part of his statements. There is not a shadow of doubt but that citizens of Cambria County frequently complained, and that at the time the dam was constructed a vigorous effort was made to put a stop to the work. It is true that the leader in this movement was not a citizen of Johnston, but he was and is a large mine owner in Cambria County. His mine adjoins the reservoir property. He related to me on Saturday the story of his labors in an effort to protect the lives and property of the people in the valley. He was frequently on the spot and his own engineer inspected the work. He says the embankment was principally of shale and clay and that straw was used to stop the leaking of water while the work was going on. He called on the Sheriff of Cambria County and told him what he had to say, and applied to court for an injunction. The Sheriff promised to give the matter his attention, but instead of going before the court, went to the Cambria Iron Company for consultation. An employe was sent up to make an inspection and his report was favorable to the reservoir work. The Sheriff went no further. But the gentleman referred to said he had not failed to make public his protest at the time and to renew it frequently. This recommendation for an injunction and protest were spoken of by citizens of Altoona as a hazy and unimportant matter. They had no idea of the facts about the dam, and the gentleman referred to said he had not failed to make public his protest at the time and to renew it frequently. 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