

DEVASTATION OF STORM AND FLOOD

From Every Quarter Come Reports of Extraordinary Losses to Life and Property.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC ALMOST SUSPENDED

Forty-eight Collieries in Schuylkill County Flooded and Property Loss Exceeds a Million Dollars—Pennsylvania Freight Train Near Williamsport Goes Through a Bridge and The Delaware Valley Submerged with Large Damage to Property, Allentown and Bethlehem Without Trolley Service or Light—In Bethlehem, Evening Church Services Have to Be Suspended. Other Reports of Havoc and Suffering Due to the Storm's Fury.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Dec. 15.—The heavy rain of yesterday and last night caused the Susquehanna river to rise rapidly. At 9 o'clock tonight it was 29 feet above low water mark and still rising. All the low lands on the west side of the river, opposite Wilkes-Barre, are covered with water from two to five feet deep.

The town of West Moor is entirely surrounded by water and many of the inhabitants are leaving the houses in boats, fearing that if the river should continue to rise during the night their dwellings will be swept away.

All railroad traffic east and west is suspended. A big washout occurred on the Lehigh Valley railroad at Veshburg, Pa., where the water is running over the tracks a depth of several feet. A bridge crossing over a creek in close proximity to the Susquehanna river in the northern part of this city was greatly weakened by the flood and no attempt will be made to run trains over it until it is put in condition.

A washout occurred on the Central Railroad of New Jersey at White Haven which completely crippled that road. At the office of the Lehigh Valley railroad it was stated that the company expected to resume the running of passenger trains some time after midnight. The officials of the Central Railroad were unable to say when traffic would be resumed on their road. A bridge was washed out at Glen Onoko and it will take some time to repair it.

A dam used for storing water for a number of mines at Parsons burst this morning, flooding a creek, which runs through the town. The water from the creek found its way into some of the houses nearby and the inmates had to make a hasty exit.

In the rural districts the wind blew down small buildings and fences and uprooted trees. After the wind ceased early last night the rain came down in torrents and continued until this morning. Today there was a sudden change in the weather, the temperature falling rapidly and tonight the residents of the Wyoming valley are experiencing a touch of the western blizzard.

TRAIN GOES THROUGH BRIDGE.

Three Lives Lost in Mishap to a Freight Train Near Williamsport. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Williamsport, Pa., Dec. 15.—A freight train on the Philadelphia and Erie division of the Pennsylvania railroad went through the bridge spanning Lehigh creek, between this city and Newbury, at 6 o'clock this morning. Three lives were lost.

The dead are: JOHN MARZ, engineer, of Scranton, married; FREDERICK GLASS, fireman, Scranton, married; GEORGE HARLEY, brakeman, Scranton, married.

The train was known as fast freight No. 83, and was running three hours late owing to the delay in the resumption of schedule, growing out of the storm. The bridge spanning the creek was a two-span iron structure, the first span of which gave way beneath the train. The engine and nine cars were engulfed in the waters. The creek was greatly swollen as a result of the heavy rains, and it is presumed that the middle pier had been weakened. No efforts could be made to reach the bodies, owing to height of the water.

All the streams in this section were greatly swollen. The river here rose to a height of twenty-one feet, which did no damage in this city beyond flooding a few cellars on the lowlands.

A few stray logs in the river were carried away. Lying and Loyal creek creeks were both abnormally high and the Northern Central road on the along the first named stream were badly washed out in places, and several bridges were damaged. At Easton, a passenger train had to be abandoned and the passengers sought high ground to escape the flood.

The Philadelphia and Reading railroad bridge at Montroseville was so weakened that traffic had to be suspended.

During the twenty-four hours ending at midnight last night, the rainfall was three inches.

BETHEHEM CHURCHES CLOSE.

Lack of Light Causes Abandonment of Evening Services. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Bethlehem, Dec. 15.—In six hours this morning the Lehigh river overflowed the canal and the adjoining railroad tracks on both sides. Both

the Lehigh Valley and Jersey Central railroads were forced to suspend traffic. Not since 1811 has the backwater from the river wrought such serious damage to the canal. The water rose to the extent of nearly 250,000. Both the electric and gas companies are without power, and the churches were compelled to suspend services tonight.

Although many head of live stock has perished, no loss of human life is known hereabouts. The Lehigh river was seventeen feet above low water mark here before the people realized their danger, hence the severe loss to personal property.

ALLENTOWN IN DARKNESS.

No Trolley Cars and No Light. Many Industries Flooded. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Allentown, Pa., Dec. 15.—The most destructive flood in the Lehigh valley since 1862 started this morning at 3 o'clock following a two days' drenching rain which melted the snow in the mountains, causing the Lehigh river to become a raging torrent. The traction company's power houses are flooded with seven feet of water which drowned fires under boilers. No trolley cars have been run since 3 o'clock this morning and Allentown is tonight in darkness.

The Adelphi silk mill sustained a loss of over \$40,000 by flood. Eight feet of muddy water is on the first floor, completely covering the warping and winding machines and containing all the silk on the machines. The American Steel & Wire company's wire and mill plants are under water and thousands of dollars damage has been done there. All other industries along the course of streams suffered heavily by the flood.

There are many washouts along the railroads. Superintendent Wentz, of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, is stalled in his private car somewhere north of Allentown. Look Tender William Huffert's house and a stable near Allentown were swept away. The railroad's passenger cars were carried with the stable into the Lehigh river and drowned. The county bridge over the Lehigh river here was badly damaged by the flood. One pier is crumbling, due to the pounding of a canal boat, which was blown into it by the central railroad of New Jersey, which is stalled in his private car somewhere north of Allentown. Look Tender William Huffert's house and a stable near Allentown were swept away. The railroad's passenger cars were carried with the stable into the Lehigh river and drowned. The county bridge over the Lehigh river here was badly damaged by the flood. One pier is crumbling, due to the pounding of a canal boat, which was blown into it by the central railroad of New Jersey, which is stalled in his private car somewhere north of Allentown.

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SENTENCING OF IGLESIAS.

Denounced by the Central Federated Union of New York.

New York, Dec. 15.—The sentencing of Santiago Iglesias to imprisonment, under the Spanish law, in Porto Rico, was denounced at today's meeting of the Central Federated Union. The mission of Iglesias was approved by the central body when he left this country armed with credentials from the American Federation of Labor for Porto Rico.

A delegate moved that a committee be appointed to draft resolutions denouncing the sentence and calling on the United States government to make investigation of the whole matter. An amended motion was proposed that a protest be sent to President Roosevelt and Secretary Hay against the sentencing of Iglesias. The matter finally went over until next Sunday, as some of the delegates thought the union should move slowly.

DINGLEY TARIFF FOR PHILIPPINE GOODS

Republican Measure to Pass Precisely as Introduced—Party Lines to Be Broken in Vote.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The House today will pass the bill to provide temporary revenues for the Philippine Islands which was reported from the ways and means committee last Friday. Under the agreement made general debate will extend throughout Tuesday and until 4 o'clock Wednesday when a vote will be taken. There will be no opportunity to amend the measure.

There will be a break in the party lines on both sides of the house. Mr. McCall of Massachusetts, the Republican member of the ways and means committee, who opposed the Porto Rican bill during the last congress, will speak against the measure and will be supported in his dissent from his Republican colleagues by Mr. Littlefield of Maine, and perhaps several other Republicans who opposed the Porto Rican bill and who hold that a similar issue is presented at this time.

On the Democratic side Mr. Robertson, a member of the ways and means committee, will support the bill and the remainder of the Louisiana delegation will do likewise. Representing the cane sugar interests of their state they are opposed to concessions on sugar duties either from the Philippines or Cuba.

The general belief is that the bill will secure many Democratic votes as it loses votes on the Republican side and that the majority in its favor when placed upon its passage will be about equal to the Republican majority in the house.

SPALDING CLAIMS VICTORY.

Says Today Will See Him Supplant Andrew Freedman.

New York, Dec. 15.—Spalding, tonight, declared positively that he would win his fight in the National League. As he left the Fifth Avenue hotel, he said:

"At 4:30 o'clock tomorrow Andrew Freedman is out and A. G. Spalding wins."

When Mr. Freedman was informed of this positive statement he said:

"There is nothing Mr. Spalding can say any more that is worthy of reply from me. The interests of the stockholders of the New York club will be amply protected."

Later in the evening, Frank De Haas Robinson, president of the St. Louis club, has been informed by Mr. Spalding's declaration. He asked a few questions relating to the matter, and then sent his card to Messrs. Soden and Count, of Boston, who were in their rooms in the hotel. It is significant that J. Walter Spalding, not long after, came to the hotel and was in conference with Robinson and Soden.

ARGENTINE AND CHILI.

Hope Is Entertained for a Settlement on Friendly Basis.

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 15.—Although the situation between the Argentine and Chili governments has improved, it has not been clearly defined. Everything is quiet. The Argentine government will tomorrow forward its reply to the Chiliian note.

The hope prevails here that everything will be arranged on a friendly basis within a few days. It is believed that Chili will insist upon presenting an insignificant claim for the invasion of Chiliian territory by three Argentine policemen.

The Argentine government still continues taking military measures. Men of wealth are offering the government money with which to buy horses and otherwise equip, should occasion arise, a regiment of cavalry.

ARCHBISHOP CHAPPELLE HOME.

He Will Make His Report Today to the President.

New York, Dec. 15.—Archbishop Chappelle, of New Orleans, lately papal delegate to the Philippines, returned from Europe today on the steamship LaBretagne. Monsignor Chappelle was sent to Manila by the pope in 1898, at the suggestion of President McKinley, to settle what was then known as the "Frisar question." On the way home from this mission he stopped at Rome, and tomorrow he will make his report to President Roosevelt.

The archbishop declined to discuss his mission abroad before making his report to the Washington authorities.

Senator Sewell Improved.

Canton, N. J., Dec. 15.—The condition of United States Senator Sewell, according to his physicians, is much improving today. The senator, during the day, talked from his sickbed, and tonight he was able to sit up in bed and to eat a light dinner. It is not said to be an immediate danger.

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