THOUSANDS LOST,

BUT THE DEATH-ROLL LESS THAN ANNOUNCED.

The Debris at the Stone Bridge Set on Fire—Preparing for Business at Johnstown—Contributions.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

JOHNSTOWN, June 13.—The first real work under the supervision of the State commenced this morning at 6 o'clock. The whistle at the Cambria Iron- and Steel-Works was the signal for the men to commence, and about 1,500 started in with their picks and shovels. The early morning was warm and cloudy, and the fumes and odors from the decayed bodies was something almost unbearable.

As the morning advanced the weather grew warmer and by 10 o'clock the sun was shining brightly, and every one on the ground was hard at work. During the morning a crowd of worthless loafers in some manner secured entrance to the town and wanted to inaugurate a strike among the workmen. Some of the laborers were apparently dissatisfied at having new bosses over them, and quite wanted a chance to complain. Mr. James Knight, of Pittsburgh, of the firm of contractors, got wind of the trouble brewing and went among the men and informed them that he would have no kicking, and that all those who wished to quit would have to do so immediately, and about 100 of them left, but the others remained around, and Mr. Knight went to General Hastings and demanded protection for his men.

A detachment of militia from the Fourth Division regiment were detailed to the place and drove away all the men who refused to work. This caused General Hastings to be urgent in order to the sufferers not to admit any one to Johnstown except without an order.

Businessmen of the town seemed to have awakened to their senses, and this morning numbers of them were preparing to start up again in business. Two grocery stores were started near the Pennsylvania railroad yesterday morning.

Both places were doing a land-office business, and this encouraged the other merchants to start up, and the probabilities are that inside of a week at the latest a hundred stores will be in operation. Already two barbershops and one jewelry store have been opened.

The general opinion among well-posted people here is that the loss of life will be far short of the first estimate. It was generally conceded that Johnstown and the boroughs adjoining had a population of 35,000, but this was a very high estimate, and conservative people put the population between 25,000 and 30,000. Colonel Rogers, who has charge of the registration, states that from all he can learn the population only amounted to about 25,000, and this accounts for the loss people supposed to be lost. Reports are coming in from here to there of men that have lost people who were missing were based upon the supposition that their wives, children, relatives in these boroughs. Reports as to the number of bodies recovered at different points along the flooded districts are very conflicting. Supposed official reports have been sent in by different persons, and these are very confusing, and put the number of bodies recovered anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000. Consequently there is no telling how many bodies have been recovered.

Yesterday was the second day since the flood. At Cresson we were indulged with rain, but the influence of a freight and the country did was soon dry and things in general brightened up wonderfully. A number of stores with their wares beside were turned aside, and large sales of goods were effected, being bought up by the town. The people are making heroic efforts to clean up their houses to their former condition. Numbers have combined together to clean houses on their premises and to remove the accumulations of all kinds which have accumulated in the yards. Scarcely a yard, all over, and houses are all full of water. There are still the engineers, guns and the soldiers are very in evidence, emphasizing the work to be done, but with an vigorous, as the soldiers are now lower than the ground. The Cambria Company started out a crew of laborers this afternoon to make place of the workshop for the rebuilding and repair of the company's establishment. The Pennsylvania Company paid particular attention to business down on their first agent was made today, when there were no officials with local authority and the Road, many of them, without a dollar, after Colonel Harrington's afternoon and assured him that they would be reestablished in their respective lines of duty. Both Pittsburgh and Philadelphia wholesalers have offered businessmen individually the business confidence, concerning today turned out to be an ovation to General Hastings. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Wm. Kinkead, who stated that he had been directed to clear the streets of Johnstown and make contracts with men to open the way in order that the business may be enabled to get to and from their business places. Our work is progressing rapidly and vigorously, and the best thing for Johnstown merchants to do is to begin business as soon as possible. I have communicated with seven firms who offer to assist you if you will resume business in this city. I would suggest that you build temporary structures for the present until more favorable circumstances warrant the erection of permanent establishments. Pittsburgh houses offer to ship your stores with a full line of goods, and give you long credit. I advise you to accept the opportunity, and when in the future I trust matters take a more favorable aspect you will be able to repay all losses incurred.

The total number of bodies recovered up to 10, making the grand total of bodies found 1,216. The most of the work was done this afternoon, and to-night the finding ceased. With it is destroyed a number of recovering the bodies that are supposed yet remained.

The report of the Bureau of Transportation which filed with the Citizens' Relief Committee, was presented to James B. Scott Esq. It shows that from June 8 to 11th inclusive 1,500 people were given free transportation out of Johnstown. Out of these 1,000 were by the Pennsylvania railroad and 500 over the Baltimore and Ohio; 175 were sent to Pittsburgh by the Baltimore and Ohio and 350 over the Pennsylvania, and 150 were sent to Philadelphia over the Baltimore and Ohio.

TO THE TOWNSMEN.

This morning, June 13.—A conference took place this afternoon at the Lafayette Hotel between Governor Beaver and the committee of the Citizens' Relief Committee of Johnstown. At the Governor's suggestion it was agreed that the Relief Committee should visit the stricken town. They will start next Monday. Governor Beaver announced that he had taken up the loss of living $1,000,000 out of the State Treasury under a proposed indemnity bond scheme, for the reason that such action might establish a bad precedent. He further promised to adopt the surgeon-in-chief