

How the People Were Fed and Clothed at the Commissaries.

The call for help which went up from the survivors of the great disaster of May 31, 1889, in Johnstown and vicinity was responded to by the people of the whole country in such a manner, as, for christian charity and liberality, to stand unparalleled in the history of the world.

The large contributions of food, clothing and household supplies sent here are being faithfully and impartially distributed among the needy. This distribution is now so thoroughly systematized that to the deserving poor these supplies are easy of access and to the impostor public exposure is reasonably sure.

The manner of distribution may prove interesting to many contributors who are unable by reason of distance to come and see for themselves. The city and adjoining towns are divided into proper Commissary districts, which the distribution is made.

For example just opposite the Pennsylvania Railroad passenger depot, is Commissary No. 3, known also as Prospect Hill Depot. This Commissary is in charge of Lieut. W. T. Richardson, of Mahanoy City, Pa., assisted by Commissary Sergeant D. E. Brindle, of Carlisle and R. S. Magee, Quarter Master Sergeant, of Wightsville, and an efficient corps of assistants.

The contributions are sorted out at the railroad stations and a portion sent here for distribution. The Commissary named is so divided that there is separate apartment for groceries, meat, bread, flour and other provisions, as well as for boots and shoes, gents clothing, ladies wear and household goods.

Daily distribution being made from each department. In the grocery and provision department of Lieut. Richardson's commissary, tickets are given to such persons as are entitled to relief, these tickets have the name, residence and number of persons in the family, and the days of the month beginning with the 12th and ending with the 30th of June. The holder of the ticket is entitled to receive provisions daily for the number of persons named upon presentation of the ticket.

When the provisions are supplied the date is punched out and nothing more can be gotten on the date designated. In the clothing department a competent man is in charge of the passage way who ascertains the present and former residence of the applicant and such facts as are necessary to determine whether or not the relief should be extended. If the applicant is entitled to assistance he or she is given a ticket upon which is written a list of articles wanted, which the holder takes from department to department, until all the articles are obtained. When the ticket is lifted. In case all the articles can not be obtained, the holder retains the ticket, the articles supplied having been stricken off.

The household goods are distributed by receiving the applications for articles needed, and, after proper examination the applicant appears to be entitled to relief, the goods are delivered at such places as are designated, and a receipt taken therefor.

A complete list is kept of all such persons as hold tickets, together with the number of persons comprising the family and the number of persons housed who were flooded out as also of all persons receiving household supplies.

When Lieut. Col. Spangler, now Assistant Commander General of Pennsylvania, took charge of the supplies on June 2d all was confusion and excitement, and it was impossible to systematize the distribution at once, but a few days brought order out of chaos and when depot No. 3 was placed in charge of Lieut. Richardson, who is an experienced grocer, it was fortunately placed in the hands of an energetic man possessing rare executive ability in this direction, and through whose efforts this commissary has gained the respect and admiration of the whole community.

The Fire Limit Ordinance. This outrageous ordinance should be wiped out at once. It has been, and as long as it remains as one of our borough laws, will be against the prosperity of Johnstown. It discriminates unfavorably against our own people. It will prevent improvements, and drive those with little means from our city. Poor people are not able to erect brick buildings, but many of them can put up comfortable and handsome wooden structures. The enforcement of the "fire limit ordinance" will only benefit the grasping land sharks from abroad.

Cambria Iron Company. The old chestnut—one that has played its part in the affairs of men for ages, that "corporations have no souls," is compelled by current events to take a black seat. Not only have the banks of Philadelphia, in proffering the loan of a million dollars for the relief of the flood swept districts of the State, given it a black eye, but the noble stand taken by the authorities of Cambria Iron Company in encouraging its thousands of employees with the promise of a speedy resumption, and in affording immediate relief to the suffering, throws the old threadbare saying square on its back. Its officers here-with Mr. James McMillen, Cyrus Elder, Esq., John Fulton, Esq., and others, and Mr. Powell Stackhouse of Philadelphia, have done very much to re-assure our people and inspire confidence; and the assurance that the Wire Mills will be rebuilt at the earliest possible moment has had a wonderful effect in buoying up the spirits of our hundreds of artisans.

Real Estate.

But little real estate has yet been on the market, owners being undecided as to what to do. The flood has undoubtedly caused a boom in real estate at Moxham, and it is said that very few lots are for sale there any more.

Our Interests. Nearly every department of the Cambria Iron Company is again running full time, and the Johnson Works are also in full blast. The department of the Johnson Works which was recently removed from Woodvale, is also in full blast, and our people are nearly all back at their regular employment. And yet it is only five weeks to-day since the great flood.

The Unidentified Dead. The bodies of two girls were recovered yesterday, one behind the M. E. Church, and one back of the Morrell Institute. Neither was identified, but pieces of the clothing of each was preserved. Great care is taken in this respect by Undertaker Henderson and any article that will likely lead to identification is preserved, and in each case a piece of clothing together with a careful description of the body is recorded and numbered.

The \$10 Relief Money. The Finance Committee yesterday sent out checks to the sufferers at South Fork, Mineral Point, East Conemaugh, Franklin, Conemaugh borough, and Johnstown, Fourth ward, for the payment of \$10 to each. To-day they expect to complete the work and all who are entitled to relief will find their checks in the post-office to-morrow. The checks are on the First National Bank and they will be cashed by that institution. A rigid examination was made of the lists, and quite a number of persons who had registered were decided not to be entitled to relief. Other cases are under consideration, and some of them may yet be allowed.

The Commissaries. A large amount of suffering has been relieved by the prompt and efficient work of those in charge of the different Commissaries, and General Hastings and his Quartermasters are highly complimented for the manner in which they performed their work. The Commissary at the station under the charge of Lieut. W. F. Richardson, was probably the largest and it was well kept. F. J. Snyder, Esq., of Clearfield, Pa., deserves especial credit for his faithful work here, as he gave over three weeks of his time for which he would take no compensation, and in addition contributed freely to those in need from his private purse. Capt. H. H. Kuhn has charge of all the Commissaries now, and everything is moving along all right.

Flood Incidents. They are simply multitudinous; many of them not only startling but marvellous, and, if not so well verified, would seem impossible. Columns upon columns could be printed, and still the numbers would not be exhausted. Thrilling and hair-breadth escapes could be gathered up by the many thousands, as all who were saved out of the seething mass of matter that rolled down the Conemaugh to the stone bridge, and then carried up the Stonycreek over into Kernville, were saved in a miraculous manner.

But while so many real incidents could be added to those already in print, there is certainly no excuse for publishing so much that has no foundation in fact. The silly stuff sent off from here to city papers about hanging and shooting of Huns was the result of lively imaginations; and the "great avenger," so styled, existed, simply in the minds of certain reporters.

A Morgue Employed Killed—Phys. Rufae Dies at the Hospital. About seven o'clock yesterday morning one of the carriers at the Millville Morgue was mangled by a west-bound freight train and injured so badly that he died during the forenoon. He was taken to the hospital but his legs were both cut off, and Dr. W. B. Lowman, who was summoned, found that he could do nothing for him. None of his fellow workmen knew where he was from, but it is believed that he was from Troy, New York. He had been working here for some time and said that he had an uncle on the New York police force. Undertaker Henderson telegraphed to the Chief of Police in New York, and if nothing is heard from his relatives he will be buried here to-day.

The Work in Cambria Borough—Vagrants Put to Work. Although there has at no time been a large force of men employed in Cambria borough, much progress has been made toward cleaning up that town. For the past two weeks only twenty men have been employed, although the citizens have appealed for more help, and they have been promised sixty men time and again. As the men have not been sent, the people are beginning to feel that undue discrimination is used against them.

The Borough officials, however, are alive to their duty, and at a meeting of Council on Wednesday evening they decided to ask General Hastings for picks, shovels and other tools, so that they could put loafers to work. Accordingly yesterday about a dozen vagrants were arrested, and as they were unable to pay their fines, a guard was placed over them with a shot gun, and they were put to work on the streets. A squad of militia under the lead of the local police, paraded the streets during the day and arrested every idler they saw, and the effect of this radical treatment will no doubt prove beneficial.

THIEVING RASCALS.

Where? Right here in Johnstown. Who? Not common sneak thieves—not well known jail birds; nor do they belong to the much abused Huns. But unfortunately belong to a class who aspire to be reckoned among honorable and honest people. Where are they from? Not many of them from town, but from country districts in this and adjoining counties. Are they poor, and is it poverty that drives them to commit acts that should land them, one and all, into the Penitentiary? No; but on the contrary they are men and women who live well and have plenty.

They belong to a class of human vultures who seem to think that the more a community looses, the more it should loose; and the greater its sufferings the more easily does it become the prey of the thieves and robbers. We have trustworthy authority for saying that arm fulls, basket fulls, and even wagon loads of household and store goods have been carried into the country by these low-lived vagabonds, that infested the town ever since the flood. A farmer—an honorable and honest farmer—living some twenty miles from town being asked if he had been in Johnstown since the washout, replied he had not, nor did he wish to go there in view of so many of his neighbors bragging about how many things they had picked up—enough, they said, to supply them with goods for the next year or so.

Another class but a little less criminal are the relic hunters. While honorable exceptions, people who willingly pay liberally for all they get are found among them others of them pilfer everything they can quietly lay hold of.

Since writing the above one of our Main street merchants says two ladies were in his shoe store on Monday forenoon when one of them was detected in stealing two pairs of shoes. A friend from Somerset laid a light overcoat, worth \$25.00, on a desk near a front window in our office, which was stolen in broad-day light.

In view of the many complaints of this kind from every part of the town, should there not be better police regulations? Or shall the town be given over to the thieving hordes?

The New Stores on the Park. The blocks of two story frame buildings erected by the State on the Public Square, are in six sections, each section containing six rooms or thirty in all. At 2 o'clock, Thursday afternoon they were allotted to our business men as follows:

Fronting on Main street—Kralle, druggist; John W. Owens, grocer; Mrs. M. S. Maloy, grocer; Seth E. Phillips, dry goods; J. M. Fackler, millinery; Geo. Keiper, dry goods; E. T. Schoff, dry goods; Emil E. Roth, dry goods; Mrs. Danges, millinery; E. C. Lorentz, boots and shoes; H. T. DeFrance, druggist.

Park Place—Mrs. Leitberger, confectionery; Kramer Bros., paper; W. A. Kraft, jeweler; Larkins & Co., jewelers; J. W. Stevenson, jeweler; Mrs. Susan Young, jeweler; Mr. Adolph Luckhard, jeweler; Irwin Rutledge, stationery; Frank Devlin, grocer.

Locust street—Geo. K. Stryker, tin-ner; T. G. Stewart & Co., grocers; J. D. Edwards & Co., boots and shoes; T. E. Morgan, music store; Singer Sewing Machine Company; W. W. Porch, music; J. P. Dady, grocer; R. C. Miller, grocer; W. B. Tice, druggist.

Franklin street—G. A. Zumaera, druggist; C. Krieger, grocer; L. Baumer, grocer; C. B. Cover, grocer; J. M. Young, grocer; Charles Brown, grocer; T. C. Davis, grocer; J. B. Stator, druggist.

The offices up-stairs were not all taken, there being more than enough to supply all applicants.

The Morgues. In the organization of the Fourth ward school house morgue, next to the Rev. D. J. Beale, D. D., Chairman of the Committee on Morgues, too much credit can not be given to Mr. William Cover, of this city, and Mr. James Russell, undertaker, of Braddock. The carriers, the washers, the undertakers, the police, the drivers and the clerks did difficult and faithful work, receiving, preparing for burial, describing and recording and sending out 301 bodies.

The Presbyterian church morgue attended to about 190 bodies. Dr. Jessop, of Kittanning, was in charge most of the time.

The morgue at Keraville, South and Napoleon streets, was conducted by A. L. Davis and Dr. Wagoner. There were passed through this morgue 153 bodies.

Besides these there have been large morgues at Cambria City and Morrellville, aggregating several hundred bodies. The Millville morgue alone is now open, and Mr. John Henderson is in charge of it. About 400 bodies have been received here.

The laborers of those in sneak of these dead houses have been most difficult and delicate. All proper efforts have been made to identify the dead. To this end most bodies are embalmed and kept for public view for several days. So correct were the entries of the unrecognized that Dr. J. C. Duncan, from the description given in one of the morgues two weeks after the death of his wife went to the grave where a female answering to the description of his wife was interred and upon uncovering the grave he recognized the deceased as his wife. It would not be surprising if in the midst of the great excitement some mistakes had been made, but in general the work has been well done. All valuables found on the bodies were turned over to the committee on valuables.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

Table with columns: Distance and Fare, Miles, Fare. Rows include Johnstown to Altoona, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, etc.

Table with columns: Leaves, Arrives. Rows include Pittsburgh, Altoona, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, New York.

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