

## FLOODS CAUSE FOOD FAMINE

DES MOINES, IOWA, SUFFERS FOR NECESSARIES OF LIFE.

**Trains Are Unable to Enter the City—Bakeries Were Taxed on Account of 6000 Refugees—Great Suffering Through Exposure—City Water Supply in Danger.**

Des Moines, Iowa, June 1.—Sunday afternoon the relief authorities announced that they were confronted with a food and fuel famine. Meat markets all over the city declare they have but two or three days' stock on hand. There are no trains entering the city and no prospect of getting a shipment of freight into Des Moines in less than three or four days. Bakeries are overtaxed by reason of the demand of the 6000 refugees.

The temperature of the past three days has been such as to cause great suffering and to threaten great loss of life through exposure. Now it transpires that there is but a meager coal supply and that the light and power plant and the water works have an insufficient supply. Roads are impassable for team hauling and no coal can be shipped in.

At the water company's office it is stated that the situation is alarming. Notice was sent to every resident in the city to draw an extra supply of water to provide against the closing of the plant. Owing to the breaking of another levee the commons, on which 60 tents were placed for flood refugees, was flooded, completely submerging the tents. The occupants escaped.

A little hope has been inspired in the breasts of the 6000 flood refugees by the report that the river has begun slowly to recede. After rising all night a fall of two inches was noted between 8 o'clock and noon. The condition of the sufferers has been slightly alleviated by the better organization of the relief forces. Only isolated instances of extreme need of food have been discovered, and those who were living in rain soaked tents have nearly all been removed to places of comfort in public buildings. The need of bed covering is still imperative.

Not a wheel is turning in the factory district and no effort is made to open any business houses. Boats afford the only means of communication between north, south and east Des Moines, and the main part of the city. This is extremely perilous.

So far as is known, but seven authenticated fatalities have been reported. Reports of a score more have been received from that section of the city that is cut off, but can not be verified.

### Water Receding.

At 6 o'clock tonight the water in the Des Moines river had declined 14 inches from its maximum height of 24 feet, attained early this morning. Notwithstanding the steady rain that has fallen for three days past it is believed that the danger of a further rise has passed. The river continues to be from a half mile to two miles wide, effectually cutting off all communication between the main part of Des Moines from east, north and south Des Moines and covers thousands of homes and business houses. The police report that thieves in boats are plundering stocks of merchandise to an alarming extent and several arrests have been made.

### At Ottumwa.

Ottumwa, Iowa, June 1.—All records for high water here were broken Sunday, the water in the Des Moines river standing 21 feet 4 1/2 inches. Hundreds of homes in the west and south parts of the city are flooded.

### Over Its Banks.

Muskogee, I. T., June 1.—The flood situation here is growing serious. The Arkansas river is out of its banks and the lowlands are flooded. The river is now even with the tracks of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas bridge. It has been raining all day and there is no immediate prospect of relief.

### War Department to Assist.

Washington, June 1.—The war department will assist to the extent of its power in efforts to alleviate suffering in the flooded districts of the west. Orders to this effect have been given to Major General Bates, commanding the department of the Missouri. The supply department at Leavenworth, Kan., will be availed of for the shipment of tents to the flooded localities should these be found necessary.

### Flood Warnings Issued.

Washington, June 1.—The following special flood warning has been issued by the weather bureau:

The flood situation in the lower Missouri appears to be grave. Warnings for a stage of 26 feet at Herrmann and Booneville, Mo., and for 32 feet at St. Louis have been issued. The danger line at the last named point is 30 feet.

"All flood records since the year 1891, when the district was sparsely settled, have been surpassed by the floods of the past week in the Missouri valley," said Alfred J. Henry, in charge of the forecast bureau. "We have deemed it necessary to send out special flood warnings as the conditions continue very dangerous. The danger line at Kansas City, for instance, is 21 feet, and today a stage of 27.5 feet was reported. This means an alarming situation so far as property is concerned, but the people have sufficiently been warned so that there should not be further loss of life. The stage of 32 feet has been predicted for St. Louis, where the danger line is 30 feet."

## REJECT CANAL TREATY.

Columbian Congress Certain to Object.

News has been published that the new Colombian congress is almost certain to reject the Panama canal treaty. Those on the inside are not surprised, for evidence has been forthcoming which goes to show that the old French Panama Canal company and certain people in Colombia have entered into a conspiracy to get \$20,000,000 more out of the United States. With this end in view they have aroused hostility against those Colombian officials who signed the treaty, and compelled several of them to resign, and seem to have succeeded in electing a congress that will reject the treaty if a larger payment is not made.

The rejection of the treaty may prove a disappointment, but it should not be allowed to take the form of intimidation. This country has already made a handsome offer. The agreement to pay the Frenchmen \$40,000,000 for works that are of doubtful value, and to pay the Colombians \$250,000 a year for what will actually be a benefit to their country, is in itself an enormous outlay, and would never have received the support of congress had it not been for the overwhelming popular demand for immediate construction of the canal.

To submit to further extortion is out of the question. It is not absolutely necessary to acquire the rights by way of Panama, a route which many eminent engineers still hold to be undesirable. By the terms of the Spooner act, unless the administration succeeds in negotiating a "satisfactory treaty" with Colombia and within a "reasonable time," the president is authorized to drop the Panama route and dig the Nicaragua canal. If the Colombians are determined to get "gay," it will be easy for the executive to exercise the power and discretion that has been given him.

## England's New Policy.

Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's protectionist policy is the all prevailing topic of discussion in London. His masterful assertion that he will make reciprocal trade between the mother country and her colonies the question of the hour has been sensationally fulfilled. Columns of comment fill the afternoon newspapers, and everyone is asking: "Does it mean dissolution?" Some people maintain that the government contemplates appealing to the country on preferential trade at the close of the present session at the beginning of August, while others maintain that the government has not the slightest intention of giving up its unexpired term of office.

## Bicycle Racer Killed.

Cambridge, Mass., June 2.—Harry D. Elkes of Glens Falls, N. Y., the premier motor pacer follower of the United States, was killed and Will Stinson, almost as well known, and F. A. Gately, a motor steersman, were seriously injured in an accident at the initial bicycle meeting on the new Charles river park track. The accident occurred in the first lap of the sixteenth mile of motor paced race and was due to the bursting of the rear tire on Elkes' wheel at a point where the track is at an angle of about 33 degrees.

## Prior Dismissed.

Victoria, B. C., June 3.—Colonel Prior has been dismissed by Lieutenant Governor Sir Henri Joly, and later Richard McBride, member for Delta and leader of the opposition, was called upon to form a ministry. The dismissal of the late premier was due to his connection with the contract for the supply of a cable for Chimney creek bridge, which was supplied by his firm.

## Coming Events.

North Pacific sangerfest, Walla Walla, June 5-8.

Normal commencement, Cheney, June 17.

Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs, Everett, June 24-26.

Northwest Sportsmen's association, Dayton, Wash., June 25-27.

It is estimated that persons seeking divorce in South Dakota spend, while gaining residence for that purpose, \$100,000 a year.

## WASHINGTON ITEMS.

Whitman college commencement was held June 4-10.

Memorial day was observed in Colfax in the usual manner.

A good roads association was organized in Spokane recently.

Washington Pioneers' association was held in Seattle June 2-3.

A new national bank is to be opened in Spokane in the near future.

The Tacoma Federation of Women's organizations has been organized.

The commencement exercises of the Yakima high school will be held June 5.

Forest fires are again prevalent in the timber in the neighborhood of Hillyard.

Slot machines are again running in Tacoma under the tacit consent of the city authorities.

George M. Mitchell, a pioneer of Spokane, died recently. Mr. Mitchell was 76 years of age.

The dedication of the new Presbyterian church will take place Sunday, June 7, at Yakima.

Congressman W. L. Jones has accepted an invitation to speak at Palouse City on the 4th of July.

The German scientists who are in America, sent here by the government of Germany, will be in Spokane June 5.

Admiral Charles J. Barclay, formerly in charge of the Boston navy yard, has arrived in Seattle to take command of the Bremerton navy yard.

The home of J. S. Olson, the Touche blacksmith who was killed in Walla Walla recently by being run over by a hack, was in Memphis, Tenn.

Adjutant General James A. Drain has mustered into the service of the national guard a new company of 40 men.

After 23 working days of idleness, the differences between the master builders and the building laborers at Spokane have been amicably adjusted.

The Spokane League baseball team is now in second place for the pennant. They are playing star ball and when in that city all should see the games.

Russell Harding, formerly stationed at Spokane as assistant general superintendent of the Great Northern, is now general manager of the Gould roads.

The convocation of the missionary district of Spokane of the Protestant Episcopal church will be held in Spokane June 16, 17 and 18, at All Saints' cathedral.

Lewis Mayhew, a well known young business man of Whatcom, was drowned Sunday afternoon in Bellingham bay. He walked off the stern of his launch while it was in motion and was struck by the propeller.

The fraternal and benevolent societies of Spokane city and county are concerned over the decision of Assessor Stewart to assess this year their paraphernalia and lodge furniture and also their money in bank.

The jury in the case of Edward Spencer at Spokane found him guilty of murder in the second degree for killing Ella Mundt on January 19 last. Coupled with the verdict was a recommendation to the court for clemency.

A number of recent happenings have served to emphasize the importance of Spokane as a railway center, a proposition primarily due to the geographical location of that city. Spokane has more railroad lines passing directly through it than any other city in the northwest.

Memorial day in Spokane was appropriately observed by the Grand Army organizations of the city. Sedgwick post conducted the services at Fairmount and J. L. Reno post at Greenwood and at Fort Wright. The Women's Relief Corps, Sons and Daughters of Veterans of each post participated.

"I never saw two such cities anywhere as Seattle and Spokane. If my eldest boy was big enough to be choosing a place I would advise him to locate in one or the other of those two cities, and it is a shakeup between them."—Extract from a conversation which Colonel James Hamilton Lewis had with the president at Pocatello.

The next meeting of the State Dental association will be held in Seattle next year. The officers for the ensuing year are: Dr. A. W. Phillips of Seattle, president; Dr. R. A. Munroe of Spokane, first vice president; Dr. B. S. Scott of Tacoma, second vice president; Dr. Appleby of Everett, treasurer; Dr. Gregor McGregor of Seattle, secretary.

The remains of ex-Commander B. C. Bedell of the department of Washington and Alaska of the G. A. R., who died suddenly at Spokane on the last day of the recent encampment, were interred in the city cemetery Saturday afternoon with an immense concourse of sorrowing friends and acquaintances in attendance. The two Walla Walla Masonic orders, in accordance with the dying request of the late veteran, had charge of the final services. The G. A. R. post, in which he had held office for years, and with which he had been prominently connected since his transfer ten years ago, was also present in a body.

## FLOODS AND FIRE IN TOPEKA

OVER 200 PEOPLE DROWNED, 8000 WITHOUT HOMES.

Property Losses Will Amount to More Than Five Million Dollars—City Water Works Useless—Provisions Are Short—Water Was 6 to 15 Feet Deep Over North Topeka.

Topeka, Kan., June 1.—Briefly state, the present condition of the flood is this: One hundred and seventy to 200 people drowned; 8000 people without homes; \$4,000,000 loss of property destroyed; identified dead, five; floating bodies seen, 20; people missing, 200; houses burned, as a result of fire in lumber yards from slacking lime, probably 200; banks collapsed, 2; wholesale grocery stores flooded, 2; big business blocks almost ready to crumble, 50; wholesale commission houses deserted, 6; Rock Island trains containing 150 passengers held here by high water; city water works plant useless.

The known drowned: Carl Rupp, Orville Rupp, two Rupp girls, G. H. Garrett and 5 year old son, 20 unidentified bodies.

Leading men have made a careful examination of the flood and all its conditions and as a result of their investigation they give 250 as the probable number of lives lost. A more conservative estimate places the number of dead at 175. The higher number is as likely to be correct as the lower. The number of dead is merely an estimate. Twenty members of rescuing parties tell of how they saw people drop from houses to be swept away by the flood, and others tell of men, who, terrified at the approach of the fire, dropped into the water, where they sank and did not reappear.

This estimated number of dead does not include the large number classed as missing, who can not otherwise be accounted for. Neither does it include the number who are supposed to have lost their lives in the fire. In the latter class there is absolutely no means of arriving at even an approximate number of victims. The water is so high and the current so strong that all can be done now is to rescue those in the buildings surrounded by water. There is ground for hope that the worst has passed.

### Waters Receding.

City Engineer McCable has issued a bulletin giving out the cheering intelligence that the waters had subsided to the extent of exactly seven and a half inches. It may be a few hours before another drop will be noticed.

With 175 or 200 lives lost, millions of dollars worth of property destroyed; hundreds of pistol shots as signals of distress, blended with the agonizing cries of unwilling inhabitants in tree-tops and roofs of houses, and the waters creeping upward and then slowly subsiding and alternately changing from hope to despair, the capital city has passed the most memorable Sabbath day of its existence. To this uncomfortable condition of affairs was added a cold and dismal rain. The ardor of the rescue work of the heroic rescuers was not abated in the least by the conditions which confronted them.

For long dreary hours, knee deep in water and sometimes in water up to their necks, they worked with might and main. Tonight they can proudly point to 800 or more rescued ones who otherwise might have been swept away in the current. Large contributions have already been received for the benefit of the sufferers. The amount given by Topeka citizens alone will aggregate \$100,000. To this is to be added an immense quantity of clothing, provisions and general supplies. Outside towns have generously offered aid, among which is Galveston, Tex.

### Offers of Aid.

Among the other messages was one from the Galveston Tribune reading: "If we can do anything at all in the aid of your city please feel free to call upon us."

Other messages from Kansas towns authorize the commission here to draw upon individuals for stated sums, and as soon as the mails arrive a great number of contributions from outside towns are expected to materialize.

Topeka is doing nobly by her sufferers. The wealthiest city in Kansas is proud to acknowledge that no calls on outside help need to be made. It will be necessary to raise a great fund for relief work. Weeks must elapse before order can be restored from the present chaos. Hundreds of houses will have to be rebuilt entirely.

The half mile from Second street to the Melan bridge was covered by water six to 12 feet deep, through which a mad current was flowing. On the other side of the pontoon bridge were business buildings, 63 in number, completely ruined by high water. The loss in this respect in money will aggregate half a million dollars. This

is the district in which all the wholesale commission houses were located and immense amounts have been lost by the commission men. All this is on the south side of the river.

A reporter ventured out into the stream in a boat as far as the current would allow and there it was ascertained that previous reports regarding the burning buildings were somewhat overdrawn. The whole northern part of the city seemed to be aflame. Closer investigation, however, showed the fact that only about one third of the buildings on the North Side were burned. Fully half the remaining buildings are so damaged by the water that they are absolutely useless. There is not a house in the entire northern part of the town that has not been seriously damaged.

### Property Loss Enormous.

When the value of the stocks of merchandise destroyed is considered, the loss in a financial way assumes enormous proportions. The railway companies have abandoned all efforts to keep their tracks in shape. The water washed away the sandbags as fast as they sank them. It is simply a waste of funds to continue the work. As soon as the water goes down so that the tracks can be reached hundreds of men will be placed at work repairing the damage. For the convenience of the public and the flood sufferers, the public buildings were open all day. All the grocery stores, meat markets and dry goods stores also kept open to furnish supplies.

### Provisions Scarce.

Wichita and other cities which can be reached will be called on for provisions. Already there is a scarcity of meat and vegetables, and staple groceries are getting low. Boats sent from Emporia, Ottawa, Kansas City and St. Joseph are all doing good service. They are hauled two miles above town, filled with provisions and then run across to the stricken section. The supplies are distributed among the sufferers on the buildings, and people are picked out of the trees and given shelter in some houses. When the boats get down so far that they can not be pulled up stream sufferers are picked up and brought to this side of the river a mile or so below town. Then the boats are hauled to town and again sent on a similar trip.

Buildings in the submerged district continue to collapse.

Notwithstanding their precarious condition many of the sufferers held religious services in the buildings where they were confined.

Fifty or more of the flood sufferers are living in passenger coaches on the Rock Island tracks. Water surrounds the cars, but there is no danger.

### Reply to Offer of Aid.

To all offers of aid from outside the county the Commercial club is sending the following reply:

"Situation is very grave and it is impossible at this time to estimate the loss of life or property. We thank you sincerely for your offer of assistance, but we are not willing to accept aid from the outside unless it seems an absolute necessity. The city and county and our own citizens will provide for the present needs."

JOHN E. FROST,

President Commercial Club.

### Floating Bodies Seen.

At 5 o'clock the first sight of floating bodies was seen. Fourteen bodies were seen passing by the North Topeka fire station.

Topeka, Kan., June 3.—The flood situation in Topeka can be briefly summarized thus:

Known dead, 48; river falls three feet and is now receding at the rate of two inches an hour; distress will be great among the refugees; Governor Bailey issued a proclamation calling for help for flood sufferers of the state; 50 deputy sheriffs, armed with Winchester, go to North Topeka to protect property, with orders to shoot looters whenever they are caught stealing; Governor Bailey's proclamation calling for outside aid was decided upon at a mass meeting today, when the governor was requested to issue the call. It was decided to make this a general appeal for the people all along the flooded districts of the state, as well as those in Topeka. This plan is to make Topeka the headquarters and to distribute them from here to other parts of the state. There will be made an appeal to the fraternal organizations and other appeals through various sources.

### Postmasters' Pay Increased.

Washington, June 3.—Under the annual readjustment of salaries of presidential postmasters these changes in Washington became effective July 1: Increase of \$200 at Ballard, Goldendale, Sedro-Wooley and Sprague. Increase of \$100 at Aberdeen, Anacortes, Arlington, Blaine, Buckley, Centralia, Chehalis, Cheney, Colfax, Davenport, Elma, Everett, Hoquiam, Mount Vernon, North Yakima, Pomeroy, Port Townsend, Puyallup, Ritzville, Snohomish, Spokane, Watsburg, Wenatchee and Wilbur. Decrease of \$100 at Colville.

Nearly 11,000 tubercular patients are now in sanatoria in Germany.