

HUNDREDS DEAD

St. Louis and Vicinity Overwhelmed by the Greatest Disaster in Years.

Struck by a Terrible Cyclone, Leaving a Trail of Desolation in Its Wake.

Scores of Buildings Demolished and the Inmates Buried in the Ruins.

St. Louis, May 29.—Two hundred lives snuffed out in this city, as many more in East St. Louis, property destroyed in value running up into millions, is the record made by the 27th day of May, 1896. This is a conservative estimate.

South St. Louis was littered with the bodies of the dead. East St. Louis is a gigantic cemetery; under debris of the buildings of that city are scores buried whose bodies will not be brought to the light for many days, perhaps never.

It was the most disastrous storm from every point of view in the history of the city. The storm did little damage in the business and northern portions of the city, save along the river front, where the damage cannot be estimated, nor will it ever be known just how many gave up their lives in the waters of the Mississippi when the tornado came and tore all the boats in the harbor from their moorings. The channel is full of wreckage. In South St. Louis the storm spent its force.

All the way from Papin street to Carondelet it put a stamp on the face of the city that

Will Not Be Building For Years.

Big, strong edifices fell before the wind like houses made of cards. From where it entered the city, out in the southwestern suburbs, to where it left, somewhere near the Eads bridge, there is a wide path of ruins. Factory after factory went down and piles of bricks and timbers mark the spots on which they stood. Dwellings were picked up and thrown in every direction. Business houses were flattened and the ruins cover bruised and mangled bodies. Thousands of families in South St. Louis are homeless, practically, and the temporary hospitals shelter scores and hundreds.

Early in the storm the plant of the Laclede Gas company, at Fourteenth and Poplar streets, was destroyed, and a large portion of the central part of the city was cut off from its gas supply. This affected the newspaper offices severely. In the Republic office no gas could be obtained to heat the metal on the linotype machines, and the only type setting done was on machines in which the metal was melted by blow lamps.

Wires are down all over the city. Liggett & Myers' big factory in Compton Heights is in ruin, and many were killed and injured in the wreck. Elevators were blown down, boats were sunk, and churches and school houses were demolished.

Fire Added to the Destruction.

After the wind and rain had done its work, fire added to the destruction. Hetzel's mill was the first to become ignited and it was totally destroyed at a loss of \$150,000. Harris' barrel factory, 50 loaded cars in the terminal yards, Lynch's boarding house, Beard's feed store, Lee's blacksmith shop and other smaller places, were burned. The destruction of the waterworks early in the storm cut off the water supply and Chief Purdy and his men fought the fire with a bucket brigade as best they could. The whole central portion of the city was threatened by the burning mill, but all hands worked with such a will that its further spread was prevented.

Were Very Fortunate to Escape.

The St. Louis Refrigerator and Wood-ware company's entire plant at Main street and Park was destroyed. The plant consisted of a 4-story factory, a 4-story warehouse, a bicycle factory and several smaller buildings. When the cyclone struck the place, there were at work between 400 and 500 men and women. The top stories of the warehouse and factory were blown off. Fortunately there were only a few people on the top floor, and all but two are thought to have escaped with slight injuries. Fire broke out in the warehouse just after top floor was destroyed. The panic-stricken employes rushed pell mell from the buildings, leaving many disabled behind them. To add to their horror, hundreds of heavy pieces of lumber from an adjoining lumber yard came flying through the air and forced many back into the blazing buildings. Alarms were sent in from all the fire alarm boxes in the vicinity but the wires were already useless. Chief Swingley happened to be crossing the Fourteenth street bridge and saw the blaze. He drove to the nearest engine house and piloted the apparatus to the fire.

Some of the Damaged Buildings.

The following are among the damaged buildings: The main office building, freight depot and five warehouses of the Iron Mountain railroad, completely demolished; roof elevator B, Standard elevator company, blown away and building badly damaged; Southwestern Lead company, warehouse completely demolished; Plant's milling elevator wrecked; property of the Brown Lumber company scattered to the four winds; roof American Refining company scattered; roof St. Louis Refrigerator and Wood-ware company, Park avenue, demolished, later took fire; Regina flour mill, badly

damaged, roof uplifted, smoke stack blown down; warehouse Nedderhut Bros., badly damaged; Campbell Bros., Paint company, totally destroyed; Bridge, Beach & Co., loss \$250,000 damage to building; building of St. Louis Ice Manufacturing company, loss \$300,000, almost completely demolished; St. Louis Cotton Compress company, badly damaged; vacant building formerly occupied by Brown Oil Mill company, completely wrecked. Six men who had sought refuge from the storm within it were buried in the ruins. John Wilson, rescued, badly hurt about legs and hips, dangerously injured.

The wind caught the Army building on Eighteenth and Pine streets, picked it up and scattered it around the neighborhood for blocks.

The top floor of the 4-story building at Second and Chestnut streets was blown off; the structure occupied by Dan Gunn as a notion store at 2102 Clark avenue was demolished. The Central Home of Rest was destroyed and one man killed, name unknown, and two injured. The copper roof of the Shields building on Seventh street, between Biddle and Carr streets, was blown off. No one was reported injured. The front walls of the building at 406-408 South Twelfth street were blown down. Some of the occupants were slightly bruised. The house No. 1, Market street, was unroofed and deluged with water throughout. Women fainted and grasped the nearest objects for support. They felt greatly relieved when it was found that the structure was safe. At the Globe Shoe and Clothing company, the windows on the upper floors were blown in and damage was done to merchandise amounting to thousands of dollars. The roof and skylights of the Merchants Exchange building was blown off. The damage is extensive. The streets about the premises are blocked with the debris. The cigar store at the bridge entrance on Third and Washington avenue was blown into the streets and the contents totally destroyed. No one injured. The Poplar Cotton Compress company's building, near the foot of Covent street, and the St. Louis Cotton compress building, both 1-story buildings, were demolished. Strickler's cigar store, Broadway and Biddle street, lost a 50-foot front. Mrs. Strickler was sitting in the front doorway at the time with her baby in her arms but was unhurt.

The storm tore off half the roof of the National Paper company's building, South Eighth street, and demolished the shipping room on the first floor. The roof of the Sumner school for negroes, situated on Eleventh between Spruce and Poplar streets was blown in, as far as known there being no occupants of the building at the time.

Carmody's Presence of Mind.

Captain Pat Carmody's presence of mind, prevented a panic at the fair grounds. When the crowd appealed for protection from the tornado, Pat corralled the people under the stand and compelled them to stay there. He held a mob of about 300 in check, and it was lucky for them that he did so. Everybody was trying to get out and wanted to make a break for the south side of the stand. While Carmody was holding the crowd, the roof of the stand was blown out in all directions and the debris fell just where the people wanted to go. Carmody's good judgment saved many lives.

Saved His Train From Destruction.

While the storm was at its height, the passenger train on the Chicago and Alton railroad pulled out on the bridge from the Missouri side. It was on its way East. Engineer Scott had only proceeded a short distance when he realized the awful danger which threatened the train. The wind struck the coaches, at first causing them to careen. At that time he was about half way across. Overhead, the poles were snapping and tumbling into the river, while large stones were shifting loose from their foundations and plunging into the water. Realizing that any moment his train might be blown into the water, or else the bridge blown away, Scott, with rare presence of mind, put on a full head of steam, in an effort to make the East side shore. The train had scarcely proceeded 200 feet, and about the same distance from the shore, when an upper span of the bridge was blown away.

Tons of Huge Granite Blocks.

tumbled to the tracks where the train loaded with passengers had been but a moment before. At about the same instant the wind struck the train, upsetting all the cars like playthings. Luckily, no one was killed, but several were taken out severely injured. The wrecked part of the bridge is just east of the big tower, near the Illinois shore, and extends east for about 300 feet. The entire upper portion, traversed by street cars and carriages, is carried away, while the tracks beneath are buried in the debris, in some places eight feet deep.

Gas Holder Collapsed.

As the storm was at its height, the gas holder at Eighteenth street collapsed. People were terrified by columns of burning gas leaping high in the air. The tank was nearly full at the time, and the force of the wind caught it and turned it over. As the immense column which supported the tank proper fell, the gas was ignited and burned for a few moments at a fearful rate.

Crashed Entirely Through the Building.

down into the basement. There were eight columns supporting the roof, and the falling of these carried the floors of the building beneath it. There were eight inmates of the poor house who received numerous wounds from flying glass and bricks, but it was not thought that their injuries are in any way dangerous. Incredible as it sounds, with 1,000 patients in the building, 750 of whom are insane, not a life was lost at the poor house during the storm. The damage to the buildings is estimated at \$150,000.

AT EAST ST. LOUIS.

Loss of Life There Estimated From Fifty to One Hundred and Fifty. EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill., May 29.—Here the whole western portion of the city suffered greatly. It is impossible to even approximate the loss of life, but it is variously put at from 50 to 150. The storm struck just north of the East St. Louis elevator and passed up the levee in a northerly direction. In its course it struck the Big Four freight house first, then the blocks in which the stores front on the levee, destroying all back to C street. The swath cut was three blocks wide and four long. The Martell House, with all its guests, was blown into Cohoko creek, and no one but Judge Hope of Alton and Mr. Martell were saved.

Says the Town Is a Wreck.

A. W. Becker of the big firm of A. P. Becker & Co. of East St. Louis was among the first persons to cross the Eads bridge after the storm abated. His family was in St. Louis and in his eagerness to get to them he climbed over the debris of the bridge on his hands and knees, over wrecked cars, dead horses and a mass of other debris. He informed a reporter that the condition of East St. Louis is almost beyond description. The town is a wreck for blocks around and the loss of life in that region alone is estimated at from 200 to 250. The Vandalia freight house was completely demolished and a number of people perished in the ruins. When Mr. Becker left the scene men were engaged in digging out the dead and dying and several bodies had already been removed. Meinez's grocery store and a whole row of brick buildings adjoining it were razed to the ground, but no person was injured. The city hall, which had just been repaired, was completely wrecked. Court was in session when the storm came, but everybody got out in safety.

OVERTURNED SIX COACHES.

Work Train With 350 Passengers on Board—Nearly All Engaged. ST. LOUIS, May 29.—As train No. 68 of the Merchants Terminal pulled out of Granite City, Ill., at 6:15 p. m., it was struck by the second division of the hurricane and was carried from its track, overturning six coaches, containing 340 passengers. The train is known as the work train, and carries employes to and from their work at the Niedringhaus rolling mills and stamping works at Granite City.

Robert Miller, foreman of the rolling department, sustained injuries from which he died. Miss Nellie Bageman received injuries which may prove fatal. All the other passengers escaped without injury, except about 40, who received a few scratches. The damage in Granite City is but slight.

Carried Over a Mile.

STURGEON, Mo., May 29.—A cyclone passed three miles north of here at 3 p. m. At Reunic three men were seriously injured and a family of people being badly hurt. Friendship church, north of town, was demolished.

Seven Dead Near Mexico, Mo.

MEXICO, Mo., May 29.—A cyclone swept across Audrain county during the evening, doing great damage to crops and wrecking many buildings. Seven people have been killed in the county and probably 25 badly injured.

Died From the Effects of a Bite.

YANKTON, S. D., May 29.—Commodore Coulson died here during the morning from the effects of a bite inflicted by Dr. Coney three weeks ago in a personal encounter. Coney bit Coulson's finger and blood poisoning followed. Coney is under \$1,000 bail, but will be re-arrested for manslaughter.

Will Carry Wheels Free.

MILWAUKEE, May 29.—Whatever may be the intention in the matter among the other roads in the association, a prominent official of the Wisconsin Central says his road will continue to maintain its position in the matter of carrying wheels free, and the road will also remain a member of the Western Passenger association, unless thrown out by the other members. The result will probably be the disruption of the association.

Eastern Distilleries to Close.

NEW YORK, May 29.—All the rye whiskey distilleries in the Eastern states will suspend operations on Sept. 1. This will throw out of employment 2,000 workmen, coopers and laborers. The skilled workmen at the distilleries will be kept, as they are under contract and are of peculiar and special value to their employers.

Fighting Continues in Crete.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 29.—The conflicts between the troops and the people in the streets of Camea, Island of Crete, have ceased, but the fighting continues in the country adjoining that port.

NEWS FROM SCANDINAVIA

INTERESTING ITEMS FROM NORWAY, SWEDEN AND DENMARK.

King Oscar III of Typhoid Fever in Germany—Stockholm Expects Many Tourists—The Malmoe Exposition—Cremation Plant at Christiansa—Aluminum Factory at Bergen.

NORWAY.

Christiansa. Endre Jorgenson and wife celebrated their golden wedding the 14th inst.

Dr. Bang is mentioned as a probable successor of the recently deceased Bishop Puge.

Chaplain Fredrick Williams of the cathedral of this city recently died at the age of 84.

Attorney W. S. Dahl will in the near future publish a biographical sketch of Johan Sverdrup.

Knut Hansson's latest sketch, "Livets Spil," is finished and has already been most favorably received by the reading public.

Over a million and a half of Norway's present population are country residents and of these 800,000 are connected with agricultural interests.

The scholars of the Sagatu high school have started a subscription for the purpose of erecting a monument in honor of the deceased Professor Herman Ankers Grov.

Lieutenant H. J. Rye of the "Ealders Bataljon" died May 16 at his home in Christiansa. Mr. Rye has for years been one of the most prominent military men of the city.

Electricity will now be used in the tannery at Flekkofjord. The factory has recently been doing an extensive business and improvements are constantly being made.

The capital of the Manheim "Cellulosefabrik" at present amounts to nearly 1,000,000 crowns. The following are elected directors: General Consul Christophersen, Consul Berg and J. G. Piene.

"Gudbrandsdalens Forening" is the name of a literary and social organization, which has recently been brought into existence in the capital city. J. Syverson, prominent merchant, has been elected chairman.

At a recent meeting of the "Ligmeningsforening" it was decided that an oven for the burning of corpses be purchased. The oven will cost 10,000 crowns, 5,000 having already been subscribed. The question of embalming the dead was also thoroughly discussed.

Borchgrevink, the scientist, is at present in London. He is accompanying a British expedition which contemplates an exploration trip in southern seas in the near future. Mr. Borchgrevink was recently tendered a reception by the British Scientific club, and has already been the object of much comment in scientific circles.

A. Bergeni, editor of the "Nordisk Trykkriftende" and a popular author and poet, recently died at his home in this city. Mr. Bergeni was a man possessing exceptional talents and energy. "Den nye Tid" (The New Time) a comedy of three acts, which had such a successful run in the city during 1890, was one of Bergeni's most happy productions, showing to splendid advantage his ability in depicting the different phases and features of the times.

In a recent article "The Travel" in a London journal, expresses its surprise at the very meager information regarding the whereabouts of Nansen. It fails to comprehend Nansen's reasons for not making use of—if he lives—Baron Toks depot on the Siberian coast, and suggests that an expedition be sent to look for Nansen in the very near future, hinting that latest reports regarding his whereabouts are altogether erroneous and that a most determined effort should be made in looking for the brave explorer.

The street car employes of Hardanger will erect a club house this summer which will cost 10,000 crowns.

F. Hofgaard of Bergen has received a patent on a type setting machine which proves both durable and practicable.

Bergen's Tourist society will, during the present season, give a lucrative allowance for the purpose of retaining national "Folksongs" and dances.

An electrical aluminum factory will be erected by an English syndicate at Vestland, says "Bergen's Aftenblad." The syndicate will start business with a capital of 2,000,000 crowns, and will, from the start, employ 800 hands.

A number of large buildings have recently been erected in the city, conspicuous among which are the Exposition building, a structure of large dimensions—and the "Soldiers' Home," on Nordnas. A number of hotels, restaurants and private residences have also been erected, and an unusual building activity in general has been evinced.

SWEDEN.

Stockholm. There are at present 2,000 Mormons in Sweden.

Tokusiro Niisi, the minister of China, has left for his native country.

Not less than 2,558 persons left for foreign ports during the first three months of the present year.

Two galling gales of modern make have been ordered from the "Bofors bruk" for the warship "Ulfr."

Lieutenant Oliphant, commander of the Salvation army of Holland, has been removed to Stockholm by General Booth.

The stockholders of Stockholm's spinning and knitting factories have granted an allowance of 50,000 crowns for the pension fund of their employes.

Representatives Bergstrom's and Akurholm's motions concerning the recognition of citizens of foreign countries has been dropped by the riksdag.

The marble bust of the deceased author and poet Viktor Rydberg, may now be seen at the national museum. It is the work of Christian Erickson, the sculptor.

Prince Carl will spend two weeks at the sanatorium in Gudbrandsdalen in Norway during next month and will be at home at his villa, Rosendal, during the latter part of July.

A. G. Nehrmann, a popular merchant of this city, drowned while rowing across the bay on his way to his summer residence, "Sjoleg." Nehrmann leaves a wife and three daughters.

His majesty, King Oscar II, is reported seriously ill at Hohenheim, Germany. The king's malady is typhoid fever and his case is reported a most serious one. Owing to his advanced age, the report has caused much worry in political circles.

According to a report from the local tourist bureau, Stockholm will entertain more tourists this season than during any previous one. The bureau has made preparations for entertaining several parties from France, Germany and Holland and during their stay here special programmes will be arranged in behalf of the visitors.

GOTTENBERG.

The deceased merchant, Edward Delbanco, has donated the sum of 74,000 crowns to different industries and charitable organizations of the city.

The petroleum syndicate which will be located at Farjens has ordered a reservoir of unusual dimensions. The reservoir may contain not less than 2,500,000 liters.

The students of the "Chalmerska Institutet" of this city have adopted the university cap, adding a dark rim to the white satin top, besides using the emblem of the institution they represent.

MALMO.

The industrial exposition will be formally opened June 6.

Shoes to the value of 13,300 crowns were recently shipped to this city from the factory at Erfurt, Germany.

The traffic on the Malmoe-Billesholm railway is something extraordinary. This result is attributed to the fact that the road is now under control of the state.

There will be 40 passengers to accompany Andree to Spitzbergen, the starting point of the much talked of polar expedition. The following well known scientists will be in the party: Dr. Eklund, the geologist; De Geer and Von Kuorring, Zoologist Gronberg and Professor S. A. Arrheims of the Stockholm high school. The party contemplates making several interesting observations while at Spitzbergen and the greatest enthusiasm is evinced.

JONKOPING.

Farmers from this city may go to the agricultural convention at Malmoe free of charge.

A pension fund of 20,000 crowns has been granted by the stockholders of the local match factory.

Three thousand four hundred and ninety-four crowns have been subscribed in the city for the Rydberg statue.

Daniel Jonsson of Rydaholm recently ended his life by jumping from a three-story building, resulting in instantaneous death.

A mission house will be erected in the parish of Mansharp this summer. The movement is the result of the untiring efforts of the well known evangelist, Rev. E. Palmberg.

An allowance of 200 crowns has been given the local tourists bureau for the purpose of enriching, by means of artificial effects, the local park bordering on "Vettern."

DENMARK.

Copenhagen. Horsen's bank opened for business in the Jorgensen hotel block.

One thousand self-binders arrived with the "Hekla" from America.

The king recently appointed J. F. Schneck to succeed A. F. Thompson as secretary of war.

Dr. S. P. Storch, one of the city's most popular physicians, died May 21 at the age of 63 years.

D. Folsch has sold his "Ristrup" estate to F. B. Bulon for a consideration of 202,500 crowns.

The cornerstone of the St. Joseph's cathedral was laid May 3. The ceremonies were many and most impressive.

Louis Frolch, the baritone, formerly engaged at the royal opera, will for the next five years be connected with the Drury Lane theatre, London.

Professor P. E. Hartman, who celebrated his 91st birthday May 14, has recently finished his new opera, which is now in the hands of the publishers.

Architect Medall is at present in Sweden for the purpose of gathering material for his book, which he will publish in the near future under the name of "Medieval Architecture."

Madame Nyrop, who for 200 consecutive nights has appeared in "Elverhoj" at the Royal opera, has won scores of ardent admirers. During the recent season she has established herself as one of the foremost actresses of Europe.

CHICAGO'S POPULATION 1,760,000. CHICAGO, May 30.—The Chicago post-office census gives the city a population of 1,760,000, an increase of 200,000 over that of last year. This census was taken in the first week of March. It was made by the 933 regular letter carriers.

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