

"BIG MUDDY" ON HER MUSCLE

Only a Few Feet Now Between the River and Florence Lake.

THE BANKS BEING RAPIDLY CUT AWAY

Danger That Within a Few Hours the River May Find Its Old Channel—Property Already Destroyed—The Rising Tide.

The erratic old Missouri hasn't made up her mind yet just who she will do in the region of Florence lake, but there are chances of her cutting loose and sweeping down through the old channel of remotes ages. If she does the damage would be tremendous.

As the case now stands the river is higher than it has ever been since the memorable spring of 1881, when on April 23 it reached an altitude of twenty-three feet above nine and one-half inches above low water mark.

Cutting for Florence Lake. The river is now eleven feet and three inches above this mark and rising at the alarming rate of eight inches an hour.

At this rate it will require but six or seven hours to bring it on a level with the surface of Florence lake, in which event an avalanche of water would rush down this narrow valley and engulf in a twinkling of an eye almost the whole surrounding country.

Bottom Residents Excited. The road houses of George Hill and Susanna are in the direct path the torrent would take in case the break is made, and there is a large crowd of excited men and anxious property holders gathered at the river point breathlessly watching the progress of the furious current.

The water has extended northern arm of the river proper and the river bank is a space of not more than fifty yards, and this is being encroached upon with a velocity that will not require an hour if the water mentioned to turn the raging waters of the river into the channel cut years before the settlement of the country.

The specter of a crisis would indeed be a grand and stupendous one, but could only be viewed effectively from the car of a balloon, for its realization would endanger territory at the risk of his life.

Those Who Would Suffer. The land at this particular spring in the river is the property of C. E. Bruce of Biako Bruce & Co., druggists, but it will not be worth a penny an acre if the river makes the cut she is contemplating. Already fully fifty acres have been sliced off and gone whirling on their way to the gulf.

The danger of cutting is heard at frequent intervals along the continuous heavy roar of the river, and it is not an infrequent occurrence to see hundreds of tons of earth, brush and general riff-ruff part from the solid bank and go bobbing and foaming into the resistless river.

The reporter was present when about a half acre of Mr. Bruce's riparian patent bade adieu to the river, and was hurled out of sight round the projecting point.

The wire fence that bisects the Bruce farm and extends east to the river has been shortened by the swiftly cutting current over two hundred yards, and from two-thirds of a mile in width at this point the river now shows an exposure of five or six miles of rushing waters of over two miles from shore to shore.

Dangers That Threaten. To give a better idea of the extent of the river's encroachment on the territory just north of Florence lake, it is but necessary to describe the position of the land thereabouts, that the old wagon timber road that formerly swept completely round the lake and back to the river, and was up, along with acres and acres of tangled willows and undergrowth. All have disappeared within the hour.

The house of one of the owners is not a vestige remains to remind one of former scenes. Should the rush of waters continue, and the water should be apprehended really take place, the scene that would follow the subsidence of the flood would be a desolate one indeed, and the river shows an exposure of five or six miles of rushing waters of over two miles from shore to shore.

Watching the Ground Disappear. During the afternoon the people residing in the valley where the raging river is expected to come in and out of their land were closely watching the rapid rise of the water. Men and boys in boats, fishing in the north end of the lake near by the contemplated cut, were eagerly awaiting for the water to come from the north end of the stream emptying from the north end of the lake.

At 1 o'clock the rushing current of the Missouri, where it struck and turned the banks at the north end of the lake swamped, had risen within one foot of the surface of the lake water. The banks were being washed away and were fast washing away. During the day many pieces of earth caved in, and were carried down the main stream of the river. The water was higher before seen the river rise so rapidly.

The citizens, who had the courage to rebuild their homes, and these were the buildings down this evening. It is not known whether any one was injured. Inquiries at several points south of Wichita fail to reveal the track taken by the other two rivers.

High Water at St. Louis. St. Louis, Mo., May 13.—The river at 7 p. m. passed the danger line and is still rising. Where the end will be no one pretends to guess. The situation all along the river front grows hourly and the difficulty of handling freight is increasing. The Wiggins transfer yards is two to three feet under water. Arsenal island is washing away. Part of it is gone and more is going. More or less minor damage has been done and is likely to be done. So far the greater portion of the injury to business, etc. comes from hindrance rather than actual damage.

On the east side the situation is bad too. At Brookly 500 acres of truck patches are destroyed. Chouteau island is under water, thus ruining 3,000 acres of farming land for the season.

Lawrence Flooded. Lawrence, Kan., May 13.—A heavy rain has been falling here for the past twenty-four hours. The Kaw river continues to rise and the city is almost flooded. The water is too high to run water wheels and the mills are shut down. The Union Pacific freight cars are in danger of being washed down and thrown into the river. If the water continues to rise six feet occurs, the northern portion of the city will be flooded.

Homes Abandoned in Des Moines. Des Moines, Ia., May 13.—After a few hours, intermittent sunshine yesterday, the rain began to fall evening and still continues to fall. The river has risen fifteen inches in the past twenty-four hours and is still rising. Low lands are flooded. Scores of houses in the lower part of the city have been abandoned. The situation in every way is becoming alarming.

The Mississippi Up. St. Louis, Mo., May 13.—The river is still rising slowly here on account of the high stage of water in the Missouri river. The ceils along the levee are filled with water.

NEBRASKA FARMERS ALARMED. Rain Seriously Interfering with Their Work. BEATRICE, Neb., May 13.—(Special Telegram to The Bee.)—Another heavy rain storm prevailed here early this morning. The west side was badly flooded, as usual.

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NAVAL APPROPRIATION BILL

It is Dealt with More Liberally in the Senate Than in the House.

LIBERAL EXPENDITURES ADVOCATED

Mr. Gorman's Plea for an Increase in the Appropriation—Republicans in the House Resort to Filibustering—Arbitrary Ruling by the Speaker.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 13.—The river and harbor bill was reported back from the committee on commerce with amendments increasing the total of the house bill by \$1,318,000 net. The most important changes, in addition to four cent sections replacing the yearly appropriations, are as follows:

The lower Missouri, from its mouth to Sioux City, where the first appropriation was \$800,000, is reduced to \$750,000, but the provision is added that the same amount be made for the same amount yearly for three years from July 1, 1893. There is a similar contract provision as to the St. Johns river, Florida, the Great Salt Lake, and for a boat railway at the Dalles, Ore. All the appropriations for harbors on the Mississippi river are stricken out, but the general appropriation for the improvement of the river is increased by a quarter of a million.

The committee reported the appropriations by the amounts: Texas—\$2,000,000; West Virginia—\$1,000,000; Ohio—\$1,000,000; Michigan—\$1,000,000; Grand Haven, \$500,000; St. Ignace, \$500,000; Wisconsin—\$1,000,000; Green Bay, \$1,000,000; Duluth, \$1,000,000; Agate Bay, \$1,000,000; California—\$1,000,000; Deep Harbor, \$1,000,000; Oregon—\$1,000,000; Washington—\$1