

Rain to-day, followed by clearing and much colder by night. Temperatures yesterday—Maximum, 73; minimum, 60.

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

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WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1913.—TWELVE PAGES.

ONE CENT.

BULLETIN, 4 A. M.—Phoneton, Ohio, March 27 (Thursday).—Dayton reported doomed by fire. One hundred persons are said to have been caught in collapsing apartment building and killed.

FLAMES RAGE IN FLOOD-SWEPT DAYTON; 3,000 DIE IN WATERS IN THREE STATES

THOUSANDS FLEE; FAMINE OF FOOD; DEATH FOLLOWS

Indianapolis Latest City to Be Caught in Throes of Raging Water.

PERU IS IN DARKNESS

Situation Throughout Indiana Worse and Result of Levee Break Is Unknown.

BULLETIN

Indianapolis, Ind., March 26.—Forty thousand residents tonight are fleeing from flooded homes. A food famine is threatened. Deaths due to exposure are adding to the food horror.

South Bend, Ind., March 26.—Advises received here tonight indicate that the situation throughout the State is growing worse. The situation at Peru is critical. No definite figures as to the loss of life in that city are obtainable, but estimates range from 50 to 200. The property loss is placed at \$2,500,000.

Thousands Homeless

Seventy-five hundred persons are homeless. At Logansport the water continues to rise, and the big Third Street bridge was swept away this evening. The Sixth Street bridge is being washed out. The inhabitants are fleeing to the hills. Much of the residence section in Terre Haute is under water, and the damage is estimated at over \$2,000,000. Railroad traffic throughout the State has been almost completely suspended.

City in Darkness

Reports are that 200 persons were drowned in West Indianapolis, when an earthen levee protecting the lowlands broke and allowed the water to engulf the place.

A telephone message received from Peru this evening says the city is without light or heat. The water supply has been cut off and sanitary conditions are horrible. Two thousand people are huddled on the remaining streets, which are three miles from the nearest dry land. One thousand others are marooned in a hospital, while 200 children are imprisoned in a school building.

The upper floors of all factories and office buildings are crowded with refugees. The only motor boat in the city has been disabled and row boats cannot venture into the raging torrent, so the South Bend relief volunteers are unable to get blankets and food to the sufferers.

Refugee in Hills

Warned by the rapidly rising waters, hundreds of people in Peru last night sought refuge in the hills three miles out of the city. The thousands who were not so fortunate, crowded into the public buildings and factories, where they are now packed like sardines in a box. All day long there was but a single block in the entire town which had not been submerged by the swollen Wabash River.

The entire southern section of the city was swept away. Entire families were trapped in homes. Two hundred and twenty-five injured were started for South Bend tonight. The bravery of Edward Mack, a fisherman, saved approximately 600 people from death. When every one else refused to go into the affected territory to warn the inhabitants of the coming inundation, Mack at the risk of his life set about the task single-handed.

Traveling Men to Rescue

Traveling men proved of great assistance today when the work of rescuing began. Many of them, who had been stalled in local hotels, chartered rowboats as soon as they realized the true state of affairs and rescued many people.

PENNSYLVANIA TOWNS ARE UNDER WATER

Pittsburg, Pa., March 26.—A heavy flood is raging in a major portion of the valley section surrounding this city for many miles. Many suburbs have been damaged, in some cases to an enormous extent. From Meadville, Pa., Oil City, Pa., Beaver Falls, New Castle, Sharon and other small cities, this section of Pennsylvania reports of several deaths by drowning and a heavy property loss are being received almost hourly.

Thousands Homeless

Thousands have been made homeless and chaotic conditions prevail in all of the deluged towns. The water supplies and the lighting plants have been put out of commission entirely.

600,000 to California

Via Washington-Sunset Route, March 14 to April 14. Personally conducted tourist sleeping cars, with change, daily except Sunday. Berth, \$3. A. J. Poston, 4 A. S. F. and 7th 15th St.

STORM, BROKEN IN MIDDLE WEST, SWEEPING EAST

Forecasts at Midnight Indicate Heavy Rains Along the Atlantic.

WARNINGS ARE SENT OUT

Cold Wave Expected to Go as Far South as Northern Florida.

BULLETIN

Forecasts issued by the United States Weather Bureau late last night, based on observations made by forecasters in the Central Western States, indicate that the crest of the rainstorm has passed over Indiana and Ohio, but that it is spreading southward and eastward, with prospects for heavy rains along the Atlantic coast tomorrow. This will be followed by a sudden drop in temperature, as low as freezing, as far south as North Carolina and Tennessee, resulting in danger to the early fruit crops. With the breaking up of the storm in the Central States, strong winds threaten to sweep the East, with gales at sea. Accordingly, storm warnings were issued last night to all points on the coast from Boston south to Jacksonville.

Reports to the Weather Bureau from the storm area were greatly belated, owing to wire troubles. The entire Ohio Valley is being flooded from Pittsburg to Cairo, with the greatest danger threatening Parkersburg, W. Va. Owing to the flooded condition being general, the officials have but slight fears for a dangerous condition in the Mississippi. A special forecast, issued at midnight, by the Weather Bureau said:

Heavy Fall in Tennessee

Additional rainfall reports received today confirm earlier indications of heavy rains on the watersheds of streams in Kentucky and Tennessee which enter the Ohio River from the south. This fact insures a repetition of the flood in that river that was experienced in January of this year. It is predicted that at Cairo at least fifty feet within the next ten days. The crest of the stage in the Mississippi at St. Louis may slightly exceed twenty-seven feet by the end of the week. The precipitation north of the Ohio Valley today was not heavy, and the volume of water in the rivers of those States was not materially increased.

Flood Stages are Indicated for the Upper Susquehanna and in the Hudson River at Troy and Albany

Definite stages in the Mississippi below Cairo cannot yet be forecast, but within the water now in slight flood with stages not expected to exceed the stages experienced in February of this year seems wholly probable. The outlook for the cessation of rain in the flood districts within the next twenty-four hours is good.

It is stated that the weather tomorrow will be fair throughout practically the entire country, and that the temperature will rise to a normal level at Cairo, and on Friday throughout the central valleys. The cold wave in the meantime is expected to go as far south as Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and North Florida, but it is not expected to reach the freezing point in those States.

Snow Flurries Reported

Snow flurries were reported in Ohio, Indiana, and Northern Kentucky, apparently in advance of the snowstorm that has been sweeping through the Northeast and the States west of the Mississippi, a blizzard not expected, however, in the Central States.

Ohio River stages were reported tonight at 7 o'clock as follows:

- Pittsburg, 25 feet and rising, with indications for 28 feet by tomorrow morning. No higher is expected. Twenty-two feet is the danger stage there. The high-water mark of 25.5 was reached at Pittsburg in 1902.
- Weyersburg, W. Va., 22 feet, and 4 feet expected. The danger line is 26 feet.
- Portsmouth, Ohio, 25 feet.
- Cattlesburg, Ky., 26.5 feet.
- Cincinnati, Ohio, 54.5, with 57 or 58 feet expected by tomorrow morning. Flood stage, 59 feet.
- Louisville, Ky., 23 at 8 a. m., and 23 feet expected by tonight.
- The Great Miami, on which Dayton, Ohio, is located, and the Little Miami, emptying into the Ohio above Cincinnati, are reported falling. The Licking River, emptying into the Ohio at Covington, Ky., is rising rapidly.

The Weather Bureau forecaster at Columbus, Ohio, has been unable to get any report through since this morning.

He said that the Muskingum River at Zanesville was 40 feet and rising rapidly. The danger line there is 25 feet.

Piqua on Fire

Phoneton, Ohio, March 27 (Thursday).—Troy reports that Piqua is on fire and that the flames of the fire there are plainly visible at Troy.

Piqua yesterday reported a heavy death loss, which has up to tonight been unconfirmed.

6:25 Philadelphia and Return, 12:25 return, 12:00 Wilmington and return, Pennsylvania Railroad Sunday excursion, March 30. Special train leaves Union Station, Washington, 7:20 a. m.; returning, leaves Broad St. Station, Philadelphia 7:15 p. m.; Philadelphia, 7:15 p. m.; Chester, 7:25 p. m.; Wilmington, 8:00 p. m. Tickets good only on Special Train.

FIRE ADDS TERROR TO STRICKEN PEOPLE AS TORRENTS SUBSIDE; TOWN IS UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Refugees in Tottering Structures Without Food or Drink. Pestilence Is Feared—Water in the Streets Four Feet Deep—Dynamite Is Being Used Freely to Check the Conflagration.

BUILDINGS IN DANGER OF COLLAPSING AND CARRYING HUNDREDS TO DEATH

Phoneton, Ohio, March 26.—Maj. Smith, in command of the State National Guard, has declared the city of Dayton under martial law.

The militiamen have a number of boats, and rafts are being constructed in order to reach the business center of the city.

The temperature is falling rapidly, and the indications are that snow will fall before daylight, adding to the sufferings of the refugees.

A telephone station has been established at the north flood limit, on the outskirts of Dayton. Messages will be transmitted from survivors to relatives and friends outside as fast as possible.

By long-distance telephone to The Washington Herald.

Phoneton, Ohio, March 26.—The fire which broke out here this afternoon is still raging at this hour, 2 a. m.

A telephone company employe who has just returned from the north side of Dayton, which is the submerged district, reports that the known loss of life is 500, but may be much greater, as conditions preclude a close estimate at present.

10,000 ARE IN DANGER. Ten thousand persons are marooned in buildings and on the roofs of houses. The indications are that unless much relief reaches Dayton before morning that the loss of life will be doubled. Many bodies not accounted for in the above estimate were seen floating through the streets.

REFUGEES FACE DEATH. There are 600 refugees in the high school, the foundation of which has been undermined and the building is in imminent danger of collapsing.

Three babies were born this afternoon in a church where over 100 persons are marooned. Early this afternoon a child was born in an open boat as the mother was being conveyed to a place of safety.

The rain was pouring down in torrents at the time, and no assistance could be rendered the mother for two hours.

FOUR HOTELS DESTROYED BY FIRE. Four hotels and several churches, as well as many of the prominent business blocks in the city, have either been completely destroyed by fire or have collapsed when their foundations were washed from under them.

Fire Partly Under Control. At 7 o'clock tonight the fire, which was raging in the business center of the city, was reported as being partially under control, due mainly to the heavy rain throughout the day. At 8:30 o'clock, however, a second report said that the fire was increasing rapidly, and that unless it was checked within a few hours the entire business district would be destroyed.

At 8 o'clock Maj. Anderson, commanding a battalion of the State militia, left here in an effort to reach North Dayton. The water in the streets of Dayton which yesterday was at a maximum of fifteen feet, had receded to an average level of four feet at 8 o'clock this evening. The plant of the National Cash Register Company, five miles from the center of Dayton, has been turned into a hospital and general refuge for the sufferers. President John H. Patterson, of the National Cash Register Company, has ordered a special train from Cincinnati with surgeons, nurses, food, clothing, boats, and 500 coffins.

A number of boats have been constructed at the National Cash Register Company plant and these are being used in the rescue work. Farmers and all inhabitants for miles around have poured into the flooded district and are aiding in every possible manner in removing the destitute to places of safety. The rescuers have found much difficulty in persuading many persons to leave the scene of the disaster until they are certain that all other members of their families are safe.

From the edge of the flooded area in North Dayton the telephone man could see many persons running from roof to roof in the business district in an effort to escape the flames. During the early afternoon the fire raged with terrific persistence. No estimate can as yet be made as to the number burned to death. People are huddled in churches and public buildings and in attics or on the roofs of private houses, and the sight of these refugees is most pathetic.

Many children are separated from their parents and in other parts of the district frantic mothers are calling for their children, not knowing whether they are dead or alive.

There is great danger that disease will spread rapidly among the marooned persons, owing to the many dead animals and refuse which is floating among the buildings, and as the water subsides it is collecting and already beginning to become putrid. On all sides is heard the cry for food and drinking water. Such food as can be procured is being distributed by relief parties in boats among

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WILSON RUSHES FEDERAL AID TO FLOOD VICTIMS

President Acts Immediately Upon Receipt of Appeals.

WAR DEPARTMENT ACTS

Tents and Supplies Sent to Devastated Districts—Red Cross Gives Material Assistance.

BULLETIN

President Wilson was deeply moved by the news received here on the flood situation in Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania, and he devoted practically the entire day to dealing with it. Early in the day he made it evident that he regarded the calamity as of national proportion and that he thought it the duty of the Federal Government to furnish all possible aid.

From the first, when he had learned from Miss Mabel Boardman, the chairman of the relief board of the Red Cross Society, and others, of the extent of the flood disaster, the President assumed active charge of the work of carrying the assistance of the government to the stricken districts, and every move made by the War Department here was at his immediate direction. The President continually was in touch with Secretary of War Garrison either by telephone to the War Department or in actual conference at the White House. The two men discussed the tragic stories which were borne into Washington by the press dispatches and private telegrams from persons on the scene.

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Issues Proclamation

Secretary to the President Tumulty met the Red Cross leader. He was told that Gov. Cox of Ohio had made urgent appeal to the President for assistance. Miss Boardman asked that the President issue a proclamation emphasizing the need for assistance made evident by the confirmation of the early morning stories of the Ohio disasters.

The President almost immediately prepared a proclamation, setting forth the compassion he felt for those unfortunate persons in the flood districts, and calling on the country to assist the Red Cross relief work by contributions. This was his proclamation:

"The terrible floods in Ohio and Indiana have assumed the proportions of a national calamity. The loss of life and the infinite suffering involved prompt me to issue an earnest appeal to all who are able, in however small a way, to assist the labors of the American Red Cross to send contributions at once to the Red Cross at Washington or to local treasurers of the society.

"I should make this a common cause. The needs of those upon whom this sudden and overwhelming disaster has come should quicken every one capable of sympathy and compassion to give immediate aid to those who are laboring to rescue and relieve.

Telegrams to Governors

At the same time the President addressed the following telegram to Gov. Cox and Gov. Raister of Indiana:

"I deeply sympathize with the people of your State in the terrible disaster that has come upon them. Can the Federal Government assist in any way? Gov. Cox's reply came quickly. He said:

"I have asked the Secretary of War this morning for tents, supplies, rations and physicians. In the name of humanity see that this is granted at the earliest possible moment. The situation in this State is very critical. We believe that 250,000 people were unhelmed last night, and the indications are that before night the Muskingum Valley will suffer the fate of the Miami and Scioto Valleys.

Upon receipt of Gov. Cox's telegram the Secretary of War was summoned to the White House and plans for immediate participation by the government in the relief work were made definite. The Secretary hurried out telegraphic orders for the work to begin, and the President soon notified the Governor that his request for assistance had been complied with, and that the War Department would use every agency to meet the needs of the situation.

Acts on Own Initiative

The President acted on his own responsibility in taking the emergency measures he adopted yesterday, and did not wait for the sanction of the Appropriations Committee of Congress. After the Secretary of War had set the relief machinery of the War Department into operation, however, the President did send telegrams to Senator Martin, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and to Representative Fitzgerald, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, telling them of what he had done. The President stated that he assumed Congress would adopt the necessary emergency measure for payment for the supplies to be consumed and expenses incurred by the government in the relief work. Senator Martin replied that he approved absolutely of the President's course. Representative Fitzgerald's approval is taken for granted.

Netline, "The Love Leak"

Today, 215, Columbia Theater, 11 to 8:00.

DEATH TOLL IN THE OHIO VALLEY MAY TOTAL 3,000

At Least 500,000 Persons Are Reported Now to Be Homeless.

DAMAGE IS \$100,000,000

Indianapolis Threatened with Disaster Equal to that at Dayton, Ohio.

BULLETIN

It is feared that the death toll of the great flood that swept the Northern Ohio Valley Tuesday and yesterday may reach 3,000. Estimates of the number of dead in the flood and fire swept city of Dayton vary from 500 to 2,500.

Scores of persons are unaccounted for, and many bodies are floating about the ruins, which will add materially to the death toll.

Damage May Reach \$100,000,000

At least 500,000 persons have been left homeless in the flooded territory of Ohio and Indiana, and the property loss may reach the enormous total of \$100,000,000.

Dayton has been placed under martial law, with Maj. Smith, of the State National Guard, in command. Additional militia have been ordered from various points in Ohio to assist in the relief work.

Fire Threatens City

While the flood has abated, the fire which has burned during the day in the business center of the city continues, and thousands of persons who are marooned in the buildings are in peril. Dynamite has been used freely in blowing up many of the large buildings, while the heavy downpour during the afternoon tended greatly to check the flames.

Indianapolis in Danger

Indianapolis is threatened with a disaster almost as great as befell Dayton. Transportation with the city from all outside points is entirely cut off, and there is danger of a famine. Forty thousand persons are refugees from their flooded homes. Two hundred are reported drowned, and several deaths have been reported during the day, owing to starvation and exposure. The Indiana River is still rising, and a heavy downpour has continued during the day.

Reports are arriving hourly from scores of cities and towns in Ohio, and prove that State to be the worst sufferer.

Flood in Cincinnati

Cincinnati is partially flooded, and the Ohio River had reached the fifty-six feet level early tonight, and sixty feet is expected by morning. Thousands of persons have been driven from their homes and much damage done by the water.

Columbus, Ohio, is in total darkness and railroad communication with the rest of the State has been cut off. Twenty-two deaths have occurred as a result of the flood. A panic occurred there today when the rumor that the great storage dam which furnished the city's water

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600 BODIES TAKEN FROM DAYTON RUINS

Message to Cincinnati Places Probable Death List at 1,200.

Cincinnati, Ohio, March 26.—A Monroe, of this city, received from his brother, J. C. Monroe, at Dayton, the first definite information received here since the breaking of communication, thirty-six hours ago. According to Mr. Monroe, who was in long-distance telephone communication with his brother, the list of known dead is 400, with the probable total estimate for Dayton as 1,200.

"My brother declared that there were 800 bodies recovered from the flood," said A. L. Monroe. "This is in Dayton proper and does not include the outer districts, where the devastation was more complete. He declares that a careful estimate of the total number of dead within the city limits of Dayton will probably be 1,200. This, however, does not include Miami, Leburg and the smaller towns. Suffering, he declares, is extreme, and little food, clothing, or even drinkable water, is obtainable."

Philadelphia Excursion. Next Sunday, March 30, Pennsylvania Railroad, 12:50, round trip. Special train leaves Washington 7:30 a. m., 12:25 to Chester and return, and Washington and return. Consult ticket agents.

\$1,000 subscribed by THE WASHINGTON HERALD, is to head a fund to be raised by readers of this newspaper for the relief of the flood sufferers. Money contributions will be gladly received by The Herald, and forwarded to the proper authorities in Ohio and Indiana. Contributions received by THE WASHINGTON HERALD will in no way interfere with the work of the American Red Cross, The Herald desiring to aid the society in every possible way. Checks or cash should be sent to THE WASHINGTON HERALD FLOOD RELIEF FUND.