

## Aftermath of Heppner Flood

### The Town Literally Demolished

Lexington is Also Almost a Total Wreck

THE DEAD NUMBER 188 SO FAR IDENTIFIED

Conservative Estimates Place the Total Number of Killed at Over 300

Heppner, via Ione, June 16.—The entire state of Oregon, and many cities in all parts of the Northwest are rushing supplies to stricken Heppner. The railway tracks and bridges are gone, and ravines flooded, which makes entrance to the district difficult. The number of dead has now been placed at 300. Relief work centers at Ione, from which point undertakers are leaving for the scene. Bodies so far recovered number 188. Heppner is almost entirely demolished, portions of houses, brush, logs and dead bodies encumber the creeks and streets. There was no loss of life at Lexington, although the property damage is heavy. Tools for burying the dead are scarce, hence many willing hands are idle. There is no way of getting into town, except by wagon or on horseback. Rails in the tracks are twisted like ropes. Every available horse has been pressed into service to carry tools and supplies into the stricken district from the relief train at Heppner Junction, 45 miles away.

Portland, Or., June 16.—Thirteen families are homeless at Lexington as a result of the flood, and are huddled in the school house since Sunday night. Homes, orchards and farms were swept away in a twinkling. Almost the only building that escaped destruction in Heppner was the Palace Hotel, which is on the high ground, where a number of people went to escape the avalanche of water. Debris is piled nine feet high in the streets of Lexington. Workers at 2 o'clock this morning uncovered

12 bodies. The force of the flood is shown by the fact that the body of a woman was carried down the gulch from Heppner to Lexington, a distance of 12 miles. When the pile of water struck the Congregational church, the building was thrown three blocks away, lodging against the Methodist church. A courier from Heppner says it will take 1000 men two weeks to clear the wreckage and recover all the bodies.

**Sad Ruin is Wrought.**  
Court street, Heppner, on the bank of the stream, is swept clean as a gravel bar from end to end. Not even the foundation of a long line of beautiful residences are left. All the Ayers' homes and the Matlocks' Shutts' and Keithley's, are as if they had never been.

Every business house, except the hotel, Fair Store and Odd Fellows' building, along the side of the street on which the bank stands, are wrecks, a large building is jammed into the drug store, and several other structures are in the middle of the same street. Residences are turned over or torn to pieces. Mud, slime and misery are everywhere.

The water was 15 feet high in Heppner's streets, and rose over the new court house wall. It came down Balm Fork, chiefly, but was a torrent on all hillsides. Enormous piles of rock and gravel have been washed down the canyon, five miles up on Butter creek.

**One Hour of Horror.**  
The flood came almost instantly, lasted one hour. The people thought it was only a repetition of the cloudburst a few days ago, and were not

which sucked everything moveable in to their twisting eddies, and escape was impossible.

Many people are sleeping in the court house tonight, and any place they can make a bed.

Provisions are not needed, but rather help to bury their dead and clear away the debris. The absence of ice or embalming fluids has necessitated the hurried burial of many bodies, which would otherwise have been preserved for the arrival of relatives.

The accompanying list of dead includes all the bodies buried, a register of which was kept. Three live babies have been found, whose parents are lost, and identification has so far been almost until it was too late. Houses were surrounded by raging torrents, impossible.

Families are broken to pieces, the father alone remains, or a wife or son or daughter, and the little children left orphans.

Dead Will Number 300.  
Elias Conner, a stockraiser of Ione,

returned from Heppner at 2 o'clock this (Tuesday) morning. He left the scene of disaster at 6 o'clock, and brings the latest news from the scene.

"It is now known," said Mr. Conner, "that at least 275 or 300 people were drowned. One hundred and fifteen corpses have been hastily buried in wooden boxes, and some were merely wrapped in blankets. There were several wagon loads of dead on their way to the cemetery when I left. Heppner, itself, has been pretty well searched, except in piles of debris, where it is thought that numbers of bodies will be found.

"Between Ione and Heppner," said Mr. Conner, "there are great piles of debris, but the flood passed so quickly that the roads have not been seriously damaged. The railroad track, however, from Lexington, is badly torn up. It looks strange to see the heavy steel rails bent and twisted like corkscrews, and the heavy timbers

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### Matlock Out Rode The Flood

Warned Lexington Nine Miles Away and Also Ione

TWELVE MORE BODIES RECOVERED TODAY

One Body Carried From Heppner to Lexington a Distance of Ten Miles

The Dalles, June 16.—A mass meeting was held here yesterday, and hundreds of volunteers offered themselves and vehicles to assist in the work of recovering the bodies at Heppner and vicinity, and to aid the victims of the flood.

A train load of men and working material was sent from The Dalles at noon, the O. R. & N. providing free transportation for all who wished to go.

**The Man For the Occasion.**

The people did not realize what had happened until the flood struck the town. Then it was too late. Houses were swept away on the crest of the river, and turned topay turvey. In the Palace Hotel there was considerable water, but the building had a stone foundation, and the superstructure was of brick, and did not move.

Leslie Matlock, a young man there, was the hero of the day. When the flood first came he mounted a horse and rode at break-neck speed down the canyon in front of the rushing waters to notify the people of Lexington, a small town nine miles below. He had to go over a rough and stony road. The night was dark and stormy. His horse leaped over bowlders, sometimes nearly throwing the rider, yet not once losing his feet, and he arrived at Lexington just a few minutes ahead of the flood. The people were

warned, and immediately left for the hillsides, not having time to take anything with them. Every person escaped, but when the flood had passed only two houses were standing. Lexington has a population of about 500.

Ione was the next town down the line. The people were warned by Matlock by telephone. They left their homes, but, as the town is built on a wide flat, very little damage was done. No buildings were washed away, but some were moved from their foundations.

Portland, Or., June 16.—The first press dispatch, via Ione, says the Rev. C. H. Lake has stood all day and all night saying burial services over the dead, as they were laid away in crude coffins. The survivors, who have been working since the disaster, uncover

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### THE LAW AND THE TROOPS

Kentucky has an Army at the Court House

Mob Wants a Chance to Hang Three Negroes Without Giving Them a Trial

Marysville, Ky., June 16.—The trial of the three negroes accused of the murder of John Farrow began today, and is a big military event. Early this morning the town began to fill with farmers from the surrounding country, and when the troops started to march from the jail to the court house the excitement began. Shouts from the leaders of the mob caused the officers, in behalf of the prisoners, to order the militiamen to fix bayonets, then faced the crowd surrounding it, and held it in a square, while another detachment of militia and sheriffs took the prisoners to court. The militia took charge of the court house, barred all entrances, and placed cannon in its front. The town is wildly excited; all business is suspended, and nothing but the uncompromising front of the guardsmen prevents a lynching. The prisoners were arraigned, surrounded by soldiers, and then taken back to jail.

### New King Goes to Work

Belgrade, June 16.—Celebrations in honor of the new ruler began last night with great illuminations, and today a thanksgiving and festival is being held.

Kara Georgovitch naturally has a delicacy about relocating the throne of Serbia, and being king. In the light of the recent vote of thanks tendered by the legislature of that country to the noble gentlemen who politely murdered the recent occupant of the throne, the position is not an alluring one.

### Hurt by Elevator

New York, June 16.—An elevator fell from the fifth story of a West Houston-street building this morning, injuring five, three seriously; the cable parted.

### Gone to Virginia

Washington, June 16.—President Roosevelt this morning left here on a special train to attend the commencement exercises of the University of Virginia, accompanied by his wife

### JETT WHITE TRIAL

The Militia Guard the Court House

Judge Hargis, Head of One Faction Gives Testimony in Behalf of Defendants

Jackson, Ky., June 16.—The most interesting witness this morning at the trial of Jett and White was Judge Hargis, the leader of their faction. The main attempt was to invalidate the testimony given by Ewen. He said he saw Ewen run immediately after the shot was fired without looking back; admitted that he saw White standing in the middle of the street, and ten seconds later saw Jett at the corner of the court house. Under a rigid cross-examination he finally admitted he didn't see Jett anywhere when the shots were fired.

Another leader of the Hargis faction Sheriff Callahan, was called to the witness stand this afternoon. He appeared frightened, and gave his testimony with downcast eyes. He said he saw Marcum throw up his hands, stagger and fall, and Ewen run. He said he saw one in the hallway, but couldn't recognize who it was. Ewen never looked back when he ran. Was shown his testimony before the grand jury, where he said that Ewen had stopped and looked at Marcum before he left the scene, and denied having made such a statement. His testimony was confused.

The grand jury reported that no evidence could be found against the two men suspected of setting fire to Ewen's hotel. It has not adjourned, but it is feared no indictment whatever will be found, because it is composed of Hargis men, carefully selected by the sheriff.

### More to be Arrested

Washington, June 16.—Warrants have been issued for two more employees of the postoffice department, alleging fraudulent transactions. Their identity won't be made known until after their apprehension.

Payne declined to say whether the men to be arrested are employees of the general or New York postoffice.

### Arabians in Revolt

Constantinople, June 16.—Another revolt has occurred in Arabia, owing to heavy taxation. Osman Pasha, commander at Medina, was wounded and imprisoned. The people at Mecca rose against the local rulers and imprisoned the governor-general and staff.

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