

NATION RESPONDS TO CRY FOR HELP

President Wilson's Appeal in
Behalf of Flood Sufferers
Followed by Quick Action
by Government.

RUSHING TENTS AND FOOD

States and Cities Join in the
Work of Relief, Giving Generously Money and Supplies
for the Thousands
Left Destitute.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, March 26.—The President has extended all possible relief to the states stricken by floods, every available agency of the government being at work as the result of appeals from Governor Cox, the American Red Cross and others. President Wilson also issued an appeal early in the day to the nation at large to help the sufferers, in which he said:

"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 labor of the American Red Cross to send contributions at once to the Red Cross of Washington or to the local treasurers of the Republic encampment at Gettysburg."

We 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 relieve."

All available troops in Western New York and the Central Department are being held in readiness to be sent to the stricken sections if needed for relief work. The Secretary of War has arranged to provide 50,000 tents for the shelter of the sufferers, 10,000 having been sent from Philadelphia this afternoon. The tents had been in storage in Philadelphia in anticipation of the Grand Army of the Republic encampment at Gettysburg.

Indicating the gravity of the situation in Ohio, the following telegram from Governor Cox was received by the Secretary of War this afternoon:

"Request issue of one million rations under army regulations for destitute food sufferers; also following medical supplies; five hundred boxes reserve dressing, 100 vaccine points, and 5,000 anti-typhoid vaccine doses; also loan of tent and cots for 25,000 persons for thirty days; also 50 hospital tents. Please ship to Columbus. Requisition even date by mail."

Emergency Quickly Met.

Secretary Garrison promptly took steps to meet the emergency, and the following message was sent to Governor Cox by Major General Wood, chief of staff:

"Secretary of War directs me to inform you that tents and cots for 25,000 persons, medical supplies and rations to meet emergency have been ordered sent by express to Columbus. The two experienced officers who handled the Mississippi flood situation, Majors Normoye and Logan, have been ordered to proceed on this afternoon's train to Columbus, reporting to you on arrival. They are both very capable and experienced in this work."

"All troops in Western New York and all available troops in Central Department have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to relief work in Ohio and Indiana, if needed."

President Wilson issued his appeal for funds for the Red Cross, following a conference with Miss Mabel Boardman, chairman of the relief board of the organization.

Secretary Garrison conferred with President Wilson this afternoon and was directed to render all possible assistance, and soon orders were given to send tents, tarpaulins, blankets, stoves and other supplies to the afflicted districts.

The Secretary of the Treasury also enlisted promptly in the relief movement and the public health service and the life-saving service and marine hospital surgeons available were placed at the command of the state authorities. The public health hospitals at Detroit, Cleveland, Louisville, Cairo, Evansville and St. Louis were thrown open for the care of the flood victims. Surgeons P. W. Wille, of the Marine Hospital at Cleveland, was instructed to go to Columbus to co-operate with the state Board of Health. Dr. J. G. Conklin, of the Chicago Marine Hospital, was ordered to Indianapolis.

Backing of Congress Pledged.

The President was in his office all day in close touch with the situation. He apprised the chairmen of the Senate and House appropriations committees that the government was going ahead with emergency expenditures on the assumption that Congress would back up the administration later. Both promised hearty support, and orders went out on every side for a gigantic work of relief.

Major P. C. Fauntroy was sent to Columbus to handle the medical supplies. Nine medical officers and fifty-four hospital corps men went from the Department of the Navy carrying a big supply of surgical dressings, anti-typhoid prophylactics and the complete "reserve medical supply," comprising hundreds of drugs sufficient to treat 20,000 patients for one month. Precautions against the spread of disease are to be handled by sanitation experts.

Lifesaving crews were ordered from Louisville to Dayton and from Lorain, Ohio, to Delaware, Ohio, and the public health service distributed its agents over the afflicted districts.

James F. Jackson, Red Cross agent at Cleveland, has been directed to proceed to Piqua and Sidney, Ohio, to take charge of the relief work there and in other nearby towns where operations could not be directed by Mr. Edmonds, the agent at Dayton.

Albany, March 26.—Governor Sulzer, as president of the New York State Board of the American Red Cross, issued an appeal to-night to the people of New York State to aid the flood sufferers in Ohio and Indiana.

The advisability of the Legislature being asked to make a direct appropriation is under consideration. When a fund was raised for those who suffered from the San Francisco earthquake in 1906 New York State contributed \$250,000.

Philadelphia, March 26.—The government is loading a train of twenty cars with supplies for the flood-stricken district. The railroads will rush the train to Columbus, and from that point its contents will be distributed. The train will carry 4,000 tents, 2,000 blankets, 11,000 cots and a complete hospital outfit, including 400 separate tents for patients. It will also take along food and other supplies for soldiers and militiamen.

There will be other government shipments of supplies from this city, including hundreds of stoves.

Boston, March 26.—In response to an appeal for help for the flood sufferers in Ohio and Indiana, sent out to-day by Governor Foss, as president of the Red Cross Board for Massachusetts, \$20,000 was raised in a few hours.

The Governor requests that donations be sent by check or money to Gardner M. Lane, treasurer of the Red Cross Board for Massachusetts, care of Lee, Higginson & Co., No. 41 State street, Boston.

Chicago, March 26.—Mayor Harrison issued to-day a proclamation appealing for funds for the relief of the Indiana and Ohio flood sufferers.

Howard Elting, president of the Association of Commerce, telegraphed Governor Cox this afternoon that citizens of Chicago were raising a relief fund for Ohio and Indiana flood sufferers, adding:

"We are pleased to state that \$100,000 will be placed at the disposal of Ohio through the American Red Cross."

Harrisburg, Pa., March 26.—Arriving to remain to assist in relief work in that city, Ernest P. Bucknell, of the American National Red Cross, halted the train to-day and left for Dayton.

District Bucknell left Washington Monday for Omaha and was not informed of the serious situation in Indiana and Ohio until he reached here. He telephoned to Omaha and relayed word that the work there will be well done, so that he then decided to go to the flood-stricken districts in Indiana and Ohio. Mr. Bucknell arranged with others of the United Charities to raise funds for the flood sufferers, and several thousand dollars was subscribed within a few hours, while scores of offers of clothing, provision and furniture were received.

Mrs. Edna Foley, chairman of the Illinois State Red Cross Nursing Association, issued to-day a call for all members of the organization to hold themselves in readiness for emergency service in the flood districts. There are about three thousand members in Illinois.

A warning to persons contributing clothing and shoes for the relief of tornado and flood sufferers was issued here to-night by Dr. P. P. Farrell, formerly surgeon general of the navy, and now in charge of the San Francisco disaster, where he was in charge of the emergency hospitals.

"Send nothing but perfectly clean clothing and see that shoes are well made and fit," he said. "These precautions are of the greatest importance. Unless clothing is new or perfectly clean when shipped it frequently will be found infected by vermin in the time required for its arrival."

At Stratford, a town near Delaware, according to an unconfirmed report from a farmer who reached Delaware to-day, was literally swept from the map and from 100 to 300 were drowned.

According to a wireless report received at the Ohio State University here this afternoon from Mount Vernon, that town was hit hard by the flood and probably 100 have lost their lives. This report could not be verified to-night.

Meagre reports from Hamilton, in the Miami Valley, are that the situation is serious and that a half dozen or more lives were lost. Confirmation is lacking.

Reports from the southern part of the state indicate that the situation there is serious and may result in a heavy death toll. Zanesville, on the swollen Muskingum River, according to reports to-night, was largely under water, and several buildings are reported to have collapsed. Wire communication was cut off early to-night when the Western Union telegraph office was flooded. The operator's last words were that the town was under water.

The Muskingum River empties into the Ohio River at Marietta, and the local United States Weather Bureau to-day sent out flood warnings to all points beyond Zanesville to prepare for a flood. All points below Zanesville extending east to the Ohio River were cut off from the outside world to-night.

Last available information from these places was that they were partially or wholly submerged. Marietta and McConnellsburg were reported to be under several feet of water. The Muskingum River was reported to be more than ten feet higher than ever before.

Chillicothe, Circleville, Portsmouth, Frankton and all points in the Ohio Valley south are cut off from communication to-night, and all are either partly or wholly under water.

At Chillicothe the telephone and telegraph offices were flooded early to-day and all communication cut off.

Reports from Akron late to-day were that at least five hundred families are homeless, and that there undoubtedly would be fatalities. Massillon, New Philadelphia, Marion and Lima also were reported to be partly inundated, and were wholly cut off from communication.

The Great Miami and Little Miami rivers, which join before entering the Ohio River, and which are held responsible to a great extent for causing the disastrous flood, are falling to-night, thus greatly decreasing the danger of worse conditions.

The Ohio River at Cincinnati is rising at the rate of three-tenths of an inch an hour, and is expected to reach a stage of fifty-eight feet to-morrow, according to the Weather Bureau's report.

The storm in the Ohio Valley is moving rapidly northeast and will pass the stricken district to-morrow. It is snowing in the northern Mississippi Valley to-night, and it is regarded as probable that there will be snow in the Ohio Valley to-morrow night.

Weather Bureau scientists confirm the fears of the local forecaster at Memphis for a heavy Mississippi flood, although they do not believe the flood stage at Memphis will be reached so soon as to-morrow. If rains continue for the next twenty-four hours they look for disastrous developments.

Memphis, March 26.—With such a volume of water coming into the Mississippi from above, people along the Mississippi River had just as well prepare for a great flood," said Colonel S. C. Emery, of the local United States Weather Bureau, to-day.

"I cannot say just what the stage is going to be," he continued. "It will be a big river, and I believe the flood stage will be reached at Memphis to-morrow."

St. Louis, March 26.—The Mississippi River was twenty-five feet above low water mark here this morning, having risen five feet in twenty-four hours. The Illinois River is high and flood warnings have been sent to all points along that stream. At Lasalle, Ill., the Illinois River is eight feet above flood stage and at Beardstown three feet above.

The Gasconade River, in Eastern-Central Missouri, is in flood, as also is the Lower Missouri.

ROAD INDICTED FOR TRAGEDY.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

New Brunswick, N. J., March 26.—The grand jury this afternoon indicted the Central Railroad of New Jersey for maintaining a nuisance. This was the result of the tragedy at the crossing of the tracks between Sewaren and Perth Amboy, where an automobile omnibus was struck by the Lakewood express last December 1. There were twenty-two in the machine, two of whom were killed.

DAY OF TERROR BRINGS NO RELIEF TO OHIO

Waters Reported Falling, but Suffering Continues Intense in State.

WORST SINCE GALVESTON

One Town Swept Off Map and Losses in Others Range from 50 to 100—Columbus Hard Hit.

Columbus, Ohio, March 26.—Ohio is experiencing the worst flood in its history. Many estimate that the damage to property is the greatest since Galveston was literally swept off the map.

Gathering darkness to-night brought no relief to the scores of inundated cities and towns, but instead practically thwarted rescue work. Thousands of persons are imprisoned by the swollen waters.

Although the waters in some places are reported to be slowly receding there was no immediate relief in sight to-night, while rain continued to descend at times in a drizzle and more frequently in torrents.

So appalling and seemingly exaggerated were many of the reports from flooded cities and towns to-day that they were disputed, and in many instances wholly disregarded. Later reports from these same sections, however, many times confirmed what seemed to be wild rumors.

The greatest damage and loss of life, from all reports, are at Dayton. The conditions there beggar description. While the business section of the city is practically all under water and the estimated loss of life is appalling, fires are adding to the horror by increasing the death toll.

Loss of life is estimated at from hundreds to thousands.

Handicapped efforts at rescue work to-day failed to clarify the puzzling situation regarding loss of life from the flood in Columbus. How many are dead there it is not known. Many who are considered conservative place the loss from 100 to 150.

At Delaware, twenty-five miles north of Columbus, the inhabitants are still dead bound and details are unavailable. The known dead already number thirty-three.

From Sidney comes the report that from 100 to 300 have been drowned. Governor Cox said that he had information that there was no loss of life in Sidney.

Tiffin reported at least fifty lives lost.

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Besides the actual tragedies, the most exciting incident occurred late to-day at the courthouse in Marietta, and the local United States Weather Bureau to-day sent out flood warnings to all points beyond Zanesville to prepare for a flood. All points below Zanesville extending east to the Ohio River were cut off from the outside world to-night.

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Hamilton, Ohio, March 26.—The river began failing at the rate of nine inches an hour early to-day.

On all sides can be heard rumors of deaths due to the flood. At least fifty persons are known to have perished. To add to the horror of the situation fire broke out in the flooded district last night. One of the buildings reported to have burned was the Champion Coated Paper Company's plant, which was the second largest of its kind in the world and was built at a cost of over \$5,000,000.

SERIOUS FLOODS ALSO IN NORTHERN NEW-YORK

All High Water Records in Upper Hudson Broken—Great Menace in Adirondacks.

Glens Falls, N. Y., March 26.—With bridges and small dams washed away and all high water records on the upper Hudson River broken, the Adirondacks tonight are facing a serious flood situation. A part of Fort Edward is inundated. In many localities farmers were forced to move their livestock to places of safety.

The Delaware & Hudson Railroad has been forced to suspend traffic on its Adirondack division. In Lanesboro several small buildings were washed away and many persons rescued from houses in King Ferry.

Ithaca branch of the Lehigh Valley Railroad road. A small bridge at Farley's Point, near the lower end of Cayuga Lake, was washed away. An avalanche of mud and stones buried the railroad tracks