

Cyclone in Illinois.

A Terrible Loss of Life and Property.

TWENTY-FIVE PERSONS KILLED.

A Number of Other People Seriously Injured, While the Loss to Property Cannot at Present Be Estimated, But Will Be Very Large—Storm Damages Elsewhere.

EARLVILLE, Ill., June 12.—A terrible cyclone and cloud-burst occurred about five miles north of this city shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, which resulted in a terrible loss of life and property, no less than fifteen people being killed and a number of houses and barns entirely demolished. The storm came from the northwest and swooped down on fields, school houses, a new building standing at the Four Corners, which tore it to pieces. At the time there were but eight persons in the school room and all were instantly killed. The bodies were carried some distance and fearfully bruised and crushed.

The names of those who perished in the school house, so far as known, are: Miss Maggie McBride, the teacher; Edna Hunt, Jennie Radley, Minnie Berry, Ada Rudolph, Lena Prentice and Carrie White.

Peter Reams, an old broom peddler, was driving by the school house when the cyclone struck it, and he, too, was caught up, carried some distance and flung lifeless into a hedge. His team also was carried away.

The house of Newton Wood was next struck and not a vestige of it remains. The family sought refuge in the cellar and escaped.

From the school house the storm continued to the northeast through Paw Paw grove and carrying with it everything movable. Here the loss of life is reported to be greater, seventeen persons killed and many injured. Twenty houses were torn to pieces and the eastern part of the town entirely wiped out. Some of the victims were carried hundreds of yards and mangled almost beyond recognition.

The force of the cyclone was terrific. Nothing remains in its path but the bare earth, huge trees being torn out and carried away. The width of the storm was about eighty rods, and it progressed forward at the rate of eighty miles an hour. The work of rescue began immediately, but at the hour of writing but little can be learned in regard to the names of the killed and injured.

Another One in Livingston County. CORNELL, Ill., June 21.—A cyclone swept over the country west of here about 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Everything in its path was destroyed. The path of the storm was about eighty rods in width. The cyclone first struck the house of S. Plymmer, tore it to pieces, and carried the ruins a quarter of a mile. Mr. Plymmer was badly hurt. Two houses belonging to William Vincamp and J. M. Bradley were badly damaged. The house of William Satchiff was also partly wrecked. The house of W. D. Connor was torn to pieces, and Connor and his wife both badly injured. A school house near was blown entirely away. A young son of Mr. Morrison was badly hurt. Several other houses were partly wrecked.

About a mile to the northeast the cyclone struck the house of C. C. Leonard, destroyed it and injured four of his sons, one very seriously. For four miles the cyclone left rain in its path. At Mud Creek many trees were blown across the track of the Wabash railroad. At Sublett several houses were blown down, trees uprooted, fences destroyed and several persons hurt. No lives are reported lost.

Heavy Loss to Stock. MT. CARROLL, Ill., June 21.—One of the heaviest rain storms ever seen in Carroll county prevailed yesterday morning. For an hour and a half the rain fell in torrents, and the creeks became rivers, sweeping away fences, out-houses and bridges. Many head of stock were carried away.

Heaviest Rainfall in Ten Years. ST. CHARLES, Minn., June 21.—A fearful hail storm commenced at this place Thursday evening and extended over five miles southeast through the townships of St. Charles, Saratoga and Fremont. Great damage was done to all kinds of crops, wheat, oats, etc., being almost destroyed. The storm was immediately followed by the heaviest rainfall in ten years. Many farms that had already been stripped by hail were washed of everything movable, including fences and bridges.

A Man Washed Into a Sewer. ST. JOSEPH, Mo., June 21.—The heaviest storm of the season visited this section Thursday afternoon between 5 and 6 o'clock. The rain poured in torrents and many business houses were flooded. In the north end of the city several sewers burst, causing much damage. Joseph C. Combs, a colored man, was washed into a sewer, and inside of ten minutes his dead body floated into the Missouri river.

A CRY FROM ALASKA. Laws Which Should Be Changed and Other Needs.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—There is a growing desire to assist, in such way as legislation can assist, the development of our very sadly neglected territory of Alaska, which, away off in the icy regions of the north, as the poets say, excites our curiosity rather than our fraternal sympathy. A bill is now before congress which is designed to be of benefit to Alaska by providing for the acquisition of land for town sites and commercial purposes and other things, being planned after the land laws which

apply to the public domains of the territories at hand.

During the twenty-two years that Alaska has been in the possession of the United States, with the exception of the extension of the mining laws, there has been absolutely no legislation for it which would tend to encourage the development of its vast and varied resources or afford any protection for the investment of their capital and labor to the several thousand American citizens who have pushed their way into the territory for the purpose of engaging in business or establishing homes.

With the exception of a few lots in Sitka, upon which title to the original claimants was conferred at the time of the ceding of the territory to the United States by Russia, and a small number of mineral locations upon which patents have been issued, not a foot of land is owned by private individuals. In Juneau, the chief town of the territory, having a population of upwards of 1,000 whites, nearly every branch of business is represented and thousands of dollars are invested in private dwellings and business houses, and the only title that can be acquired by a purchaser of property there, or in fact in all of the towns of the territory, is by a simple bill of sale.

One of the important provisions of the senate bill which passed today and is now before the house is that citizens and corporations may secure title to land not to exceed 160 acres each for the purpose of trade and manufacture. There are in actual operation between forty and fifty salmon canneries in the territory, costing from \$20,000 to \$10,000 each, besides a number of salmon and halibut smoking and salting establishments and oil factories, and it is proper and right that these companies that have invested such a large amount of capital should have an opportunity to acquire title to the land upon which their buildings are located.

There is no provision in the senate bill for the securing of land for farming purposes, however, and that omission the house will remedy. Although Alaska may be considered as a mountainous country, there are some localities where there are large tracts of lands that are comparatively level and destitute of timber, and it is a fact that certain crops can be grown on these tracts. Therefore the house will make provision in the senate bill for the acquisition of tillable lands by those who want to engage in farming.

The organic act of May 17, 1884, establishing a civil government for Alaska provided that the laws of Oregon, so far as practicable, should apply to Alaska, but they have been found entirely inadequate, for the reason that they were formed for a state having town, city and township organizations, and where its officers are elective. This condition of affairs has left the vast territory of Alaska practically without laws for its government and the protection of its people.

By the same act of 1884 the cutting of timber in Alaska was absolutely prohibited under an extravagant idea concerning the extent and value of Alaska timber and was adopted for the purpose of preserving the forests from the wholesale depredations of speculators. Since the territory has become settled up investigation into the timber resources has shown that while the general appearance of the country suggests an endless extent of forests, and it is a fact that the prevailing spruce and hemlock are of dense growth, yet extensive bodies of large timber are rare, and it is the rule that where fine forests do exist they exist in extremely rugged districts, in many places absolutely inaccessible, and on account of the dense undergrowth it is a matter of great expense and incessant labor to fell the trees and get them into the water for rafting.

An agent of the land department was recently sent out to Alaska to investigate the reports of timber cutting, and he found that the only cutting that had been done was by persons who needed the lumber to construct houses and for fuel purposes. The law was found to be very strict, however, and the secretary of the interior has held that it must be enforced, and ordered that prosecutions be begun against all persons who have violated it. Scarcely a mining or canning company or individuals having property will escape prosecution. This is a manifest injustice, and the house will endeavor to modify the existing timber act to suit the case and also relieve those who have offended from prosecution.

It is also proposed, now that the opportunity is at hand and a disposition exists to aid in the advancement of Alaska by proper legislation, to remove the capital. The seat of government for the territory was located at Sitka by the organic act referred to for the reason that it had been the old Russian capital, and also because the other towns in the territory were then small and of no commercial consequence.

The only argument that is used for the retention of the seat of government at Sitka is that the necessary buildings for government use are there. But they are mostly constructed of logs, were built many years ago by the Russians, and are now in a bad state of decay, unsafe for occupancy in many instances, and not worth the expense of putting them in proper condition.

In view of the important changes which it is now proposed to make in the government of the territory the persons who are most interested in Alaska will try to have the seat of government removed from Sitka to Juneau, and an amendment to the senate bill will be offered in the house to that effect.

Thinking men are looking forward to a great future for Alaska. The enormous wealth of gold, as exemplified by the largest mill in the world, which for several years has been in constant operation in the territory, and the very promising results of other mining operations, together with the startling gold and silver indications in many parts, as well as those of iron, copper, lead, and almost every known mineral, give promise that to this portion of the United States may yet belong the credit of possessing the most valuable and most extensive mineral deposits on the face of the globe.

PITTSBURG, Pa., June 21.—Charles J. Young, an architect, from Columbus, O., who has been working in Pittsburgh about six weeks, died suddenly while playing ball at Cycle park, Allegheny.

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