

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE IN THE EAST

Thousands Killed in Tornado Which Strikes Omaha and in Floods Which Sweep Eastern States. Floods Now Subsiding

TEN THOUSAND HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE, PROPERTY LOSS MILLIONS

CINCINNATI, O., March 26.—Ten thousand persons lost their lives; 5,000 in Dayton, Ohio; 1,000 in Hamilton, Ohio; 500 in Peru, Ind.; 500 in Piqua, Ohio; 75 in Delaware, O., with property loss of scores of millions of dollars, in unprecedented floods that swept four states yesterday.

It was the most horrible disaster that ever has visited the Miami valley. It is impossible at this time to more than estimate the number of lives which were snuffed out, but it is conservatively placed at 10,000.

For four days a steady downpour of rain had soaked the land and swollen the rivers bank high. The lower parts of the cities were flooded, and while it was known there was danger, it was not regarded as imminent. It was known that the levees at Piqua had given away and that a number of lives had been lost there. It was hoped that this break would relieve the pressure somewhat. This morning the great power plant reservoir north of Dayton was full to overflowing and was carefully watched.

Suddenly, with hardly a moment's warning, the big dam cracked under the enormous pressure, then with a smash which could be heard for miles went out and the millions of gallons of water in a white crested wave, ten feet high, swept like a demon of destruction down the doomed valley, carrying horses, cattle and hundreds of human beings on its foaming crest. There was no time for the people of the lower part of Dayton to escape. Hundreds of them were caught in the swirling waters which had soon turned the streets into rushing, murderous, corpse-laden rivers.

It was a gruesome sight to those fortunate enough to be in buildings strong enough and high enough to withstand the mighty grasp of the wrathful river god. Hundreds of bodies, some of them still with the breath of life in them and struggling vainly, floated past their horror-stricken eyes. In a short time there was thirty feet of water in some of the streets nearest the river front, and at this hour it is receding very slowly.

The giant wave swept past Dayton, licking up the small cities and towns on the banks of the Miami river as though they were match wood, on to Hamilton, where the same scenes were enacted as at Dayton, except on a smaller scale.

The people of Hamilton had received some warning of the approach of the flood and many of them had sought refuge on the higher ground. It is doubtful if there would have been as great loss of life at Hamilton had the flood wave not been reinforced by the smashing of a dam to the north of the town, which so augmented them that they swept over sections of the city which were deemed safe.

The citizens of the stricken districts, dazed to the point of stupor by the awful calamity which had overtaken them, have already begun the work of rescue and relief. Until the waters go down it will be impossible to determine the number of dead. Indeed, it is doubtful if the full story ever will be known, for there is reason to fear that scores of bodies have been swept by the flood into the Ohio and may be carried hundreds of miles, even down the Mississippi.

The mayor of Dayton, in an appeal to the mayor of Springfield, at 8 o'clock tonight, stated that 5,000 were drowned and 30,000 homeless in that city and that the water was thirteen feet deep in the Union station.

Late tonight fires which had started in the debris of wrecked buildings and in the scene of devastation in Dayton. The immense plant of the National Cash Register Company was reported in flames.

Edgemont, North Dayton, Riverdale and Daytonview are under water. Dams were destroyed at Piqua and Hamilton. The mayor of Dayton, in his appeal, asked for food for the stricken people of the city. Xenia sent three cars of food to Dayton tonight. The Springfield officials at once met and planned to take action for the relief of the flood sufferers.

A man who arrived at Brooksville tonight from Dayton stated that the water is thirty feet deep in the business center of the city and running like a mill race. He reported that ten militiamen on guard at the levee were carried down stream and drowned when the embankment gave way. J. M. Espey, a Hamilton merchant, saw a man and woman fall from a boat, as it swept past his house and neither appeared on the surface again. Robert Shank and Dr. Iutzi lost their lives while trying to save others.

Hamilton is in total darkness owing to the fact that the light plant

BIG FLOODS SINCE 1219

1219 Nordland, Norway; lake burst, 36,000 people perished.
1228 Friesland; invasion of sea; 100,000 people drowned.
1421 or 1446 Holland; seventy-two villages inundated, twenty permanent; 100,000 persons drowned.
1521 Holland; 100,000 lives lost by inundation.

1570 Holland; storm drove in the sea, destroying numerous villages and 20,000 people in Friesland.
1817 Catalonia, Spain; 15,000 perished in floods.
1842 China; at Kaifong, 300,000 people drowned.

1846 Holland and Friesland inundated; loss of life, 110,000.
1787-8 India, in northwestern provinces and Punjab; 15,000 lives lost.
1791 Cuba; floods from excessive rains; 3,000 drowned.

1813 Austria, Hungary, Poland and Prussian Silesia; floods caused by rains; 4,000 perished in Poland, 6,000 in Silesia.

1824 St. Petersburg and Cronstadt; 10,000 lives lost from overflow of Neva.
1876 China; floods in northern provinces; in Bengal 200,000 persons perished from inundation of a tidal wave.

1887 China; the Hoang-hoanad Homan; millions of lives lost.
1889 Johnstown, Pa.; reservoir burst; 2,209 lives lost.
1891 Consuegra, Spain; 1,200 lives lost.

1893 Japan; 27,000 lives lost.
1900 Galveston, Texas; 6,000 lives lost and 3,000 buildings destroyed.
1903 Heppner, Oregon; cloudburst; 300 lives lost.

was put out of working order early. Three companies of militia from Cincinnati arrived in South Hamilton tonight, but owing to the swiftness of the current in the streams, have not been able to detain.

At Wyoming street, on the South side, where the National Cash Register company centered its efforts at rescue, many saved their lives by creeping on a telephone cable, 100 feet above the flood.

The first carried a line along the cables. Ropes to which the flat-bottomed boats were attached were fastened. When the flood became so fierce that the boats no longer were able to make way against it, men and women crept along the cables to safety. Others, less daring, saw darkness fall and gave up hope of rescue. Those willing to risk their lives in the attempt to rescue found themselves helpless in face of the water. Seventy thousand of Dayton's population, it is reported, are homeless.

The National Cash Register plant, on a high hill, offers the only haven in the south end. Three women became mothers in the halls of its office buildings tonight. Main street near Apple street was one of the concentration points. In the wood working department of the National Cash Register company, boats were being turned out at the rate of ten an hour and these were rushed to where the waters had crossed Main street in a gully.

But the waters crept up and the strength of the current was far too strong for the crude punts, though they were the best that could be made in a hurry. Trip after trip was made and hundreds of the refugees were taken from this stretch of houses. John H. Patterson, president of the National Cash Register company, who headed the relief work in the south end of the city, sent out an appeal for food supplies and for doctors and medicine.

A fire which started from an explosion in the Meyers Ice Cream company near Wyoming street, spread and burned the block on South Park, about a block from Wyoming. Another big fire is reported to have burned a downtown block.

The breaking of the Earleton reservoir, which supplies the drinking water, left the city without water, and physicians declare there is great danger of typhoid in the use of the floodwater.

CHICAGO, Thursday Morning, Mar. 27th.—Special to The Alliance Herald.—President Wilson today issued an appeal to the nation for aid for the flood sufferers in Ohio and Indiana. He urges that contributions be made through the Red Cross. At St. Louis the Mississippi is 25 feet above the low water mark. The water has risen 5 feet in 24 hours. The Illinois river is very high and flood warnings have been sent thru out the entire valley. Heavy snow in Iowa, Missouri and Illinois today makes conditions look worse. At Delaware, Ohio, 14 bodies have been

recovered. As many more are missing. The flood damage is \$2,000,000. At Indianapolis 14 were drowned and hundreds homeless. West Indianapolis is practically isolated by the flood. The government at Washington has ordered tents for 50,000 and 1,000,000 rations sent to the flooded districts, with medical supplies, etc. The 1,000,000 rations will care for 200,000 people for three days. A temporary mail service has been organized in Ohio and all government troops in the east have been ordered gotten in readiness for work in the flooded districts. At Peru, Indiana, measles has broken out among the refugees. There is no pure drinking water and the doctors say there will be more deaths from pestilence than from the flood. The water has receded five inches.

At Dayton it is still impossible to reach the northern section of the city. Flames can be seen in eight business blocks and the city is under martial law. A large number of powerful motor boats have arrived and it is hoped to reach the northern end of the city in them today. It is impossible to get within two miles of the fire stricken district and exploding drugs and chemicals make the fire seem fearful.

The estimated list of dead from floods is as follows:

Ohio	
Dayton	2000
Piqua	549
Delaware	100
Middleton	100
Sidney	50
Hamilton	12
Tippencanoe	3
Tiffin	50
Fremont	11
Scattering	200

Indiana	
Peru	150
Indianapolis	14
Scattering	32

THE HOSPITAL FAIR

St. Joseph's Hospital Fair, Held the Last Three Days, Was a Great Success

LADIES TO BE ENTERTAINED

The fair held the past three days for the benefit of St. Joseph's Hospital has been a success in every way. Those in charge of the hospital extend most sincere thanks to the citizens of Alliance and surrounding towns who so generously contributed eatables, many beautiful articles that were sold, etc.

Words are inadequate to express their gratitude to the ladies who, with untiring zeal, took charge of the affairs and sacrificed their time and energy in the cause of charity. Mr. Gantz and Mr. E. Reardon used every effort to make the dance a success.

So far as we can learn, the committee in charge and their assistants were: Mrs. Rumer, Mrs. Gilman, Miss M. O'Keefe, Mrs. Gantz, Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Copsey, Mrs. Slagle, Mrs. Dwyer, Miss A. Aylward, Mrs. Brennan, Miss M. Triplett, Mrs. Brazleton, Mrs. Rowan, Mrs. R. Reardon, Mrs. Newberry, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Gaddis, Mrs. Hodgkinson, Mrs. Carey, Mrs. Emerson, Mrs. McDermott, Mrs. P. Rowland, Mrs. C. Brennan, Mrs. Nolan, Mrs. Eldred, Mrs. Driscoll, Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Yount, Mrs. Saeger, Miss D. Aylward, Miss Agnes Phelan, also a number of young ladies of the city.

Mr. and Mrs. Burlew and daughter of Hemlingford generously furnished eggs, Mrs. A. Welch and daughters, J. H. Willies, Miss Hopkins, Mrs. O. E. Nelik, Mrs. Breckner, M. W. Emerson, Mrs. A. J. Applegarth, Mrs. R. Walls and Mrs. R. Kinkaid of Bingham raised some forty dollars and succeeded in collecting chickens, butter, cream, fancy work, etc., in generous quantity, for which sincere thanks are due.

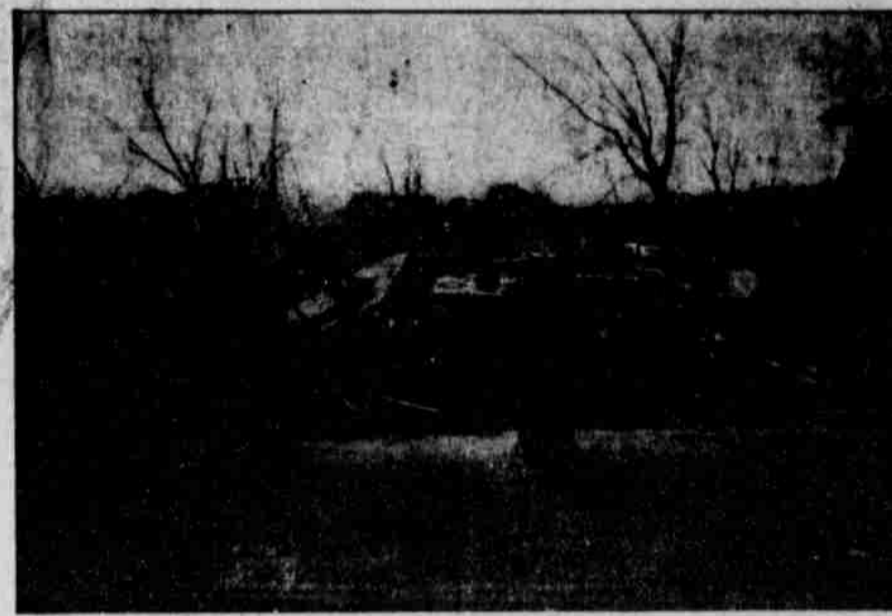
This afternoon these ladies will be entertained at a musical given by the pupils of St. Agnes Academy in the Academy gymnasium. Luncheon will be served and the Sisters will endeavor to make the afternoon an enjoyable one for all concerned.

PASTOR RESIGNS

Rev. Geo. A. Witte, pastor of the Alliance Baptist church, has tendered his resignation to take effect after next Sunday. The Herald is unable to state before next issue what Mr. Witte's plans are for the future or who will be his successor here.



LOCUST STREET LOOKING WEST.



CHURCH DEMOLISHED.



REMOVING BODIES FROM THE RUINS.

Omaha, March 27.—Special to The Alliance Herald.—Every hour the catastrophe, which has prostrated all Omaha, grows more horrible. By finds of single bodies, couples and even five or six at a time the death toll is continually growing. The list of dead in Omaha and vicinity is known to number at least 170.

Outside the city reports are filtering in of a catastrophe, as great, but on a smaller scale. Not one tornado, but a whole family of them appear to have struck both sides of the Missouri river almost simultaneously.

As far as can be ascertained, the twister started upon its career of horror somewhere in Cass county, wiping out the town of Yutan, and then striking through Waterloo and Ralston. Its zigzag course was baffling, and many towns report losses which indicate that the main stem of the tornado was constantly giving off smaller twisters. Gretna and Union and Millard felt the force of the wind, but the chief disaster lay in the path of the big, wide, all-powerful cloud which entered Omaha almost exactly at the city limits on Center street.

The blow came, as it were, in the twinkling of the eye, so swiftly, and so deadly and destructive that its victims did not know what had overtaken them.

The tornado came just at dusk accompanied by a deafening din and roar, collapsing houses like card board, and tossing all sorts of objects about, passing on so quickly that its coming and going seemed to be simultaneous.

Darkness Quickly Follows Devastation. After the tornado followed a deep darkness, and a dense downpour of rain. Lights were out, traffic stopped, telephone communication broken.

The stricken neighborhoods rushed to one another's relief, the imprisoned were dug out of cellars in which they had taken refuge. Nearby homes were turned into hospitals, the entire medical staff of the community drafted for emergency work.

Contagions bursting out in the wake of the storm kept the fire department busy, and gave lurid background to the scene of devastation. Autos and ambulances were called into requisition, and with the speedy cessation of the rain, although street cars were stopped, and street lamps extinguished, thousands from all over the city poured forth as curious spectators, the procession to and fro continuing through the night.

Storm No Respector of Persons. Only with the break of day, how-

ever, was the terrible devastation more visible.

The tornado proved to be no respecter of persons, and in no way discriminated between poverty and wealth. It had invaded the hotel and palace, the dwelling of the wage worker, and the mansion of his employer. Striking diagonally across the city, it scooped up the hollows and slopes, and shaved off the hill tops, where the houses Omaha was most proud of had stood.

The chief loss of life seems to have been suffered at certain spots—around Forty-sixth and Leavenworth, at Fortieth and Farnam, where a crowd had taken refuge in a wrecked garage; in a crowded moving picture show on North Twenty-fourth street, in a north side pool hall filled with negro visitors.

Relief measures are under way. Governor Morehead has called out several companies of the militia and stand guard over the exposed property. A mass meeting of citizens, called by the mayor, has started a relief fund and organized for work, and the state, through the governor and legislature, promises to extend a helping hand.

What Daylight View Disclosed. Daylight only brought out stronger the havoc the awful storm had wrought. The worst reports of damage done to property were more than confirmed by inspection after day had come again. The path of the storm center varied from two to six blocks wide, and along the way houses were smashed to bits, torn to shreds, heaped in fantastical piles or scattered wide and far.

Then the wonder was that any had escaped alive from the shattered homes. Freaks of the storm are many; houses left unscathed where all about is heaped up ruin; the traditional splinter driven through a tree is to be seen, while huge slivers driven into the sides of houses are many; in one place, the first story of a two-story building is torn out, while the upper story settled down on the foundation. Trees are broken, uprooted, scattered near and far. Trolley wires are down, and with them electric light wires, telephone cables, all twisted and snarled into dangerous webs, or left hanging in low festoons across the street.

Path of the Storm Traced Out. The first trace of the storm in Omaha is at Fifty-fourth and Center streets. From there it traveled north, veering slightly to the east, to Leavenworth. Then it took a northeasterly course to Fortieth and Farnam. It covered a course from Fortieth east to Thirty-fourth, till Bemis park was reached. Then it turned sharply to the east, and passed down along Parker and Blendo to Twenty-fourth, where its path is about six blocks wide. In this section the damage is most complete. The diagonal course of the twister across this part of the city wrecked a wider range than in any other section. Finally, at about Fourteenth and Spencer, the storm went over the bluff, demolished the Missouri Pacific roundhouse, leveled the big trestle work of the Illinois Central over Carter lake, wrecked some buildings around the Rod and Gun club grounds, and disappeared.

The first serious damage done in Omaha was suffered by Beals school, which is unroofed, and partly destroyed; the last, apparently, was the wrecking of the trestle work of the Illinois Central; between the two extremes stretches a path some four and one-half miles in extent, and from two to six blocks in width, along which the damage is practically total.

Rally to Victims' Aid. All Omaha is rallying to the assistance of tornado victims. Men, women and children rendered destitute or homeless by the devastating storm are cared for as fast as their wants are made known.

The hospitals of the city are full; churches, fraternal orders and public institutions have opened their doors; city officials are busy with relief work and hundreds of private homes are aiding in caring for the stricken.

City commissioners passed an ordinance appropriating \$25,000 for relief work. Citizens present at the meeting organized and \$25,000 more was do-

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