

TORNADO AT BIRMINGHAM

Eighteen Bodies Recovered From Wrecked Buildings.

PROPERTY LOSS IS \$350,000.

Terrific Storm Cuts a Path 150 Feet Wide Through the Southern Section of the City—Scores of Injured Removed to Hospitals—Five Fatally Hurt.

Birmingham, Ala., March 26.—Shortly before 10 o'clock yesterday morning a fearful tornado swept over the southern part of this city. The number of killed is estimated at 25, of whom five are white. The destruction of property is placed at \$350,000. Five hundred buildings were wrecked. Eighteen bodies have been recovered and scores of injured have been removed to the hospitals.

Among the dead are Dr. G. C. Chapman of the firm of Tally & Chapman, who conduct a private infirmary in this city, and the wife and infant child of Robert J. Lowe, chairman of the Democratic state executive committee. Following is the list of identified dead and fatally injured:

The dead: Dr. G. C. Chapman, Mrs. Robert J. Lowe, infant child of Mrs. Lowe, J. Alexander, little daughter of B. B. Hudson, F. Myro, collector Union Mutual association of Mobile; Carrie Hudson, Maggie Blevins, Carrie Henry, Lizzie Glen, cook for B. B. Hudson, unknown carpenter.

Fatally injured: Mrs. R. H. Thomas, Mrs. W. H. Thomas, Mrs. D. D. McLaughlin, Mrs. J. Ferguson, Mrs. Mylum, Carrie Elin, colored.

The storm struck the city in the extreme southwestern corner and plowed its way eastward, leaving a path 150 feet wide through the entire southern section, extending from Green Springs on the west to Avondale on the east, and continued its course until its fury was spent in the mountains beyond Irondale, a small town, six miles east of the city.

The morning dawned cloudy and sultry and grew more threatening as the day advanced. Clouds began to gather and shortly after 9 o'clock sharp lightning flashed from the southwest. The air became heavy and stifling. The velocity of the wind suddenly began to increase and out of the overcast sky the dreaded funnel shaped cloud made its appearance. Hugging close to the earth it came down upon the city. The altitude of the cyclone was not more than 75 feet. The negro shanties and cottages in the lowlands were the principal sufferers. The larger residences on the higher grounds suffered but slightly. The large trees on the hillside of the St. Vincent's hospital were torn up by the roots and large masses of stone twisted out of the ground and broken and scattered over the driveways leading to the institution.

From Eighth to Tenth streets the tornado bounded like a rubber ball, and when it again descended it struck a two-story house occupied by Joseph Busenhelmer and almost razed it to the ground. The 11-year-old daughter of John Krumsey was caught under the debris and severely injured. A house occupied by Taylor Hansen nearly was unroofed and three small negro houses near there were demolished. Onward the wind sped in its fury, demolishing trees and fences, until it reached Eleventh street, where a house owned by John Hayes was levelled to the ground. Skimming close to the earth, the storm swept through a small pine grove, tearing trees up by the roots and hurling them through the air like arrows.

Beyond the grove the storm cloud swooped down upon a negro settlement and the cabins were crushed, not one being left in its pathway. Carrie Elin, a negro woman, was buried beneath the debris, but most of the negroes escaped with slight injuries, and after the storm had passed gathered around the wreckage apparently thankful that they escaped with their lives.

Eastward the storm swept cutting its way through another strip of woods, striking the Second Presbyterian church at Avenue H and Fifteenth street, demolishing the structure. The pews were piled on top of the debris, a small oak table, which was used in the rostrum, being deposited on the top-most point of the wreckage. East of the church, directly in the tornado's path was another negro settlement and much havoc was wrought among the shacks, several of which were swept away. A number of small houses were levelled between Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets. Alley H, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets, a small house occupied by negroes was demolished and Green Curry, a negro woman, was caught beneath the timber and sustained serious injuries. Three other houses were blown down nearby. The storm then struck the more thickly settled residence portion of the city and its work of destruction increased.

A cottage occupied by Fred Schaefer, at 814 South Eighteenth street, and a small frame building a few doors north, occupied by L. H. Stewart, were badly damaged. Almost a clean sweep was made of the district lying between Eighteenth and Twentieth streets and Avenue H and I, two blocks. Here the scene is one of complete demolition. The frame cottages were reduced to flattened piles of debris, every tree, large or small, was either crushed down or uprooted.

A row of small cottages fronting east upon Nineteenth street between Avenues H and I were flattened out. The occupants had no warning and were unable to escape from their houses and were rescued by workers after the storm.

RUSSIA MODIFIES TREATY.

In Return for Concession Demanded That Chinese Sign It Immediately.

London, March 26.—A dispatch from Peking avers that the Russian government has consented to a number of modifications in the Manchurian convention, the principal ones being that Kiu Chow and Port Arthur shall not be annexed, but shall be leased from the Chinese government, as heretofore; Russia will not insist upon there being a Russian resident at Moukden; the Chinese army will be permitted to maintain order in Manchuria prior to the completion of the Manchurian railway, which, while in course of construction, will not necessarily require the protection of Russian troops; Russia will forego its demand that Mongolia, Turkistan and Kashgaria shall be granted to none but Russian subjects; Russia stipulates, however, that none but Chinese and Russians shall be allowed to undertake such enterprises.

In consequence of these concessions the Russian government asks for an early signature of the convention.

CYCLONE IN MICHIGAN.

Severe Storm Sweeps Across Kalamazoo County—Many Buildings Wrecked and Wires Laid Low—Two Fatalities.

Kalamazoo, Mich., March 26.—A cyclone struck the town of Pavilion, a small village about 25 miles southeast of Kalamazoo, which wrecked a number of houses, uprooting trees, tore down telegraph poles and did much other damage.

The home of Noah Tripp was rolled over for a distance of five rods and Mrs. Tripp was completely buried under it. She was found lying under the stove and had sustained injuries which may result fatally. The house caught fire and was completely destroyed. Scott's township reports one killed. Damage was done at small stations nearby. Nearly every building in the path of the storm was wrecked. Orchards were destroyed and fences are down everywhere. At Indian lake the wind formed a water spout in crossing that body of water and a large district on the east shore was inundated.

MEET DEATH IN EXPLOSION.

Dozen Miners Carried Off Fatally Hurt From Shaft of Burning Mine.

Connellsville, Pa., March 26.—The first mine explosion to occur in the New Klondike region of Fayette county happened yesterday. One man was killed instantly, five will die and ten are burned and crushed so terribly that it is doubtful if they will recover. As a result of the explosion the mine is on fire. The cause of the explosion was an accumulation of gas in the heading of the Gates mine, one of the new mines opened up this winter by the American Steel and Wire company.

The injured: Robert Nelson, mine foreman, terribly burned, skull blown open and brain exposed; will die. Gibson Gilmore, burned; not expected to live. David Ramsey of Adelaide, burned and crushed; not expected to recover. James Wilson of Oilphant, burned and crushed; no hope for his recovery. James Murphy of New Salem, probably fatally burned.

HEAVY LIVE STOCK LOSSES.

Storm Has Abated, Though Trains Are Still Stalled in Western Nebraska.

Lincoln, March 26.—Reports from western and northwestern Nebraska towns tell of heavy losses of stock as a result of the storm. At Ogallala wagon roads were blocked by snow, but within a radius of eight miles, on the small ranches, 100 cattle are reported dead. Trains on the Union Pacific are all late in that district and some are still blocked, with snow drifts on the track 20 feet deep. Around Culbertson, on the Burlington, there are stock losses, as well as at Chadron, further north. Burlington trains from the north and northwest are delayed.

Train Blown Off the Track.

Columbus, Ga., March 26.—A mixed train was blown off the Central of Georgia railroad tracks one mile east of Buena Vista, by a tornado. The train consisted of an engine, baggage car, two coaches and 12 freight cars, and was going 15 miles an hour when struck by the wind. The engine was lifted from the track, the tender was turned over, the baggage car and two coaches and three freight cars were thrown on their sides. The rest of the train remained on the track. No one was seriously injured.

Two Killed in Texas.

Galveston, March 26.—At Double Bay, a hamlet 30 miles north of Galveston, a storm assumed cyclonic proportions. Mrs. Fish and 7-year-old girl, daughter of Richard Measle, were killed. Three persons were injured. Three houses, which withstood the September storm, collapsed.

Tornado in Ohio.

Sandusky, O., March 26.—A tornado passed over the western part of Erie county last evening. The principal sufferer was the settlement of Mustang, where several roofs were blown from houses and trees were blown down. No one was injured so far as known.

Refuses New Zealand's Request.

London, March 25.—"The United States government," says the Wellington correspondent of the Daily Express, "has refused New Zealand's request to reopen the question of permitting British steamers to trade between Honolulu and San Francisco."

Fire Destroys Flour Mills.

Prairie City, Ia., March 25.—The J. P. Turner flour mills, erected in 1808, were destroyed by fire yesterday. The loss is \$12,000; insurance, \$4,000.

TOWN ELECTIONS IN IOWA.

Result in Numerous Changes in Political Control.

OTTUMWA DEMOCRATS WIN.

General Weaver Elected Mayor of Colfax, Indiana and Creston Vote Franchise to Electric Lines—Independent Republican Chosen Mayor of Marshalltown.

Des Moines, March 26.—Municipal elections were held in Iowa yesterday. Most of the larger cities are under special charters and will not hold elections until April. The elections held yesterday showed numerous changes in political control, as party lines were not sharply drawn. General J. B. Weaver, ex-congressman and one-time Greenback candidate for president, was chosen mayor of Colfax on the Citizens' ticket. The Democrats elected their entire ticket in Ottumwa after a heated campaign. Oskaloosa went Republican, electing W. A. Ray, mayor. Jones, Independent Republican, was elected mayor of Marshalltown, defeating Sears (Rep.), and Getz (Dem.). The vote was very large.

Indianola voted a franchise to an interurban electric company to connect with Des Moines and Winterset and Creston voted franchises to a company to connect Winterset and Creston. Results in other towns: Perry, J. F. Wilson (Citizens), elected mayor; Valley Junction, Democrats elected most of ticket; Winterset, John McAndrew (Dem.), elected mayor; Anamosa, J. A. Jackler (Rep.), elected mayor; Marion, F. M. Plumb (Rep.), elected mayor; Toledo, Republicans elected ticket.

COLOMBIAN REBELS ACTIVE.

Revolution Shows No Sign of Ending in the Near Future.

Kingston, Jamaica, March 26.—The British mail steamer Para from Colon brings reports of renewed activity on the part of the rebels in the vicinity of Panama. The hands of the government are full in their efforts to keep the rebellion down. Passengers by the steamer Para say that the revolution shows no signs of ending in the near future. Business is carried on in Colon and Panama with the greatest difficulty and the enormous prices of foodstuffs is causing general suffering. The liberals are expecting large reinforcements from the Costa Rican sympathizers.

Confirms Removal of Brown.

Washington, March 26.—The state department has received from Mr. Allen, our minister at Seoul, Korea, dispatches confirming the cable report of the removal of McCleavy Brown, the director general of Korean customs. As this action of the emperor, undertaken at the behest of Russia, goes far to wipe out the integrity of Korea, according to the estimate of the officials here, it will not be allowed to pass without a remonstrance on our part, for the officials are convinced that Russian domination of Korea would mean the extinguishment of American interests in that quarter and these in recent years have become important.

After Hanna's Holdings.

Cleveland, March 26.—I became known here yesterday that J. P. Morgan is negotiating with Senator Hanna for the transfer to the United States Steel corporation of Mr. Hanna's interest in the American Shipbuilding company. The understanding is also that John D. Rockefeller, who owned one-tenth of the stock of the shipbuilding company, transferred his interest and that the effort now is to gain control of Mr. Hanna's holdings, which are said to be equal to those of Mr. Rockefeller. Mr. Hanna was the largest individual stockholder in the American Shipbuilding company.

Fatally Shot by Drunken Woman.

Memphis, Tenn., March 26.—A. W. Hugin, senior member of the firm of A. W. Hugin & Co., one of the most prominent brokerage firms in the south, was shot by Dorris Noble on Beale street last night. The ball entered Hugin's abdomen and the wound is thought to be fatal. The woman was liquor-mad and was being accused of drunkenness by Hugin. Dorris Noble is a well known character in Memphis and at one time slashed a woman almost fatally. She was arrested.

Mother and Child Fatally Burned.

Chicago, March 26.—Mrs. Albert Fredley, while holding her ten-month-old baby in her arms, attempted to start a fire in the kitchen stove yesterday by using kerosene. An explosion resulted, the burning oil almost completely covering Mrs. Fredley and her child. Before neighbors could extinguish the blaze, both Mrs. Fredley and her baby had been so badly burned that it is probable they will die.

Reducing Wheat Acreage.

Sioux Falls, S. D., March 26.—Reports from all parts of the agricultural portion of the state indicate that the acreage sown in wheat this season will be materially less than that of last year. The rapid development of the creamery industry has had a great deal to do with the steady reduction of the acreage devoted to wheat, and considerable land formerly devoted to it is being planted in corn.

Oregon Man to Be Consul.

Washington, March 26.—The following presidential appointments were announced yesterday: State—George F. Baldwin of Ohio, to be consul of the United States at Nuremberg, Bavaria; Henry B. Miller of Oregon, to be consul of the United States at Niu Chwang, China.

FARMERS FIGHT COMBINE.

Organize Stock Company and Will Run Elevator of Their Own.

Kansas City, March 26.—The farmers of central Kansas are organizing against what they call "the grain combine." Just now the center of working opposition to the so-called grain combine is at Solomon, but farmers around Abilene, Salina and McPherson are getting ready to join.

At Solomon 43 farmers have organized a stock company and will run an elevator of their own. At Salina a similar scheme is on foot, though the company is not ready, like the one at Solomon, to incorporate and actually go into business.

A. P. Collins, vice president of the company, in explaining its purpose, said: "Solomon is a big shipping point, with three railroads and on each railroad there is one grain buyer. Our company includes most of the large wheat growers of the neighborhood and our plan is to have an elevator of our own, employ a man to run it and have him pay always a fair market price for the wheat."

DELAKEY DEFEATED.

Boers Suffer Heavy Loss in a Battle With Babington's Force—British Capture 140 Prisoners.

London, March 26.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Kitchener dated Pretoria, March 25: "Babington's force, including Shekleton's column, attacked Delarey, 1,500 strong, southwest of Ventersdorp, and having defeated him, followed him rapidly, with the result that the Boer rear guard was driven in and their convoy captured, including the guns captured at Vaal's Bank. Our troops displayed great gallantry and dash. They captured two 15-pounder guns, one pom-pom, six Maxim's, 320 pounds of big ammunition, 15,000 rounds of small ammunition, 100 rifles, 53 wagons and 24 carts, besides taking 140 prisoners. Our losses were slight. Many Boers were killed or wounded."

The official casualty list issued last evening indicates a renewal of active operations since the failure of the negotiations between Lord Kitchener and General Botha.

At Hartbeestfontein March 22 and 23 two officers were killed and three wounded, and four men killed and 20 wounded. There also seems to have been heavy fighting at a place near Gredgedacht March 18. The Pretoria correspondent of the Standard says it is obvious some months must pass before Boer resistance can be crushed.

Phillips Again Corn King.

Chicago, March 26.—George H. Phillips is once more king of the corn pit and his reign promises to be a hard one for the shorts. Under the dictation of the young speculator the cereal yesterday sold to 42 3/4@2 1/2 for May delivery, a gain of 3/4 over the previous session, and the highest price touched this season. The demand was sufficient to carry the market up in the face of heavy realizing sales by longs. A feature of the present campaign is that the country is heavily represented on the long side of the market and will profit by the advance. Phillips' holdings alone are estimated to be in the millions.

Receives Threatening Letter.

Nashville, Tenn., March 25.—"Kidnappers and dynamiters" is the signature to a letter received by Joseph Schneider that unless he placed \$300 in a certain spot in Cumberland park by Saturday afternoon one of his children would be kidnaped or his house blown up by dynamite. No harm has yet come to the Schneider home, although the demands were not complied with. The police are at work on the case.

Mrs. Herron Secures Divorce.

Des Moines, March 26.—The Grinnell Herald makes the statement that Mrs. Herron has secured at Algona, Ia., a divorce from her husband, Professor George D. Herron, the well known lecturer, on the ground of desertion.

Rodenburg Is Appointed.

Washington, March 26.—The president has appointed ex-representative W. A. Rodenburg of Illinois a member of the civil service commission, to succeed the late Mark S. Brewer, and E. I. Allen of Auburn, N. Y., commissioner of patents, to succeed Commissioner Duell, resigned.

Ohio Bank Robbed.

Columbus, O., March 26.—A telephone message from Somerset received at the police station early this morning stated that six men had ridden into the city and blown the safe in the local bank and secured \$15,000 in money and a large amount of bonds. The robbers escaped.

British Soldiers Murdered.

Tien Tsin, March 26.—In an affray last evening two members of the Welsh Fusilier regiment and a member of the Victorian contingent, who were acting as policemen, were sabred and bayoneted. It is alleged that Germans were the principal culprits.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

A Northern Pacific engineering force is surveying a route from Winnipeg to Bemidji.

General George W. Cook of Denver is dangerously ill of catarrh of the stomach in New York.

The Chicago and Aton railroad will on April 1 take control of the Quincy, Carrollton and St. Louis railroad.

The Robertson Raft company of Portland, Or., in the near future, will build a mammoth raft containing almost 10,000,000 feet of logs which will be towed across the Pacific ocean to Oriental points.

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