

THOUSANDS OF LIVES LOST IN FLOODS IN OHIO AND INDIANA

Appalling Disaster Caused by Bursting of Dams,
Which Let Raging Torrent of Water Loose
Upon Helpless Cities of Two States.

DISEASE EPIDEMIC IS NOW BIG MENACE

Swollen Waters Fall in Flooded District, and Fear of Sickness Is
Added to Horror—Loss of Life in Dayton Not So Great
as First Reported—600 May Be Dead in Co-
lumbus—Scores of Towns Add to Toll
of Death.

STORY OF THE TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE IN BRIEF

Revised estimates of the loss in Dayton give ground for hope the dead in all sections affected by the flood will not exceed 2,000 and may go below that figure. Daring investigators who penetrated the flooded section revealed hundreds of persons safe who were believed to be lost.

At other points than Dayton the death list has grown. There was far heavier loss of life on the west side of Columbus than was thought. One estimate placed the number of dead above 600.

Apparently authentic reports from Piqua indicated twenty dead. At Peru, Ind., the authorities estimated the death list would reach at least 150.

From Hamilton, O., fifty persons were reported drowned in the collapse of a hotel.

Twenty-five deaths were reported from Troy, O.; thirty at Middletown and five at Massillon.

Latest reports from Zanesville are that 150 lives are believed to have been lost there.

Cincinnati, March 29.—Reports from Dayton and other towns give a more hopeful view as to loss of life. While the death list is appalling, it is now thought that the figures will not reach anything like the first reports.

Explorers who penetrated to the submerged districts say that many hundreds thought to have been lost have been found safe, but in a serious plight from exposure and hunger. Revised estimates in Dayton give ground for hope that the death list there will not exceed 2,000.

Even this figure may be cut down considerably when the facts are known. It is thought that the North side of Dayton list will reach 300.

The militia report that looters are at work.

Shots frequently were heard from every direction. Militiamen say four men have been shot, as no one on any mission is allowed east of the Pennsylvania railroad tracks.

The militia say a score of persons suspected of being bent on looting have been arrested. An ex-policeman caught coming out of a deserted home is in prison.

May Be 600 Dead at Columbus. Early figures from the West side of Columbus placed the loss of life at 600. There has yet been nothing to change these figures. The loss at Piqua is now placed at 20; at Hamilton, 50; Troy, 30; Middletown, 25.

Peru, Ind., citizens insist that 150 are dead there.

Relief trains surround Dayton and other points in the Miami valley on all sides. It is thought that rail communication will be completed today and that all may reach their points of destination.

Washington is sending a number of relief trains carrying food, medicines and army equipment for housing and caring for the homeless.

Pestilence Now Greatest Danger.

Pestilence is the greatest danger to be feared now in the flooded districts, and local, state and national governments are working hand in hand to combat this grave peril.

In Chicago the various relief funds have passed the \$130,000 mark and will be swelled enormously by the contributions today.

Stations Filled With Supplies.

At the stations where clothing and provisions are being handled the workers are swamped with supplies. Train after train load will be dispatched to the flooded sections.

Reports from Fort Wayne state that the situation there is well in hand and that the authorities say they can get along without outside aid.

The Ohio river is reported as rising fast. At Evansville, Ind., the flood has reached a stage of 39.5 feet, a rise of 4.5 feet in twenty-four hours. People living in the bottom lands have been warned to get on higher ground, and steamers are carrying them from their perilous positions.

Is Still Critical.

At Zanesville, Ohio, the situation is still critical. The waters of the Muskingum and Licking rivers are still rising. Six hundred houses are reported as swept away and food is needed.

Middletown, Ohio, reports having had communication with Miamisburg, a town of 8,000, which it was feared had been totally destroyed. Conditions are bad, but the death number only 25.

Heavy floods are reported from points in New York state, in the Adirondacks, Hudson river and Mohawk valley sections. Glens Falls, Schenectady and many other towns are flooded. Bridges have been washed away and loss of life is reported. Every stream in western New York is also reported out of its banks.

Reports from Chillicothe, Ohio, place the dead at 25. Linton, Ind., says that 16 persons drowned at Howesville. Ten deaths are reported from Sharon, Pa.

Twenty dead were found among the refugees in the court house at Peru, Ind., victims of exposure. Seven births also are reported. Contagion has

broken out and the sick have been quarantined in a section of the building.

The spirit of Dayton asserted itself today when President G. B. Smith of its chamber of commerce asserted that Dayton could cope with the situation and would be able to recover from its disaster.

The sun is shining bright on Dayton today. The fires have practically burned out and rescue work will be possible today. The ruins of the Fourth National Bank building still blaze fitfully, but the Beckel house, reported burned with hundreds of refugees, is unharmed.

Floods Are Receding.

Indianapolis, March 29.—The floods in central and north central Indiana are receding, with the effect of exposing facts of desolation and suffering beyond precedent in that region.

The death roll in the stricken cities has not yet been made up, but the needs of the living and the dangers of disease and epidemics due to exposure and bad water are being revealed in every message that adds details of the situation.

In Indianapolis hundreds of refugees from the west part of town are being cared for in Tomlinson hall. The prospect is that the loss of life will be less extensive in the capital than first reports indicated.

Peru in Bad Shape.

Further light on conditions in Peru came last night in a telephone message from C. D. Emmons, manager of the Northern Indiana Traction company, who is stranded in that town. He said that twenty persons have been found dead among the refugees in the court house there.

"They are moving the people from the courthouse in boats and it was found that twenty of the refugees had died from exposure," Mr. Emmons said. He added that smallpox and diphtheria had broken out among the hundreds of persons packed into the courthouse. One corner of that building was quarantined and all the rescued persons suffering from contagious diseases were removed to that confinement.

Lieut. Gov. O'Neill, who is at Peru, telephoned to Indianapolis denying the report of pestilence. Mr. O'Neill said he knew of twelve or thirteen dead, but that the toll would be greater, but could hazard no guess as to its size.

Horrors Beyond Telling.

State Senator Stephen Fleming, who had charge of the relief train sent from Fort Wayne to Peru, returned to Fort Wayne, telling a story of harrowing suffering and of possible great loss of life.

"It will be impossible to estimate the loss of life in Peru," he said, "and the horrors of the situation there are beyond telling. There may have been fifty persons drowned and there may have been 500. Many people still in their homes in the inundated city, frightened at repeated capizing of rescue boats working to and fro among the stricken homes, positively refuse to accept assistance, and almost crazed by their fear, insist upon remaining in the houses, although many of them are standing in water on the second floors of their homes."

"Sewage from the courthouse is absolutely cut off, and filth collecting there is adding to the suffering from exposure through many cases of disease."

Looters Are Shot.

Cincinnati, March 29.—With the receding of the floods in Dayton and other submerged towns in Ohio and Indiana, scores of looters have appeared and are being summarily dealt with by the police and militiamen guarding the property of the flood victims.

Communication was re-established with Dayton and other towns today. Reports from Dayton are that many shots were heard fired within the flood zone early today, and these were taken to indicate that the guardsmen



This is a scene on the raging Miami river at Dayton, O., where hundreds of lives have been lost in the floods.

are carrying out their stringent orders—"Shoot to kill."

A number of looters captured in Dayton were brought before the chief of police.

Ordered to Kill.

"Don't bring these fellows before me," he is said to have ordered; "kill them."

No one is permitted to pass east of the Pennsylvania railroad tracks, the established guard line.

West Indianapolis also is practically under martial law because of the activity of looters who commenced operations as soon as the receding floods permitted them to prowl.

Looting has been reported from Peru, Ind., and from Piqua, Middletown and other Ohio cities. That the looters are being shot down is believed, but for obvious reasons the facts are suppressed.

Are More Cheerful at Dayton.

West Dayton, O., March 29.—The sun rose bright and clear this morning on a happier Dayton. Prospects are for a decided subsidence of the flood waters and for greater rapidity and efficiency in the relief work.

The weather has cleared and fear of pestilence now is the chief worry for officials in charge of the situation. A lieutenant of militia said last night that probably 100 bodies had been located in the central district, but that no attempt would be made to remove them yet.

The state is paralyzed. Railroads, trolley, telephone and telegraph traffic is blocked and the cities in which hundreds of lives have been lost are cut off almost entirely from communication with the rest of the world. Millions of dollars' damage has been done to property, fully 75,000 people are homeless and appeals for aid have been sent out to the Red Cross. In Dayton alone 30,000 people are homeless.

Reservoirs Give Way.

The four days' continuous rain filled every reservoir in the state and a number of them undermined dams and poured their contents into the valleys. A wall of water seven feet high rushed down into Miami valley. The levees along the Miami river broke and the residents of Dayton along the river were forced to flee for their lives. The rush of water was so great, however, that houses were undermined and carried along in the swift current. Hundreds were drowned before they had a chance to seek places of safety.

The water crept higher and higher, and finally it was thirteen feet deep at the Union station. Some parts of the city were under thirty feet of water.

540 Dead at Piqua.

In Piqua the river burst the levees, poured through the town and trapped hundreds of people in their homes. The swift current undermined the homes, and it is estimated that 540 were swept to their death.

In Delaware, the Olentangy river became a lake which covered most of the city. It is estimated that fully one thousand were drowned.

People were left clinging to trees, roof-tops and telegraph poles, crying for assistance. Owing to the swift current in the river, the work of rescue was difficult.

Damage in Cleveland \$2,000,000.

In Cleveland, while no lives were lost, the damage will reach \$2,000,000. The Cuyahoga river swept through the manufacturing district in the flats, closed down hundreds of mills and left more than fifty thousand workers idle. The East Third street bridge was destroyed when a big steamer was swept from its moorings and crashed into it.

Thousands of dollars worth of lumber was swept from the river and out into the lake. Firemen were kept busy dynamiting lumber jams at the bridges.

In Youngstown, 25,000 workmen were forced to quit work when most of the big industries were shut down by the flood. All bridges in the city are guarded.

Fifteen Missing at Middletown.

The big bridge over the Miami river at Middletown was swept away, fifteen persons are missing and scores of houses are floating down stream.

Two companies of state National Guard have been sent to Hamilton to help preserve order. Five were drowned there.

Larue, Marion county, sent an ap-

peal for help to Governor Cox. The town is inundated and people have sought refuge on the roofs of their houses.

Nineteen Dead in Delaware.

The number of known dead in Delaware is nineteen, and from thirty-five to forty are missing. It is reported the mayor, B. V. Leas, is among the drowned.

In West Liberty an engine and one car rolled down an embankment washed out by the flooded Mad river. The conductor was drowned and several bodies were seen floating away, and it is feared a number of passengers in the two cars were drowned.

In Akron more than five hundred families are homeless, the rubber factories were forced to close down, railroad and trolley traffic is paralyzed and it is feared that the big state reservoir south of the city will break. Only one death, that of a lineman, who was electrocuted, was reported.

Dayton Under Martial Law.

Dayton is under martial law. Three companies of the Ohio National Guard are aiding the police in rescuing families from flood-menaced homes.

The first direct word out of the city after the breaking of the levee was a long-distance telephone message to Richmond, Ind., from Frank Purviance, an employe of the Terre Haute, Indianapolis & Eastern Traction company at Dayton. Eight thousand persons, he said, had been drowned there.

"They're dying like rats in their homes; bodies are washing around the streets, and there is no relief in sight," Purviance said.

Telephone communication with Dayton was established for a few minutes, then was broken again. Purviance said water stood twenty to forty feet in some of the streets.

Situation Is Appalling.

Frank Brandon, vice-president of Dayton, Lebanon & Cincinnati railroad, succeeded in establishing a telegraph wire from Dayton to Lebanon. He said that the situation is appalling and beyond all control.

"According to my advices the situation beggars description," said Mr. Brandon. "What the people need most is boats. The water is high in every street and assistance late this afternoon was simply out of the question. My superintendent at Dayton told me that at least sixty had perished and probably a great many more, at the same time assuring me that unless something that closely approached a miracle happened the death list would run considerably higher."

"We are rigging up several special trains and will make every effort possible to get into Dayton."

The greater loss of life is supposed to have occurred a couple of hours later, when the crest of the flood reached the city.

Levee Broke Early Tuesday.

The first break in the levee protecting the city occurred about six o'clock Tuesday morning. By noon the levee had broken in three places and the business section of the city was five to six feet under water.

The river was then at the highest stage it has reached in 40 years and still rising.

The suburbs of Riverdale, West Side and North Dayton, were entirely under water and in the downtown section St. Clair, Emmett and Second streets were flooded.

Governor Orders Out Troops.

Columbus, O., March 28.—"If our worst fears are confirmed it will be necessary for us to call on the outside world for tents and supplies in order to make provision for the worst calamity that ever has befallen this state," said Gov. James M. Cox in a telegram he sent to a New York newspaper.

The governor also informed the paper that troops were ordered out for duty in the capital city and that the naval reserves were dispatched from Toledo to Piqua. The Dayton companies are on duty in that city, he said.

The Cincinnati companies, presumably, the governor said in his message, would be dispatched to Hamilton and Middletown, which lie in the Miami valley and which sent out distress signals.

State Aid for Stricken.

At the suggestion of Governor Cox a bill was drawn and was presented to the legislature today by Representative Lowrie, appropriating \$250,000 for relief of the food sufferers of the state.

174 KNOWN DEAD

Omaha's Property Loss Will Exceed \$10,000,000 as Result of Tornado

UTTER DESTITUTION IN STORMS PATH REVEALED

Actual Disclosures Rack the Nerves and Wrench the Heart-Strings of Those Who Behold Them.

Omaha—The utter destitution that attends the complete demolition of hundreds of homes and the destruction of the personal belongings of the thousands who were domiciled there when engulfed in the merciless swirl of the tornado is made impressively conspicuous throughout the storm-swept district. It had been anticipated by all who realized just what the tornado meant, yet its actual disclosure racked the nerves and wrenched the heartstrings of all who beheld.

There were well understood causes that had delayed the groans revelation. Hundreds who had been tortured in the grip of the maddened elements had remained in a semi-daze for more than forty-eight hours, numbly realizing that they had been despoiled and bereft, yet failing to actively comprehend. Guided by kind friends and helpful strangers alike, they had been conducted passively to the shelter of neighboring homes that had opened for them, almost indifferent to the needs of the hour and but vaguely conscious of the demands of the morrow. But now they have begun to "pull themselves together" and to take account of the situation.

Stunned by the weight of the blow which fell so suddenly upon her, Omaha is under the spell of a strange quietude, a reverent and subdued tribute to the awfulness of the disaster.

With almost every tick of the clock the name of another victim was added Monday to the appalling list of dead and injured, and the sadness was not confined to the wrecked homes of the bereaved nor the bedside of the maimed.

There was little attempt at the usual transaction of business in the city. The men whose livelihood depends particularly upon their acumen and sprightliness, whose affairs call for an increasing pursuit of custom, and who have been known as faithful toilers in that interest, were submerged in the wave of grief. They

erosity of the untouched toward those who have suffered will long be a laurel upon the brow of the city's citizenship.

Snow Falls On Stricken Homes.

A light fall of snow in Omaha that reached at least two inches in depth by morning, came late Monday night to add its part to the sufferings of the stricken ones in the tornado-swept section. The temperature Monday was below freezing and the chill went to the marrow of those who tried to work among the ruins of their homes in the effort to save a little from the wreck.

Relief Offers Received.

During Monday, when the storm's havoc became known throughout the world, messages of condolence and relief offers came from many states and cities. Prominent among the first

IN THE PATH OF THE OMAHA TORNADO



The devastation caused by the Omaha tornado is graphically illustrated by this photograph, taken at Lincoln boulevard and Thirty-fourth street, directly in the path of the storm.

gathered on street corners and in cafes, and their conversation was only of the calamity—of what might be done to alleviate the suffering.

Representatives of tornado insurance companies, building supplies concerns and storage companies, who might be readily and rightfully expected to reap a rich harvest following the assault of the wind fell, found their work extremely distasteful and were loth to press their point. Men of business importance were seen to walk the streets softly and with downcast faces, their thoughts everywhere but with their affairs.

In the face of all the ghastly and terrible manifestations of a calamity which is attracting the attention and concern of the whole world, there is at least one bright lining to the cloud which hangs as a pall over stricken Omaha. The ready sympathy, the resourcefulness, the kindness and gen-

erosity of the untouched toward those who have suffered will long be a laurel upon the brow of the city's citizenship.

loss in life, seven bodies now being laid out in the morgues in that city. Weston has two deaths, Gilliat has two, Neola four and Glenwood five. Numerous persons were injured at all of these places. Fourteen cases are being treated in the local hospitals, one, Benjamin Benninghoff of Duck Hollow, having passed away early Monday morning at Mercy hospital, shortly after being brought there.

N. Krinaki, his wife and five children were killed in the basement of their home.

was that of President Wilson. Others were from Governor Sulzer of New York, Governor Dunne of Illinois, Chambers of Commerce in Chicago, Denver, San Francisco, Seattle, Spokane, Kansas City, Salt Lake City and Des Moines. Des Moines sent a special train of forty doctors and nurses early Monday to assist in every possible way in taking care of the afflicted.

Solons Visit Omaha.

Nebraska legislators, with scarce a half-dozen of the 133 missing, spent five hours in viewing Omaha's tornado-stricken district. Chief Clerk Henry C. Richmond cleared the party and conveyed them in special cars to various parts of the city.

The visit made certain a legislative appropriation to aid the city in the gigantic relief work which must be immediately undertaken. A bill to that end will be introduced.

Council Bluffs Hard Hit.

With the telegraph and telephone lines still in very poor shape, it is definitely known that the death list in the recent cyclone disaster in this section of the state, in and around Council Bluffs will reach twenty to twenty-five and the injured at least seventy-five. The death roll has, so far as telegraphic or telephonic service could be had, reached twenty and the list of injured anywhere from fifty to seventy-five.

Council Bluffs suffered the heaviest