

THE TERRIFIC STORM SATURDAY EVENING

Plattsmouth Again Suffers Considerable Loss, But Comparatively Small to Other Floods.

The Burlington Shops Sustains But Little Loss; Only From Mud Running in Upon Floors.

While the water that fell Saturday evening was much greater than has fallen at any one time in many years, the total property loss is not one-third of what it was a year ago, and the damage done sidewalks not nearly so great. The Burlington shops escaped with very little damage—not to exceed three or four hundred dollars. Our people feel rejoiced that, with the immense down-pour for nearly two hours, they escaped so fortunately.

A terrific rainstorm, accompanied by much electricity, visited this city, and in fact, the entire eastern end of the state last Saturday night, the effect being a flood not nearly as severe as the great flood of last July. Owing to the lesson taught by the previous floods our people were better prepared for the visitation with the consequence that the monetary loss is a great deal smaller than before, but is still so heavy as to make the amount lost by two of our merchants the heaviest of the kind in the city's history.

The storm came after an evening of unusual sultriness with a falling barometer and high percentage of humidity. Those familiar with atmospheric conditions were not surprised at the storm, as conditions were ideal for just such an occurrence. In the forepart of the evening heavy black clouds banked up in the west, northwest and north, and apprehensions of a tornado kept many of the more timid in easy reach of caves and cellars, but the fears were groundless as the wind at no time attained a high velocity. The heavy rainfall was preceded by a shower which did not however relieve the sultriness of the evening and was only heavy enough to lay the dust. The big rainstorm began at 8:15 and for an hour and three-quarters the water descended literally in torrents. During this period travel was virtually suspended, the water coming down in sheets that effectually precluded any idea of moving about and of such volume that it was difficult to even see distinctly any distance. Added to this the electrical effects were tremendous and awe-inspiring, the heavens being literally a blinding glare, the sheet-lightning playing constantly over all parts of the firmament and the clouds being streaked and riven with bolts of forked lightning, while the thunder kept up a constant succession of crashes like the roar of a park of artillery. The storm from every standpoint was spectacular and grand. To add to the effect a large fire on the Iowa bottoms northeast of the city, broke out and at the storm's height the heavens in that quarter were illuminated by the blaze which must have been a large one as it burned for half an hour or longer. A rumor reached Main street that the fire was in the northeast end of the city and created considerable excitement, but nothing could be done by those on the street as they were penned up in the stores by the raging waters, and could not have reached the fire had they had to.

As has been the case in numerous times past, the sewers again failed to carry the water and some three-quarters of an hour after the rainfall began, the result being a rush of the waters down Chicago and Washington avenues to Main street. The failure of the sewers during this storm is accounted for in a great measure from the fact that the back water from the Missouri is standing in the mouth of the sewer to a depth of several feet reducing the size of the discharge opening. This is

but one contributing cause of the disaster, the main cause being simply too much water.

As the storm continued a realization came to those on Main street that they were facing another flood, and everyone began preparing for it. Those merchants who had been suffering from previous flooded cellars began moving what they could to places where chances favored keeping them dry, and all possible arrangements were made to keep the waters from entering the buildings. In most cases these efforts were in vain, as the irresistible rush of the waters swept away temporary barriers like so much chaff, and invaded the utmost recesses of buildings. As has been the case heretofore, the great bulk of the water from Chicago avenue swept with tremendous energy down the old creek bed, crossing Sixth street at the intersection of Pearl and hurling their full weight against the one-story, brick store buildings of Messrs. Hall and Knapp, tearing out the foundations and in the case of Mr. Knapp's building wrecking the front of it and causing the front end of the floor to fall into the excavation underneath. The loss to these buildings is very heavy, Mr. Hall estimating his loss at \$500, while that of Mr. Knapp is at least twice as much. With characteristic Plattsmouth pluck, these gentlemen will replace their structures, but it is not probable they will do so until the lowering of Sixth street is completed. The gas company which occupied the Hall building suffered a small loss to their material, but the contents of the Knapp buildings suffered merely a nominal loss.

The firms occupying rooms on the west side of Sixth street from Pearl to Main generally escaped without much loss. The retaining wall erected back of the buildings occupied by Messrs. Hall and Zuckweiler & Lutz did its work well and no loss was suffered, by them. J. E. Toney suffered a nominal loss by water in his cellar as did F. G. Fricke & Co. M. Hild did not lose by the water.

Across Sixth street and on the south side of Main, the damage consisted principally of flooded cellars and in most instances was nominal. E. A. Wurl suffered a small loss to stock stored in the cellar of the Boeck building, his principal damage being expense occasioned in draining the cellar and cleaning up. The Dovesy suffered a loss from flooded cellar and their stable being rendered untenable. The mules in the stable were taken out without much trouble. The loss to goods in their cellar as well as that of A. W. White was small. Kunsman & Range suffered no damage whatever. John Bauer had the cellar of his building flooded and suffered some damage to goods by water.

Across Fifth street the waters filled the cellars but actual damage was little as few of the firms in that block had their goods stored in the cellar. The Journal suffered from belting and pulleys being submerged, but aside from the inconvenience and annoyance the loss was relatively small. H. M. Soenichsen lost several cords of wood, but practically no loss to his grocery stock was had. Wm. Holly fortunately had none of his stock in the cellar and had only nominal loss.

Across Fourth street J. E. McDaniels suffered some loss by stock in his cellar becoming upset and flooded, but generally, conditions in this block were good. In the case of the Journal and Mr. McDaniels the loss was occasioned by the pavement being torn up and the granite blocks piled in the middle of the street, diverting the water onto the sidewalk and forcing it into the front doors of the rooms.

The loss in the block across Third

street was practically nominal and was occasioned mostly by cleaning up the mud and silt deposited.

The overflow from the Washington avenue sewer came down Vine street and Sixth following as in the case of the other avenue the old creek bed. This caused the cellars on the West side of Sixth from Vine to Main to become flooded, the principal sufferers being the Hotel Riley which had the basement and engine room flooded and the Plattsmouth Telephone Company which also suffered from overflow into the basement. The feed barn of Sam Smith was made untenable but actual damage was small.

On the east side of Sixth, damage was not extensive, although a great deal of water poured down Vine street and the alley to Fifth. The dyke bank of the buildings on this block proved a splendid protection and the cellars and basements escaped loss. The First National Bank had several inches of water over the floor but no extended damage resulted.

Across Fifth street the offices of the Plattsmouth Gas Company were flooded but actual damage was slight. Others in this block escaped injury as was the case in the blocks on this side of the street to the Burlington station where the water was blocked up by the tracks and forced into the depot. The damage here was small and mostly expense occasioned by cleaning up.

The Greatest Losers

After damaging the property of Messrs. Hall and Knapp, as outlined above the waters, entered the basements along the next two blocks on the south side of Main street, doing their greatest damage to the Morgan and Westcott buildings, the wall between them giving away and precipitating the stock of each firm which was in the front end of the stores into the basement. Owing to the condition of the stock it was difficult to form an estimate of the loss of these firms. The sight of the collapse of the wall was a thrilling one. Those who were watching the progress of the storm from across the street describe the scene as most unexpected. From that point it looked as if the floor raised up and then suddenly collapsed, the jingle of breaking glass being heard for a long distance. In the Westcott buildings at the time the wall gave way there were a number of customers as well as the employes, but all escaped safely. The same conditions to a modified degree obtained in the room of the Kraft Clothing Company, the building which is owned by Mrs. Gertrude Morgan, being damaged as much as the Westcott block was.

Aside from these losses the principal damage from the Chicago avenue sewer was in flooding cellars, and in most cases it is nominal. Where the storm did a great deal of damage on the south side of Pearl street a year ago, this year there was practically none at all, the firms reporting comparatively little water and only small accumulations of mud. On the north side of Pearl street considerable excitement was occasioned at the livery barn of C. L. Martin by fears of loss, the horses being removed to the barn of M. E. Manspacher for safety. The water did not rise to a great height in the barn, however.

At the Burlington Shops.

At the shops the loss was small, the amount of rain on this watershed being apparently much less than on the other basins. There was water and mud in nearly all the shops, but compared with other storms, it amounted to little. Master Mechanic Helps was highly gratified at the escape of the company and it was stated that the loss will be only a few hundred dollars, being merely expense of cleaning up. All departments are running today as usual. Considerable trash and debris was piled on the tracks between the depot and the elevator south a distance of several hundred yards, but no actual damage occurred.

Residence property along the several avenues suffered but little, the water not seeming to rise as high as on former occasions. On Chicago avenue A. Hawrick and J. W. Kinser suffered the most, yet their loss together is not heavy. The cellar of Mrs. S. M. Chapman was flooded, but she does not consider her loss at much, the house being spared.

On Washington avenue the water

overflowed from about Turner Hall to Vine street, inundating several places, but occasioning little loss. The water rose to the steps of Mr. F. G. Egenberger's fine residence at the corner of Vine and Seventh streets, but failed to do any material damage. The residence of John Bauer on Vine, between Sixth and Seventh streets, suffered some from the water, as did several other residences, but as elsewhere, the actual loss was small. At Mr. F. G. Fricke's residence on the corner of Sixth and Vine, the water rose to the doorsteps but did not enter the house, it being higher, however, than ever before.

Contractor Woodworth's Loss.

One of the most serious sufferers from the storm was Contractor Woodworth. In the unfinished condition that Main street was in, the storm came at a most inopportune time. The two blocks of paving which had been completed presented an inviting prospect to the rushing waters and they speedily undermined the blocks carrying the sand foundation out and causing the blocks to settle in irregular holes and patches. The work will likely have to be done over again, entailing quite an expense. That portion of the pavement between Fourth and Fifth street which was torn up did not seem to suffer so much as expected. As soon as the work can be resumed it is the intention of the contractor to hurry it to completion. Had it not been for the undermining of the completed portion of the work, the wisdom of changing the pavement was apparent, the new portion carrying off the water with ease.

Damage to streets and walks in all parts of the city was the natural result of so violent rain, but it did not amount to a great deal in the total. Quite a section of the brick walks between Fourth and Fifth streets on the south side of Main, was washed out, but will be replaced with very little work. Wooden walks in different parts of the city were moved a little from their foundations, but most of them are already in place. So far as heard from no bridges were lost.

Taken all around the storm was not so disastrous as first thought, and within a very few days the effects will be cleaned up and Plattsmouth will be itself again.

Incidents of the Storm.

Lightning struck the residence of John Schulof on Wintersteen Hill, but aside from shocking the members of the family, did no damage. The lightning seemed unusually severe and destructive, as fires are reported from Omaha, Murray and adjacent points over the east end of the state.

While endeavoring to quiet a horse which was tied at the corner of Fifth and Main streets during the storm, Henry Stendyke was struck on the head by the animal and severely jolted up. The animal was frightened, and as Henry took hold of it to move it, it jerked its head to one side and struck him with great force. While painful the injury was not serious.

At a number of points on the street, obstructions prevailed and caused the waters to be diverted from their courses. In each case the result was a series of waves that mounted high into the air. It was these waves that did the greater part of the damage on Main street. Where the cross-currents met at Main and Sixth streets, and Main and Fifth streets, a regular wall of water resulted which broke over the walks with considerable force. It was quite a sight to witness.

The fire which occasioned so much uneasiness during the storm was a barn on the old Jack Reed place in Mills county, Ia. Lightning struck the barn and it, with contents, was burned to the ground. As the buildings are surrounded by water it was impossible to do anything toward quenching the flames and they burned themselves out. The news of the barn burning was brought to this city by Joe Smith, who came over this morning. He also reports that the house of Solomon Rose, just below the bridge, was struck by lightning, but aside from shocking the occupants no damage was done. At Glenwood, Mr. Bogart's house was also struck, but no one is reported injured.

The Kraft Clothing Company began work yesterday morning, transferring their stock from the Morgan building to the room in the Coates block, formerly occupied by the Coates Dry Goods Co. It is stated that this change will be permanent, and business will be continued by this enterprising firm without interruption.

The pavement which had been torn up on South Sixth street by the Gas company was undermined by the waters, and it will be necessary to have the work of replacing it done over. This will not take long, however, and it will be done by July 4th, certain.

Considerable difficulty is occasioned

estimating the loss to the hardware stock of John Bauer. Owing to the peculiar nature of the stock it is liable to much loss by water and until it has been thoroughly overhauled the exact amount of loss cannot be ascertained.

The boys who rescued the horses from Martin's barn had an exciting experience, as the animals were badly scared and were hard to handle. Fred Wynn, Clifford Forbes, Roy Barkis and C. Funk did the job and waded through a good deal of water doing so.

The horses from Wm. Wehrbein's barn were taken up on the hill near the Methodist church and tied up for safety during the storm. While it turned out that this was not necessary it was thought the part of wisdom to take all possible precautions. At this barn was witnessed a devotion of a pet bulldog for her pups. She was bedded in a stall in the rear of the building and when the water came in she took one of the pups and swam out with it in her mouth, returning for the others but too late, the water having reached them before she could get back.

J. M. Leyda and Jas. Rebal were two good citizens who came down town in the height of the storm when the alarm was sounded and they report a hard fight against the strong current at Sixth and Vine streets. They successfully navigated the street, however.

Louis Egenberger did not suffer much loss from water in his cellar, but quite a bit of feed and salt in his barn was wet up and will be lost. He is optimistic, however, and says July 4th will get all his attention, despite this.

The back wall of F. G. Fricke's cellar gave way before the rush of the waters and he suffered some loss to oil and other merchandise stored in his cellar on that account.

M. Fanger, as a precautionary measure, removed part of the floor of his storeroom, so that water might run from it into his cellar. As it turned out, no loss ensued but the move was a wise one.

Nobody wants to think that a hard rain at this time will dampen the enthusiasm of our people for a big celebration of the Fourth of July. The Journal is delighted to note the optimism which prevails in this respect. Everyone has turned his attention to booming the celebration and the small minor losses are not permitted to interfere with the big time. That is as it should be. Whoop it up, and show our visitors that Plattsmouth is the liveliest town in the state.

District Court.

A brief session of the district court was held by Judge Travis this morning, and a number of minor matters were disposed of. In the case of Whelan vs City of Plattsmouth the defendant was given leave to plead to plaintiff's petition by Thursday morning.

Herold vs Coates. Demurrer of defendant argued, submitted and overruled. Defendant excepts. Leave given defendant to answer by August 1.

Lee vs Hall, defendant has leave to answer by July 15th.

Laughlin vs Laughlin. Order to show cause by Friday, July 3.

Churchill vs Thomason. Sale confirmed and deed ordered.

State ex rel Pickett vs Gering. Motion to make petition more definite and specific taken under advisement until Thursday morning.

Higgins vs Worley. Default of defendant entered. Decree in favor of plaintiff.

Wunderlich vs Stoll. Case settled and dismissed.

Interrupted by the Storm

A most delightful children's birthday party was interrupted by the storm Saturday evening, the party being given for Marvel Hale, four years old, by his parents Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Hale at their home in South park. The party met at the Hale home at six o'clock, there being some thirty-five little tots present, all being under five years of age, and for a brief time everything was the children's, the advent of the heavy rain ended the merry-making. V. V. Leonard, the photographer, took a number of pictures of the gathering.

Burlington Main Line Crippled.

Reports from the country west of the city indicate that the rainfall in that section was something terrific. Between Cedar Creek and Louisville the Burlington suffered a big loss, the terrific rainfall taking out the main line, washing the rails and ties entirely off the dump. All day yesterday men worked trying to restore the line, Supt. Bignall giving the matter his supervision and using the engine of his special train in work train service.

THE LOG ROLLING AT ELMWOOD

An Immense Crowd Present— Plattsmouth City Band Wins First Prize.

The annual log rolling and picnic under the auspices of the Modern Woodmen of Cass county, was one of the grandest events in the history of the county. This is the universal sentiment of all who attended from this city. The attendance was immense, and not an incident occurred to mar the pleasure of anyone. All report one grand round of pleasure from the time of leaving home until the great rain set in the evening, which was quite as extensive in Elmwood, as it was in Plattsmouth, and it is said that fully as much water fell. The special train departed on the return trip from Elmwood about half-past ten o'clock and did not reach here until nearly two in the morning. The track was considerably washed in places, and between Weeping Water and Nehawka the train was delayed some time in consequence of washouts.

There were five bands present—Elmwood, Eagle, Union, Murdock and Plattsmouth—to contest for a prize of \$35.00 cash, and the Plattsmouth City Band returned with victory perched upon their banners. Following is a report from a special correspondent from Elmwood: "At nine a. m., the Elmwood band met the train from Lincoln and escorted the delegates, including Col. W. J. Bryan and the Eagle band, from the depot to the park. Later a special train of eight coaches arrived over the Missouri Pacific from Plattsmouth bearing several hundred visitors, including the Plattsmouth, Union and Weeping Water bands. John Gerry Stark of the American Exchange bank of Elmwood, was master of ceremonies. A male quartet rendered a selection. Elder L. A. Chapman of the Christian church led the vast audience in the Lord's prayer, when Mr. Bryan was presented by Ralph E. Johnson, supreme organizer of the M. W. A. Mr. Bryan spoke for an hour in a happy vein upon the subject of "Fraternity." At the close of his address he immediately took the train for Lincoln. It is estimated that from three to five thousand people listened to one of the best fraternal addresses ever delivered here.

The afternoon was devoted to Woodman drills, band concerts, a ball game and sports for prizes. The game of ball for a purse of \$35 was played by Elmwood and Weeping Water, Elmwood winning by a score of 5 to 0. The band contest was won by Plattsmouth's band. The Woodman camp of Wabash was given a beautiful banner for the largest per cent of members in attendance. No accidents occurred to mar the pleasures of the day.

The above is a pretty fair account of the event, with the single exception that it failed to give the Plattsmouth drill team credit of carrying off the first prize in the drill contest, and they were opposed by one of the crack drill teams of Lincoln, too. Hurrah for Captain Ramsey and his boys.

Departs This Morning.

Mrs. J. F. Lotz, of Lockport, Illinois, Mrs. Stinson Hanna, of Chicago, and Mr. John Ramsey, of Grinnell, Iowa, who have been here for several days visiting Miss Martha Rupley and Mrs. J. W. Grassman, grand-daughters of Mrs. Lotz, departed for Grinnell, the home of Mrs. Ramsey, this morning. Here Mrs. Lotz and Mrs. Hanna will visit several days before proceeding to their homes. They are brothers and sisters and were returning from a visit to a sister in Kansas they had not seen for thirty years. Mr. Abe Rupley who had also been here to enjoy a visit with them, departed for Union last night to resume his work at the hardware store of Roy Upton. It was indeed a most enjoyable and happy reunion.

Off For More Pictures.

Yesterday G. R. Olson, of the Olson Photograph company, received a telegram from Austin, Minn., summoning him to that point. The message was from the proprietor of Gentry Bros.' Trained Animal Circus, who desired Mr. Olson to take some views of their show. From Austin Mr. Olson will go to Clinton, Minn., to take some views of the tornado that visited that place Saturday evening. Mr. Olson is kept on the jump, but not any more so than are the dozen ladies and gentlemen in the studio turning out thousands of views daily, which are sent out all over the United States and foreign lands.

Mark White is looking after business in the city today, driving up from the farm near Rock Bluffs.