

FIRE AND FLOOD

NORTH TOPEKA IN THE MIDST OF TWIN DESTROYERS.

SUBURB SEEMS DOOMED

LOSS OF LIFE PLACED AT HUNDRED AND FIFTY.

IMPOSSIBLE TO RESCUE

Helpless Residents Seen Perched on Housetops and Trees Seen Fall into Water or Made Prey of the Fire.

Topeka, Kas., May 31.—North Topeka is in the grasp of fire and flood. The fire started in the lumber yard district this afternoon, and spread swiftly to the partially inundated buildings the people being powerless to stop its progress.

At 9 a. m. four hundred houses are burned and the whole of North Topeka will go.

As near as can be learned about one hundred and fifty persons are dead. Most of these were burned to death.

Burning houses are floating about, setting fire to others. The lower story of the burning buildings contain ten feet of water. The current is so strong that no boat can approach any of the burning buildings. People are gathered on the tops of houses and will meet death either by fire or drowning. The cries for help can be distinctly heard a mile away. The whole city is wildly excited because of the fact that no aid can be extended to the sufferers. The river at North Topeka is five miles wide. No possible estimate of the financial loss is obtainable, but it can be stated that it will reach into the millions.

North Topeka was a manufacturing district of the city. Three large flour mills, three woolen mills and other manufacturing enterprises are entirely destroyed. The water supply of the city has been cut off. The water from the river extends nearly a mile on the south side. The Rock Island depot has had to be abandoned and more than five hundred people on this side of the river are also homeless, but no loss of life has resulted in South Topeka.

The Kansas avenue bridge is the only one across the river for miles, and the approaches to that are flooded by thirty feet of water. A pontoon bridge is being erected in an effort to reach the sufferers.

Seven thousand or more people are on this side of the river sheltered in public buildings. Topeka is now able to take care of all the unfortunate. The work of caring for the refugees is being pushed with the utmost rapidity.

Sanding on the state house dome as many as eighty fires can be counted in different parts of North Topeka. The whole central portion of the city had been burned out at 10 o'clock tonight, and it is safe to say that by morning not a house in the main part of North Topeka will be left standing. When it is stated that North Topeka has ten thousand inhabitants the extent of the disaster can be realized.

People are clinging to the roofs of houses and the limbs of trees and many are giving up in despair and dropping into the waters below to be carried away by the swift current.

A. P. Baldwin, who at a great risk of his life crossed in a boat to the north side, returned at 10 o'clock tonight and reports that nothing possible can be done to save the city from burning. Miss Lola Troutman, sister of ex-Lieutenant Governor Troutman, was rescued with her aged father, late tonight. The two people had spent the entire day on the roof of their house and were just about to drop into the water when aid came.

The county court house and the federal building are crowded tonight with people of all classes. There is no lack of help for anything that is to be done. Men of all callings and professions, white and black together work side by side doing whatever lies in their power. As the water advanced it became necessary to drive carriages and ambulances to the south end of the pontoon in water so deep that the horses had to swim. Among those who took a hand in this work were James A. Troutman, Cyrus Leonard politician, pastors of the leading churches, Father Hayden of the Church of the Assumption, the county attorney, the sheriff and his deputies. Several well known journalists distinguished themselves in the work of rescue.

It is death by fire or drowning to 400 unless means can be found for the rescue. Great efforts are being made to construct a stream launch to go to the aid of the sufferers, but whatever is done must be done promptly or the loss of life will be appalling.

A number of trustees at the county jail were liberated by the sheriff to give them a chance to help the sufferers there. One of the trustees named Wetherly was credited with saving five lives on the north side.

BREAKER OF LAW

Presbyterians Denounce the Mormon Church—An Adherent of Polygamy.

Los Angeles, Cal.—The Presbyterian general assembly today unanimously adopted the following resolutions reported by Rev. W. W. Halloway, from the standing committee on home missions, to which the question of Mormonism has been referred:

"Whereas, this hierarchy, the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints persist in the active encouragement and practice of the crime of polygamy in disregard of their own pledges and oaths to the contrary, in contempt of the ethical convictions of the American people and in defiance of laws and constitutions of the state and the United States and

"Whereas, this hierarchy recently, on January 20, 1903 through the Utah legislature, has had elected to the United States senate a high ecclesiastic, one of its chief authorities, The Apostle Reed Smoot, in direct violation of its pledges to the nation to refrain from interference with the affairs of states, and

Whereas, This apostle, Senator Reed Smoot, is a direct representative of polygamy, born of its system and in cordial sympathy with it as a divine institution, revealed a law of primary obligations and made mandatory by the most solemn sanctions, and has encouraged its perpetration and practices by his personal influence as an apostle; and,

"Whereas, in thus doing this the apostle senator aids and abets criminals, menaces the American people is unfaithful to the laws and constitutions of the United States, pays his first presidency and apostolate to which he belongs, and is a reproach to the honor and dignity of the American people; therefore be it

"Resolved That this assembly most respectfully but earnestly calls on the people of the United States to use their utmost endeavor, employing all means to secure the expulsion of Apostle Reed Smoot from the halls of the national senate, and urges the senate itself and each member thereof to exhaust all legal means to this end.

"This assembly also calls upon the people and the congress of the United States in both houses and each member of each house to employ, and exhaust all legal means to secure such an amendment to the federal constitution as shall define legal marriages as monogamic and make polygamy under every guise and practice a crime against the United States punishable by adequate penalties including disfranchisement and disqualification to vote or hold office in the United States or in any state or territory under the jurisdiction of the United States."

Dr. Henry VanDyke presented from the bills and cures committee a resolution, submitted by the committee on home missions reciting the pitiful condition of six or seven thousand Indians on the Maricopa and Pima reservations in Arizona because of lack of water, and urging the secretary of the interior at Washington to "take steps without delay for the erection of a reservoir at San Carlos on the Gila river" for the relief of the Indians. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Asleep For Twenty Years.

Paris—Marguerite Boyvenal of Melles near San Quentin, who had been in a cataleptic state since May 21, 1883, awakened Wednesday.

For some time past she had been suffering from ptosis and is believed that the effect of this malady on her system conducted to her reawakening.

She moved her hand on Saturday for the first time and groaned slightly.

When Dr. Cratier took hold of her arms she said, "You are pinching me" and subsequently replied to questions by "yes" and "no" She was, however, in a state of great weakness and gradually sank, dying the day after awakening.

Marguerite Boyvenal's lethargy was caused by fright. She had a child which died shortly after birth under circumstances which led to the opening of an investigation. One day in May, 1883, while Marguerite was ironing, a neighbor said to her: "The gendarmes are coming to arrest you."

Marguerite had a stroke of fits and gradually fell into her long slumber.

Found to Have Poisons.

St. Louis—Dr. Francis Tumblety, aged eighty-two, supposed to be poverty stricken, and friendless, died in St. John's hospital and a will opened after his death revealed that he had left an estate of \$100,000. He made many bequests in his will among them being legacies of \$10,000 each to Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Ireland for charitable purposes.

Investigation shows that Dr. Tumblety was one of the pioneer traveling advertising physicians.

EIGHTY ARE DEAD

GAINESVILLE, GA., STRUCK A TERRIBLE BLOW

MANY ARE DESTITUTE

MANY ARE SUFFERING FOR WANT OF FOOD AND HOMES

MILL IS HARDEST HIT

Storm Passes on to New Holland and Repeats the Disaster.

Atlanta, Ga., June 2.—A long distance telephone message from Gainesville, Ga., shortly after the noon hour Monday says that the city was struck by a terrible tornado, killing probably 100 persons, and blowing the City hotel and other large buildings and destroying the Gainesville cotton mills.

The death list will not be known until the debris is cleared away. The greatest loss of life is reported in the destruction of the cotton mills, where about eighty are believed to be killed and a score injured. Eighty-two persons were killed in the city between the center of the town and the railroad station, where four large stores were blown down. The storm had driven many persons into these stores for refuge and they probably all were killed.

There were five hundred at work in the cotton mills when the storm came. The mill was a three story building. The roof of the city electric car barn was blown off.

The tornado struck the town in the southern portion. It came with a frightful roar and the day was turned into night. As people fled from the storm they were caught in the wind and bodily blown in all directions.

Houses Torn to Fragments.

Some houses were torn into fragments, others were lifted from their foundations and carried intact far quite a distance. Roofs sailed like leaves in the air and several persons were carried over three blocks in a house by the wind. The Bell Telephone company lost all wires, but the Bell people got a wire working and shortly afterward the Western Union put a wire into service. Both these wires were turned over to the city to be used in calling physicians. Every town that can be reached has been urged to rush surgeons to Gainesville. It is now believed the death of one hundred is a conservative estimate.

Such wounded as have been rescued are being cared for and everybody who is uninjured is at work relieving the suffering. The property loss cannot be estimated.

The reports from Gainesville now place the loss of life at 200.

At two o'clock the Western Union wire in the Atlanta Journal office was cut through to DuButh, this side of Gainesville, and later reached Gainesville. The operator reports the above details not exaggerated. He says every town is being urged to send doctors. He says estimates now place the dead and wounded at 200 at the cotton mills alone. Special trains will be run to Gainesville to carry surgeons and medicinal supplies.

Twenty-Five Bodies Recovered.

A telephone bulletin from Gainesville, at 5:30, says twenty-six have been recovered from the Gainesville cotton mills. Latest estimates are that one hundred and fifty have been killed, one hundred at the Gainesville mill and fifty at the New Holland mill. It appears now that no one was killed in the city proper but later developments may show some deaths.

Many are reported seriously injured. The tornado first hit the town below the Southern railway depot. It came almost unnoticed and before any one realized what was happening it had ripped down brick buildings, frame houses, churches and school buildings as if they were structures of paper. One of the first large buildings to fall was the Gainesville cotton mills, a three story structure. The third and second stories were shaved off smoothly and it is feared every person working in those stories perished.

Five Hundred in Building.

About 500 were in the building at the time, but the greater portion of them were in the lower story and escaped. In the five brick buildings on Main street about eighteen people were killed, most of them employed in the stores.

Nails Are Badly Tied Up.

Washington, June 2—Official dispatches to postoffice department reports that the floods have wrought havoc to the mail service in south Iowa and Nebraska and in the neighborhood of Kansas City. A telegraph received this afternoon from Superintendent Taft of the railway mail service at Kansas City, Mo., tells of the abandonment of some trains, delay of others and general demoralization of the mail service.

TOPEKA ASKS HELP

FLOOD BURDEN TOO GREAT FOR ONE CITY TO BEAR.

Topeka, Kas., June 3.—The flood situation in Topeka Tuesday night can be briefly summarized thus:

Known dead, forty-eight. River falls three feet and is now receding at the rate of two inches an hour.

Distress will be great among the refugees. Governor Bailey issues a proclamation calling for help for flood sufferers of the state.

Fifty deputy sheriffs armed with Winchester rifles to North Topeka to protect property with orders to shoot looters wherever they are caught stealing.

Governor Bailey's proclamation calling for outside aid was decided upon at a mass meeting today, when the governor was requested to issue the call. It was decided to make a general appeal to the people all along the flooded districts of the state as well as those in Topeka. The plan is to make Topeka headquarters and to distribute the aid from here to the other parts of the state. There will be a general appeal made, an appeal through the fraternal organizations and other appeals through various sources.

A meeting of the representative people of North Topeka who are on the south side was held today to arrange for systematic protection of their property in North Topeka.

Immediately after the meeting a large number of men left in boats for the north side, where they will guard property, and their orders are to shoot.

The river is three feet below high water mark. The fall is plainly indicated on the Seymour building at Kansas avenue and Crane street. The water has receded on Kansas avenue to the platform of the Rock Island depot a distance of 250 feet. It is the opinion of experts that the river will go down rapidly from now on.

The Blue, the Republican and the Solomon have spent their force and the volume of water spread over the Kaw bottom will hunt its channel quickly.

The situation in the flood-stricken districts is better than it has yet been, for the reason that fewer people are marooned in houses, in trees and on islands. Nobody is now clinging to trees. Those who had to cling were either rescued or dropped into the river. Tonight not to exceed 400 persons are in North Topeka. The work of taking them out began at an early hour today and it is believed by night few were left in the flooded town.

There is no way of getting at the amount of damage done by the flood in Topeka and vicinity. The damage may reach two million dollars.

The Commercial Club at noon today voted to ask for outside aid for the sufferers. Yesterday the club voted that no aid from the outside would be accepted, but the distress of the people today is so great that the community cannot provide for all and so the charity of the country is appealed to.

This action was taken after an address by Governor Bailey, who has just returned to the city from Mound City, where he had been water-bound since last Thursday. The governor points out to the club the necessities of the suffering people and the inability of the community to provide properly for them and relieve their wants and said that while he wanted to work in harmony with the town people and its charitable organizations he saw his duty clearly, and he would issue a proclamation calling upon the charitable people of the country to send aid in the form of money.

Governor Bailey and the Commercial club are drafting a proclamation to be sent out to the world concerning the acceptance of relief.

"My idea," said the governor, "is to first call on the people of the state who have not suffered to give out of their abundance to the sufferers. This is a tremendous calamity, and it is something that cannot be coped with in a few days, but it will take months. The territory devastated is equivalent to a strip 200 miles long and six miles wide through our most fertile territory. I have carefully computed this and it is a conservative estimate. Not only is the crop swept away from the farms and much of the live stock, but in many instances the accumulations of a lifetime are gone. We must combat disease and relieve distress, and it is a tremendous undertaking. But before we call for outside aid Kansas should first give all she can for the sufferers.

Will Gladly Accept Aid.

Kansas City, Mo., June 2.—E. M. Clendinning, secretary of the Commercial Club, which is at the head of the relief work, announced today that all outside offers of provisions would be accepted. At first it was thought that Kansas City would be able to find all the provisions needed, but the past twenty-four hours showed it would be advisable to accept provisions offered by other cities. The supply of clothing is adequate.

Nebraska Notes

The Nemeba is overflowing at Falls City and the bottom is covered with water. Much damage will be done to the growing crops. All travel is cut off from the south.

Mrs. Earl Bacon, a victim of the tornado at Norman, was the wife of the brother of George Bacon employed in the Burlington shops at Havelock. The brother was also injured in the storm.

Joseph Mathews of Weston, was brought before the examining board today on complaint of citizens of that town and adjudged insane. He is forty-five years old and single. Sheriff Webster took him to the asylum at Lincoln.

Invitations have been issued by Mr. and Mrs. William Redford, for the marriage of their daughter, Miss Mezzie T. Redford, to Mr. Howard Colman on Wednesday, June 10, at high noon, at their home in Seward.

Summer school at Peru, opened Monday with enrollment of 300. The largest enrollment of all previous summer schools is exceeded. Students are coming in on every train. The school is largely made up of teachers.

J. B. Penrod of Beatrice is reported to have been seriously injured at Florence, Kansas while enroute east with a car of poultry. A ton of feed was piled up in one end of the car with timbers from floor to roof to hold it. In switching the car around it jammed so hard that the tractor gave way and Penrod was caught under the feed.

Louis Keezer, of Plattsmouth a boy of seventeen years of age, pleaded guilty in district court this morning, to the charge of grand larceny and was sentenced to the Kearney reform school. Keezer was accused of stealing \$40 from Henry Inhelder of Cedar Creek. He went to Neligh, Neb., where he was captured by the officers.

A valuable horse which was stolen from Joseph Lynn at Union several weeks ago has been located by the local officers. It was found in the possession of a farmer named Christian, residing near Ashland. The farmer claimed that a stranger brought the animal to his place and that he traded another horse for it.

A heavy rain and windstorm played havoc in Omaha early today. The tracks were rendered useless at the Union station and an engine pulling the Union Pacific fast mail was derailed by the soft track, blocking two west bound passenger trains which were unable to move until the tracks were repaired. A number of roofs were blown away in the southwest portion of the city.

The Seward high school gave a reception for Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Stoner on Tuesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Norval. Invitations were extended to the members of the school board and the teachers of the city schools. The hall and dining room of the Norval home were prettily decorated with the high school colors. Mr. Stoner has been superintendent of the Seward schools for the past three years. He will leave Seward to take care of the York schools. Mr. and Mrs. Stoner have made many friends in Seward during their stay in the city.

C. O. Elger, of North Bend, had a disagreeable and dangerous experience on a muddy road near town. While he was driving over a bridge one wheel of his buggy slipped off throwing him out. He held to the reins and after being dragged some distance stopped the horses. After making repairs he drove on until a single tree gave way, the horses broke loose and the vehicle came to a sudden stop, hurling him over the dashboard and overturning the buggy. The softness of the ground prevented him from receiving any hard knocks, but he was covered with mud from head to foot.

Mrs. Beas Gearhart, of the school of expression of Nebraska Wesleyan University, gave a graduate recital at the Wesleyan chapel Monday night. The program, violin solo, Miss Elizabeth Nibbleson reading, "Annexation of Cuba," and "She of the White Hair," Mrs. Morrison; piano solo, Mrs. H. C. Swallow; readings, "The Fair Leaf" and "Polly Potts," Mrs. Morrison. The character work and impersonations of Mrs. Morrison were especially good.

QUEER STORIES

Glaciers are the largest bodies of crystalline structure known.

England was first divided into shires during the seventh century, A. D.

Of the 5,000,000 farms in the United States, 3,500,000 produce corn. The average cost of growing an acre of corn in America is \$5.

The most valuable medal in existence is the Blake victory medal, struck in 1852. It is of gold, oval in shape, and its original cost was \$1,500.

Wax is not gathered from flowers nor from any other source, but is a natural secretion of the bees and is only produced by them during heavy honey flows.

Umbrella bearers are shown in ancient sculptures at Persepolis, where a king is depicted in royal state attended by a fly napper and an umbrella man. In Persia the umbrella is still an appendage of royalty.

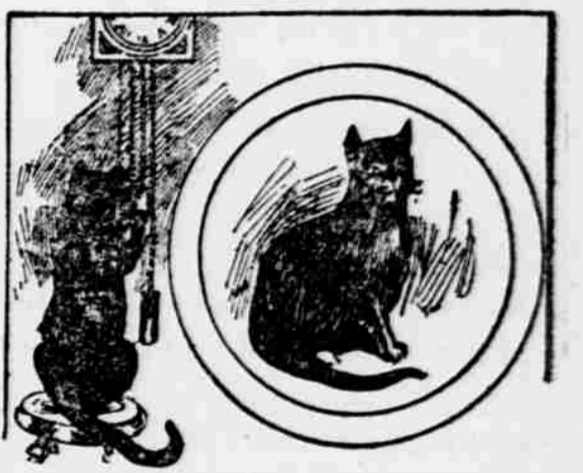
Probably the oldest team of horses in the world is owned by a farmer in Kansas. The combined age of the two is 70 years, one being 37 and the other 33 years of age. The horses were reared on the farm where they still live. Notwithstanding their extreme age they are still doing team work, logging, etc., and taking three meals a day.

The council of the Cherokee Nation has decided to erect a monument to mark the grave of George Lowrey, who played an important part in the affairs of the nation from 1790 to 1850, on theirabouts. Lowrey served as captain of horse under Andrew Jackson throughout the war of 1812, and he and his Cherokees fought for the government in subsequent Indian wars.

Frank M. Chapman believes concerning the migration of birds that migration began in the South, rather than the North, as the tropical region was the place where the primitive birds and their reptilian ancestors originated and developed. In his opinion there was crowding near the center of the food supply, which resulted in some of the primitive creatures seeking sustenance at the edges of their zone of existence. These venturesome ones probably died before the primitive birds could fly, but as flying became more and more natural they were able to migrate farther and farther with safety, so that they were able to easily find a nesting-place, to which they annually repaired, and could later return to their normal zone.

There are now estimated to be about 120,000,000 stars in the visible heavens, but the ratio of fainter ones is not what might be expected were the universe unlimited, so that, after all, the universe may have really definite limits. This is a question that we would like to have some evidence wherewith to found a definite belief. Then, are there other universes far larger than our own? We have the barest hint that there are. A single star in the heavens of the Southern hemisphere, the "run-away star," is moving with a velocity of 200 miles a second. This is a greater speed than all the attractions of all the known stars could give it, and the question is, is there a larger universe which is drawing it away from us? This is a question for the new century to study.

CAT THAT WINDS THE CLOCK REGULARLY.



Forgetful people will envy the North Dakota farmer who is the proud possessor of a cat that knows how to wind a clock. Tabby never forgets. She is regularity itself. When the appointed time for clock winding draws near she seats herself on a rug in front of it and watches until the hands announce the proper season. Then she stretches herself and climbs up until she reaches the weight. This she drags down and the clock is wound up for another twenty-four hours.

Facts About Senators.

The Congressional Directory prepared for the special session of the Senate shows that the law is the prevailing profession of the members of the upper house of Congress. For the first time in several years all of the States in the Union are represented in the Senate and three-fourths of the members are lawyers.

Of the balance, one is a civil engineer, two are doctors, three are newspaper men and the others are bankers, miners, business men and politicians. The average age is found to be 56, with Senator Pettus of Alabama the oldest (82), and Bailey of Texas the youngest (49). Senator Pettus is a survivor of the Mexican War, while twenty-five members fought in the Civil War. Of college graduates there are fifty-five and seven of the members are foreign born. Kearns of Utah, Millard of Nebraska and Gallinger of New Hampshire were born in Canada and Nelson of Minnesota was born in Norway. Senator Patterson of Colorado is Irish. Jones of Nevada English and Wetmore of Rhode Island was born in England of American parents, residing there at the time. Twenty-eight Senators were born within the borders of the States they represent.