

WRECKED BY A HURRICANE

Fearful Damage Inflicted Upon the Island
of Mauritius.

AN APPALLING NUMBER OF CASUALTIES

People Crushed by Falling Walls and Flying Timbers—Crops Ruined—Vessels Wrecked in the Harbor of Port Louis—Scenes of Desolation.

Lousma, May 19.—Advises received here from Mauritius state that a hurricane, unprecedented in its violence, passed over that island on April 20, causing enormous damage to shipping. A majority of the vessels were wrecked or driven ashore. The western half of Port Louis, the capital, was almost devastated. Houses were blown down, gigantic trees were uprooted, and that part of the town was about wiped out of existence. The loss of life was appalling. A large number of persons were caught in the falling timber and crushed to death, while others lost their limbs or were injured so severely as to die while they were attempting to escape. The roar of the gale was deafening and people rushed to and fro in aimless confusion, without idea of what they were doing.

The rain fell in torrents, the thunder crashed in awe-inspiring volleys, while the flashes of lightning were blinding. Never before in the history of the island has such a warring of the elements been known and never was there such widespread fear among the inhabitants.

The exact number of dead is not known. Every effort is being made by the authorities to alleviate the sufferings that have been caused by the storm and they have issued orders for military tents to be distributed to shelter the homeless and food is being given to those who lost everything by the storm. About half the crops of rice, coffee, pepper and sugar have been destroyed and the loss is extremely heavy.

The falling barometers gave warning of the approach of the storm, and taking warning from previous gales everything possible was done to minimize the damage, but when at last the gale burst all precautions proved of no avail. The ships in the harbor sent down their topmasts and extra anchors, and cables

were put out, but so fierce was the storm that the cables parted like pack threads and the vessels were dashed upon the coral reefs that are so dangerous to navigation about the island.

Thrown Upon the Coral Reefs.

Among the vessels that were stranded

were the following: The British steamer Penakoto, 2,200 tons, from Calcutta. She was only slightly damaged. The British steamer Umballa, 1,212 tons, from Bombay and Zanzibar went on the reef and was subsequently floated with slight damage. The bark William Wilson from Melbourne also went ashore, as did the British steamer Oakland, from Zanzibar, the German

The vessels still aground are the British bark Strathpore from Port Natal, the British ship Leander, the British ship Aconage from New York, the British ship Queen of Scots, whose sailing port is not given, the British ship Euxedon from Chettagoon, the

British steamer Amaranth, sailing port
given, and the British steamer Gladiator.

ESCAPED A WALL OF WATER.

Thrilling Experience of a Train on the
Nebraska Midland.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 19.—[Special to THE
BEE.]—One of the most disastrous washouts

on the B. & M. lines running into Lincoln was reported near Firth, in the southeastern part of this county. It was caused by a fall of water very similar to a cloudburst and imprisoned the train from Nebraska City for thirty-six hours, it not arriving until this morning. Engineer Mingel of the delayed train says that when two miles south of

Fifth the water on the track became so deep that the fires were endangered. Taking their lanterns he and Conductor Lyman wakkeed on ahead and discovered several breakers in the track. At that instant a loud roar was heard and flashing their lanterns in the direction of the sound, they were horrified to see coming down a wide draw a wall of water nearly eight feet high.

Backed Out in a Hurry.

The passengers were panic stricken. The

At that place the condition of the track was reported and orders received to run the train to Lincoln via Tecumseh and Beatrice.

Springing into the cab, the engine was reversed and backed away not a moment too soon, for in another instant the great mass of water, carrying with it trunks of trees and debris, struck the track where the train had stood a moment before and tore up the track as easily as if the rails and ties had been made of wood and paper and ballasted with

WATERLOO INUNDATED.

The Elkhorn River Running Through the Town's Main Street.

WATERLOO, Neb., May 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The Elkhorn river has

risen until now the water stands three feet deep in the main street in town, and is still rising at the rate of half an inch every hour. A great portion of the water has let

the main channel half a mile west of town and is rushing down North Front street, carrying sidewalks and everything that is in any way loose away with it. The citizens are now using boats and rafts to get to the stores. The merchants are piling up their loose goods that have been standing

the floor up on their counter with the hope of saving them. The railroad grade is saving the southern portion of the town, the culverts not being large enough to carry water sufficient to flood it to any extent. No estimate

can be given at present as to the damage done. In the private houses on the north side of town they are pulling up their carpets and one or two families have moved out entirely to avoid the water.

Elsewhere in Nebraska.
SUPERIOR, Neb., May 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Superior's seven line of railroad are all in good running order to

DUNBAR, Neb., May 12.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Jimmy, the 15-year-old son of W. J. Eaton, probate judge of Otoe county, had a very narrow escape by drowning yesterday.

