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DESOLATION ON THE ISLAND

Site of the City a Scene of Awful Destruction and Gloom.

SEA ROLLS BACK LEAVING RUIN BEHIND

Recession of Great Wave Makes Its Work More Apparent.

ONE LONG LIST OF DREAD DISASTER

Debris of a Crushed City Hides the Bodies of Hundreds of Citizens Whose Lives Went Out with the Shock, While Shipping Miles Inland Tells of Strength of Wind and Wave.

HOUSTON, Tex., Sept. 10.—Richard Spillane, a well known Galveston newspaper man and day correspondent of the Associated Press in that city, who reached Houston today, after a terrible experience, gives the following account of the disaster at Galveston:

"One of the most awful tragedies of modern times has visited Galveston. The city is in ruins and the dead will number probably 1,000. I am just from the city, having been commissioned by the mayor and citizens' committee to get in touch with the outside world and appeal for help. Houston is the nearest point at which working telegraph instruments could be found, the wires, as well as nearly all the buildings between here and the Gulf of Mexico being wrecked.

"When I left Galveston shortly before noon yesterday, the people were organizing for the prompt burial of the dead, distribution of food and all necessary work after a period of disaster.

CITY BECOMES A RAGING SEA.

"The wreck of Galveston was brought about by a tempest so terrible that no words can adequately describe its intensity and by a flood which turned the city into a raging sea. The weather bureau records show that the wind attained a velocity of eighty-four miles an hour when the measuring instrument blew away, so it is impossible to tell what was the maximum.

"The storm began about 2 o'clock Saturday morning. Previous to that a great storm had been raging in the gulf and the tide was very high. The wind at first came from the north and was in direct opposition to the force from the gulf. While the storm in the gulf piled the water upon the beach side of the city, the north wind piled the water from the bay on to the bay part of the city.

"About noon it became evident that the city was going to be visited with disaster. Hundreds of residences along the beach front were hurriedly abandoned, the families fleeing to dwellings in higher portions of the city. Every home was opened to the refugees, black or white. The wind was rising constantly and it rained in torrents. The wind was so fierce that the rain cut like a knife.

LEFT IN DARKNESS.

"By 3 o'clock the waters of the gulf and bay met and by dark the entire city was submerged. The flooding of the electric light plant and the gas plants left the city in darkness. To go upon the streets was to court death. The wind was then at cyclonic velocity, roofs, chimneys, portions of buildings, telegraph poles and walls were falling and the noise of the wind and the crashing of the buildings was terrifying in the extreme. The wind and waters rose steadily from dark until 1:45 o'clock Sunday morning. During all this time the people of Galveston were like rats in traps. The highest portion of the city was four to five feet under water, while in the great majority of cases the streets were submerged to a depth of ten feet. To leave a house was to drown. To remain was to court death in the wreckage.

"Such wind has seldom been equaled. Without apparent reason the waters suddenly began to subside at 1:45 a. m. Within twenty minutes they had gone down two feet and before daylight the streets were practically freed of the flood waters. In the meantime the wind had veered to the southeast.

HORRORS BECOME VISIBLE.

"Very few, if any, buildings escaped injury. There is hardly a habitable dry house in the city. When the people who had escaped death went out at daylight to view the work of the tempest and flood they saw the most horrible sights imaginable. In the three blocks from Avenue N to Avenue P, in Tremont street, I saw eight bodies. Four corpses were in one yard.

"The whole of the business front for three blocks in from the gulf was stripped of every vestige of habitation, the dwellings, the great bathing establishments, the Olympia and every structure having been either carried out to sea or its ruins piled up in a pyramid far into the town, according to the vagaries of the tempest.

HELPLESS SUFFER MOST.

"The first hurried glance over the city showed that the largest structures, supposed to be the most substantially built, suffered the greatest. The Orphans' Home, Twenty-first street and Avenue M, fell like a house of cards. How many dead children and refugees are in the ruins could not be ascertained.

"Of the sick in St. Mary's infirmary, together with the attendants, only eight are understood to have been saved.

"The Old Woman's home on Rosenberg avenue collapsed; the Rosenberg school house is a mass of wreckage. The Ball High school is but an empty shell, crushed and broken. Every church in the city, with possibly one or two exceptions, is in ruins.

"At the forts nearly all the soldiers are reported dead, they having been in temporary quarters which gave them no protection against the tempest or flood.

"No report has been received from the Catholic orphan asylum down the island, but it seems impossible that it could have withstood the hurricane. If it fell all the inmates were no doubt lost, for there was no aid within a mile.

ONE LONG LIST OF RUINS.

"The bay front from end to end is in ruins. Nothing but piling and the wreck of great warehouses remains. The elevators

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

SURE TO LEAVE CHINA

American Policy in the Orient Rapidly Assuming Shape.

UNITED STATES MAY ACT INDEPENDENTLY

Cable of General Chaffee Points Significantly to Coming Events.

DELAY OF POWERS TO REPLY HINDERS NOT

Agreement Upon Withdrawal of Troops Likely to Be of Two Sided Nature.

ARMY WILL BE SENT TO PHILIPPINES

In the Event of Any Oceanic Crisis for the Return of the Soldiers to China the Transfer Can Be Made Within a Week.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—The developments of the day in the Chinese situation still point to a speedy withdrawal of United States troops from China. General Chaffee has added the weight of his opinion to that already entertained by many officials here. It is probably significant that the general's statement on this point is given publicly by the administration. No confirmation is at hand of the report that Great Britain and Germany have joined in an agreement to remain together in Peking, regardless of the other powers. This being the fact it would doubtless hasten the rearward movement of the American troops no longer interested in avoiding becoming involved in any clash between the powers, such as might reasonably be expected to follow the execution of this reported British-German plan.

Two Things to Be Secured.

If there has been further response to the Russian note relative to evacuation their purpose cannot be ascertained. This delay no longer interferes with the execution of the American policy. The State department has a reasonably accurate understanding of the attitude of even those powers that have made formal responses to the Russian note, so that the more weight to their views is not of importance. The part of the problem relative to withdrawal that remains unsolved is the best means of securing guarantees for the attainment of the few objects set out in Secretary Hay's note of July 2 which have not been secured.

Possibly guarantees must be obtained from two sides, the Chinese government as to the security of American treaty rights and the creation of a claims commission, which shall provide for the payment of indemnity for losses suffered by American citizens, and for the expenditures on account of the Peking relief expedition. Then it is entirely possible that it may be regarded as necessary, if any of the allies refuse to leave Peking and persist in a request that the interest of the United States in the matter of trade of the "open door" and of all rights now guaranteed to the United States in China by treaty be made a matter of special agreement between the United States and those warring nations. It does not follow that because the United States troops are to be withdrawn this autumn from China that American interests will be left completely at the mercy of the other powers.

Army to Go to Philippines.

On the contrary, such disposition will be made of those troops that they may, if necessary, be returned to China in short order. To send the entire army of General Chaffee will be quartered in some of the pleasant and most salubrious portion of the Philippines. If it is wanted again in China it may be transported inside of a week, thoroughly refreshed and fitted for effective action.

Minister Wu has not yet been clothed with powers by his government to effect a settlement of the Chinese trouble directly with the Washington authorities. The officials are inclined to believe that no such large power as this will be conferred upon him, though he may, as do the Chinese ministers in Europe, play a most important part in the preliminaries to the institution of regular negotiations through commissioners for a final settlement.

AFRAID TO RETURN TO PEKING

Chaffee Says Chinese Officials Will Remain Aways as Long as the Army is at Capital.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—The following dispatch has been received at the War department: (No date).—Adjutant General, Washington, 2, afternoon 4th.—Evidence accumulates that diplomatic relations will not be resumed here for a long time. Russian legation leave very soon for Tien Tsin.

Appears to me certain Chinese government will not return here while foreign army remains and he may, as do the Chinese minister in Europe, play a most important part in the preliminaries to the institution of regular negotiations through commissioners for a final settlement.

PATCH UP MILES' CASE

Brothers Agree That No Further Attempt Will Be Made to Break the Will.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Sept. 10.—(Special Telegram.)—Joseph H. Miles, the millionaire of Falls City, Neb., who was a defendant in the sensational suit to break the will of his father, Stephen B. Miles, is in Kansas City enroute home from Colorado, where he spent most of the summer. He told today of the reconciliation which has taken place between him and his brother, Samuel A. Miles, who had attempted to break the father's will.

J. H. Miles received the bulk of his father's great estate, valued at \$2,000,000. Samuel A. Miles, his brother, received comparatively a small portion of it. In the suit which was brought to break the will the claim was made that a later will had been discovered. This was not proved to the satisfaction of the court and the suit was recently decided in favor of J. H. Miles. A notice of appeal was given, but the appeal has not yet been made.

"My brother and I recently had a long talk about the whole case," said J. H. Miles at the Coates house this morning. "He told me that the fight would be dropped and that he is anxious to have the estate settled so that he can get the share bequeathed to him. It was his money that was used in the fight against the will. Another suit has, I understand, been started to break my father's will. It is in the federal court and is brought in the name of some citizen of Missouri. But I think this is just one way of letting things down easy."

APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC.

OFFICE OF MAYOR, OMAHA, Sept. 10, 1900.—To the Citizens of Omaha: I have just received the following telegram from Mayor Brashear of Houston, Tex.:

HOUSTON, Tex., Sept. 10.—Hon. Mayor, Omaha, Neb.: Galveston cut off from all communication, Great suffering and loss of life known to exist there. Damage beyond description. Aid should be sent to Houston, which is nearest base of supplies and for furnishing help. Have good organization effected. S. H. BRASHEAR, Mayor.

The extensive accounts in the daily papers of the terrible disaster at Galveston have apprised our citizens of the great need there is that immediate and generous assistance be given to the people of our gulf seaport. More than a thousand lives were lost and millions of dollars of property destroyed by the great storm.

At a meeting of a number of philanthropic business men held in my office at 5 p. m. today it was decided to solicit subscriptions at once through the papers for the stricken people of Galveston.

All checks should be made payable to Luther Drake, treasurer, and should be sent to me in order that proper credit may be given in the daily papers as the checks are received. Please send in your contribution today, for the need is urgent. W. W. Umsted, Esq., general manager of the Western Union Telegraph company, has kindly offered to forward all money by wire as soon as received. FRANK E. MOORES Mayor.

GOVERNOR APPEALS FOR AID

President Instructs Secretary of War to Issue Tents and Rations to the Stricken.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—The following telegrams passed between the White House and Texas today: HOUSTON, Tex., Sept. 10.—William McKinley, President of the United States, Washington: I have been deputized by the mayor and citizens' committee of Galveston to inform you that the city of Galveston is in ruins and certainly many hundreds, if not a thousand, of lives have been lost. It is one of the most fearful in recent times. Help must be given by the state and nation on the suffering will be appalling. Food, clothing and money will be needed at once. The whole south side of the city for three blocks in front of the gulf is swept clear of every building, the whole wharf front of the city and the houses in the city are habitable. The water supply is cut off and the food stock damaged by salt water. All bridges are washed away and stranded steamers litter the bay. When I left this morning the search for bodies had begun and corpses were being buried. The tempest blew eighty-four miles an hour and the whole city was under water. The survivors left helpless among the wreckage, cut off from the world except by wireless telegraph. RICHARD SPILLANE.

President Expresses Sympathy.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Hon. J. D. Sayers, Governor of Texas, Austin, Tex.:

DEAD WILL REACH THOUSANDS.

CHICAGO, Sept. 10.—The following statement of the situation at Galveston and along the coast was received tonight:

DALLAS, Tex., Sept. 10.—Charles S. Diehl, General Manager of the Associated Press, Chicago, Ill.: From the latest reports which are considered reliable the disaster at Galveston and along the coast has not been exaggerated. The waters of the gulf and bay met, covering the island to a depth of six to twelve feet. During this sudden flood a most terrible storm was raging, the wind blowing about eighty miles per hour. Many of the dead have been uncovered; others are still under the debris; others carried out to sea. It is not possible to give, at this time, a reliable report as to the number of deaths. From estimates made by reliable persons who have just come from Galveston, it is believed that not less than 1,500 and possibly as many as 5,000 persons were destroyed. Of course, the wounded and broken are numerous. The damage to property is most shocking.

Some of the best public buildings and private establishments were wrecked. Thousands of homes were swept entirely away. It is quite safe to set this down as one of the greatest disasters that has ever visited the United States. The loss of property is irreparable, the loss of life is appalling. G. R. DEALY, Manager Dallas News.

The reports of the great calamity which has fallen on Galveston are exciting sympathy for the poor sufferers as they are scattered in many directions. Whatever help it is possible to give shall be gladly extended. Have directed the secretary of war to supply rations and tents upon your request. WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

A copy of this telegram was sent to the mayor of Galveston, as well as to Governor Sayers.

Governor Sayers Replies.

AUSTIN, Tex., Sept. 10.—The president, Washington: Thank you for your telegram. Your action will be greatly appreciated and gratefully received. I have directed the secretary of war to forward rations and tents to Galveston.

JOSEPH D. SAYERS, Governor of Texas.

TEXAS WILL DO HER BEST

Governor Sayers Doing Every Possible Thing to Assist People of Stricken City.

AUSTIN, Tex., Sept. 10.—When asked tonight by a representative of the Associated Press for an expression as to the flood situation along the gulf coast, Governor Sayers said: "I think it is the most deplorable catastrophe in the history of America, and I feel that every possible aid should be lent to the sufferers in that hour of great need. From information received here, I am led to think that hundreds of families have lost their homes, and the case is one that takes active steps to raise relief for everyone that can possibly be looked after. I have wired all the city magistrates and all the county judges, asking them to secure all funds and provisions possible, and their replies up to tonight are very gratifying. The assistance lent us by the federal government in the way of rations and tents will aid us little in relieving the situation at present. The first duty of a government is to see that the people who are starving and in danger, without either water or palatable food to eat, but who are dying in their thousands, are fed. I will get the matter of rations and tents under consideration and will see that it is taken up at once. I have located several assistants and the adjutant general is near the scene of action and they will personally supervise the distribution while I remain here to answer all inquiries."

Terrible Hurricane at Bryan.

BRYAN, Tex., Sept. 9.—A terrible hurricane visited this section today. Trees, fences, signs, etc., were blown down, roofs torn from brick buildings, show windows smashed and merchandise damaged. The greatest damage in this vicinity is to the cotton, which was blown out and twisted in bad shape, involving a loss which cannot be estimated, but which will be great.

Damage to Cotton Crop.

HOUSTON, Tex., Sept. 10.—There is no doubt the cotton crop has been considerably damaged throughout southern and central Texas. Owing to the excessive rains this year the cotton has grown to weed more than ever known and in some fields it ranges from six to ten feet high and is very rank with leaf.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

GALVESTON MASS OF RUINS

No Accurate Statement of the Loss of Life Possible at Present.

ONE THOUSAND A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE

May Largely Exceed This Figure When Wreckage is Explored.

SURVIVORS ARE IN DESTITUTE CONDITION

Practically No Food or Drinking Water in the City—Aid Being Sent from Other Places—Big Ocean Steamer Washed Up on the Docks—Whole Families Wiped Out.

HOUSTON, Tex., Sept. 10.—The following dispatch was received from Galveston by boat to the mainland today:

GALVESTON, Tex., Sept. 10.—The loss of life may be stated at 1,000 of drowned, killed and missing. The loss will run into the millions.

Scenes of desolation and distress are on every hand. Fully 75 per cent of the buildings in the city are more or less damaged. Whole families and communities are being taken from the debris and each minute brings the discovery of some new victim. On the gulf side of Tremont street the water has made a clean sweep of everything for three blocks. All the bath houses are gone. Debris blocks the streets to the gulf.

About 1,000 people took refuge in the Tremont hotel and all these escaped injury, although the building was damaged to the extent of several thousand dollars.

The Dulitz building, a three-story brick structure, was the first large building to collapse. Ritter's saloon and restaurant on the Strand collapsed from the top, imprisoning a number of persons, among whom were Richard Lord and F. G. Spencer, who was killed; the building then gave way with such rapidity that it will be impossible to give an approximate estimate, even of those who were inside.

The Rosenberg school, the City and the Balls High school suffered severely. All buildings within three blocks of the beach are destroyed. The city is practically without fire protection. The equipment could not get about the city, even if there were time to give alarms. A meeting was held at the Tremont hotel to consider means of relief for the distressed and homeless people. Medical attention is badly needed, as are also disinfectants.

The meeting sent dispatches to President McKinley and Governor Sayers to the effect that the appeal be published at once and that aid be extended for the relief of the city. Relief must come; human lives are at stake, as actual starvation and death from lack of medical attention face many hundreds of people.

The more fortunate ones are working heroically to ameliorate the condition of their afflicted fellows, but their efforts can relieve the distress only in small measure. Individual acts of heroism and self-sacrifice are so many that it is hard to pick out one more worthy of mention than another. But with all this the condition of the afflicted is heartrending in the extreme. The list of dead is growing momentarily and the first estimate of 1,000 deaths is considered too conservative.

STORY OF AN EYE WITNESS.

GALVESTON, Tex., Sept. 10.—Six hundred to 1,000 persons killed, a city almost in ruins, the wharf front entirely gone, every ocean steamer stranded and death and destruction on every hand, with a money loss that cannot be estimated now, are, so far as can be learned at this hour, the result of the appalling calamity that has befallen Galveston.

The great storm has left it helpless and its stricken people are compelled to appeal to the outside world for aid. The estimates of loss of life vary between the figures given, but an accurate account of the dead is impossible now and the real number killed in the storm will probably never be known.

No one attempts to estimate the damage to business and residence property. The fine steamer Alamo lies upon the top of the Mallory wharf and a big English steamer was driven ashore at Texas City. Other vessels are aground in different parts of the bay, some hopelessly wrecked.

The tug Louise of the Houston Direct Navigation company is under water at Redfish. Two of the crew were drowned, the remainder escaping in the lifeboat. Yesterday morning a boat was chartered to run from Galveston to Texas City and on this the Houston Post correspondent had to hurriedly depart. But from what he saw and heard from some of the leading business men he can assure the public that the people of Galveston need immediate relief. The object in sending to Texas City was to get in touch with the outside world and let it know that a stricken city is in misfortune and asks the people of the country to send food, clothing and water. The water works are in ruins and the cisterns all blown away, so that the lack of water is one of the most serious of the present troubles. Ruin is everywhere. Electric light and telegraph poles are nearly all prostrated and the streets are littered with timbers, slate, glass and every conceivable character of debris.

DWELLINGS ALL DAMAGED.

There is hardly a habitable house in the entire city and nearly every business house is badly damaged. The school buildings are unroofed, such edifices as the Ball High school and Rosenberg school buildings being badly wrecked. The fine churches are almost in ruins. The elevators and warehouses are unfit for use. The electric light plant has collapsed and so has the cotton factory. From Tremont to P street, thence to the beach, not a vestige of a residence is to be seen.

In the business section of the city the water was from three to ten feet deep in stores and stocks of all kinds, including foodstuffs, are total losses. While the Post correspondent was in Galveston Saturday night it was a common sight for him to see women and children emerging from once comfortable and happy

(Continued on Fifth Page.)