

Omaha Homes Torn by Easter Sunday Tornado

EXTRA THE OMAHA DAILY BEE EXTRA

VOL. XLII—NO. 239.

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 24, 1913.

SINGLE COPY TWO CENTS.

Whirling Wind Shatters Houses--Fire Follows Path of Storm

RAILROAD BUILDERS CALL ON PRESIDENT TO MAKE PLAN PLAIN

Ask Executive to Reveal How Far American Capital Will Be Protected in China.

WILSON TO STUDY QUESTION Promises to Inquire Carefully Into Facts Presented.

CAPITAL IN BIG ENTERPRISE Has Already Gone Far Without Government Aid.

MOTT MAY BE AMBASSADOR President Asks Men to Prepare Memoranda for His Convenience in Study of Proposition in Far East.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The whip-wilson's statement, withdrawing the aid of this government from what was popularly known as the "six power loan" does not mean the retirement of the United States from participation in far eastern diplomacy.

The president today talked about China informally with some of his cabinet members. He pointed out that the technical secretary of the railway commission empowered by the Chinese provisional government to construct 10,000 miles of trunk railways in China. Mr. Rea explained to the president that without the aid of the United States government American capital had been enlisted in the railway enterprise, but that it was desirable to know how far the United States would go in protecting what Mr. Rea termed "honorable contracts between American business men and the Chinese government" independent of political connection.

The president asked Mr. Rea to prepare and submit to him a memorandum and promised to study the question very carefully. Mr. Rea pointed out that the objectionable features of the six power loan project, to which China itself had objected, were those which concerned the internal administration of China, and that his relations with Sun Yat Sen and the Chinese republic were such that he knew the action of President Wilson had met with approval in China.

Mr. Wilson indicated that the development of the administration's policy toward China would be gradual and well measured. That there was no intention of withdrawing the potential influence for protection which this government has exerted in respect to China and that the Wilson administration would make a vigorous effort to promote American trade interests in the orient was the impression gathered by some of the president's callers.

The president's viewpoint, it was said, was that the United States would be in a far better position to help preserve the integrity of China by remaining outside of any particular agreements which might have for their object a voice in China's political future than by actual participation. The Wilson administration thinks it can carry more favor with China and be of more actual service as a disinterested friend than as an ambitious partner in any loan agreement which by its terms might bind the United States to future programs of the powers and the Washington administration as well.

Cattle Take Refuge From Storm in Church

GOTHENBURG, Neb., March 23.—(Special.)—Another blizzard story has just turned up here. Four of the J-B ranch cattle seeking shelter from the driving snow in the big blizzard of last Friday found a comfortable spot in the lee of the South Side Baptist church, about four miles south of here. In some unknown manner they managed to get the door open and without further invitation huddled for horns into the ranks of the elect. That was Friday.

Sunday morning the church janitor appeared on the scene to prepare for the weekly service and beheld, one gentle bovine contentedly reclined upon the elevated baptistry munching the last remaining leaves from Revelations, while the remaining three, evidently the audience, were contenting themselves with a morning meal from the hymn books. There were no services in the South Side Baptist church last Sunday, but the owners of the J-B ranch have had twenty-five chairs repaired and have made certain satisfactory amends to the janitor and services will be resumed this week as usual.

Fruit Buds Not Damaged. FALLS CITY, Neb., March 23.—(Special.)—H. F. Richard, a man of much experience with fruit trees, has made an examination of the peach buds, and claims to have found at least 95 per cent of the buds on seedling trees to be in good condition and 85 per cent of the buds on the better class of trees alive and ready to open when the time arrives. He states that all kinds of fruit buds have come through the winter in excellent condition, and that the promise now is most encouraging.

PENSIONS FOR PROFESSORS

Carnegie Foundation Expends \$634,937 During Year.

TEACHERS' PENSIONS DISCUSSED

President Pritchett Says Most of Bills Now Pending in Legislatures Violate Actual Conditions.

NEW YORK, March 23.—The seventh annual report of the president and treasurer of the Carnegie foundation for the advancement of teaching, which has just appeared, covers the year ended September 30, 1912.

The endowment in the hands of the trustees at that time amounted to approximately \$14,000,000, and the income for the year amounted to \$754,486, of which \$234,497 was expended. From its first pension payment in June, 1906, to the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 1912, the foundation has distributed \$2,677,514 in retiring allowances to professors and \$233,650 in widows' pensions—a total of \$2,911,164. In all 429 retiring allowances and ninety widows' pensions have been granted, of which ninety-eight have terminated through death, and twenty-three at the expiration of temporary grants, leaving 316 retiring allowances and eighty-three widows' pensions in force at the end of the year.

The first part of the report includes a careful statement of the whole question of pensions for teachers, for government employees, and for industrial employees. This statement contains the results of the examination of practically all of the pension systems now in operation here, and leads finally to a discussion of a feasible pension system for the public school teachers of a state. This discussion is particularly useful at this time, since the question of teachers' pensions is a matter under consideration by a number of state legislatures. As the report points out, the bills which have been introduced in the various legislatures almost without exception, and have been framed without study of the essential conditions, which must be fulfilled by any adequate pension system. The material brought together in this, the examples of the failures of pension systems which have occurred—such as, for example, that in New South Wales—and the precarious situation in which many state pension systems now stand, make this portion of the report one of the most practical value to the authorities of any state contemplating pensions either for teachers or for state employees.

Contributory System. President Pritchett, in arguing finally for some form of contributory pension system for public school teachers, points out clearly the difficulties of the contributory system, the necessity for the most careful actuarial advice, and the public nature of the questions which are involved. In a distribution of the cost of such a pension system between the state and the teacher.

The second part of the report is devoted to such subjects as the matter of college entrance requirements, admission to advanced standing, a statement of medical progress, university and college financial reporting, advertising as a factor in education, education and politics, and finally, alumni universities.

State Conventions. The section devoted to education and politics discusses not only the recent remarkable changes in the University of Oklahoma, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Montana, but also deals with two other tendencies in political life, which are profoundly affecting education; first, with the rivalry which comes from competing state institutions, in a secondly with the practice in ten states where there are no state universities, of subsidizing institutions that are under private control. In a number of states this process has gone on until it has enormously increased the number of privately controlled institutions which share in state appropriations. So marked has this tendency become that the question of state appropriation to education without state control is one which ought now to be frankly and squarely met.

News Notes of Deshler.

DESHLER, Neb., March 23.—(Special.)—R. H. Kiene, democratic state committeeman, is a candidate for the Deshler post office, having the endorsement of a number of prominent democratic politicians of the state. George Beckler, a pioneer democrat and present chairman of the town board, has a petition out for the same office, signed by a large majority of home democrats and business men. At a meeting of the school board Friday evening the following teachers were elected for the ensuing year: Principal, F. E. Bowers, Barnston grammar room, Louis Lamb, Hebron; intermediate, Fay Philby, Deshler; primary, Josephine Herney, Deshler.

Postoffice Election Postponed.

BROKEN BOW, Neb., March 23.—(Special.)—Owing to the stormy weather that has prevailed here and the impassable condition of the roads, the post office election, which was scheduled for Saturday, March 23, has been postponed to Saturday, March 29. No additions will be made to the list of candidates, who are as follows: Tom Finley, J. W. Johnson, S. L. Miller, Miss Myrtle Ivel, G. T. Robinson, Jesse McGee, E. L. Beal, Russell Richardson, C. R. Deming, S. M. Dorris, Clyde Wilson and George N. Stevenson.

Wrestler Takes Bride.

HILDRETH, Neb., March 23.—(Special.)—Owen Daily of Parks, Neb., who is to wrestle Walter Robinson in Lincoln on April 1, was married here this week, to Miss Loden, who lived north of Hildreth.

Tornado Rips Broad Road Through Thickly Built Western Part of Omaha

Great Destruction Wrought by Storm is Increased by Fire That Follows Swiftly --- Many Killed and Injured in Wreckage of Homes Crushed by Wind.

Heart-rending havoc by a death-dealing tornado capped the climax of Omaha's Easter Sunday.

The tornado, which burst upon the city just about 6 o'clock in the evening, proved to be a real twister, and scattered wreck and ruin broadcast over its track.

The property damage is tremendous, and will go up into the hundreds of thousands, although no possibility of making an estimate of the loss can come before daylight. Hundreds of houses have been demolished in whole or in part, and dozens of them swept by fire started from furnaces as a consequence of the storm.

The fire calls came so thick and fast that the firemen were bewildered and hardly knew which to answer first. Scores of people are killed and many more have been hurt. The injured are being cared for among the neighbors or taken to the hospitals, and all the doctors and surgeons within reach have been brought to the relief of the victims.

By putting together the observations from a dozen different points it is established that the storm first struck back of Hanscom park, not far from the Field club and the county hospital, and swept on to the north, overcoming all resisting obstacles.

The path of the tornado seems to have been from four to six blocks wide, practically a quarter of a mile, and apparently veered somewhat to the east as it passed Cuming street and proceeded at least as far as Ames avenue.

Whole sections of houses are reported blown down, and at the same time by peculiar freaks some left standing unharmed in the midst of surrounding ruin.

The storm completely stopped street car traffic, telephone and lighting service, and blocked streets with overturned telegraph poles and trees. Because of the difficulties thus presented, and because of the wide extent of the storm and damage wrought, only disconnected information could be secured.

So sudden did the disaster strike people that even those who were in the midst of it are unable to tell just what happened, and those who have been hurt, or those whose houses have blown down upon them, have in many cases lost their composure to such an extent that their stories are incoherent.

One of the most destructive storms in the history of Omaha swooped down on the west part of the city shortly after 6 o'clock Sunday night.

It came in the form of a tornado with a distinct twisting funnel shape cloud that tore a path or ruin where it touched from near Fortieth and Center north past Dodge and Davenport. In a very few minutes scores of houses and barns were wrecked, roofs blown off, and a row of conflagrations left brightly burning to mark the route. It is known that a number of people have been hurt. How seriously is yet to be ascertained, and there are undefined rumors that several have been killed.

Mrs. R. R. Van de Ven was brought to the Wise Memorial hospital to be cared for. She had been struck on the head, and was completely unconscious. They did not know just where she was brought from, but had been in a wrecked building. The city directory gives the name of R. R. Van de Ven as a salesman for the Richardson Drug company.

Story of a Witness. Superintendent Robinson of the County Poor Farm, where the first damage was done, describes the situation as follows:

"The storm came up on us from the southwest. It was a black funnel-shaped cloud. It blew down both of our barns and took the roof off the engine house. Pieces were blown off the roof of our sleeping rooms in two places, but fortunately no one around our institution has been hurt.

Known Dead and Injured

DEAD: Casualties reported: WILLIAM FINEB, Forty-sixth and Marcy, dead. SIX DEAD in the vicinity of Thirtieth and Ames. MABEL MERRIDE, 4115 Farnam street, WILSON LARSON, 523 North Thirty-sixth street.

INJURED: MISS DAVIS, Forty-sixth and Leavenworth, dangerously injured, will probably die. MRS. E. R. VAN DE VEN, unconscious from blow on head, taken to Wise hospital. MRS. EDWARD BAGGOT of Chicago, visiting J. F. Traynor, 513 North Thirty-sixth, badly hurt.

MRS. BEN GALLAGHER, hurt while visiting at the residence of O. M. Picken on Thirty-ninth street. MRS. MERRIDE, 4115 Farnam street. D. DAGAT, 2224 Lincoln boulevard, head cut by flying glass. CHARLES SLACK AND FAMILY, taken to Colonial sanatorium, slight bruises.

E. W. DIXON, hospital, slight bruises. M. A. HALL, slightly hurt, assisted in helping others more unfortunate. MRS. ARTHUR SAVIDGE AND BABY, mortally injured, Swedish Mission hospital. M. H. MOLE, body hurt, Swedish Mission hospital.

W. E. McDONALD, 2224 Burdette, had scalp wound, at Omaha General hospital. MRS. COLEMAN, General hospital, a graduate nurse, badly cut. MRS. E. C. SELLS, 2465 California street, injured internally and gash on the head, still unconscious, at Omaha General hospital.

LITTLE SELLS GIRL, bad scalp wound. MRS. GRIFFIN, 217 Poppleton avenue, internal injuries, which are quite serious, hurt at Fifty-first and Center streets.

ing the storm when it broke. "It came like a rushing and roaring torrent of water," he says. "It came from the south and passed right by us to the east. I went to my attic window immediately afterward and saw fires bursting forth from houses along the path of the storm. I could see five fires burning at once, three to the south of me, one southeast and one northeast. I should judge that the area of the destructive part of the storm was kept between Fortieth and Forty-sixth streets. It was an awe-inspiring sight that we will never be able to forget."

Mrs. Baggot Hurt. J. F. Traynor, 513 North Thirty-sixth street of the Traynor Auto company rushed from his place of business home to find his house in ruins. His wife, her aunt, Mrs. Edward Baggot of Chicago, visiting with them, and his three children were in the house, but only Mrs. Baggot was hurt, how severely could not be told. The house next to his on the north, he said, was gone.

Dixon Family Hurt. E. W. Dixon, 426 North Thirty-eighth street, was bruised about the head and his wife and four children sustained slighter injuries. Dixon had started upstairs when he saw the boiling fuddle swoop down and crush the houses to the south. An instant later it struck and he was thrown down stairs and into the dining room.

The fire alarms came in such quick succession that the departments were bewildered, but responded without delay. A. L. Green, advertising manager for Orkin Brothers' department store, living at 4904 Underwood avenue, was on his back porch watch-

flat on his face.

Dazed he struggled to his feet and rushed to his wife and children. He saw in the instant of dead darkness following the shock of the wind the flames leap against the turbulent sky and frightened men and women rushing into the streets.

"It came with the swiftness of lightning," said Dixon, "and before a move could be made toward safety the damage was done. The total darkness prevented sight of the injury that had been wrought."

Particulars of Destruction. Harry Whitman, residing at 4804 Douglas, gave refuge to Mrs. George Armstrong, a niece of his wife, living at Forty-eighth and Poppleton, whose house was wrecked by the wind and then took fire. Mrs. Armstrong said that nearly all the houses adjacent to hers had been badly damaged.

According to Mr. Whitman, the worst of the havoc was wrought in the ravine running between Forty-third and Forty-fourth streets near Farnam and Douglas, this side of the belt line. He saw one big house there burning.

W. R. Adams, superintendent of parks, living at Thirty-third and Burt streets, reports that the damage as far as that point, where houses around him were demolished and trees uprooted and several fires in progress. His own house was not damaged.

Great destruction occurred along Binney street east of Twenty-fourth, and a lot of people there were crushed in the wreckage of their homes. Doctors residing in Kountze place were called into requisition by messengers, and gave due attention to the injured.

Ralston Destroyed. The town of Ralston was completely demolished by the storm last night.

The dead are: MRS. KIMBALL of Kansas. LITTLE KIMBALL GIRL. Mrs. Kimball and her two children were visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hamm. Mr. Hamm is the postmaster. They were all in the postoffice with some others when the structure was blown down, injuring all, together with Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Mead.

At Ralston the Howard Stove works, the automobile factory, the ice houses at the lake, the postoffice, the bank, the lumber yards and all the hotels were laid flat.

Convent Blown Down. A report is received that the convent of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, at Thirty-sixth and Burt streets, is a total wreck. No confirmation of this has been had.

Around Twenty-fourth and Lake streets the damage is complete. The storm here had a path about three blocks wide, but it seemed to split in two at Ohio street, just north of Lake. Houses were unroofed, blown down, collapsed and generally destroyed. A woman named Mitchell is reported to have been killed at Twentieth and Lake. This lacks confirmation.

Moving Picture Show Wrecked. A moving picture show on Lake street, just west of Twenty-fourth, was completely demolished, and it is reported a number were badly hurt there.

The United Presbyterian church at Twenty-second and Emmet streets, was blown down and a number of residences in that neighborhood were damaged.

The home of E. G. Talcott at Forty-second and Farnam is a wreck and Charles Talcott, 21, is under the ruins. Rescuers who are working in the dark in an effort to reach him declare he can be heard pleading with the crowd to help him. The workers fear to strike matches or bring lights because of escaping gas. Mrs. Talcott was hurt about the head by flying bricks and pled with the crowd to save her boy.

All Bemis Park Demolished. A telephone report from the Bemis park district said that all the houses in the park are demolished and that some are burning. The wires are down and the rescuers and fire fighters are working at a great disadvantage because of the darkness. A report that the Methodist hospital was struck by lightning proved untrue. In the Bemis park district the brick residence of Mrs. Cora Curtiss, a widow, was thrown into the street and she and several others were hurt by flying bricks.

At Thirty-fourth and California a woman was found dead in the streets and another was found unconscious with both legs broken.

Patrolman's House Demolished. Patrolman Unger of the local force, who lives at 4416 Jackson, told The Bee reporter that his whole house is demolished, and that between twenty and thirty people in the neighborhood were injured and killed. Unger owns his home, but will lose out on not having any insurance. Nearly all the people in the neighborhood of the Unger home lost all their property and at once went over to Unger's home, when the tornado struck it, spluttering the house in two, injuring Unger and the people in the house. Over-excited, he could not state the damages.

She Remembered; Mrs. Bryan Bought Dishes from Burns "Are you the Mr. Burns whose crockery store used to be located near here on Farnam street?" asked Mrs. Bryan, wife of the new secretary of state, as Samuel Burns, one of Omaha's pioneer business men, now retired, was presented to her at the Commercial club. "I remember you very well. I bought a set of dishes of you some time after we set up house-keeping in Nebraska. They were good dishes, too." And Mrs. Burns was moved along out of hearing by the pressure of the crowd behind him.

BOY STEALING RIDE ON AUTO TRUCK KNOCKED SENSELESS While attempting to steal a ride on the rear of one of the big Harding Creamery company's auto trucks at Sixteenth and Chicago streets yesterday, Otto Moore, a boy 14 years of age, was thrown to the pavement and knocked unconscious. Detective Edward Morgan carried him to a nearby drug store and the lad was taken to his home at 804 North Sixteenth street and attended by Dr. T. T. Harris, who says the injured boy is suffering from concussion of the brain.