

2000 TO 3000 DEATHS ESTIMATE FROM FLOOD; RAIN CONTINUES

REFUGEES FROM DAYTON CUT DOWN TOLL THERE

Efforts to Penetrate Stricken District Being Made.

Hardly an Ohio City
But Reports Life Loss
More than 25,000 People Homeless, Official Advises Indicate
and Property Loss Is Far into the Millions—
Continued Rain Is Forecast.

REPORTS ENLARGE DISASTER'S SCOPE

News from Remote Towns Indicates Life Loss In Places Thought To Have Escaped.

By Associated Press.
Chicago, March 26.—Definite figures as to loss of life in the floods which swept Indiana and Ohio yesterday were not available today, but latest estimates are that from 2000 to 3000 people were killed. From 1300 to 1500 were drowned in Dayton.

Estimates on property loss place it at \$50,000,000, or more.
Dayton, Ohio, March 26.—(via Lebanon, O.)—Dayton is devastated. The dead no one can even estimate. Beneath the yellow sea that is seething through the once gem-like city, may sleep several thousand drowned or mayhap the death list may not exceed one thousand. No one can picture the sickening situation. Last night Dayton was a marine hell. Fires lighted the sky, illuminated the rushing waters and the swish of rain and swirl of currents sounded a funeral requiem for the unknown and uncounted dead.

Fifty thousand people jammed in the upper floors of their homes—no gas, no fresh water, no light, no heat, no food—this is the situation today.

John H. Patterson, of the National Cash Register company, has 150 carpenters building boats; he himself has saved numbers of lives.

Miamisburg is under water and there is no food. Country people are taking them food. Twelve hundred of them are being lodged and fed in the National Cash Register plant. Scores of automobiles and boats are carrying the marooned to safety at many points but up to 11 o'clock this morning no boat could venture into the heart of the city. The awful story of Dayton's destruction can only be told when the flood subsides. The water dropped two feet this morning but there is much more water. A telephone is in commission.

Rescue Work Active.
All roads that were passable seemed to lead to this sudden city of mystery today. From north, south, east or west persons bent on rescue work wended their way to Dayton. The road from Cincinnati, for instance, led through Lebanon. All day and all night strings of automobiles were being sent back and forth. Those going to Dayton were seeking friends or relatives. Those coming back had people to bring back with them. To Cincinnati it was almost

like a flood in the city itself, so many and varied are the points of human contact with that city.
George W. Burba, representing Governor James M. Cox, and H. H. Patterson, who is at the head of the relief work here, agreed at noon that the loss of life from the flood here would be between 500 and 1000 persons. Both declared, however, that these estimates were based solely on conjectures and rumors and that the death toll might be much greater or much less.

The danger from fire seemed to have disappeared at noon. So far as could be learned there were no serious fires burning. The flood still presents an insuperable barrier that prevents rescue boats reaching nearer than a mile from the center of the city. The crest of the flood passed about midnight and the waters have fallen noticeably since then.

Heavy Rain Continues.
The rain, which had persisted for 48 hours, stopped at daylight. At noon it was raining and indications were that it would continue. High as it is expected the death toll will be, few bodies have been recovered. Relief workers who penetrated a few blocks into the downtown district returned to shore with the assurance that there would be little loss of life in the business district.

Those who are food bound in the offices and stores will suffer from hunger and thirst unless the flood soon subsides, but they are in no danger from the water.
It was also decided that the great loss of life would be along the river in north and west Dayton where the residents are almost entirely foreign born and where they refused to obey the warning of the militia to leave on the night before the levee broke.

Except in a few instances where houses were notably unstable, there will be less loss of life in the Riverdale or the south and east sections, where residents had warning of the water's approach.
Relief committees today issued the following:

"An awful catastrophe has overtaken Dayton. The levees have broken. The center of Dayton and the residence districts from the fair grounds hill to the high ground north of the city are under water.
"Some of our buildings are used as shelter for the homeless and sick of the south side.
"Bring potatoes, rice, beans, vegetables, meats and bread and any other edibles that will sustain life.
"We have cooking arrangements for several thousand. We are sending trucks to nearby towns, but ask that you haul to us as far as possible.
"Red Cross officials also sent out urgent requests for aid.

Chicago, March 26.—Day broke upon the desolation wrought by flood throughout Ohio and Indiana with a slight hope that the estimates of the loss of life of the night before had been somewhat reduced when search revealed more fully the situation of the stricken cities. At daylight only partly verified reports from the flood swept cities in the two showed the following revised list of loss of life, based upon an apparent reduction in the figures from Dayton, according to refugees, and upon a possible diminution in the reports from Peru, Ind.:
OHIO.
Dayton 500 to 1000
Piqua, rumored 540
Delaware 50 to 100
Sidney 25 to 50
Middletown 50 to 100
Hamilton 12
Tippencanoe City 12
Scatterville 10
Total Ohio 1194 to 1675
INDIANA.
Peru 60 to 250
Newcastle 25
Lafayette 2
Noblesville 2
(Continued on page 2)

Chicago, March 26.—(Bulletin.)—According to information reaching here from Zanesville at 1 p. m. that town is being swept away. The Y dam is reported to have been blown up.
Frank Durbin, a Baltimore & Ohio railroad man of Zanesville, who is in Columbus, after a telephone communication with his wife in Zanesville, told Governor Cox of the reported catastrophe. Durbin said his wife reported that "people are being drowned like rats in a trap."

An unconfirmed report that the village of Stratford, five miles below Delaware, was overwhelmed by the flood and that about 500 persons were drowned, was brought by a farmer living on high land near Stratford.
Columbus, Delaware and Marton power house is reported washed away. This is the first information from Stratford since the flood. The report cannot be confirmed.

Indiana, Ind., March 26.—First word from West Indianapolis, cut off from the city when the great West Washington street bridge went out last night, came this morning, when the Associated Press staff correspondent from Chicago, marooned there, said it was generally estimated that at least 200 persons were drowned when the Morris street levee broke early last night. An unverified rumor is that a large number of refugees sought shelter in Wolfe's hall until the crowded floor gave way and scores may have been killed or seriously injured.

JAS. HAMILTON LEWIS
ELECTED TO SENATE
By Associated Press.
Springfield, Ill., March 26.—James Hamilton Lewis (Dem.) was elected United States senator for the long term.

Champion Coated Paper Plant Reported Burned

Big Factory at Hamilton, O., Built at Cost of \$5,000,000 Said
to Have Been Wiped Out—100 Dead There
Is Rumor.

By Associated Press.
Hamilton, O., March 26.—After a night of horrors for the marooned flood sufferers there was not a ray of hope that the worst was over early today when the river began falling at the rate of nine inches an hour.
On all sides can be heard rumors of deaths due to the flood. At least a score of persons are known to have perished and it was reported that more than 100 were killed when a monster reservoir, north of the city, broke last night. This latter report cannot be verified at the present time.

To add to the horror of the situation fire broke out in the flooded district last night. One of the buildings reported to have burned was the Champion Coated Paper company's plant. This plant was the second largest of its kind in the world and was built at a cost of over \$5,000,000.
From the telephone exchange building many houses can be seen floating down stream. Occupants could be seen in some of them.
There are only a few boats that can be used in the work of rescue and relief. Ohio national guardsmen who arrived from Cincinnati during the night are doing heroic work. They

almost practically so by the telephone and telegraph, but reports received show the greatest total at Dayton, which may run from 500 to 1000; Piqua, where 540 were reported drowned; Delaware, where the loss will be more than 50; Hamilton, 160, and Troy, where great loss has been reported, figures unavailable.
In this city three are known to be dead and eleven more are reported to be. The last seen of them they were clinging to rafts. As the city is without lights and the whole west side is flooded, nothing definite could be learned early today.

The flood is the greatest ever known in Columbus and business activities are practically paralyzed. The water works shut down last night and will not be in condition to furnish water for a week, as two large mains have been washed out. The flood took away every bridge in the city. Last night the city was in darkness, as the municipal electric light plant was flooded.

Gas pressure is low and little hope is held out that it will last throughout the day.
The flood in the Scioto and Olentangy rivers came so suddenly yesterday that workers of all classes who had crossed them early in the day were unable to return to their homes in the West Side before the torrents tore down the bridges connecting both sides of the city.
All available state departments were thrown open to refugees and thousands of dollars have been raised to care for them.

A bill will be introduced in the legislature as an emergency measure, appropriating \$250,000 for the relief of the flood sufferers.
The street car system is crippled and many lines are not running at all. The failure of the water supply is felt most keenly and the state department of health, together with the local health department, has made preparations to cope with any situation which may arise from this cause.
Death List at Columbus 150.
Columbus, O., March 26.—At least 150 persons were drowned in Columbus as a result of the flooded Scioto river. Reports to this effect came as a result of a partial restoration of telephone communication with the west side. News of the drowning of 22 persons is confirmed, apparently, and the list of missing and those believed drowned numbers almost a score.

Reported dead:
WILLIAM A. SEXTON, probation officer.
EDWIN D. DANIEL.
ALBERT GORE, mail carrier.
MR. AND MRS. E. M. HAYES.
MRS. GEORGE COOK and baby.
MRS. L. H. MACK and three children.
MR. AND MRS. GEORGE ECKERT and seven children.
(Continued on page 3)

Sale of Biltmore Estate Mountain Forest Lands To Federal Government

A Deal Running Well into the Millions, and Involving about 100,000 Acres — Negotiations Have Long Been in Progress — Tract Ideal for Purpose of Government under Weeks' Act, Being Cradle of Forest Conservation.

Negotiations, long in progress, for the sale of the Biltmore estate forest lands to the United States government, are now well advanced toward finality, if not indeed practically concluded. Roundly, there are involved a hundred thousand acres of mountain timber lands and a purchase price running well into the millions.
These areas range in market value from a dollar to \$18 per acre, and cut over the prices very between a dollar and five or six dollars an acre. At the time when the bulk of this land was purchased by George W. Vanderbilt's agents five dollars was a large price for good mountain timber land.

The sale is understood to comprise practically the entire estate, excepting of course Biltmore house and the home tract of about 12,000 acres under cultivation. It is not known what agreement as to price has been reached, nor other details of the sale, but it is understood that the price will not vary greatly from current quotations of such properties. Under the Weeks law whereby the government acquires watershed forests for timber and rainfall conservation the ruling has been that only outright purchases, including timber, would be made. There are, however, peculiar circumstances connected with these lands which might operate for modification of this rule. The recent purchase of large stampage by Louis Carr and associates was under lumbering restrictions practically identical with those made by the government. It is not believed that the Biltmore estate has in recent years considered the sale of any stampage except under similar regulations.

These forests having been the cradle of conservation in America, the purchase of the property upon any reasonable terms by the government would ideally serve the purpose of those whose patient work through the long years was rewarded in the enactment of the Weeks bill. The trees have had the best scientific care and supervision for a period of about 20 years, and the government here finds well advanced the very work which is purposes to do.
C. D. Beadle of the Biltmore estate has just returned from a conference in Washington. William L. Hall, assistant forester, forest service, bureau of agriculture, spent last night in Asheville and is with the forestry association directors on an inspection of the Pisgah region today.

TRAIN DROPS INTO RIVER; 200 KILLED

String of Cars from Loveland
to Cincinnati Plunges into
the Swollen Stream
Through Trestle.

(By Associated Press.)
Grafton, W. Va., March 26.—The Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph operator here this afternoon received a wire from a Baltimore & Ohio operator at a tower near Cincinnati saying that a counter train from Loveland, O., to Cincinnati had gone through a bridge and all on board, about 200 passengers, apparently had been lost.

LEBANON VISITED BY SUDDEN DELUGE

By Associated Press.
Nashville, Tenn., March 26.—A special from Lebanon, Tenn., 30 miles east of here says that place was visited at 3 o'clock this morning by a flood unprecedented in the town's history.
It is estimated that thirty or more business houses and 200 residences, some of them the finest in the town, are under water. The damage to property will be immense and loss of life is feared.
The Tennessee Central bridge near the town was swept away. The water came from the south, where countless small streams empty into Town creek, which flows through Lebanon. The Tennessee Central railroad bridge collapsed and the waters passed down Depot street into the heart of the city. The power plant was quickly inundated and the city plunged into darkness.

Harvey Richardson, negro night watchman, gave an alarm and mounting a horse, rode into the threatened section arousing the people. Water was then up to the beds in some homes in the flooded section. His action saved many lives. So far as known only one child was drowned. The property loss is heavy.

Ohio Uses 11 Feet in 24 Hours.
By Associated Press.
Louisville, Ky., March 26.—With a rainfall yesterday and last night of 2.5 inches the Ohio river rose 11 feet here in 24 hours. The gauge at 7 o'clock this morning was 32.5, as compared with 11.4 at 7 o'clock yesterday morning. At 6 o'clock this morning the gauge registered 24 feet.

BULGARS STORM ADRIANOPLE

Fortress Wreathed from Turks
after Terrific Three Days
Assault—Fire Swept.

By Associated Press.
Mustapha Pasha, March 26.—The fortress of Adrianople was taken by storm by the Bulgarians this morning after fighting of the most terrible character since Monday. Flames are devastating the city.
Sofia, March 26.—(Bulletin.)—It was announced from a trustworthy private source this morning that the Bulgarian cavalry had succeeded in entering the besieged Turkish fortress of Adrianople.

At an early hour this morning fires were raging in various sections of the beleaguered city. The maddened population, whose nerves had been shattered by the almost incessant bombardment for a period of over five months, was fleeing about the streets from one point to another, not knowing where to find shelter.
The great artillery arsenal in the city was burning and the barracks lying between the hospital and the northern forts were also in flames.

The Bulgarians in strong force gradually advanced their lines encircling the city and by rushes the infantry men approached near enough to prepare for the final dash.
On all sides the combined movement of the attackers on the ever resisting city was continued.
The Bulgarian infantry had reached within 300 yards of the main forts at 5 o'clock last evening. They entrenched themselves there while ammunition and provisions were brought up from the rear and preparations were made for the final assault.
The entire line of fortresses defending the eastern side of the city was captured by the Bulgarians after a most spectacular assault at the point of the bayonet by long lines of infantry, which were strengthened rapidly by the second or reserve lines. The eastern forts soon fell into their hands and Bulgarian batteries were immediately placed in position to concentrate their fire on the other works. The way was thus cleared for a direct assault on the city itself.

FORECAST FOR RAIN ALONG THE OHIO

Washington, March 26.—Upon the rainfall of the next 48 hours depends whether the flood situation will be relieved or grow worse. The rains will continue in the lower Mississippi and Ohio watersheds.

Viscount Wolsey Dead.

By Associated Press.
London, March 26.—Field Marshal Viscount Wolsey, one of the most famous of modern British soldiers, died yesterday at Menton, France, in his eightieth year.

MANY KILLED AS ZANESVILLE IS FLOOD SWEEP

Dam Goes Out There—"People Dying Like Rats in a Trap," Telephone Message.

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200 ARE DROWNED AT INDIANAPOLIS

First News from Marooned Section of City Is of Heavy Loss.

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