

BY FIRE AND FLOOD

Death and Devastation in the Wake of High Waters.

TALES OF TERRIBLE SUFFERING

Inhabitants of North Topeka Cut Off From All Chance of Rescue—Much Loss of Property.

The City of Topeka suffered frightful loss of life and property last week by both fire and flood. The story is told in the following dispatches of Sunday and Monday mornings:

Topeka, Kans., Special.—People who did not leave North Topeka Saturday night when they had a chance, are now in the greatest danger of losing their lives. As far as can be estimated at this time, over 500 people are beyond reach of rescue. The Kansas river is rising at the rate of three inches an hour. Thirty are known to be dead and the list will be larger. Hundreds are missing. People are drowning and others are burning to death. If any portion of North Topeka shall escape destruction by the flood, it seems as though fire would finish the work. The large lumber yards of Jonathan Thomas caught fire this afternoon and the whole block of houses were burned. Burning houses are floating through the streets and setting fire to others. It is reported that the Union Pacific depot and hotel have been burned. There is no possible way of quenching the flames. The loss of life will be appalling, and the property loss in the millions. Nobody can tell just what has been destroyed. The water extends around Shore and other suburbs. Every foot of North Topeka, inhabited by 10,000 people, is under water. The current is so swift that no boat can live in it. Seven thousand people have escaped to the southside and are being cared for as well as possible. The remaining hundreds have not yet been accounted for. They have been forced to the top floors or the roofs of buildings, and are waiting for the water to subside or carry them down stream. They are safe only as long as the buildings remain standing. Below were scores of men are in tree-tops, yelling for help. Thousands of revolver shots and screams have been heard on the north side, signals for aid. Women and children in the western part of North Topeka are standing on the highest points in reach and yet in water to their necks.

Burning houses are floating about, setting fire to others. The lower stories of the burning buildings contain 10 feet of water. The current is so strong that no boat can approach any of them. 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 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 the manufacturing district of the city. Three large flour mills, three woolen mills and other manufacturing enterprises are entirely destroyed. The water supply of the whole city has been cut off. The water from the river extends nearly a mile on the south side. The Rock Island depot has been 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 bridge 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 the 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. From the State house as many as 80 fires can be counted in different parts of North Topeka. The entire central portion of the city had been burned out at 10 o'clock and it is safe to say that by morning not a house in that part of Topeka will be left standing. When it is stated that North Topeka has 10,000 inhabitants, the extent of the disaster can be realized. People are sticking to the roofs of houses and to trees, and many are slipping up in despair and dropping into the waters below to be carried away by the swift current.

The dispatches of Monday morning give a fuller account of the loss. These follow:

Topeka, Special.—At 1 o'clock the number of drowned people was known to be at least 150 and a large number were yet missing. Several were reported burned to death, but this could not be substantiated. From all over eastern Kansas boats are being rushed here for the rescue of the sufferers. Shortly after daylight nine boats arrived from Ottawa on a special train and they were put into active rescue service at once. Soon after reports of drowning began to come in. A boat containing eight men was swept away in the swift current about 7 o'clock and as far as known all were drowned. Other small boats were not able to live in the whirling current. North Topeka is a scene of utmost desolation. Not a square foot of land can be

A TOWN WRECKED

Seven Hundred Armenians Among the Victims.

2,500 PEOPLE LOSE THEIR LIVES.

Frightened People Turn Their Stables Into Sleeping Apartments—A Terrible Shock.

Constantinople, By Cable.—Advices Thursday from Asiatic Turkey show a terrible earthquake on April 29 at Melazghard, vilayet of Van, eighty miles southeast of Erzeroom, on the Euphrates. The town was totally destroyed with its entire population numbering 2,000 souls, including 700 Armenians as well as troops forming the garrison of Melazghard. In addition, 400 houses in the neighboring villages collapsed.

A somewhat severe earthquake was felt here this morning but no damage was done.

Washington, Special.—Vice Consul Ojalvo, at Erzerum, Turkey, reports to the State Department that an earthquake in the canton of Malasgird, district of Bitlis, on the 29th ultimo, caused the death of 500 people and left the city in ruins. The shock was strongly felt in Erzerum, a journey of 38 hours, and threw the people into a panic. Many of them turned their stables, which are built level with the ground, into sleeping apartments for greater security.

London, By Cable.—The Foreign Office has received details from the British consul at Erzerum regarding the recent earthquake, at Malasgird, according to which a strong shock, lasting thirty seconds, was felt on the morning of April 29, throughout the entire district between Lake Van and the Russian frontier, and as far west as Karthput. The town of Malasgird, consisting of 500 houses, was destroyed and much havoc wrought in the surrounding villages. Col. Khalil, by commanding the garrison of Melazghard, with his whole family, three other officers and eighty soldiers, perished in the ruins. Lieut. Col. Seyid Bey, whose family perished, became insane. The telegraph operator who sent the news of the catastrophe said he himself was badly injured and his wife and sister were killed. The Foreign Office has appealed for subscriptions for the relief of the destitute Mohammedans, and the Christians of Melazghard district.

Salisbury, Special.—By the terms of the will of John H. Buis, a life-long resident of Salisbury before going to Jersey City, where he died last week, Belmont College, the Catholic institution in Gaston county, will receive the bulk of his estate. Bequests to relatives amount to about \$2,000 and \$300 is left to Rev. Father Joseph, of Salisbury, the former pastor of the deceased, for the purchase of a new organ for his church. Belmont College will receive the residue, which is directed to be devoted to the education of four young men for the priesthood. The estate is valued at from between \$10,000 and \$15,000, depending upon the prices which lots in Salisbury and Fredericksburg, Va., will bring. All the real estate is directed to be converted into money.

Jett and White Plead Not Guilty. Jackson, Ky., Special.—Curtis Jett and Tom White were arraigned Thursday for the murder of J. D. Marcum and pleaded not guilty. After considerable delay, a consultation among the attorneys was held. This consultation resulted in White and Jett filing Charles Dilke (advanced Liberal), to move Elijah Little on the ground of prejudice. They allege that Little said they ought to be hanged. The case was set for Monday, which is the first day of the regular term of court and there is a special term over Saturday. The grand jury is still working on the Cockrell case.

Roosevelt Endorsed. Cleveland, O., Special.—The Republican county convention adopted resolutions endorsing the administration of President Roosevelt and recommending his re-nomination and election in 1904. The resolutions also warmly praise the records and services of Senators Foraker and Hanna and Governor Nash. Delegates to the State convention were instructed to cast a solid vote for Colonel Myron T. Herrick for Governor. Senator Hanna addressed the convention and paid a high tribute to President Roosevelt and his administration.

Killed and Taken Prisoners. Manila, By Cable.—Lieutenant Javier commanding a force of constabulary, has defeated 200 fanatical insurgents in the island of Cebu, killing 68 of them and capturing 29. The fight occurred in the mountains near Tabogon. No details of the engagement have been received, and the government losses are not known.

SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL

A Large Addition.

Many Matters of General Interest in Short Paragraphs.

Down in Dixie.

North Carolina will spend \$300,000 on its capital, plans having been furnished for that purpose by a Columbia architect.

Curtis Jett and Thomas White were arraigned on the charge of assassinating J. B. Marcum at Jackson, Ky., the attack on the jail the night previous having been repulsed by troops.

Mrs. Kate Taylor, charged with shooting her husband and chopping up his body, was a witness in her own behalf.

At The National Capital.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Daniel V. Miller, Assistant Attorney in the office of the Assistant Attorney-General for the Postoffice Department, charging conspiracy.

Some of Senator Foraker's friends declare they believe Senator Hanna would accept the Presidential nomination, if so requested in an emergency.

Gen. Frederick Funston says the starvation reported among Alaska Eskimos is due to their improvident slaughter of animals and to indolence.

At The North.

The Irish Agricultural Organization Society was formed in New York.

Strikes and lockouts in New York are the causes of 200,000 workmen being idle.

At least 15 persons are known to have lost their lives in a Nebraska tornado.

Contractor J. B. McDonald stated that he expected to have the New York subway finished by Christmas.

Many Knights Templar arrived in Philadelphia for the fiftieth anniversary of the Pennsylvania Grand Commandery.

Charles M. Sheaffer, superintendent of telegraph for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, estimates the Pennsylvania's losses in its pole and wire war with the Western Union at \$20,000.

The American college professor was declared to be only "a hired man in a cage" in a lecture by M. D. Chicago.

Much damage to life and property has been done to large areas on the western tributaries of the Mississippi.

Evidence accumulates in the postoffice fraud cases.

Arrivals in San Francisco from Patagonia tell of the escape of 50 convicts who have secured arms and are terrorizing a large part of Terre del Fuego.

It is said there are no idle men in Kansas to harvest the wheat crop.

From Across the Sea.

Mrs. Gunning S. Bedford pleaded guilty in London to falsifying a child's birth and was fined \$50.

About 150 Macedonians perished at the village of Smerdash, which was set on fire during a fight with Turks.

United States Minister Herbert W. Bowen arrived at Caracas on his return from the United States.

The Congregation of the Propaganda in Rome decided to recommend division of the Archdiocese of Oregon.

According to Russian accounts disorder has followed the partial evacuation of Manchuria.

The Postoffice Department is investigating the increase in salaries of assistant postmasters and clerks.

The sea, gulf and lake coasts of the United States have been apportioned into 13 districts for naval defense.

LIVE ITEMS OF NEWS.

WRECKED BY STORM

Gainesville Cotton Mill is Completely Demolished By Cyclone

PROBABLY 100 PEOPLE ARE KILLED

One Hundred Houses Blown Down at Pacolet—Fearful Destruction By Force of the Wind.

Gainesville, Ga., Special.—Just after the moon hour, Monday, this city was struck by a terrific cyclone, killing probably 10 persons, unroofing the city hotels, other large buildings and destroying the Gainesville Cotton Mills. The greatest loss of life is in the destruction of the cotton mills, where about 80 persons are reported killed and scores injured. Eighteen persons were killed in the city between the center of 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 were probably all killed. There were five hundred persons at work in the cotton mill when the cyclone struck. The mill was a three-story building. The first story was left standing but badly wrecked. The second and third floors were completely demolished and the employees caught under the wreckage and mangled. It is now estimated there was at least 75 bodies under the wreckage of the third floor. It is not known how many persons on the second floor of the building were killed. The roof of the electric car barn was lifted and the building badly damaged. The railroad depot suffered also.

Among the dead are: Mrs. Marshall Camp and child; Jack Murphy, aged 12, son of widow Murphy; Ulah Jackson, Ethel Lyle, Annie Garrett, Claud Shedd. The wife and daughter of W. B. Sloan, a lawyer, were fatally injured. Among others reported injured are: Mrs. Tally and daughter, badly hurt; Mrs. Jones, wife of Mr. Jones, who keeps a grocery store near Southern depot, badly hurt; J. R. Logan, badly injured; James Simpson, Maud Gordon Simpson, Anna Schubert, Ola Miller, Bessie Skinner, Mrs. Doc Clarke, J. E. Summerville, Alonzo Ford, Doc Stovall, Joe Shubert, Milledge Hill, Willie Boone, Henry Connor.

The Southern depot was blown down. The Gainesville Iron Works were demolished and several people perished in the wreck. The Gainesville Cotton Mills were blown down. The Old Piedmont Hotel, now used as a school and apartment house, was razed and half a dozen or more people were killed in it. The Richmond Hotel was wrecked and several perished along with it. One hundred and twenty-five cottages, and a church were blown away in the negro settlement of the town. A brick building on the main street of Gainesville was demolished. Many other buildings are demolished. The cyclone went on to New Holland and it is believed that at least 75 people are killed there. Neither the Arlington Hotel nor the Brenau College was in the track of the tornado and they are therefore safe with their occupants.

Within the space of two minutes a tornado dealt death and destruction to the city of Gainesville and environs, killing at least 100 people, wounding 150 more, leveling 100 cottages to the ground and tearing two stories off the factory of the Gainesville Cotton Mill. Of the killed probably two-thirds were women and children, who were operatives in the cotton mills. The death list includes but about six negroes. The storm came from the south out of almost a clear sky, swooping down on the Gainesville Cotton Mills, near the Southern Railway station, fifteen minutes before 1 o'clock.

The furious wind next descended on the plant of the Pacolet Cotton Mills, at New Holland, two miles from the Southern station. This is one of the largest cotton mills in the South, employing more than 600 hands. The storm spared the Pacolet factory, but entirely demolished a hundred of its cottages, standing nearby and tenanted by its operatives. Here the fatalities were greatest, upwards of 35 persons being buried in the ruins. The bodies of the victims were laid out in the yards and many of them picked up bore no semblance to humanity. The trunk of one young boy was found with the head decapitated as if by the guillotine.

From New Holland the tornado swept onward to the east in the direction of White Sulphur, a town of about 100 persons. The extent of its destruction there cannot be told, but reports so far received indicate considerable loss of life.

Want Better Prices.

Indianapolis, Ind., Special.—The American Society of Equity has issued a bulletin to farmers of the United States demanding an increase in the price of wheat, arguing that the minimum price of wheat should be \$1 a bushel and urging the farmers of the United States to sell for less than \$1.

Woman Killed by Lightning.

Atlanta, Special.—A furious thunderstorm prevailed Sunday afternoon in this city. Miss Eula Higgins was killed by lightning while standing on the rear porch of her home on Marietta street. A small Presbyterian church near Grant Park was struck and burned to the ground. The rainfall was very heavy.

President Roosevelt is traveling eastward through Washington.

Gen. Bernardo Reyes, Governor of Nuevo Leon, will, it is believed, be exonerated by the Mexican Congress for his course in the plots of April 2 in Monterey, when the matter comes up.

The revolver factory of Smith & Wesson, was closed for the reason, it was said, that the men joined a labor union.

Marguerite Boyenval died at Thenceles, France, after being unconscious for over 20 years.

A revised list of the casualties in the first stage of the Paris-Madrid automobile race shows that 6 were killed and 13 injured.

Premier Balfour, in answering an attack on Sir Charles Dilke, declared that there was no division of opinion between himself and Colonial Secretary Chamberlain and hints that he might favor protection.

Lady Henry Somerset has retired from the Presidency of the British Temperance Association because of bad health.

Andrew Middleton, colored, a line-man employed by the Southern States Telephone Company, was killed by electricity at Berkeley, Wednesday afternoon. A wire he was handling came in contact with a live wire.

The Commercial Club of Charleston, S. C., is endeavoring to arrange for the establishment of a bleachery.

Steele Bros. Company, reported incorporated last week with capital stock of \$100,000, has purchased and will operate the Laurel Bluff Cotton Mills at Laurel Bluff, near Mt. Airy, N. C. The plant has 3500 spindles, employs sixty operatives, and produces yarns and warps.

Durham (N. C.) Hosiery Mills, reported last week as increasing capital \$100,000 to erect addition and install 400 knitting machines, etc., has awarded all necessary contracts for buildings and machinery. C. I. Underwood is the contractor.

There is a movement on foot to build a sheeting mill at Louisville, Ky., and several local capitalists are interested. Probably F. F. Gilmore, 125 W. Main street, can give information.

D. L. Dawson will establish a cotton mill roll covering plant at Huntsville, Ala.

R. P. Boswell of Penfield, Ga., will build a knitting mill at Greensboro, Ga.

Pelham (Ga.) Manufacturing Co. will expend from \$5000 to \$10,000 to build and equip a dyeing and finishing plant. Its mill has 5000 ring spindles and 138 looms.

Graniteville (S. C.) Manufacturing Co. will improve its mill and probably install additional machinery. It now has 53,380 spindles and 1,674 looms.

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