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TERRIBLE DISASTER DEVASTATES TOPEKA.

THE WORST FLOOD SINCE THE JOHNSTOWN HORROR.

200 Lives Lost, \$6,000,000 Property Burned and Swept By Flood, 8,000 Persons Homeless

Topeka, Kan., May 30.—People who did not leave North Topeka last 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 hope 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 tonight as though fire would finish the work. The large lumber yards of Jonathan Thomas caught fire this afternoon and whole blocks 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, the property loss is in the millions. Nobody can tell just what has been destroyed. The water extends around Shorey and other suburbs.

Every foot of North Topeka, inhabited by ten thousand people, is under water. The current is so swift that no boat can live in it. Seven thousand people have escaped to the south 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 floor, or to the roofs of buildings, and are waiting for the water to subside or carry them down stream. They are safe only so long as the building remains standing. Below town 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 west part of Topeka are standing on the highest points in reach and yet in water up to their necks.

Business in Topeka was practically at a standstill because of Decoration Day and business houses closed the greater part of the day. The flood and the condition of the sufferers took the attention of every one to the exclusion of all else.

AN ARMY OF MEN
was engaged in the relief works and it would be idle to attempt to place an estimate on the immense number of rescued by their efforts.

THE NEED OF BOATS
was felt. The Kansas River ordinarily is a very shallow stream and there are no boats of any size obtainable. The small boats cannot be rowed against the swift current, which sweeps the streets. If a steam launch were at hand many people would be saved who are now facing certain death. At the Chicago Lumber Company's yards A. B. Beets, a wealthy citizen and a member of the Legislature, had a gang of men engaged nearly all day in making scows that kept communication open on the bridge that connects the two parts of town.

THE CRIES FOR HELP
can be distinctly heard a mile away. The whole city is wildly excited because 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 unfortunates. The work of caring for the refugees is being pushed with the utmost rapidity.

AS MANY AS EIGHTY FIRES
can be counted in North Topeka. The entire central portion of the city had been burned out at 10 o'clock tonight and it is safe to say that by morning not a house in the main part of North 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 giving up in despair and dropping into the water below, to be carried away by the swift current. It is death by fire or drowning to four hundred persons unless some means can be found for their rescue. Great efforts are being made to construct a steam launch to go to the aid of the sufferers, and whatever is done must be done promptly, or the loss of life will be appalling.

MANY THRILLING ESCAPES
are told. A company of militia has taken charge of the work of rescue, and owing to their efforts several hundred people have been saved who otherwise would have perished. The situation of the beleaguered people tonight is desperate in the extreme. Not only are they threatened by fire and water, but, through long exposure in the cold, dismal atmosphere, without sufficient clothing, they would have died in any event. Delicate women and children have been without food or shelter since early last evening.

At 3 o'clock a current began to flow
WITH GREAT SWIFTESS
through a break in the buildings lining the block between Crane and 1st streets. This widening of the current made it still harder to pull the boats across to the pontoon by means of the line.

In the Auditorium tonight
2,000 HOMELESS PEOPLE
are quartered. The society women of the city are there attending to the refugees' needs. Great wagon loads of clothing and provisions have been sent, and the immediate needs of the unfortunates have been provided for. In this large number of refugees are Russians, Italians and many of the poorer classes of the city's population. A number of these are afflicted with contagious diseases, but it is impossible to enforce any quarantine regulations. The physicians of the city say that an epidemic of sickness of all kinds may be looked for. Quarantine regulations are lost sight of by the rescuers.

FLOODS THROUGHOUT KANSAS.
Kansas City, Mo., May 30.—Unprecedented floods are raging in Central and Eastern Kansas, Northwestern Missouri, Eastern Nebraska and Southwestern Iowa, the result of ten days of almost continuous rainfall. The general situation is considered most grave, with no immediate relief in sight. Many lives have been lost and it is estimated that no less than 25,000 persons have been driven from their homes, many of which were washed away, and that the property loss will run up into the millions of dollars.

The greatest damage has been occasioned between Kansas City and Ellsworth, Kansas, one hundred miles west. The chief sufferer is North Topeka, which has been separated from the main part of the city and become an island.

Financial losses: Kansas, North Topeka, \$1,000,000; Lawrence, \$100,000; Concordia, \$100,000; Abilene and vicinity, \$300,000; Salina and vicinity, \$150,000; Solomon, Chapman, Detroit and Woodbine and intervening country, \$400,000; Des Moines, \$500,000.

Railway traffic in Kansas is prac-

tically at a stand still; dozens of big bridges having been washed out between Kansas City and Ellsworth and many miles of track being under water. Every Western road entering Kansas City is affected.

SITUATION SUNDAY NIGHT.
Topeka, Kan., May 31.—There is ground for hope that the worst has passed. Tonight City Engineer McCable issued a bulletin giving out the cheering intelligence that the waters of the Kansas river had subsided 7 1/2 inches. With 175 or 200 lives lost, \$6,000,000 of property destroyed, with hundreds of pistol shots as signals of distress, blended with the agonizing cries of unwilling inhabitants of tree tops and roofs of houses and the waters creeping upward and then slowly subsiding and alternately changing hope to despair, the capital city has passed the most memorable Sabbath day of its existence. Through all this discomfiting condition of affairs was added the presence of a cold, dismal rain.

The arduous work of the heroic rescuers was not abated in the least by the conditions which confronted them. For long, dreary hours, knee deep in water and sometimes in water up to their necks, they worked with might and main. Tonight they can point to 300 or more rescued persons who otherwise might have been swept away in the current.

Leading men have made a careful examination of the flood and all its conditions and as a result of their investigation they give 250 as the probable number of lives lost. A more conservative estimate places the number of dead at 175.

The estimated number of dead does not include the large number classed as missing, who cannot otherwise be accounted for. Neither does it include the number who are supposed to have lost their lives in the fire. It will be at least three days before the correct number of dead will be known. The work of rescuing the victims of the flood is being pushed with vigor. Better results have characterized the efforts of the organized forces since 4 o'clock this afternoon than during the preceding 24 hours. Two little steam launches are now putting up and down the river picking up survivors. A train load of small boats was in use today, but they were useless in battling against the mighty current. A wire cable has been stretched across the Kansas avenue bridge. To this will be attached a sand dip and refugees will be brought across in this. If the flood shall not rise further and those not yet reached can keep their places a few hours longer there need not necessarily be a much larger loss of life.

Large contributions have already been received for the benefit of the sufferers. The amount given by Topeka citizens alone will aggregate \$100,000. To this is to be added an immense quantity of clothing, provisions and general supplies. Outside towns have generously offered aid, notably among which is Galveston, Tex.

Tonight the portion of Topeka not affected by the flood is crowded with refugees.

There is great anxiety tonight as to what to-morrow will bring forth. If the river shall not receive any more flood water west of here the improvement in the situation here will be marked. If the water shall rise at Manhattan and Wamego to-morrow will see a repetition of the worst flood scenes and the distress here will be greatly intensified. Either contingency is entirely within the range of possibility.

AT KANSAS CITY.
Kansas City, Mo., May 31.—With the waters of the Kaw and Missouri rivers nearly four feet above the disastrous level of 1881 and their swollen tides reaching over 12 square miles of the city and its suburbs, Kansas City tonight is in the worst flood of its history. In the valley of the Kaw or Kansas river, between this city and Kansas City, Kan., a report has it that a number of lives has been lost. One report says 14 and another 50. Twelve bodies were counted as they floated past during the day.

STATE HOUSE A DEATH TRAP
Governor Is Urged To Take Steps For New Sanitary Arrangements—Committee Report.

The State house indeed contains a death trap. Its basement is polluted with foul and poisonous gases which find their way into the offices of certain officials, as reported in The State recently, and the State will be put to some expense to correct the evils.

This condition of affairs was brought to the attention of the secretary of state recently and he referred the matter to the governor. The latter asked a special committee to investigate the alleged dangerous conditions, and this committee submitted its report to the governor yesterday.

It was charged in the outset that only the plumbing and sewer pipes in the basement were in a bad state of repair, yet the committee found that the work recently finished under the direction of Architect Milburn is also in bad shape. The members of the committee were men who are entirely disinterested: Dr. T. Grange Simons of Charleston, president of the State board of health; Dr. James Evans, secretary of that board; Dr. J. W. Babcock and Mr. U. X. Gunter, attorney general and the legal adviser of the State board of health.

This committee not only condemns the sanitary arrangements, but calls attention to the heating apparatus which distributes air through the building in the winter. This air, it is shown in the report, is not fit and some changes are necessary. The legislature refused to make an appropriation for a heating apparatus, but something must be done next winter.

The governor has no funds with which to undertake this work and may be forced to borrow the money with which to meet the expense of tearing out the rotting piping and the now useless and filthy hiding false walls in the basement.

NEW WORK CONDEMNED.

The committee regretted to state that they found much to condemn. "The whole design is crude and the work is done imperfectly in many particulars." As to the new work just completed under the direction of Mr. Milburn the report says:

"The urinals under the new por-ticoes were choked up and the flushing apparatus defective; the ventilating shaft is too small and its frequent change of direction should be made by gentle curves and not by sharp angles; the ventilation of the toilet rooms is defective; the fresh air inlet at side of steps showed no current of air upon lighted candle; we could discover no back venting of the water closets on account of concealed plumbing; the reducing couplings of water pipes indicated inferior plumbing."

OLD WORK A DEATH TRAP.

In regard to the conditions in the basement, work done about 13 years ago, the committee says:

"All rooms in cellars were foully kept, ill smelling, and showed lack of ventilation. The room used as a water closet and the former water closet now used as a store room for old records were dark, damp and foul smelling and their air shafts vented their gases into the rooms above.

"In these rooms nothing seems to have been done except to remove the bowls of the old closets, leaving the soil pipe connections as dead ends imperfectly plugged.

"Concealed plumbing prevented careful scrutiny of work under floors.

"The private water closet on first floor above basement was filled with foul air which discharged into the main corridors and no fresh air ingress was provided for. The flush to the closets was insufficient.

to be back vents discharged into the same space."

HEATING APPARATUS.
As to the heating apparatus the committee reported:

"Air supply totally inadequate and derived from the basement with no direct outside fresh air intake, the whole central cellar being dependent for air supply on two small doors at east and west ends.

"The entire cellar was without flooring and very dusty.

"Therefore, all air distributed to the building was cellar air and contaminated with dust and ground emanations."

RECOMMENDATIONS.
Upon the above findings the committee made the following recommendations:

"That all water closets in the main building with their plumbing, pipes and fixtures be immediately renewed and all connections leading to these fixtures be cut off outside the building.

"That the new water closets be connected at once with the new city sewerage system.

"That the new water closets under the main steps north and south have special ventilation secured by electric or other appliance.

"That all cellars and passage ways in the basement be thoroughly cleaned and afterwards floored with asphalt or cement.

"That independent outside fresh air intakes be provided for the furnace rooms and basements.

"We would urgently recommend that an experienced sanitary engineer be employed to devise a proper system of heating, ventilating and plumbing the building."

The committee expressed their obligation to Assistant Surgeon General H. D. Geddings of the United States public health and marine hospital service, who made the inspection with them, for valued suggestions made in the preparation of the report.

SEWER MAIN STOPPED UP.

The report of the commission substantiates the reports made by sanitary inspectors recently. Mr. Stallings, an expert plumber and sanitary inspector, and Mr. Edens, the sanitary inspector for the city of Columbia, practically covered the same ground in their reports. In addition Mr. Edens calls attention to a matter upon which the committee was not called upon to investigate:

"Your sewer from the building to the river is now completely stopped and discharging its foul contents into the open gutter of Gervais street. This is a dangerous condition of things and wants immediate remedy. I respectfully recommend that the plumbing in the State house be overhauled and made to conform to the plumbing laws of the city and that the system be connected with the sanitary sewers in Gervais street, where it will be systematically flushed and inspected."

OLD MEMORIES.

Major Crosson, Now of Texas, Relates Incidents of Newberry People the Days Gone By—An Interesting Letter.

Old memories—
"They are the jewels of the wind,
They are tendrils of the heart,
That with our being are entwined,
Of ourselves a part."

We are at Head Spring church. Hark! the music of old Newberry pours out of the doors and windows of the old meeting house and voices faces, scenes and days that are "no more," all blend in the familiar music and the Sabbath benediction rests on our listening souls. Their church music was less ambitious than now, but more highly charged with the sentiment of worship and devotion, and familiar as household words to the people. Of the now fangled church music, solos, duets, quartets, &c., I say with an old man:

"But when the choir got up to sing,
I could not catch a word;
They sang the most dog-gonest thing
A body ever heard."

I feel like never entering a church until the show is over.

Entering the meeting house, we

hear the Rev. J. Galloway, expounding a Psalm, and preaching a long, logical sermon after the manner of the old Scotch Covenanter divines. On the left of the pulpit sit those good men, Dr. A. W. and Capt. Jas. Chalmers and others—long Jimmie Sloan by a window. On the left of the aisle, the McDills, Reids, Butlers and others—the negroes in the rear.

Of their first preacher, Rev. S. P. Pressly, it may be truly said:

"Whatever he did was done with so much ease,
In him alone it was natural to please;
His motions all accompanied with grace,
And Paradise was opened in his face."

Mr. Galloway, who was teacher and preacher, succeeded him. As a preacher he was strong, earnest—no business in his sermons. They were clear cut, and back of the strong faith in his soul, he had a great loving heart. He had fine natural abilities, a sound mental and moral nature, an earnest purpose to advance the spiritual welfare of his fellow men. He had supreme good sense and sound judgment as a teacher:

"There was I birched, there was I bred,
There like a little Adam fed,
From learnings' woeful tree."

As I have heretofore said, for my funeral oration over a dead bird he gave me lashes forty, save one.

This reminds me of an incident which that good man, (my classmate at Erskine) Rev. D. F. Haddon, so lovingly remembered in Newberry, told on himself. His father's name was Abraham, D. F. and others were moving corn near a vacant house, a shower coming on, they entered. D. F. preached and wound up with a prayer especially for said Abraham, when Abraham entered with a few peach switches, and administered a gentle reminder to him as Mr. Galloway had to me and informed him that he had not yet been ordained.

That great, good, and glorious man, Judge O'Neill, who did so much for Newberry, and whose memory should be held in reverence by South Carolina, was long President of H. S. Temperance Society, one of the earliest and longest lived of such societies and which accomplished much good.

My recollection of the good old Scotch Irish Seedeers, in the "long ago" is that they loved a dram and when excited would indulge in "cuss-words" a little.

Close by the church is "God's Acre." "I like that ancient Saxon phrase which calls
The burial ground "God's Acre: it is just,
It consecrates each grave within its walls,
And breathes a benison o'er the sleeping dust,
All the paths of life, lead but to the tomb."

How few, how very few, are left of those with whom I trod the early steps of life. The last words of Scott to Lockhart come to mind: "I may have but a minute to speak to you: My dear, be a good man, be virtuous, be religious, be a good man. Nothing else will give you comfort when you come to lie here."

One of the saddest scenes I ever witnessed here, was the burial of a handsome young girl, Miss Gracy Clary:

"Rest in peace, thou gentle spirit,
Throned above;
Souls like thine, with God inherit,
Life and love."

(Concluded next issue.)

Harry D. Elkes, the premier motor pace follower of the United States, was killed in an accident on the Charles River track, Cambridge, Mass., Saturday afternoon. Two other persons following in the race were seriously injured. A tire on Elkes' wheel bursting caused the accident.

His health undermined by business worries and his mind unbalanced, Frank Emmett, a prominent cotton broker of New Orleans, ended his life with a pen knife.

Benjamin Gorman, colored, was lynched in Webster county, Ala., on Friday for the murder of Shelley Kent, a young white farmer.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS.
Items of More or Less Interest Condensed In the State.

Minnie McMorris, a negro girl of about sixteen years of age, living near Laurens, was struck and instantly killed by lightning last Tuesday afternoon. She had been in the yard and was returning to the house.

During a storm in Spartanburg county on Wednesday lightning struck and ran down the stove flue in the dwelling of a negro, John Edwards, living near B-amount. The bolt struck Edwards, who was inside, knocking him down and burning a portion of his foot and leg, but not fatally injuring him.

There were two violent deaths at White Rock recently. The boiler at S. J. Riddle's mill exploded, killing an aged colored man standing near, and Henry Richardson, colored, who had been blind for thirteen years, fell from a window of his house and broke his neck.

Mr. C. FitzSimons, of Columbia, was elected vice president of the Inter-State Cotton Seed Crushers' Association which met in Memphis last week.

The timber men of Georgetown have been kept busy to supply the large demands for the output of their mills.

Hon. J. E. Peurifoy, State Senator from Colleton county, has purchased the Walterboro Press and Standard.

The eight-year old son of Mr. P. B. Bryant, Saluda, died with hydrophobia last week. He was bitten several months ago and had the Georgia mad stone applied. After this no uneasiness was felt, but hydrophobia developed last week and after 36 hours of terrible suffering the little fellow died.

City council of Anderson has appropriated \$500 of the \$2,000 wanted for the purpose of helping to defray the expenses of the gala week at Anderson this summer. It is not thought there will be any trouble to raise the other \$00.

Under its new management, Mr. McGee, former traveling correspondent of the News and Courier, has been made editor of the Spartanburg Herald, and Mr. J. C. Garlington, whom he succeeds, has purchased the Carolina Spartan and the jobbing department connected therewith.

The body of Arthur Gaillard, who fell off an excursion train returning from Atlanta to Anderson, was found on the Seneca river bridge Friday morning. It seems that he had been drinking and fell from the steps of the train just as it was passing over the bridge.

The William McKeithan Lumber Co., of Darlington county, has been chartered with a capitalization of \$300,000.

The board of trade of Georgetown will send a committee to Columbia to push Georgetown's advantages as a natural terminal port for southern and of the proposed steam boat line to be put in operation between Columbia and some point on the coast.

National Decoration Day was observed on Saturday. There were the usual celebrations in Washington and other places and appropriate ceremonies at Arlington cemetery, where the graves of both Federals and Confederates were decorated.

The United States grand jury at Montgomery, Ala., on Saturday returned thirty-six indictments against white citizens of Coosa and Tallapoosa counties, charging peonage or holding negroes in servitude.

Sixteen negroes were drowned in the Mississippi near Memphis. They were two families of plantation hands who left the plantation after dark in two skiffs. Waves from a passing vessel capsized the boats.

Former Speaker Henderson has announced that he will move to New York City in the fall to engage in the practice of law.