

IN A FLOOD OF TEARS

Weeping and Wailing in Water-swept Johnston.

MOTHERS DUMB WITH SORROW.

Fathers Groping Heart-broken Amid the Ruins.

LITTLE CHILDREN AWE-STRUCK.

Rich and Poor Sleeping in Tents on the Hillside.

PLUNDERING THE DEAD BODIES.

Heartless Hungarians Quarrel Like Wild Beasts Over the Spoils—In-dignant Citizens Kill Several of the Ghouls.

Digging Trenches For the Dead.

Heartless Hungarians Quarrel Like Wild Beasts Over the Spoils—In-dignant Citizens Kill Several of the Ghouls.

A CONDUCTOR'S STORY.

In a talk to-day, Conductor Bell, of the first section of the day express, laid up at Conemaugh on the night of the disaster, said: "The first and second sections stopped side by side at Conemaugh, Friday afternoon, on account of the washout at Lilly. The second section was next to the hill, the first on the outside. Suddenly I saw what looked like a wall of water. It was thirty feet high. We barely had time to notify the passengers, and they nearly all fled up the hillside. One old man who with his son returned, for some reason, was drowned. Two cars went down in the current. I do not know how many were drowned. We saw two persons on top of the cars. The water set fire to a lot of lime, and the fire caught two Pullman cars, which were destroyed, but no person was burned, all the passengers having left the train before the cars took fire. There were about one hundred persons on my section, which was made up of day coaches. The passengers were packed in the cars, and were crowded for by the people of Conemaugh. Afterward they were taken to Ebensburg. They expected to go east to Altoona, this afternoon. The friends of those in the Chicago limited feel no anxiety, as it was not in the flood at all."

THE SITUATION UNCHANGED.

The situation here has not changed, and yesterday's estimates of the loss of life do not seem to be exaggerated. Six hundred bodies are now lying in Johnston, and a large number have already been buried. Four immense relief trains arrived last night, and the survivors are being well cared for.

A portion of the police force of Pittsburg and Allegheny are on duty and better order is maintained than prevailed yesterday. Communication will be restored between Cambria City and Johnston by foot bridge. The work of repairing the tracks between Sang Hollow and Johnston is going on rapidly and trains will probably be running by to-morrow morning. Not less than 15,000 strangers are here.

The handsome brick high school building is damaged to such an extent that it will have to be rebuilt. The windows of the second floor are broken, and the interior is a mass of ruins. The upper stories formed a refuge for many persons. All Saturday afternoon two little girls could be seen at the windows frantically calling for aid. They had spent all night and day in the building, cut off from all aid, without food or drinking water. Their condition was pitiable. Late in the evening the children were removed to higher buildings and properly cared for. A number of persons had been taken from this building earlier in the day, but in the excitement the children were forgotten.

Now that the waters have receded there is great danger from falling walls. All day long the crashing of walls could be heard across the river.

Library hall was another of the fine buildings of many in the city that is destroyed. Of the Episcopal church not a vestige remains. The parsonage is swept away, and the rectory of the church, Rev. Dillon, was drowned.

James M. Walters, an attorney, spent the night in Alta hall, and relates a thrilling story. One of the most curious occurrences of the whole disaster was how Walters got to the hall. He hid in a room on the second floor. His home is at 135 Walnut street. He says he was in the house with his family when the waters struck it. All was carried away. Walters' family drifted on the roof in another direction. He passed down several streets and alleys until he came to the hall. His dwelling struck that edifice, and he was thrown into his own office. About two hundred persons had taken refuge in the hall, and were on the second, third and fourth stories. The men held a meeting and drew up some rules, which all were bound to respect. Walters was chosen president. Rev. Heale was put in charge of the first floor. A. M. Hart of the second, and Dr. Matthews of the fourth floor. No lights were allowed, and the whole night was spent in darkness. The scenes were most agonizing. Heartrending shrieks and sobs and moans pierced the gloomy darkness. The crying of children, mingled with the suppressed sobs of the women. No one slept during all the dark night. Many knelt for hours in prayer, their supplications mingling with the roar of the waters and shrieks of the dying in the surrounding houses. In all this misery two women gave premature birth to children.

Dr. Matthews is the hero. His ribs were crushed by falling timber, and his pains were most severe, yet through it all he attended the sick. When the two women in the house across the street shouted for help, he, who might have been spared, dashed through the drift and ministered to their wants. No one died during the night, but the women and children surrendered their lives on the succeeding day from terror and fatigue. Miss Rose Young, one of the young ladies in the hall, was frightfully cut and bruised. Mrs. Young had a leg broken. A tour of

the west bank of the river for a distance of two miles leaves the mind confused. There are not over two hundred bodies to be seen, but while the mass of people walked back and forth they were strangers. Not one person in ten that one met was a resident of this vicinity. It leads to the belief that hundreds of thousands of persons still buried in the mud and debris, burned in the awful furnace at the stove bridge or lodged further down than the searchers have yet gone. That many are buried yet is also indicated by the fresh finds every few hours, and the unmistakable odor that rises from the acres of fire on the river bank.

PLUNDERING THE DEAD.

As the roads to the north have been opened deeds of the vilest nature perpetrated in the darkness of the night are brought to light.

Just as the shadows began to fall upon the earth last evening a party of thirteen Hungarians were noticed stealthily picking their way along the banks of the Conemaugh towards Sang Hollow. Dividing their purpose, several farmers armed themselves and started in pursuit. Seeing their most terrible fears were realized, the Hungarians were out for the plunder lying upon the shores. They came upon a dead and mangled body of a woman upon whose person were a number of trinkets, gold jewelry and two diamond rings. In their eagerness to secure the plunder the Hungarians got into a fight, during which one of their number severed the finger upon which were the rings, and stole it with a run with the fearful prize. The revolting nature of the deed so wrought upon the pursuing farmers, who, by this time, were close at hand, that they gave immediate chase. Some of the Hungarians showed fight, but being outnumbered, were compelled to flee for their lives. Nine of the brutes escaped, but four were literally driven into the surging river and to their death. The bodies of the four who were killed have been described as among the number of the involuntary suicides.

PLUNDERING THE DEAD BODIES.

Another incident of even greater moment has just been heard of. At about 5:30 o'clock this morning an old railroad worker, who had walked from Sang Hollow, stepped up to a number of men who were congregated on the platform of the station at Curranville and said: "Gentlemen, if I had a shotgun with me I would have shot every one of these murderers, yet with no fear of ever having to suffer for my crime. Two miles below here I watched three men going along the river bank, and they were carrying dead wives and daughters of men who have been robbed of all they hold dear on earth."

He had no sooner finished the last sentence than he was surrounded by a mob of men, one of the plunders, one with a rope and another with a revolver. In twenty minutes they had overturned two of the ghouls, and were tearing at their clothing. One of the men from the ears and fingers from the hands of two dead women. With the revolver leveled at the head of the leader of the mob, he shouted, "Throw up your hands or I'll blow your heads off."

With blanched faces and trembling limbs they fled to the rear and begged for mercy. They were searched, and as their pockets were emptied of their ghastly finds, the indignation of the crowd intensified, and they were ready to strike at any moment. With two tiny gold rings was found among the plunder, the cry went up, "Lynch them! Lynch them!" Without a moment's delay they were thrown about their necks and they were dangling to a tree, in the branches of which an hour before they were laughing and joking with their father and son. After the expiration of a half-hour, the ropes were cut and the bodies lowered and carried to a pile of rocks in the foreground of the station.

MINISTERING TO THE SICK.

A squad of Battery B, under command of Lieutenant Brown, (the forerunner of the whole battery) arrived at the improvised hospital at 10 o'clock yesterday. He was accompanied by Adjutant-General Hastings and arranged for proper protection.

Medical dispensary under Directors Walter and the other members of the society, Stewart, of the Allegheny society, and Milligan, of the Westmoreland society, is doing good work. It is situated on the hillside, and has 300 patients to-day. They are at Napoleon street, in Kearnsville. No surgical instruments could be procured in the city, and the surgeons are using their own. Among their 300 patients the doctors have many with fractured skulls, and nearly all have broken bones. One man had a heavy blow on the head, which fractured his skull, separating two bones. A thick amputation was made. A woman has her knee and the lower part of a limb cut out of the shape of a limb. Her leg is broken at that seventy-six bodies had been taken out of Kearnsville and eighty-five above the silk works.

Chief Evans, of the Pittsburg fire department, arrived this evening with engines Nos. 2 and 18 and several hose carts and a full complement of men. He was accompanied by Pittsburg physicians came on the same train. Mr. Crouse, the proprietor of the South Park Fishing Club hotel came to Johnston this evening. He says that the water in the Conemaugh lake broke the water seemed to leap, scarcely touching the ground. It bounded down the valley, crashing and roaring, and sweeping over the hills. It was a mile its front seemed like a solid wall, twenty feet high. The warning given the night before, that the water would rise, was not heeded. When the great wall that held the body of the water began to crumble at the top he sent a message begging the people to get to the hills. He reports no serious accidents at South Park.

Richard Davis ran to Prospect hill when the water struck his doctor's message, he says that just such a one has been sent down at each flood since the lake was made. The water was so high that it was not possible to get to the top of the hill. "I can not describe the mad rush," he said. "At first it looked like dust. That must have been the first wave. It was a solid wall, and before it came a child's play blocks set on end in a row. As it came nearer I could see houses totter for a moment, then rise, and the bodies that are dug out lie in the station in a row against each other."

Mrs. James Davis, her two daughters and son, can nowhere be found. At Woodville a woman was killed by a falling tree. It stood 120 feet long and three stories high. It stood broadside to the current. A few tenants were killed by the falling tree. The lower mill is damaged to such an extent that all the machinery and buildings are useless. There is a supply depot established at this point, and many needy people are being relieved. The bodies that are dug out lie in the station in a row against each other. They are buried in Prospect Hill.

George Dicklin, vice president of the Cambria Iron works, in a conversation, this afternoon, said: "I do not know what our loss is. The upper mill is a total wreck, but the lower mill is not so bad. The lower mill is damaged to such an extent that all the machinery and buildings are useless. There is a supply depot established at this point, and many needy people are being relieved. The bodies that are dug out lie in the station in a row against each other. They are buried in Prospect Hill."

the midst of the Sahara desert. The Cambria Iron company loses its great supply stores at this point. The Darnouth club, where the employees of the Cambria Iron works were carried away in the flood. It contained many occupants at the time. None were saved. The losses of the Cambria Iron company are given at from \$2,500,000, but little of it can be recovered.

THE ROPE BRIDGE.

Crossing the bridge which spans the chasm due by the waters between the stone bridge and Johnston, is an exciting and a narrow rope bridge. A slide, a series of frightful tresses from side to side, a run and drift across the bridge. The bridge pines of your feet rush the muddy waters of Conemaugh. One has to cross Conemaugh at a second point open to reach Johnston town proper. This was accomplished by a skiff ferry. The ferryman clung to the rope and pulled the load over. After landing, one recalls across the bridge. The best of which there is interest the remains of many hundred bodies. It was once a handsome portion of the town. The cellars are filled with mud so that a person who has never seen the city can hardly imagine that houses ever stood where they did.

For work of getting the bodies together for identification began this afternoon on Sarsfield avenue on a vacant lot. At 5 o'clock this was almost entirely covered with the bodies of the dead. The bodies were then being weeping men and women. Although the number was short, of 100, at 5 o'clock others will come, and there is no telling what the total will be. The bodies were a piece of paper with the words, "Three children." To-night they were lifted out and all three placed in one coffin. The little bodies were almost nude, and their faces were bruised and cut.

The scene in St. Columba Catholic church was awful. Forty or fifty bodies had been carried into it and laid out on the floor. The church was full of children. No one had identified them this afternoon. Their little curls were matted with mud, and their nostrils were filled with sand and their eyes completely covered.

THE FLOOD-SWEPT TOWN.

It is impossible to describe the appearance of the main street. Who have been swept down the street and become a mass of wreckage. The wreck is piled as high as the second story windows. The reporters could step from the street into the wreckage. The street is not disabed are working earnestly for the revival of the stricken city, but it will take months of work to come anywhere near recovery. It is certain that the list of the loss will never be made complete. The supply of coffins sent in from Pittsburg and other points is so great that the relief committee telegraphed last evening to not to send any more until ordered. The committee is doing all in its power to secure the supply of coffins, and people are urged to believe all their pressing wants will be provided for. It will require several days to get the bodies of the dead into the city, but it will certainly reach up into the thousands. Every hour brings fresh evidence of the fact that the disaster eclipses any other disaster in the history of the country, and no one can say what the final result will be.

ALMOST LYING DEAD.

A case of almost dying was witnessed this evening near Kenville. A man was observed stealing valuable articles from houses. He was seized by a mob, a rope was thrown about his neck, and he was hung to the air. The rope was tied to a tree, and his head was lynchers left him. By-standers cut him down before he was dead. The man did not interfere and he was allowed to go.

SHOT A MAN.

Ex-Mayor Chalmers Dick, of Johnston, shot a man in Johnston to-day for robbing a store. The man was shot in the back. Mr. Dick is that he saw the man go to the dead body of a woman and take off several rings and a watch. The man was shot out his revolver and fired. The bullet struck the man. He fell forward into the water and his body was washed away by the current. The man was shot in the back. The Johnston Tribune, received a telegram from Senator Quay to draw on him at sight at some time over \$500. The man was shot in the back. The Johnston Tribune, received a telegram from Senator Quay to draw on him at sight at some time over \$500.

TRAMPLED UNDER FEET.

and women were unable to get food, though in a condition of starvation. The Allegheny and Pittsburg police stopped the throwing of food and forced the crowd to pass in a single file before the car doors. Then there was a riot. The crowd was so thick that the children were crying for bread. "Where's that child without stockings?" called out a committee man from the car filled with clothing. There was a riot. The crowd was so thick that the children were crying for bread. "Where's that child without stockings?" called out a committee man from the car filled with clothing.

A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

Negroes in Johnston were selling bams, and a Hungarian with two companions was caught, to-day, in Kenaville, rifling a body. The indignation of the crowd was so great that the men were shot. The crowd was so thick that the children were crying for bread. "Where's that child without stockings?" called out a committee man from the car filled with clothing.

TRIPPING A THIRTEEN YEAR OLD.

Mrs. Fulton, a daughter of Manager John Fulton, was tripped by a box car on her way to work. She was thrown from the car and her head was struck on the ground. She was taken to the hospital and is now recovering. The crowd was so thick that the children were crying for bread. "Where's that child without stockings?" called out a committee man from the car filled with clothing.

SELECTING A BURIAL SITE.

GREENSBORO, Pa., June 2.—The commissioners and poor directors of Indiana, Cambria and Westmoreland counties will meet to-morrow at Ninevah to decide upon a plan for the burial of the dead. It is likely that a plot of ground will be selected just across the river in Cambria county, and it will be purchased by the three counties. One or two long graves will be made and the unfortunates dead, as fast as they can be found, will be placed there. Immediate action will be taken, as some of the dead have turned black and are rapidly decomposing. Whole families are being buried. The bodies are reported and there are arriving by the score. One unfortunate wretch was seen to rifle the pockets of a dead

she finally lifted the paper covering from the face of a woman, young, and with traces of beauty showing through the stains of the muddy water. With an air of anxiety she recoiled backward, to be caught by a man who chanced to be passing. In a moment or so she had calmed herself sufficiently to take one more look at the features of her dead. She stood gazing at the unfortunate dead woman, who was a sister of the mourner. The body was placed in a coffin a few minutes later and sent away to the morgue. These incidents are but fair samples of the scenes familiar to every turn in this stricken city. The bodies of the dead are being buried in the mud and wreckage. It is believed that when the flames are extinguished in the wreckage at the bridge, and the same number of bodies will be discovered. In fact, this seems certain, as dozens of bodies have already been found in the outskirts of the city of broken timbers.

Reports from outside points are also appalling. Up to 9 o'clock to-night 180 bodies were found in the mud and wreckage. It is a report that 300 more were being discovered half buried in the mud on an island between New Florence and the place named. At the Fourth ward school house over ONE HUNDRED VICTIMS have been laid out for identification. In many cases they have been recognized, while in some cases they have not. The bodies are "Unknown." Shocking sights have become so common that they have lost their terrors, and the finding of a body here and there attracts little or no attention. The bodies are crowded that constantly line the river banks and crowd all other accessible places. As this is the case, the bodies of the dead are being buried in the mud and wreckage. It is believed that when the flames are extinguished in the wreckage at the bridge, and the same number of bodies will be discovered. In fact, this seems certain, as dozens of bodies have already been found in the outskirts of the city of broken timbers.

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PREPARING FOR THE CENSUS.

How the Officials Are Selected and How Much Paid.

ARMY PROMOTION AND PROJECT.

WASHINGTON BUREAU, THE OMAHA BEE, 618 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., June 2.

It is very probable that there will be a great deal of interest taken by the people throughout the country, just at this time, in the compilation of the Eleventh census. Many people are seeking offices now, and an army of something like 40,000 men will be employed in the census work.

Only a small number of this vast aggregation will have employment longer than thirty or forty days. However, the superintendent of the census and his force of clerks are at work now upon the plans for the real work in the field, which is to begin on the 1st of June next year. Altogether there will be 175 supervisors appointed throughout the states and territories, an increase of twenty-five over the list of ten years ago. The supervisors will be appointed according to the population and the work which they will have to superintend. They will receive \$125 salary, and are given \$1 for every 1,000 persons enumerated in thickly settled districts, and \$1.40 per 1,000 in thinly settled districts. They shall not be permitted to make an aggregate of over \$500 for the entire work. This is very good pay, as scarcely over forty days of actual work will be involved. The supervisors are appointed by the president and must be confirmed by the senate. The enumerators will be appointed by the superintendent of the census upon the recommendation of the supervisors, and in the selection of this army of enumerators a very lively fight will take place between republican representatives and republican senators, each claiming the right to name both the supervisors and the enumerators. The pay fixed for the enumerators is 5 cents a house for all enumerated, and 5 cents for each soldier or sailor's widow; 15 cents for a farmer's widow; 25 cents for a widow of a man of color; and 10 cents for a widow of a man of color. The enumerators are not permitted to make more than \$1 a day, and in the sparsely settled districts they are not permitted to make more than 75 cents a day. Those having thickly settled districts are expected to enumerate about 4,000 souls; in the thinly populated districts the number will be less than 1,000.

The agitation which has existed in army circles for some time over the proposed reorganization of the army, and the promotion of one of the senior captains to be assistant adjutant-general, with the rank of major, and the promotion of another to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a third to be major, and the promotion of a fourth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a fifth to be major, and the promotion of a sixth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a seventh to be major, and the promotion of an eighth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a ninth to be major, and the promotion of a tenth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of an eleventh to be major, and the promotion of a twelfth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a thirteenth to be major, and the promotion of a fourteenth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a fifteenth to be major, and the promotion of a sixteenth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a seventeenth to be major, and the promotion of an eighteenth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a nineteenth to be major, and the promotion of a twentieth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a twenty-first to be major, and the promotion of a twenty-second to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a twenty-third to be major, and the promotion of a twenty-fourth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a twenty-fifth to be major, and the promotion of a twenty-sixth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a twenty-seventh to be major, and the promotion of a twenty-eighth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a twenty-ninth to be major, and the promotion of a thirtieth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a thirty-first to be major, and the promotion of a thirty-second to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a thirty-third to be major, and the promotion of a thirty-fourth to be lieutenant colonel, and the promotion of a 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