HOPE REVIVES AS THE SUFFERERS RECEIVE HELP

A FLOOD SCARE IN MARYLAND

Williamsport Alarmed by Rapid Rise in Potomac.

PART OF TOWN SUBMERGED

RIVER 12 FEET ABOVE NORMAL AT 8 AT NIGHT.

No Serious Damage Occurred Along the Stream, Except the Flooding of Lowlands—Canal Boats Moved to Places of Safety—Conococheague Creek Is Out of Banks—Electric Light Plants Flooded—Small Streams Are Raging Torrents—A Furious Gale Follows Rainstorm.

Special Dispatch to The American.

Williamsport, Md., March 27.—The Potomac River rose so rapidly and so high this morning as to threaten Williamsport. The flood situation in this section, however, changed since noon, following a cold wave which sent the temperature down about 25 degrees. The heavy storm clouds broke and rain ceased falling late in the day and a driving wind is blowing. The temperature is at almost freezing point tonight.

The rainfall was the heaviest that was recorded here in the same period since the Johnstown flood, between four and five inches falling in 12 hours. Earlier rains started the Potomac River and the Conococheague Creek rising and the heavy volume of water that rushed into these streams since yesterday put them into flood stages. The Potomac was 12 feet above normal here at 8 o'clock tonight. Measurements taken at that time showed that the water is still increasing six to eight inches an hour. An additional rise of four to five feet is expected before morning. It is expected that a 16 or 18 foot stage will be reached.

No serious damage has been reported along the river, except that done by the flooding of lowlands between the river and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Some apprehension was felt for the safety of the canal banks, but it is believed that no damage of consequence will be done to the waterway. All of the small boats have been moved to places of safety.

A message received here this afternoon from Cumberland stated that the rainfall in that region was not unusually heavy and that the condition of the Potomac River was not alarming. There is a corresponding stage of water in the Potomac at Hancock and Falling Waters, but no damage has been done so far. The Conococheague Creek is backed up bright for some distance above the town and is out of banks. The electric light plants at dams four and five, that furnish power for Martinsburg, Shepherdstown and other places are reported flooded by the high water in the river. The flood in the east end of Williamsport caused by the town run overflowing and a great volume of water rushing down from the surrounding hills, has abated. About two blocks were flooded.

Families were marooned in their homes during the day. The flood was the worst ever known in that section of the town. Scores of cellars and gardens in other parts of the town were flooded. Heavy damage has been done by farm lands being flooded throughout this section. All of the little streams were turned into raging torrents and spread over wheat fields. Acres of lowlands are still holding from one to three feet of water, while the turnpikes and public roads are rendered impassable.

The roadbed of the electric railway between this place and Hagerstown was flooded in places and damaged. The cars were run in nearly a foot of water. The tracks of the Western Maryland Railroad west of Oldtown were covered with water today by the flooding of Town Creek, a small stream emptying into the Potomac River. No damage was done. All trains on the road are reported to be running on time, but precaution is being taken against the danger of landslides on the new extension through the mountains between Hancock and Cumberland.

SEVERE IN FREDERICK

The County Is Swept by Rain and Wind Storms.

Special Dispatch to The American.

Frederick, Md., March 27.—Frederick county today was visited by one of the worst rain and wind storms in its history. Rain fell early this morning in torrents. Yesterday and this morning about two inches of water fell, according to the United States rain gauge kept here. Streams throughout the county are very high, and the Potomac at Brunswick is about six feet above normal and is steadily rising. The rain was accompanied by a very high wind, which did considerable damage. The telephone and telegraph lines suffered, and many poles were blown down and many trees uprooted. The wind continued throughout the day and this evening was blowing a gale.

A stone wall along the tracks of the Western Maryland Railroad, near Thurmont, was undermined by the heavy rains and fell upon the tracks. Traffic was delayed for some time.

A large building on the farm of Mrs. D. K. Cramer, near Mount Pleasant, was blown down.

County roads were badly washed, and in some cases made almost impassable.

STORM IN CAROLINE

Barns, Buildings and Poultry Houses Wrecked by Wind.

Special Dispatch to The American.

Federalsburg, Md., March 27.—One of the fiercest wind and rainstorms in many years passed over lower Caroline county today. The rain fell in torrents, and the wind did considerable damage. A large barn on the farm of Polk White was blown from its foundation and wrecked, and an implement house on the farm of Thomas H. McMahon was blown down, demolishing much of the machinery. A large shed sheltering a wheat thresher and binder, on the farm of E. W. Adams and brother, was blown from its foundation, but the thresher and binder escaped damage. Many chicken houses were blown down, and hundreds of chickens killed and drowned. The tops of two freight cars at Oak Grove and Hurlock were blown off.

The Northwest Fork Branch of the Nanticoke River has been rising all day, and tonight is overflowing its banks in many places.

HAGERSTOWN DELUGED

Big Reservoir Near Edgemont Is Threatened.

Special Dispatch to The American.

Hagerstown, Md., March 27.—Incessant rains for 12 hours caused the worst flood conditions in Hagerstown and Washington county since the Johnstown deluge. Streets and alleys were converted into streams, and houses and cellars in various sections of the city were flooded, the numerous drains being choked and unable to carry off the tremendous flow of water. The Antietam and Conococheague creeks are far out of banks, and all roads traversing these streams are blocked. The smaller streams in the county were raging torrents all day, and considerable damage was wrought by the washing out of growing wheat fields.

The big reservoir of the Washington County Water Company, at Raven Rock, near Edgemont, holding some 150,000,000 gallons of water, threatened to break at noon today, and a force of men was rushed to the scene in an effort to strengthen it and hold it in check. The rainfall was general throughout the county, and reports of more or less serious damage are coming in from all sections. A large bridge on the county road spanning the Antietam at Cavetown was washed away. Steam and trolley lines suffered great delay owing to the flooded condition of the tracks, washouts and landslides. A terrific windstorm followed in the wake of the rain and did considerable damage to houses, uprooting trees and blowing down small buildings and fencing.

Rain stopped falling shortly after noon today and tonight every available pump in the city was at work on flooded houses and cellars. The greatest sufferers in Hagerstown were the residents on East Franklin, Jefferson and Liberty streets, where numbers of families, after rising this morning, found their lower floors submerged. The Country Clubhouse grounds were inundated. The old Electric Park, in the south end of town, appeared as a lake, and Athletic Park was almost entirely submerged.

A BIG LANDSLIDE

Traffic Blocked on the B. & O. R. R. Near Connellsville.

Special Dispatch to The American.

Cumberland, Md., March 27.—A landslide of unusual proportions one mile west of Indian Creek, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, is blocking all tracks. So heavy was the slide that it will take 60 hours to get one track clear and at least 72 hours to clear the other track. Workmen are being rushed to the scene. Passenger trains are coming in over the Western Maryland Railroad, which road also had a heavy landslide near the same point early this morning, but which was cleared at 7 o'clock. The slide on the Western Maryland occurred just as a freight train came along and ran into the mass of debris. The engine was derailed and almost thrown into the Youghiogheny River. This road used the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad almost all day.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad passenger trains Nos. 12 and 14, due here early this evening, will not be in until long past midnight. Two westbound passenger trains had to be brought back and transferred to the Western Maryland Railroad at Confluence. Heavy rains caused the landslides, which came down from the steep mountain sides.

Another landslide occurred on the Baltimore and Ohio east of Cumberland, at Ukonko, today, and passenger train No. 6 barely escaped running into it. It has since been cleared away.

Railroad Gate Blown Away.

Special Dispatch to The American.

Aberdeen, Md., March 27.—A high wind this morning broke one of the railroad gates at the Pennsylvania crossing and whirled it across the track. One end of the gate caught in the mail-hanger. A fast express, northbound, at 9 o'clock and the 9:16 accommodation, southbound, had to be flagged until the gate could be removed.

Damage in York County, Pa.

Special Dispatch to The American.

York, Pa., March 27.—Heavy rain and wind storms which swept York county today caused considerable damage to property. Barns and sheds were unroofed, trees uprooted and several persons narrowly escaped injury. Cellars were flooded and the Codorus Creek and the Susquehanna River were swollen. A bridge on Fox Creek, near Dover, was swept away and suburban trolley cars were delayed by the flooding of their tracks. The rain and wind caused damage to the roadbed of the Baltimore Division of the Northern Central Railway north and south of York, and track gangs were kept busy all day.

WRECKS LEFT BEHIND BY THE TORNADO THAT STRUCK OMAHA, NEBRASKA

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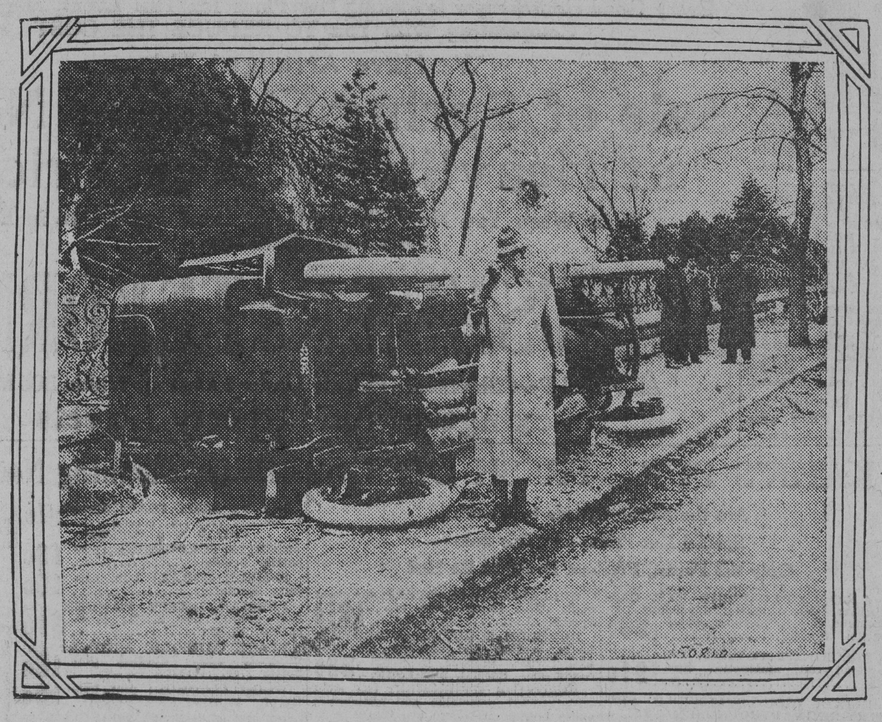


AN AUTOMOBILE CAUGHT BY THE TORNADO AND THROWN OVER ON THE PAVEMENT.

RESTAURANT WRECKED, THE FIRST STORY BLOWN AWAY AND THE SECOND STORY NOW RESTING ON THE GROUND.

FALL LIFTING FROM DAYTON

Continued from First Page.

the mayor would be found dead or alive.

North of Burns avenue, as far as Fourth street, the water was found to be from three to six feet deep.

Beyond Fourth street the water has receded to make it possible in many places to proceed on foot. From Fourth street to the Big Miami River relief work was taken up by a committee headed by Chief Allaback. All of the grocery stores were commandeered, and although in most cases the goods were covered with water, yet sufficient supplies were found to prevent great suffering among those in the interior dry strip.

While there may be many deaths in individual homes which have been without food or drink, there was no place but the workhouse where any considerable number of people were held without food. None had had enough, but no case approaching actual starvation was found.

DEATH LIST MAY GROW.

Knowledge that the death list is likely to prove so low in the downtown section tonight gave rise to a hope that even in North Dayton, about which nearly all hope had been abandoned, there might be comparatively few deaths.

The progress of the first canoe into the water-bound district was greeted by appeals for bread and water. In nearly every house left standing wistful faces were to be seen pressed against window panes. All of these were asked whether there had been any deaths, and with only a few exceptions all replied that there had not. Although heartened by news from the flood zones in the interior, Governor Cox's secretary, Mr. Burba, was scarcely able to credit the assertion. From his own investigations of the southern district he was unable to believe that the death list would be under 1,500.

"There are 10,000 unaccounted for on this side of the river," he said, "and if all but 200 of these are found it will be the greatest miracle of the time."

It was impossible to approach within several blocks of the fire zone, even in the canoe, but there appeared every indication that the Beckel House had not been burned and that the fire had been confined to the blocks beyond Jefferson and Third streets.

HOTEL GUESTS SAFE.

The 300 guests of the Algonquin Hotel have been kept comfortable, except for the continuous dread that the fire would spread to them. The water reached to the second floor, but all supplies had been moved to places of safety and those in the hotel experienced little discomfort.

A report which had been current in the water district south of Main street that Adjutant General Wood had been fatally injured by falling plate glass proved to be untrue. General Wood now is in full charge of the relief work and although his arm has been badly cut, his condition is not serious.

Two hundred women and babies found refuge in a paint factory in North Dayton, where, it is believed, they have found sufficient food to keep them from acute suffering. An effort is to be made at once to rescue them.

The suburb of Riverdale, up to Helena street, has been penetrated by the downtown relief commission and conditions found were much similar to those in the southern suburbs. Every one has been crowded to the second floors or roofs of their homes, but few of the more stable dwellings were washed away. North of Helena street has not been reached, but it is not believed the conditions there will prove as bad as had been feared. Nothing is known of the foreign settlement in North Dayton, close to the Miami River. It was this part of the city where the flood first made its way and where the occupants of the houses had ignored warnings to leave. It was here also that it was feared most of the deaths would occur. The only body found was that of Charles Parker, a liveryman, discovered in the courthouse yard.

In Dayton the Western Union has six operators. Two of these are now in the office of the National Cash Register Company, three miles from the center of the city, and the others are at Wolf Creek, ready for work when the wires are restored.

Telephone communication is possible with Dayton, but that is all. The latest and most reliable information out of the stricken city is coming from Phoneton, five miles from Dayton, where the American Telegraph and Telephone Company has a large station.

Both the Western Union and Postal Company in New York learned today that they did not have wires working in the thousands of square miles roughly marked by Pittsburgh on the east, Cleveland at the north and the Ohio River on the south.

Indianapolis has been cut off for two days; communication with Columbus was lost about noon and Cincinnati and Louisville are reached only by one wire each, and these are being used for important messages concerning the flood situation and instructions for relief.

An army of 10,000 men is ready to restore the wires whenever the flooded conditions will permit of work, and this it is strongly hoped from reports received tonight will be tomorrow morning.

PROPERTY LOSS $25,000,000.

Several statisticians set the property loss at a higher figure, but most expert opinion agreed on $25,000,000. It was said that 2,000 residences were damaged to the extent of $2,000 each, 6,000 homes were classified under damage figures of $1,000 and it was believed that 7,000 could not be repaired for less than $500 each.

Damage to buildings in the business district was set at a conservative figure of $2,000,000, and it was believed this amount would apply to stocks of stores. Figures available at manufacturing plants which suffered place damage under this head at $1,000,000. The loss on automobiles was set at $500,000, this figure having been reached by setting the damage to at least 1,000 machines. It was believed the damage to household goods would amount into the millions, because in many sections of the submerged area the water reached to the second floor of hundreds of houses.

Col. H. G. Catrow arrived with his military aids from Columbus this afternoon and immediately took charge of the militiamen on duty. At least five more companies will be in Dayton by tomorrow, according to Colonel Catrow. Temporary quarters have been established at the Huffman avenue schoolhouse.

Governor Cox ordered that no more sightseers be permitted in Dayton and when Colonel Catros attempted to have railroad coaches of an arriving train vacated many of the passengers showed fight and refused to leave. Orders were given the trainmen to cut off the two rear coaches and they were left standing on the track.

Parts of Main street are impassable because of debris. At several points it comprised outbuildings that had struck more stable buildings and been dashed to pieces.

EXHIBIT CHEERFUL SPIRIT.

One of the remarkable features was the cheerful spirit with which flood victims viewed their plight. This was Dayton's first big flood in many years. Much of the submerged area had been considered safe from high water, but as the majority of residents of these sections looked out on all sides upon a great sweep of muddy, swiftly-moving water they seemed undisturbed.

In some of the poorer sections the attitude of the marooned was not so cheerful. As a motorboat passed beneath the second floor of one partly submerged house a man leaned out and threatened to shoot unless they took off his wife and a baby that had been born yesterday. The woman, almost dying, was let from the window by a rope and taken to a place of refuge.

Further on members of a motorboat party were startled by shots in the second floor of a house about which five feet of water swirled. The boat was stopped and a man peered from the window of the house.

"Why are you shooting?" he was asked.

"Oh, just amusing myself, shooting at rats that come upstairs; when are you going to take me out of here?" he replied.

NORTH DAYTON HIT HARD.

Captain of Police H. E. Lackhart declared that water in North Dayton, Miami City and East Dayton reached the housetops. His estimate of the number of dead in that district was 300.

The bodies of a woman and a baby were seen floating down Jefferson street, one of Dayton's main thoroughfares. It was thought that they came from the district north of the river. According to city officials, it is impossible to estimate the number who perished in the fire which last night swept the entire district on the north side of Third street, between Jefferson street and the canal, a distance of more than a square and a half.

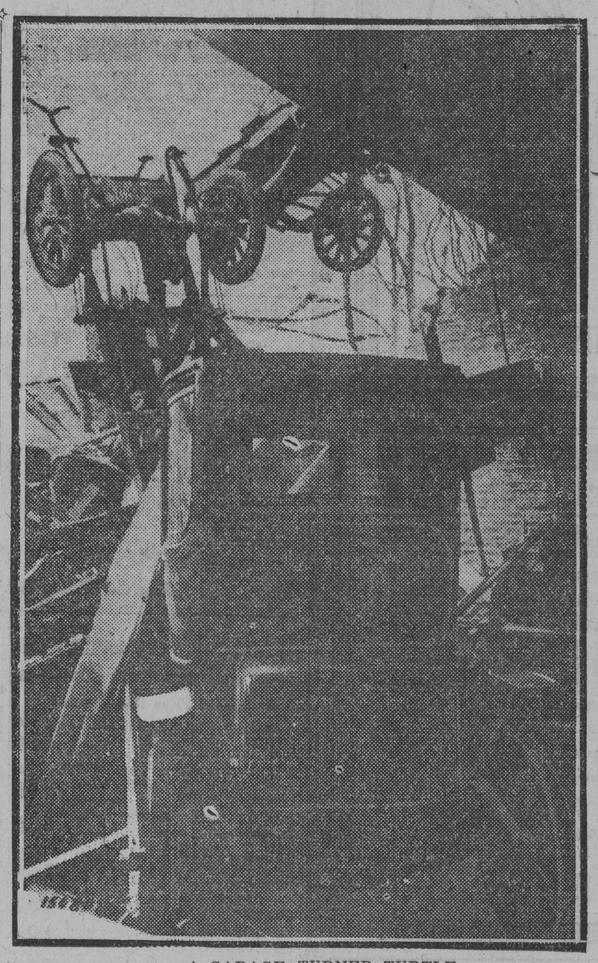
All patrons in the Beckel Hotel, on Main street, are safe. Extensive preparations were made last night for their rescue when the building was threatened by fire. Police and volunteers constructed a bridge over alleys and the tops of adjoining buildings to a point of safety.

SITUATION IS BRIGHTER.

The flood situation tonight appeared brighter than this morning. There was food for the city's breakfast and dinner left after 6 o'clock tonight, but it was believed the many trains of food and provisions on the way would reach here tomorrow.

The water receded rapidly today. An occasional snow flurry and biting gusts of wind added to the discomfort of the rescue crews, but they remained steadily at work.

The emergency committee today began publication of an official newspaper from the plant of the National Cash Register Company. It was a one-sheet poster designed for free circulation in all accessible parts of the city. Its leading article warned the people to beware of thieves and burglars.



A GARAGE TURNED TURTLE.

IN BLUE RIDGE SECTION

Storms Destroy Thousands of Dollars' Worth of Property.

Special Dispatch to The American.

Waynesboro, Pa., March 27.—The storm that passed through Waynesboro, Highfield and in the Blue Ridge section Wednesday and today was the worst in many years. The area in the path of the storm was about 400 yards wide and four miles long. Two storms of cyclonic proportions, one coming from the Southwest and the other from the North, met in this section and damage to property at Highfield and Cascade will amount to $10,000. Not only were roofs of several buildings blown off, but furniture stored on the third floor of the Lake View Hotel was blown from the hostelry and smashed into bits. Martin Frederick, a resident of Highfield, while walking near Lake Royer, was picked up by the wind and blown 40 feet.

Although Waynesboro is on a high elevation, nearly all the cellars in the town are filled or partly filled with water, and the fire engines of the place have been busy all day pumping out the water. Many of the sewers of the town were broken on account of the heavy force of water, and one near the store of Charles Besore flooded the basement floor of the trolley company, and trolley traffic in this vicinity was held up for a time on account of washouts and broken trestles.

The Antietam left its banks and swept into the fields for hundreds of yards, destroying fences, small buildings and vegetation, and uprooting trees. From Waterloo, near Pen-Mar Park, to Amsterdam, there is a stretch of water a mile long and one-fourth mile wide. On account of the flooded condition of the roads leading from Rouzerville to the trolley, teachers holding positions in the public schools here were unable to reach town today. Others had to be secured as substitutes.

Much anxiety is felt here for the safety of relatives and friends who left here and are residents of Dayton, O. Mrs. John H. Bowers received word today telling of the drowning of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Welty, in that city, cousins of Mrs. Bowers, and who visited here last summer. Both Mr. and Mrs. Welty were formerly of Hagerstown, Md.

Scioto Bridge Swept Away.

Portsmouth, O., March 27.—The Scioto bridge here was swept away by the tempestuous flood during the night. Hundreds of persons have been driven from their homes, schoolhouses have been thrown open to the homeless, the streets are filled with household goods and merchants in the heart of the city are moving their wares to places of safety in anticipation of flood conditions more serious than ever before.

COLD ADDS TO THE SUFFERING

LIGHT SNOWS FOLLOW RAIN IN WEST PENNSYLVANIA.

OIL CITY PARTLY SUBMERGED

Bursting Gas Mains Under Beaver River Compel Shutting Off of Gas Supply—Great Industrial Plants Near Pittsburgh Forced to Close. Two Steel Spans of Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge Pulled Out—Several Towns Isolated.

Special Dispatch to The American.

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 27.—Conditions throughout Western Pennsylvania created by the floods were not improved tonight. Slight recessions are reported from some streams, but in most instances rivers are rising. Rain continues to fall South and West of here. The temperature dropped suddenly this afternoon. A gale is howling through Pittsburgh and driving a light, cutting snow. Similar weather reports come from North and East of this city.

The decline in temperature has intensified the suffering of thousands in Pittsburgh and surrounding communities who are homeless because of the rising waters. Kittanning reported this evening before the telephone wire went down that the Allegheny is higher than ever before. Scores of families were compelled to abandon their homes and take to the hills.

Oil Creek has risen until a large part of the business section of Oil City is under water. The loss to business is tremendous. Families in the rural districts in the Clarion and Kiskominitas Valleys have fled to the hills to escape such floods as never were seen there before. The whole Beaver Valley remains dark and cold. Bursting gas mains under the Beaver River compelled the shutting off of the gas supply. All the theaters are closed. Not a wheel is turning in all the great industrial plants.

Sharon and Newcastle are practically isolated and no authentic news can be had. It is reported that since yesterday morning 50 persons have been drowned in Shenango and Mahoning Valleys. But confirmation of these reports cannot be got. Both rivers have set new flood marks.

Most of the manufacturing plants are submerged. Forest county is deluged. Scores driven from home have come into Tionesta, the county seat, seeking shelter. The women are providing for the refugees.

Franklin is dark tonight. French Creek quenched the fires in the light plant. Kittanning was beginning preparations to clean up the flood litter when the Allegheny fell two feet this morning. Tonight the flood mark of 1865 was passed. A cloudburst up the river brought another rise. Meadville reports an abatement of the flood conditions. The Ohio Valley is getting the brunt of the flood tonight. The Ohio today backed up the swollen Beaver River. Within an hour two steel spans of the Pennsylvania Railroad were pulled out. The company said here tonight this will probably stop all traffic west of Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania was the only line open to Cleveland and points west of there.

Pittsburgh is feeling the effects of the flood seriously tonight. The expected 26-foot level became 30 feet tonight and the three rivers are still rising. There is fear of a repetition of the 1907 flood, when 36 feet swept millions of dollars' worth of property down the Ohio.

The Twenty-first street and the Brunot's Island power houses of the traction company are in danger. A rise of three feet will stop the cars in a large part of the city and suburbs.

Nearly two square miles of the northside is a lake. Motor-boats and skiffs are plying the streets.

Downtown the pumps are working in most of the hotels, theaters and office buildings. Business is nearly at a standstill. Hundreds of thousands worth of store goods have been ruined. The Exposition Music Hall is holding four feet of water.

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