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RICHMOND, IND., MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 29, 1920

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HUNDREDS DIE IN CYCLONES; TWISTERS SMASH TOWNS INTO RUINS THROUGH CENTRAL U. S.

Big Casualty Lists and Tremendous Property Damage Reported From Jay, Allen, Randolph, St. Joseph and Adams Counties, in Indiana—State Total Deaths 27 and Ohio Will Total 26—Georgia Tornado Takes 50 Lives.

TANGLED MASS MADE OF HUNDREDS OF HOMES

INDIANAPOLIS, March 29—Twenty-seven dead and at least 100 missing was the toll taken in the tornado which swept through northern Indiana yesterday, according to reports reaching Indianapolis today.

There are known to be 10 dead in Jay county, nine in Allen, one in Steuben and seven in Randolph. Portland reported 10 dead in that city, and Union City seven.

Six counties, Jay, Allen, Randolph, Steuben, St. Joseph and Adams were in the path of the wind. It will be another day before the official number of dead and missing is ascertained.

West Liberty Hardest Hit

West Liberty, 8 miles north of Portland, was the hardest hit of the Indiana towns. Seven persons were killed there and the entire town destroyed by fire, which followed the storm.

At this point the storm is said to have veered northeast into Adams county, striking Geneva, where three persons were killed and a number of houses and other structures blown down.

Five were killed at Zulu, a suburb of Ft. Wayne, where practically every house is said to have been destroyed. One person was killed at Townley and one at Monroeville. All the buildings in the latter town are reported to have been destroyed.

The entire town of Edgerton, 18 miles east of Ft. Wayne, was destroyed by the storm and the property damage at Ossian is estimated at \$250,000.

Among the dead in the Fort Wayne region are the following:

Mrs. Julia Merriam, Hoagland, Allen county.

Three-year-old child of Harvey Gordan, near Monroeville, Allen county.

August Flutterow, grocer, Townley, Allen county.

Mrs. James McCoy 38, Townley. James McCoy, 13, near Townley.

Mrs. Will Simons, near Monroeville, Virginia Grant, age three, near Monroeville.

William Doudt, 60, Orland, Steuben county.

David Kessler, West Liberty, Jay county.

Frank Smith, West Liberty.

Mrs. Frank Smith, West Liberty.

Three children of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith.

Katherine Fields, aged five, near Geneva, Adams county.

Mabel Fields, 11, near Geneva.

Mrs. Katherine Cross, 79, near Geneva.

Keith Haggard aged six, West Liberty.

Fort Wayne hospitals are reported to be caring for 45 victims of the wind storm. Several are expected to die. Six counties were struck by the tornado.

Local organizations in the towns nearest the storm centers are giving every possible relief. Reports of complete razing of several villages are being investigated. All the injured and homeless are being cared for, and masons are rebuilding chimneys so fires may be built. There is some suffering from the cold.

It will be impossible to estimate the damage done in the outlying districts for some time, as rescuing parties are finding the roads in some places almost impassable. Communities that have been visited are reported to have suffered severely.

L. J. Vandey, who runs a general store at Tillmans, in this county, which, however, escaped the storm, tells the story of how the tornado appeared:

"My wife and I were sitting in the front of our home," he said. "It began to rain a little and there was a high wind. Both of us got up and went out on the porch. It seemed that only a mile or so away we could see trees flying through the air, parts of barns and houses being carried away, and all of a sudden we saw something that resembled a great cloud of smoke. I think, perhaps, it was an explosion of some kind."

"My wife and I started for the cellar of our home when all at once everything seemed to be calm. The storm was over; it did not last more than 12 minutes. After the calm we started in the direction of Townley, where the storm seemed to be the worst in that vicinity. When I got to Townley such a sight I never care to see again. The residents were homeless and they were doing all that they could to render assistance to those who were hurt and to care for the bodies of those who had been killed."

On the road between Zulu and Monroeville and between Townley and Edgerton, several hundred head of horses, cattle and hogs were running loose. When the storm destroyed the barns and the pens in which the stock was housed, they made a wild stampede for safety. Farmers were unable to control them, and they were making a wild search today to recover their stock. Many head were cremated when barns were burned, being set on fire by embers from homes which took fire after being wrecked.

An accurate estimate of the property damage is not possible at this time. One man at Edgerton said he was positive that the loss in Edgerton alone would reach a million dollars.

There were about 75 houses in the town, all except four being destroyed, in addition to the railroad station, the grain elevator and two stores.

Storm Struck at Arba.

The storm which killed seven near Union City, struck first at Arba, Randolph county. All telephone and telegraph lines between that town and this point are down, but persons coming from there today said that almost every house in the town was leveled by the wind. It also was reported

Howard Estates Shows \$153,518.69, By Tax

Inheritance tax on the estate of Mrs. Mary A. Howard, 321 North Tenth street, amounted to \$1,885.38. County Treasurer Weidner said Monday. The estate showed an inventory of \$153,518.69.

John R. Howard, a wholesale grocer, is the son of Mary A. Howard, who was the widow of I. R. Howard.

SUBMARINE FORCE TOO SMALL, SAYS ITS FORMER HEAD

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The navy's submarine force was entirely inadequate to meet the demands of war against Germany, Rear Admiral A. W. Grant, formerly in command of the Atlantic fleet submarine force, testifying today before the Senate committee, investigating the navy's conduct of the war. The submersibles, he said, were too small, of widely different types, of small radius of action, inadequately armed and poorly designed as to engines.

"It took nearly two years of propaganda to get the navy department to realize the importance of building submarines capable of combating the 800 ton German U-boats," the witness declared.

Must Lay Up for Repairs.

Admiral Grant said that soon after the United States entered the war, he was instructed to prepare and send 15 submarines abroad. He told the department, he declared, that is such an expedition arrived at the Azores Islands safely, the vessels would have to be laid up for repairs virtually all of the time, as they had been since they were commissioned.

LIGHT SURVEY GIVEN TO PITTSBURGH MEN

The Morris-Knose company of Pittsburgh was given the contract to make a survey of the city electric light plant with recommendations, relative to the proposed \$200,000 bond issue for additional equipment for the plant, by the board of works Monday.

The Pittsburgh corporation accepted this offer at the contract price, \$600.

H. A. Holmes, an expert electrical engineer in the employ of the firm, will conduct the survey of the plant, and it is understood that at least six weeks will be consumed.

Work on the survey will begin soon. No action on the proposed bond issue will be taken by either the council or the board of works until the survey is completed.

Holy Week Services in City Churches

St. Andrew's—Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Way of the Cross, Lamentations and benediction.

St. Mary's—Holy hour, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

United Brethren—The Rev. C. W. Brewbaker, of Dayton, will conduct evangelistic services at 7:30 each evening.

St. Paul's Episcopal—Services each day at 10, 4 and 7:30.

First English Lutheran—The Rev. F. A. Dressel will speak at 7:30 p.m. Monday, on "The Burnt Offering."

Second English Lutheran—Services at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, and continued at the same hour until Friday evening.

St. Paul's Lutheran—Service Monday evening at 7:30; continued service from 12 to 3 p.m. Friday.

Trinity English Lutheran—Lenten services Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian—The pastor, the Rev. J. R. Rae, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Monday on "The Making of Martyrs."

G.O.P. ASKS HIRAM JOHNSON TO COME

Wayne county Republican leaders are doing their utmost to have Hiram Johnson, presidential candidate, to speak at the big Republican mass meeting here April 20, they said Monday.

E. M. Campfield, a member of the county central committee, has been given the promise of Z. C. Swain, state manager for Johnson in Indiana, to do all within his power to get the California senator to speak in Richmond, Campfield said.

Invitations were sent out Saturday to all Republican candidates for state offices to be present at the big lovefeast as well as candidates for congress. Wayne county candidates have also received special invitations.

Agricola, a small settlement in Alabama, had a death list of five.

Reports from practically over both Georgia and Alabama told of heavy downpours of rain and winds that reached cyclonic velocity. In many places buildings were razed or their roofs were carried away, trees were uprooted, and havoc was wrought generally. It was feared the rains would cause the rivers to overflow their banks and add to the suffering.

Westpoint, one of the towns hit by the storm yesterday, was inundated by floods last December and was just recovering from the effects of that disaster in which many lives were lost and great property damage done.

Railroad service as well as telephone and telegraphic service today either was suspended altogether or greatly impaired and last night many places were in total darkness as electric wires were down or power houses wrecked.

LIMA, O., March 29.—Eight persons are known to be dead and nearly one hundred injured, some so seriously that their death is expected, in a storm of cyclonic intensity that struck Toledo and nearby villages in this section late last night.

Raaba Corners, 15 miles west of Toledo, and Genoa, 18 miles southeast, were hard hit, the property damages running into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

LAGRANGE, Ga., March 29.—Casualties resulting from the storm which swept western Ohio yesterday afternoon and last night totalled 26 dead, and probably several hundred injured, according to information available at 10:30 today. Property damage will run into millions of dollars it is said.

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LAGRANGE, Ga., March 29.—Casualties resulting from the storm which swept the section late yesterday were placed today at about 50 dead and 100 to 125 injured. Probably 100 homes were destroyed and the property damage is estimated at \$500,000.

Westpoint, Ga., was hard hit, ten persons being reported dead there.

MANY INJURED, \$100,000 LOSS, WAYNE'S TOLL

Wreckage of Score of Houses Marks Path of Tornado Near Fountain City—Two Hurt Seriously.

MUCH STOCK IS KILLED

More than a score of buildings were demolished, and a number of persons were hurt, at least two of them seriously, by a tornado, which swept through the northern part of Wayne county about 6 p.m., Sunday. The badly injured are Charles Davis and Frank Pierce.

The damage done to property and livestock is estimated to reach more than \$100,000. Scores of persons were in the wrecked houses when the tornado swept down on them, and that none of the injured was fatally hurt, was miraculous.

The tornado, which came from the west, was about 200 yards wide, and swept in a northeasterly direction, from Fountain City, missing both Fountain City and Arba.

Barns, houses and other buildings in the path of the twister were either completely demolished or badly wrecked. Telephone, and telegraph wires, and fences were torn away from the path of the storm, and many trees and poles were blown down.

Heavy Rain Follows.

Heavy rain and an unusually high wind followed the tornado, and several places which escaped the actual twister were damaged slightly by the winds that followed.

The first house struck was at Pleasant View farm, owned by Ben Wright. Here the house was badly wrecked, and two barns were destroyed besides several other outbuildings.

Although there were eight people in the Wright home, none of them were hurt. Several head of cattle and hogs were in the barns, but none of these were injured.

Much Stock is Killed.

Sweeping east, the storm wrecked the homes of Fred Bockhofer and Walter Schroeder, and here, as at the Wright home, no one was seriously hurt. A large quantity of stock was killed on these farms, however.

One of the worst wrecks of the district was the home of George Beeson, between Fountain City and Arba. The Beeson home was blown completely to the ground, and all that remains is a mass of wreckage scattered over the ground.

Mr. Beeson was cut and bruised severely by debris, and Mrs. Charles Green who, with her husband, stopped at the Beeson home to escape the storm, was also slightly cut about the face and head.

The home of Emery Lewis, about a mile northeast of the Beeson home, was also completely wrecked, and Earl Lewis, his son, was slightly hurt. Several head of live stock were killed on the Lewis farm and on the farm of Clarence Boren, across the road.

Davis Seriously Hurt.

North of Arba, several homes were destroyed, including the home of Charles Davis, who was seriously injured. The exact nature of Davis' injuries could not be determined, but it is believed his hurts will not prove fatal.

Frank Pierce was also seriously hurt when one of the farm buildings near Arba was destroyed.

At the home of Harlan Reese, just north of Arba, the house was completely wrecked and the barn partially destroyed. Mr. and Mrs. Reese and their three children were in the house when the tornado struck, and the three children, Ralph, Thelma and Iris, were slightly cut about the head and face.

Two school houses were wrecked by the storm, one, the old Boren school east of Fountain City, was one of the landmarks of that part of the county. The other was the Arba school, and was only recently completed.

Crowds of people flocked to the scene of the tornado all Monday morning, and farmers of the community, whose homes were not wrecked, were busy helping their less fortunate neighbors. School children at Fountain City were given half holiday to visit the storm area.

Autos, and Horses Barred Indefinitely From Main Street Temporary Bridge

Automobile and horse drawn traffic will be barred from the temporary Main street bridge over White-water for some time, city officials said Monday. However street cars and interurbans will continue using the bridge.

A supporting abutment to the structure gave way Friday afternoon, causing all traffic to be halted. It was later found that the collapse of the support did not endanger street car lines.

A letter, from the county commissioners, was received by the board of works Monday, in which the county board said that it would in no way be responsible for the bridge, and that the county would not stand for any part of the damage incurred. The board referred the letter to City Engineer.

It is understood that the board does not plan to make any large expenditures for the repair of the temporary bridge. In view of the fact that L. L. Smith, contractor for the new bridge, has said that the new structure will be completed within 60 days, board members Monday expressed the opinion that it would not be prudent to use as a basis for a new contract, and would not be written into new agreement without discussion.

Eleven Children, and 18 Grandchildren Survive Mrs. Mary Sitlow, 75

Mrs. Mary E. Sitlow, 75 years old, died at her home at 1217 South J street at 10 a.m. Sunday of pneumonia. She has been residing at Richmond for a great many years.

She is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Hines, of Indianapolis; Mrs. Louise Mullins and Mrs. Eleanor Neal, of Richmond; eight sons, Edward, John, Harry, Henry, Adolph, Frank, William and George; two brothers, Henry Tienan and Adolph of St. Louis; and 18 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at the home at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Burial will be in Lutherana. The Rev. Nicklas will officiate.

Clementea Is In Palestine

PARIS, March 29.—Former Premier Clementea, who has been in Egypt for several weeks on a tour of recreation, has returned to Cairo from the Sudan and is proceeding to Palestine. It is announced in Cairo messages. He will spend the greater part of holy week in Palestine.

Upholds the Lafollette Law

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The supreme court in deciding appeal brought by British ship owners, today upheld the constitutionality of the provision of the Lafollette seaman's act relating to the payment of wages upon demands.

Man Sentenced in Muncie Confesses Forgeries in City

Clarence Lyons, sentenced in Munc