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GREAT FLOODS

HIGH WATERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

Unprecedented Floods Along all Streams—Great Damage to Bridges and all Kinds of Property.

The rain which set in last Friday afternoon was almost unprecedented in this county for its downpour, and other sections of the state had as much as ours. Damages by floods along large and small streams are reported from all quarters.

In this county there was a general wash-out along the streams and low places, sweeping railroad and wagon bridges, stables, outbuildings and fences.

The rain set in on Friday afternoon, after a hot sunshine from a clear sky. It was a regular pour, accompanied by lightning and thunder with very little storm. The rain kept up until Monday, pouring down with occasional interruptions, day and night. Monday forenoon it was still raining moderately but the sky looked portentous.

On Saturday all day and night the rain fell in torrents and the streets were a sheet of water. It was almost continuous and the downpour was tremendous. About two o'clock Sunday morning a terrific rain began falling, which continued until about six o'clock, during which time there was not a moment's cessation and everything was flooded. The streets were covered and the water overflowed everything.

Many cellars were filled with several feet of water and many a householder waded through the water to get goods up on a dry floor.

On Tuesday the trains ran from Lewisburg and Bellefonte to the Sinking creek bridge about four miles from Centre Hall, where transfer was made. The mail traffic has been completely paralyzed, and no connection can be made until the repairs are made.

The bridge between Lewisburg had two spans in the center swept away on Monday.

Freight trains make no pretense of running, and the railroad company only endeavor to get the mails through.

The condition of affairs was only equalled during the great flood in 1889, when communication was cut off with the outside world for several days.

At Spring Mills, Penns creek and Sinking creek began to rise early Sunday morning, and the streams were soon overflowing their banks. Sinking creek brought down a lot of drift which lodged against the county bridge crossing the stream near the old store stand of J. D. Long. The stream had risen about five feet and overflowed all that portion of the town. The bridge was swept down stream, taking the footlog with it, and landed against a tree in front of the residence of Dr. VanValzah. The water here was flowing over the road and threatened to enter the first floor of the dwellings. Fences were swept away and the residents began to remove their goods.

In front of Pealer's store there was about four feet of water, which threatened to undermine the foundations and sweep the building down stream. The level land near the depot was covered with water to the depth of several feet and had risen to the depot platform. Many residents near the depot were compelled to get off the first floors, as the water entered the houses to some depth.

Monday the water began to fall but the streams were still high. Dr. VanValzah said: "This was the highest water we ever had at Spring Mills, and other floods we had do not compare with this one. In 1895 we had a flood which was greater than in 1889, but this year gives a new record. In 1889 the water was very high, but we never in the history of the town had anything to equal this."

Much low land was overflowed and considerable damage was done to fields and fences below Spring Mills. There was much apprehension felt in Spring Mills as to the breaking of the dam at Farmers Mills, and the residents were on the uneasy bench all the time. Penns creek was a river and it was thought the dam would break, which would have precipitated nothing short of a catastrophe upon the town.

At Coburn, which is the point where Elk, Pine and Penns creek join and forms Penns creek proper, the water was very high, and the streams all overflowed their banks. Coburn in 1889 experienced a disastrous flood and four lives were lost here by drowning by the rush of water. The water on Sunday was almost as high as before, but there was no fierce current to do damage. A number of fences and small bridges were swept away.

On Sunday the people living near the creeks moved their household goods up stairs, and fled for higher grounds; the water did not come into any of the houses but the cellars were

nearly all filled. The iron bridge that spans Penns creek at Green Briar was in danger of going several times, but by the heroic efforts of the people living near there, the drift was removed and the bridge was saved. Two of the bridges that cross Elk creek on the pike are swept away, the one near Millheim and the other near A. R. Alexander's farm. The bridge near the toll gate is also badly wrecked. A few small township bridges are also carried away. The banks of the railroad were badly washed.

Monday morning the passenger train from Bellefonte arrived at Centre Hall about one hour late, where they received orders to remain owing to the break in the Sinking Creek bridge near Spring Mills. This bridge is about 150 feet in length and is a wooden structure. The stream had brought down a great deal of drift which lodged against the trestling, and forced the bridge about ten feet out of line, leaving the rails and ties only suspended above the stream.

The mail west arrived at the bridge about ten o'clock, where a transfer of mail and express was made, and the trains run back again. All other schedules and trains for the day were annulled. By the transfer at Spring Mills, the road was practically open between Bellefonte and Lewisburg.

The turnpike across Nittany mountain from Centre Hall to Bellefonte has been rendered impassable. The small bridges in the mountains were swept away and the road bed torn up. Several parties tried driving across but were compelled to return and go around by Lemont, a distance of eighteen miles.

On Sunday the Stone mill dam broke, the flood gates and ten feet of the breast being swept away by the tremendous amount of water. Much damage was done to fields and fences by this immense amount of water which swept everything before it. Fortunately there were no dwellings in its path, and its destructiveness was comparatively harmless.

Great damage was done in our county to hundreds of acres of growing crops by fields being washed out.

Moyer's mill dam, one mile above Coburn, broke on Sunday night, dashing its waters in the direction of Coburn thence down to the mountains.

The mill dam at Oak Hall broke on Monday morning. Eleven head of cattle, in an adjoining meadow, belonging to Aust Dale, were drowned.

The high water washed many fields in and about Linden Hall, and acres of land heretofore rich in productiveness have been ruined. Much of the corn planted this spring will have to be replanted, and farmers will be somewhat deterred in their work, by the extra duty placed upon them. The damage to crops in Centre county cannot be estimated, but will reach a high figure.

The dam at Joseph Moyer's mill near Centre Mills broke under the tremendous head of water and precipitated the body of water upon the surrounding country. Considerable damage was done by fences and land being washed.

At Colyer's saw mill above Tusseyville the owner Wm. Colyer suffered a loss of about \$500, from several hundred finished cider barrels and keg heads being swept away.

The extensive and expensive tram road lately built at Paddy mountain was almost completely washed away and it will be some time before the lumbering operations can be resumed there.

The county will suffer great pecuniary loss in having to replace bridges swept away by the flood. At Milesburg several bridges are gone and more damage was done than in 1889.

In the Buffalo Run district the damage was great. Bridges, stables, outbuildings, fences, etc., were swept off. Several head of hogs and cattle were drowned, by being swept down stream in the buildings.

WILLIAMSPORT UNDER WATER.

The Flood as High as in 1889.—The Boom Breaks.

At Williamsport the Susquehanna river rose to a height of thirty-three feet and there was a six foot flood in the streets in the city which was as high as in 1889, when the city was almost inundated.

The great boom broke early Monday morning and 60,000,000 feet of logs were swept down the river.

The Pennsylvania railroad bridge stood the tremendous pressure of logs and water and was not damaged, but the city bridges were badly wrecked. Four spans of the Market street iron bridge were washed away and three of the four spans of the Maynard street bridge are gone. Both bridges were iron and the pecuniary loss is heavy.

The people in the city were aware of the danger threatening them and all goods were removed from the first floor of the stores and were taken to the second stories, and transit about

the streets was only made with boats. The loss to lumbermen by the boom breaking will be thousands of dollars, while the city suffers to a large extent. No trains were run into Williamsport for two or three days and the city was completely isolated.

On Sunday the river had risen 21 ft. and still rising, and people spent Sunday moving their effects to places of safety and the Sabbath was a bedlam in Williamsport. The shouts of thousands of men moving their effects to higher places caused a stir and confusion indescribable, everything was topsy-turvy.

The flood is now gradually receding, but in the business section of the town on Tuesday there was yet twenty-seven feet of water. Williamsport and the entire West Branch valley presents a sight indeed. The people prepared for the worst all day Sunday, so the losses in many instances will not be so great as five years ago. A careful estimate of the financial loss for Williamsport and Lycoming county, at this time is \$10,000,000.

This city sustained its greatest loss in the wreck of the Susquehanna boom and the loss of 175,000,000 feet of logs held in it. At one o'clock Monday afternoon the boom burst and the logs went floating down the river. These logs in their rough condition were worth on an average of \$10 per thousand feet. Manufactured here, they would have been worth twice that sum. In consequence the loss to the lumbermen alone will foot up over \$3,000,000. Added to this the loss occasioned by wrecked bridges, the stock of merchants, household effects, damage to crops, etc., will easily bring the damage up to \$10,000,000.

A number of drowning accidents have been reported, but as yet these rumors have not been confirmed.

FLOOD AT BELLEFONTE.

Bursting of a Dam Precipitates a Flood Upon the Town.

Bellefonte, though apparently perched high and dry, had its quota of the flood and a portion of the town was submerged.

The stream, Spring creek, running through the town had only risen about two feet Sunday morning, when the breaking of the dam at Rock Mills let an avalanche of water loose which swept down upon Bellefonte. Fences, outbuildings, etc., were swept before it. Water street was submerged to a depth of about five feet and fences and board walks were swept away.

A corner of the Logau Machine works building was swept off by the flood and the water rose to an unprecedented height. The press rooms of the Watchman and Republican offices were flooded to a depth of about five feet, and all buildings in the vicinity of the depot were flooded.

At Crider's lumber yard, about 75,000 feet of boards were swept off, along with a lot of the manufactured lumber.

The railroad bridge at Morris' lime kilns and the county iron bridge at the nail works were carried away. Down through the Bald Eagle valley the flood did considerable damage, and at Mill Hall everything was overflowed and all kinds of traffic suspended.

The new railroad from Bellefonte thro Nittany valley to Millhall, has its bed badly washed out in many places and all bridges gone.

On Buffalo Run down to Bellefonte all bridges are swept away.

The low places around the Bellefonte station were submerged and all cellars flooded.

JOHNSTOWN SUFFERS.

The Flood City Suffers Considerable Loss by High Water.

On Monday morning Johnstown was visited by the highest water since the flood on May 31, 1889.

Johnstown had its trouble as usual, and the Conemaugh has spread its waters into town and merchants were obliged to remove goods from cellars.

Stony creek reached a height of twelve feet and began to recede. It was then thought that all danger was past. Monday evening, however, a heavy rain swept the Conemaugh valley between Johnstown and Altoona, and by ten o'clock the Conemaugh river was rising rapidly. To make matters worse, there was a cloud burst near Ebensburg and this mass of water poured down the Conemaugh valley and by midnight the river was a torrent.

The alarm was sounded by fire whistles and bells of the city and almost all of the people who live in the neighborhood of the Conemaugh river left their houses and took shelter on higher ground. The water continued to rise rapidly and by three o'clock had reached its highest point. In many places it was from six to eight feet over the banks. All danger is past. The loss by the flood is variously estimated at from \$75,000 to \$150,000. The Pennsylvania railroad, whose tracks follow the river for twenty-five miles above

the city, is perhaps the heaviest loser, and its loss is placed at \$50,000.

At Conemaugh the roundhouse seemed to be about destroyed, and all the engines were removed to a place of safety. The foundation was undermined, but the building stood.

The Flood at Lewisburg.

Monday's report from Lewisburg says the sweeping torrents that on Sunday bounded over the banks of the Susquehanna river continue to rise at the rate of eight inches an hour. In a few hours it was as high as in 1889, and the heavy rains that fell on Sunday will likely swell it higher.

The whole Susquehanna valley is inundated and the destruction and destitution is widespread. Lock Haven, Williamsport, Milton and Sunbury are in great distress, being under five feet of water, with the worst to come. Lewisburg is situated on high ground and has not been damaged with the exception of some building on the surrounding flats, which have been carried away on the crest of the fearful current. The water works, gas works and electric light plant, which are located along the river, have been stopped and until the flood recedes the town will be without water or light of any kind.

A train of freight cars was put on the bridge, the floor of which was almost touched by the water.

Two spans of the bridge have since been carried off by the flood and all communication with Montandon cut off.

The Flood at Lock Haven.

The great flood swept down the West Branch valley causing great loss on the lowlands.

The river rose rapidly and the lower portion of Lock Haven was submerged. The booms broke and set adrift about twenty million feet of saw logs. Aside from loss of logs and lumber the damage is nothing like that of five years ago, as the merchants had ample time to remove the goods. No loss of life has occurred in Clinton county, so far as can be learned. The farmers are heavy losers on account of their crops being destroyed. Water street in Lock Haven was flooded to a depth of about six feet.

In Philadelphia.

The flood that on Monday swept down the Schuylkill river gathered volume each hour and at night raged like a torrent. It spread over the grass lands and driveways of Fairmount park. The water overflowed the wharves and backed up into the streets and houses two squares from the banks. The water was three feet deep over the tracks of the Balt. and Ohio railroad and two feet of water covers the ground floor of the company's station at 23 and Chestnut streets. There is six feet of water in the Balt. and Ohio tunnel, between Arch and Spring Garden streets, and all travel south has been interrupted over the road since noon on Monday.

At Sanbury.

The river overflowed its banks on Monday afternoon and the water has spread into parts of the town.

All communication between Sunbury and Northumberland has been cut off.

Two spans of the Philadelphia and Reading iron bridge across the river at Muncy were forced down about 3 o'clock by a gorge of logs.

Huntingdon Flooded.

The Juniata on Sunday was 20 feet above low water mark and a great portion of the town of Huntingdon was under water, and people were driven from their homes, and others are imprisoned in their houses by surrounding water. Bridges in all directions are swept away.

At Lewistown.

All streams in Mifflin county had risen to a wild flood. South of Lewistown the country is inundated and people had to flee to high lands. The McVeytown iron bridge is wrecked.

Republican State Convention.

The Republican state convention met at Harrisburg on Wednesday, and nominated Gen. Hastings for governor by acclamation, amid great cheering. The General was notified of his nomination and invited to address the convention. The General appeared and was received with cheers, and frequent applause given to his utterances.

Bargains in Clothing.

New suits made to order, \$15 to \$18. All new Spring goods, at Montgomery's, Bellefonte.

—Lewins, Bellefonte, has the most experienced cutter in these parts and at his establishment you can be suited in a manner fitting a prince, and at a reasonable price.
—Subscribe for the REPORTER.

CAPITOL GOSSIP

FILLIBUSTERING AT AN END FOR THE PRESENT.

Vice President Stevenson Selected a Committee Which Began Investigation Today.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—There is nothing like presenting a united front to the enemy for convincing them that business is meant. The Senate just now presents a striking confirmation of this assertion. Just as soon as every Democratic Senator in town signed an agreement to remain in their seats each day until Senator Harris should move to adjourn the Republicans saw that the fillibustering jig was up, unless they were prepared to remain in their seats for an indefinite period to keep it up and there was little probability of success even then, as the silver Republicans publicly gave notice of their intention to aid the Democrats in keeping a quorum and in getting a vote on the bill, and there are other Republican Senators who privately expressed the same sentiments. The fillibustering died hard, but when Senator Harris's motion for the Senate to meet, beginning today, at 10 o'clock was made no negative votes were cast.

This does not, of course, mean that Republican opposition to the bill has been withdrawn, but that it has been forced by the united front of the Democrats down to a legitimate basis and that extended debate is no longer expended upon minor items in the bill. The Democrats have no desire to stifle debate on the really important sections of the bill and the proposed amendments, and they expect that a reasonable amount of time will be consumed when the sugar schedule, the income tax and other really important portions of the bill are reached, but they do not intend that debate merely for delay shall play any further part in the consideration of the bill, and in that determination they have every reason to believe that they are supported by nine-tenths of the people of the country, regardless of politics, who want this question settled at the earliest possible moment, in the interest of a resumption of business.

The fairness of Vice President Stevenson in selecting the committee which today began the investigation, authorized by the resolution adopted without a dissenting vote by the Senate last week, was in marked contrast with the action of Republican presiding officers of the Senate in selecting similar committees in the past. Although he would have been justifiable in putting three Democrats and two Republicans on the committee, he only selected two Democrats—Gray, of Del., and Lindsay, of Ky., allowing the Populists one member—Allen, of Nebr., and the Republicans two—Lodge, of Mass., and Davis, of Minn.

The first work of the committee will be to try to get at all the facts connected with the outrageous attempt to bribe Senators Kyle, of S. D., and Hunton, of Va., to vote against the tariff bill. Sensational disclosures are looked for in this case, but your correspondent is not over sanguine that they will pan out; not because they do not exist, but because when men start out to accomplish anything by bribery they seldom leave their tracks uncovered to a sufficient extent to have the crime legally fastened upon them.

The committee will also investigate the numerous charges connecting the Senators who arranged the amendments to the tariff bill with the sugar trust in a scandalous manner, and your correspondent does not hesitate to predict that the foundation of every one of these charges will be found the same—Partisan vindictiveness against tariff reform. But whatever the foundations may be the committee proposes to get down to them if such a thing is possible. Several well-known Republican newspaper men will find it difficult to produce authority for charges they have made against Senators, and it will not be surprising if some of them eventually figure in court as defendants in criminal libel suits. The first official work of the committee was to vote unanimously in favor of hearing the testimony in secret. This was not because of any desire to conceal or to cover up anything, but because it was thought to be the best way of getting to the bottom of things. Every word of testimony taken will be printed and made public at the close of the investigation, but in the meantime Senator Gray will decide just how much shall from day to day be given to the newspapers.

The first big batch of discharges from the Government Printing office were made Saturday. They will be continued until the force is reduced to its proper number; meanwhile but few appointments are being made. The House has the business of the session so well advanced that it gave itself a holiday by adjourning over Saturday, something it is not in the

habit of doing. It has worked faithfully on the appropriation bills and it has them all in such shape that it will soon be able to take up and dispose of some other important business while waiting for the Senate to send back the tariff bill with its amendments.

They Are Not Wanted.

An army is now organizing in New England to march on Washington for the purpose of protecting property and keeping the peace.

The recruits in the new organization are union veterans, and they have taken an oath to risk their lives, if necessary, in defense of the government. One of the objects of the movement is to ask congress to pass some measure of financial relief and to reform the pension system.

While this so-called army claims to be an anti-Coxey affair, the probability is that it will make itself a nuisance if it ever gets to Washington. These organized tramps are not wanted in this country, and if their members will be half as energetic in seeking work as they are in getting up their traveling picnics they will have no difficulty in earning a living, and they will be too busy to pay any attention to the cranky reformers who are now giving the public and the government so much trouble.

The authorities can easily protect property and keep the peace without the aid of volunteers who propose to beg their way through the country. The Coxey and anti-Coxey armies should be disbanded.

Death from Exposure.

A four-year-old son of William Delaney, at Jacksonville, this county, died on Sunday last from the effects of long exposure to the storm without food. On Friday afternoon the little one had gone to the woods with other people and became separated from them. That night and all of Saturday the family searched carefully for the missing child without gaining any trace of him. On Sunday the entire neighborhood was aroused and at 12 o'clock he was found six miles from home. Losing his way, he had wandered through the pitiless storm further and further from home and at last sank exhausted beneath a tree. The exposure to the elements for several days without food so prostrated the little fellow that he died soon after being found.

Base Ball Game.

The Centre Hall ball tossers have arranged a game with the Aaronsburg club to be played at the latter place Friday afternoon.

This much has been learned already—that one club is to be licked, but just which one we will know later on.

The Centre Hall boys have a reputation at stake and it would be doubly hard and humiliating to have its colors lowered by any club except the gilt edged New Yorks, which have always been just a little speedy for us. The Aaronsburg boys are said to be dead sure that this time they hold nothing but trump cards and unless luck does the "low down" on them the mortgage on their ground can be wiped out.

No matter how the game comes out Millheim wants a chance at Centre Hall next Wednesday, to find out whether it has improved any in the last two years.

Making Big Hauls.

The breaking of the Stone mill dam has been the means of furnishing some big tales about certain hauls of fish and eels from its bed. One man is reported as having caught 175 eels, while others fared almost as well. These stories, however, we are inclined to doubt, as they are a little too early like.

Coxey Sent to Jail.

On Tuesday Judge Miller, in the police court at Washington, sentenced Gen. Coxey, Brown and Jones, the Commonwealers, for displaying partisan banners on the Capitol grounds, to a fine of \$5 each and twenty days in jail. They are now doing time serving their sentences.

The Mail Service.

On Monday morning last the last mail from the east arrived at Centre Hall, and since then no eastern papers were received. The service is paralyzed and it will be several days before the traffic will move as smoothly as heretofore. The postmasters have little to do at present, but when the delayed mail begins to arrive there will be some hustling.

WALLACE or Eckley B. Coxey set up against Hastings would oblige the Republicans to get up quite early in the morning and hustle until late at night.

—The popular Russet shoe will be in greater favor than ever this year. We have them in all styles, shapes, and shades, at prices to correspond.—Mingle's, Bellefonte.