

OUT OF WATER

After Reaching Within
Two Feet of the Great
Flood of 1884, the
RIVERS ARE RECEDING

A Load of Suspense Lifted
From the Minds of Thou-
sands of Citizens.

BUSY SCENES DOWNTOWN

Multitudes Gather to Watch the
Waves Rippling Through
Abandoned Streets.

NOVEL METHODS OF TRAVEL USED.

Some Forced to Brave the Dangers of the
Deep, While Others Dare Them
Just for Fun.

SKIFFS AND WAGONS IN GREAT DEMAND

Many of the Leading Establishments Forced to Suspend
Business.

TRADE PRACTICALLY BROUGHT TO A STANDSTILL

T noon yesterday the Allegheny river reached its greatest height, 32 feet 9 inches, only about two feet less than the great flood of 1884. The Monongahela was about a foot lower.

Like an unchained demon the angry waters through the long night had been spreading consternation and terror in the flooded districts of the two cities, driving the frightened people before it. At 12 o'clock it had spent its force, and slowly and sullenly commenced to retreat.

For the first few hours the depression was slight, but it was sufficient to produce a high relief from the stricken inhabitants. Between 2 and 3 o'clock it dropped in sudden jerks, as if dying hard and making desperate efforts to return to the attack. At 4 o'clock the fall had receded 10 inches, and by evening the water was going down rapidly.

The High Water Mark of 1891.

There it was that the older citizens made marks on their houses 2 feet under the record of 1884, to show future posterity how the wicked rivers had overflowed their banks in 1891, and produced untold suffering.

In the morning and during the day the lower portions of Pittsburgh and Allegheny were under water. The main streets and the bridges were covered with six feet or more, and were impassable to persons on foot. Boats and skiffs were in demand, and ferries soon were established. Owners of private stables and cab lines, with both eyes

on the almighty dollar and the convenience of the public ranked as a secondary consideration, were early on the scene with their vehicles, and for 5 cents apiece did a rushing business, carrying people to and from the bridges.

A Busy Day for the Business Men.

Business men were wading in the water, wearing high-top rubber boots, or navigating the flood in boats, trying to save what property they could on the first floors. Siphons and pumps were at work pouring streams of dirty water into the streets as fast as it rushed back into the cellars and on the lower floors, in a vain endeavor to keep out the flood.

The pretty parquet of the Duquesne Theatre, from which the chairs had been removed, looked like a miniature lake, with the water almost even with the stage. The big pump that captured the medal at the Exposition last year was puffing away in the rear, sucking the flood into itself and then throwing it out in disgust. It was no use. The water was there, and there to stay for awhile.

Misery loves company, and the theater owners had the satisfaction of knowing that every cellar all around the houses in Pittsburgh and away over in Allegheny was full to overflowing.

The Day After a Long Night of Toil.

All night long business men had been working, as Trojans never toiled, in stores,

homes, mills and factories, while the water rose beneath them, moving property to higher places and out of danger. Much was lost and spoiled, and they turned away leaving it as trophies to the victorious waters.

With the first rains, like the early bird in spring, the rustic appeared on the streets to see the sights. The flooded districts down town were jammed with people who stood on the pavements watching the water and wondering how much damage had been done. In the afternoon the ladies with their seal skin saques ventured out and added to the pandemonium and crowds on the pavement. Business was practically suspended, and it was impossible without a boat or rubber boots to get into some of the leading stores. Penn avenue at different points was lined with furniture



ALLEGHENY POLICE RIVER PATROL AT WORK.

that had been taken out of the houses, and during the night a guard tramped up and down, restlessly keeping his eye on the property. It was such scenes that greeted Pittsburgh and Allegheny yesterday, and will be partially repeated to-day.

SCENES ON THE STREETS.

Great crowds view the flood on Penn avenue.

Drunks at the Point furnish some amusement—People Anxious to See the Rivers—Hacks and Skiff Men Making Money With Rapidity.

The amusing features of the flood were not wanting. At the Point, where the denizens in the little tenements had been driven out to seek shelter in stables and the larger houses of neighbors, some of the heads of families and the young men filled up on bug

juice. They were in a glorious humor and wallowed around in the water to the great amusement of the crowds.

Those who were running the boats at the foot of Penn avenue couldn't stand their good fortune, and as fast as they yielded to the persuasive influence of Bacchus, other anxious candidates took their place.

On the Pittsburgh side Penn avenue and the bridges were the prospective points. Men and women tramped from the Ft. Wayne Railroad to the Point trying to get a view of the river down through the water-covered side streets.

Not Afraid of Wet Feet.

In front of Horne's store and along by the Anderson Hotel the water was high, but the people didn't mind that. They hugged the buildings, trying to pass by without wetting the feet, but that was impossible. The water poured over the shoe tops, but still the crowds tramped from point to point. The horses in the streets splashed the water, evidently enjoying it, onto the pavements, sending drenching showers over the pedestrians, but floods don't come often, and the average man and woman were prepared yesterday to put up with any inconvenience rather than lose such an opportunity.

The crowds were good natured, and while they regretted the losses of their fellows, they were such a novelty that it was the chief attraction.

The great destruction at Herr's Island, indeed, was a majestic sight, and more than one woman, as she stood on the bridge and looked down at the swift current, shuddered at the thought of falling into the seething mass. A twig in a whirlwind would be as light as a body in such a volume of water.

A Rush for Theater Seats.

With two theaters rendered hors d'oeuvres and no matinee at the Grand Opera

tonants, and when a woman wanted to leave a surrounded house she howled from a second story window and a boat was sent for her. The galleries of the Exposition building were thrown open, and the property of these poor people has been stored there.

Mr. McElherron, custodian of the Exposition, thinks the loss to the buildings will be about \$5,000, but others claim it will be more. The depth of the water around the place yesterday afternoon was over six feet. Big holes were driven through the restaurant floor, and the building waded down with ropes to keep it from floating away. The floor between the main hall and machinery department has been turned up by the water and will have to be relaid. S. S. Marvins' stable next at hand was flooded, but his horses and property were moved out of danger. The loss of the Hygieia Ice Company will be about \$1,000. Mr. Brass, the lumber dealer, is also a heavy loser.

CHILDREN OF A LARGER GROWTH

Delighted in Paddling About in Gum Boats Yesterday.

Anxious mothers who wonder at the fondness displayed by their young sons for paddling in a paddle would have found an explanation of their children's penchant by visiting the submerged part of the city yesterday.

The children's liking for paddles was shown to be hereditary by the fact that every man could be seen, borrow or buy a pair of gum boots was walking knee-deep in the muddy waters whether he had business requiring him to do so or not.

my actual loss. I had nothing of great value in my cellar, and I am happy."

DAMAGE TO DUQUESNE WAY CELLARS.

The man in charge of the Seventh street bridge said that little damage had been done along the wharf, outside of the flooded cellars and lower floors of houses on Duquesne way. In the morning a small frame house with its furniture floated down the river from some point and was smashed to pieces against one of the piers. A remnant of the wreck could still be seen last evening clinging to the stones. The bridge attendant said that, so far as he could see, nobody was in the house, and the inmates undoubtedly fled to the bank before the flood came. A Dill's house, W. T. Dow's & Bro., brokers in produce, and the Grocers' Supply and Storage Company. The latter concern had considerable valuable property in the cellar, and they place their loss in the neighborhood of \$10,000. It was estimated that several hundred dollars apiece would

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Downtown Business Men Suffer Severely by Flood and Loss of Trade.

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From Fifth street down to the Point the damage to property will be heavy. Along Duquesne way the water was very deep and swift. At the Randall Club it was about 6 feet, but as the house is on high ground the water hardly reached to the ceiling of the first floor. The adjoining houses of Mr. Judge Jones and Mrs. Laughlin and Mr. Ewing were in the same condition. It was impossible to get into any of these houses except by skiffs, and the Randall Club had a half dozen to accommodate members.

Much valuable lumber on the wharf belonging to Stewart & McElvaine was carried away. The tenement houses on Fourth, Second, First and Fort streets were in a sorry plight. The tenants were living on the top floors, and many of them had moved out. Four families were living in the Hygieia Ice Company's stable, and seven had quartered themselves in a big brick house on Penn avenue. The avenue between First and Fort streets in the afternoon was covered with a few feet of water.

Superintendent Veatch, of the Hygieia Ice Company, a very intelligent and well posted man, estimates the loss of property, from Sixth street to the Point, at \$50,000. The damage to the mills will be heavy. He said there was no suffering among the people, as they were all supplied with food, and all those who had to move have been provided with homes. The company kept skiffs on First street for the imprisoned

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One Little Sufferer Dying From Pneumonia in a Shanty Boat.

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fighting with his wife. They were moored in their boat away out on the line of the river bank and had to be removed from the boat in skiffs. Both the man and woman were drunk, and although having whisky in the house had no food. A little daughter aged about 13 years was lying sick at the time and nearly starved. The man and wife were locked up in the Allegheny General Hospital. There it was developed that she was suffering severely with pneumonia. She will recover, but she had been allowed to live on the water another night her case would have been hopeless. She said that she had no food since Tuesday night, and that her parents were drunk constantly from that time. She found a little bit of coffee in the house, which she brewed from the muddy water she had, and that was the only nourishment she had in 30 hours.

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The High Water Stops Outbound Travel and Keeps Drummers Inside.

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An Incident That Accompanied the Fall of the Herr's Island Bridge.

One of the most startling incidents of the present flood occurred just below Herr's Island early yesterday morning. When the wreck of the sawmill and the bridge came down it struck the house of Joseph Scott. The side was broken in and the structure shored off the foundation.

The water rose to the windows in the second story, where Mr. Scott, his wife and four little children were sleeping. For an instant it seemed as if they would all be lost, but a boat in charge of James Quasler shot out from the bank and followed the current with the house. The half drowned family were safely transferred to the boat. The boat had not gotten ten feet away before the house went to pieces and disappeared.

MUCH LOSS IN MILLS.

Iron Men Place the Total Damage to Their Works at Half a Million.

FORTY LARGE WORKS IDLE.

Throwing Out of Employment Over 25,000 Skilled Workmen.

EXPLOT TO RESUME ON MONDAY.

Oil Operators Heavy Financial Sufferers by the Floods.

DERRICKS AND ENGINES SWEEP AWAY

The damage done to the mills of the two cities by the flood is hard to estimate until the waters recede sufficiently to permit an investigation. The situation can be sized up briefly, when it is considered that nearly two scores of large establishments were submerged; at least 25,000 men thrown out of employment, and the losses through damage to property and delays in operations will reach at least half a million and probably more.

The peculiar situation of the mills located along the river fronts renders them the first to be visited by the rise in the rivers. Each mill has a communication with the river for

replace the loss sustained by the others living on this street.

SIXTH STREET DAMAGE.

LOSSES PUT AT A HIGH FIGURE BY A BUSINESS MAN.

Wanamaker & Brown and Danziger Suffer the Most—The Anderson and Schlosser Swamped—Goods Moved in Time From Cellars.

Sixth street and part of Penn avenue near it is one of the centers of business in the city, and this section suffered severely from the water. A business man estimated the loss on Sixth street at \$75,000 alone, but he did not say how he figured. From the Anderson to the Fifth National Bank on this street, the water was several feet deep on the floors of the houses on the lower side of the street. It touched the pavement and ran out into the streets. The cellars, of course, maintained the level on the street.

Manager Edwards, of Wanamaker & Brown, puts the loss of his firm at \$50,000, and Mr. Danziger thinks his damage will

reach \$7,000. Mr. Edwards said the water came up so rapidly that the summer goods stored on the upper shelves could not be moved in time. He secured a skiff and with it got out the spoiled clothing. Danziger's basement is full of house furnishing goods. The valuable goods were moved. T. G. Jenkin's wholesale house is nearby. His cellar is full of water, and he says his loss will be about \$100,000. Henry J. Hale, the tailor in the Jackson building, saved his stock from the water, and his damage will be nominal. It will cost \$1,000 or more to put the building in shape. Goldstein, the shoe man, had shoes spoiled to the amount of \$1,200. The losses of Joseph Horne & Co., Grotzinger, W. F. Greer, china store, J. P. Diehl & Son, wall paper; Boissel & Wagley, Dravo & Wilson and Joseph Baska will not amount to much. These firms moved all their goods from the cellars and placed a few hundred dollars apiece will replace them. Hay, the caterer, said he had valuable ovens and other property which would be ruined in the cellar. The water was not so hot when it came in, and he was afraid they were badly cracked. He could not say what his loss would be, but he added that it costs money to build ovens. The Hamilton Hotel was swamped with other houses, but the main damage will be to the building. The clerk figured on a loss of \$1,000.

The Anderson with their pumps and siphons succeeded in keeping the water out until 3 o'clock yesterday morning, when it poured in over the top of the pavement and reached the cellar to the ceiling. The property had been moved to the second floor, and not much damage will be done to the machinery and laundry. Captain McKinnon put a steam engine at work in the street pump that the water came in, and he was afraid they were badly cracked. He could not say what his loss would be, but he added that it costs money to build ovens. The Hamilton Hotel was swamped with other houses, but the main damage will be to the building. The clerk figured on a loss of \$1,000.

Other business houses badly flooded on Sixth street a part of the river was running through the cellar of the Boyer Hotel. Colonel Boyer, however, was as serene as a June rose, and said his loss would not be more than \$1,000. "It all goes with the business," he said good-naturedly, "and it will be in the profit and loss column at the end of the year. My storeroom is flooded, but it is filled with odds and ends that would have yielded 25 cents on the dollar, and will probably bring 10 cents now. The machinery is buried out of sight, but a little oil and a few men will brighten it again when the water goes down. The elevator couldn't be run, and really I am more annoyed at the inconvenience than by

the purpose of draining the surplus water from the establishment. This outlet is usually low and permits the water to reach the mill and stop operations before any other damage is done.

Jones & Laughlin, of the Southside, was the only firm that profited by the flood of 1884. They placed valves at the heads of the outlets to their works, and while the American Iron Works are situated lower than some other mills that were partly under water yesterday, Jones & Laughlin were not compelled to suspend work. They were put to no inconvenience whatever, and kept all departments in full operation.

Greatest Damage to the Furnaces.

The greatest damage to the mills will be in the furnaces, which are sure to be cracked if the water reached them while in a heated condition. The machinery will not sustain much injury, and the greatest loss, outside of the furnaces, will be where wooden patterns were swept away. These cases, however, are factoring into the picture.

A DISPATCH reporter started out yesterday afternoon to investigate the damage done the various iron and steel works. Some of them could be reached by skiffs and some of them could not. At Schoenberg & Co.'s the mill was found to be over six feet under water, and the members of the firm could scarcely get into the office. They have 1,200 men out of employment, and their loss will exceed \$15,000.

The damage to the mills of the Carnegie interests will reach from \$20,000 to \$40,000 possibly. All their works out Penn avenue are under water, and it is thought that many furnaces have been totally destroyed. Several thousand men are thrown idle, and it will not be possible to resume operations before the first of the coming week, if then.

The Keystone and Pittsburgh Bridge Works are completely flooded out and no information could be secured regarding the loss.

No More Work During the Week.

The plow works of A. Spear & Sons were 2 1/2 feet under water. The firm employs 200 men, who will not get back to work before Monday. It is not thought the loss will exceed \$5,000, although some important patterns may have floated away, the value of which could not be estimated yesterday.

Weyman & Bro. will not sustain such a heavy loss, although they had a considerable amount of stock and material submerged. They were compelled to suspend operations. The mill of Zieg & Co. were "out of sight," and no one could be seen to estimate damage. The works of the Pittsburgh Steel Casting Company were in the same shape.

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It was reported that Hubbard & Co., the ax and saw manufacturers, were shut down, but their works are above the high water mark, and were in operation yesterday. The Standard Oil Company were not heavy losers, but a large force of men were kept busy all day exercising precautions against fire. They have over 500 men idle, who will not get to work again for two or three days.

The furnaces of the Malleable Iron Works of McCoway, Torley & Co. were flooded. The loss could not be estimated, as it was impossible to tell to what extent the furnaces were injured, although it is thought they are total wrecks. In the latter case the loss will be in the thousands of dollars. Five hundred men are out of employment.

One Establishment Gets Off Easily.

The water reached the furnaces of the Crescent Steel Works, but no particular damage was done. In the latter case the loss will be in the thousands of dollars. Five hundred men are out of employment.

On the Southside all of the mills belonging to the Oliver syndicate, except the Fifteenth street mill, were under water. The loss will run into the thousands. The new machine shop at South Tenth street was damaged some, and the furnaces in the mill at that point are in bad shape.

On the West End both the mills of Singer, Nimick & Co. and J. Painter & Sons were stopped, and Manager Harper, of the latter place, shut off the gas to prevent a possible explosion. Over 1,000 men are employed in the two mills.

At the coffin works of Hamilton, Arnold & Co., in Manchester, the employees were engaged nearly all night Tuesday getting stuck out of the reach of the water, and last night was spent in cleaning up the place. They had a considerable amount of light material carried away, but their fancy and valuable trimmings and other stock were fortunately stored in an upper story.

Other mills in the lower portion of Allegheny, among others Lindsay & McCutcheon's, the two mills at Wood's Run, and the sawtooths of Fuller, Beck & Co., were damaged heavily.

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Great Loss of Money in Delay.

Abel, Smith & Co., the glass manufacturer here, the chief sufferers in their line. They will not sustain a heavy loss, except as a natural result of delay. They employ 600 hands and will be able to start up again about to-morrow. The loss for a week because the sand

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