

SUPPLEMENT.

TERRIBLE.

OIL CITY'S AWFUL HOLOCAUST.

FLOOD AND FIRE!

Sixty Persons Reported Dead and scores Injured.

An Awful Experience that None Will Forget in a Lifetime.

The most appalling calamity in the history of Oil City fell upon it Sunday, resulting in the destruction of life and property to an extent which as yet can only be approximated. Thus far about fifty lives are known to have been lost.

At 11:30 a. m. a large proportion of the population of the city was distributed along the banks and bridges of the Allegheny river and Oil Creek, watching the rise of the flood in both streams, the chief cause of the rise of the latter being due to a cloud burst above Titusville Saturday night. At the hour mentioned an ominous covering of oil made its appearance on the crest of the flood flowing down the Oil Creek Valley and the danger foreboding waves of gas from distillate and benzine could be seen above the surface of the stream.

PEOPLE BEGAN TO FALL BACK from the bridge and the creek, but they had hardly begun to do so when an explosion was heard up the stream, which was rapidly followed by two others and quick as a flash of lightning the creek for a distance of two miles was filled with an awful mass of roaring flames and billows of smoke that rolled high above the creek and river hills. No pen can picture the scene then witnessed—one that will always live in the memory of those who saw it. Oil City, it may be stated for strangers who read this, is bounded on all sides by steep hills. Oil Creek comes down the valley from the north and just before its confluence here with the Allegheny is crossed by a bridge to the portion of the city embraced in the Third Ward, which lies along the west bank of the creek and the north bank of the river. Nearly all that portion of the town was on fire within a few minutes from the time of the explosion and no one knows as yet how many of the inhabitants are ashes in the ruins of their homes.

A BLIZZARD representative stood at the time of the first explosion at the east end of the Creek bridge mentioned. Almost as quickly as the words can be written fully five thousand people in that portion of the town were wild with terror and rushing to the hills. Men forgot that they were men and scores of them, together with women and children, were knocked down and trampled upon both by horses and people in the mad flight for places of safety. Just as

THE PANIC MASS OF HUMANITY. Had started up Centre street the second explosion occurred, knocking many people down shattering the windows in the main part of town and almost transforming day to night with the immense expanse of smoke preceding the second burst of flame. Many thought the day of judgment had come, and many prayers were heard mingling with the moans and lamentations of the fleeing multitude. The heat was intense and the wild, and awful spectacle presented to the panic stricken stricken people was that cloud-burst of fire bordered and overcapped by a great canopy of dense black smoke, was falling upon the city. It was no wonder that

PEOPLE WENT AND FAINTED, and, leaving everything behind them, ran or were helped away to the hills. And after they were out of danger and before, came the anxiety and suspense as to relatives and friends who had been along the creek watching the flood when the avalanche of flame came. They have since continued the search for the missing ones, and the city to-day, like last night, is full of the searchers.

THE FLOOD IN THE VALLEY had inundated the upper portion of town, flooding from fifty to seventy-five houses along North Seneca street. The most of their inmates reached places of

safety by the use of boats or by swimming and wading, but a number of them were yet in the upper stories or in the water when the fire came and

THEIR FATE WAS QUICKLY SEALED. Some of them were seen to jump into the water to escape death in the flames. From the remnants of the only buildings remaining in this waste after the flood thirteen persons were removed in a boat, three of them severely burned but alive. The distillate and benzine on the creek came from a tank lifted by the flood and is supposed to have been ignited by a spark from some wells on the west bank of the creek, above the Lake Shore tunnel.

THE FIRE SHOT UP THE CREEK as well as down, and several tanks were soon on fire at a number of the refineries up the creek. The damage to property by fire alone can not be even approximated. The Bellevue Hotel, Petroleum House, the Oil City Barrel Factory, the new building of the Oil City Tube Works, the big furniture and undertaking establishment of Paul & Sons and about 150 dwelling houses have been totally destroyed.

The bare description of the scene witnessed when the fire started would more than fill every inch of space in the BLIZZARD and not approach the requirements of the description. In writing at all the mind reverts at once to

THAT AWFUL SIGHT that Niagara of fire, that veritable rushing hell of flame and smoke. May the Oil Creek Valley—or any other valley—never be filled again with such an avalanche of destruction; may the Grim Reaper never ride again on such waves of death anywhere on earth. Frenzy, fright, prayer and unmeasurable grief; HOPE, ANGUISH, DESPAIR AND DEATH, the living and the dead. O, the pity of it! the pity of it all! No wonder that people fell everywhere upon their knees and prayed to the Almighty to save them, and that those who did so were not confined to the members of churches.

That the main portion of the city was not wiped out was due to the splendid work of the firemen and the fact that the wind was blowing from the east.

Chas. Frank, his father and Marion Crowther, who live a couple of miles out the Dempseytown road, were on the narrow stretch of land above the Lake Shore tunnel when the explosion occurred and began a

REMARKABLE FLIGHT FOR LIFE which they succeed in winning. Mr. Crowther had an arm broken and was otherwise injured, but all of them succeeded in reaching the mouth of the tunnel and running into it, just as the great wall of flame closed upon it. They reached the other end of the tunnel in safety.

Let us not touch upon the horrible details so long as they may be avoided, but describe the progress of the flames. That part of the city lying north of the Boiler Works along Seneca street and between that street and the W. N. Y. & P. tracks; which portion of the city had been inundated by the flood, was the first to go. It embraced nearly if not fully one hundred residences, and they were quickly

BURNED TO THE WATER'S EDGE, and the flood was leaping over their ruins. Once again let us defer the horrible details to be recorded.

Sweeping down to the Centre street bridge across Oil Creek, the flames began to cut their terrible swath of destruction through the Third Ward. The Bellevue barns were the first to burn, quickly followed by the hotel, Paul & Sons' furniture and undertaking establishment, the Petroleum House and the twenty buildings lying between the Creek bridge and the alley below the Petroleum House. A quarter of a mile below the flame swung in from the river and burned the Oil City Coal & Lumber Co.'s mill, the Chautauqua & Sandy Lake Ice Co.'s building, the Diebolt residence and C. Ross' tenement house. Above the Creek bridge, besides the residences in the inundated district as noted above the Oil City Barrel factory, the new buildings of the Oil City Tube Works and the intermediate buildings in that section were destroyed. A train had been run out on the Nypano bridge to hold it down. Six of the cars were burned and the bridge badly damaged. The Creek bridge was saved by the

RAID WORK OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, and the fire was kept to the west side of the creek, though it twice leaped over and caught the belfry of Trinity Church and the Derrick office. The latter was not damaged except by water but the building had to be abandoned temporarily, and this morning's Derrick was accordingly issued from the BLIZZARD office.

After the first wild rush to places of safety on the part of the masses was over, came the reaction, and the thoughts of self were supplanted by

THOUGHTS OF OTHERS. Everywhere the question was asked, "How many do you think are dead?" In most cases there came back the fitting answer, "God only knows." And that answer is still the fitting one to be given. If the loss of life does not reach nearly a

hundred it will be less than now anticipated. Following is the

LIST OF THE DEAD. Select Councilman John B. Reinbold, proprietor of the Bellevue Hotel. While Mr. Reinbold's family, all but two of whom were at home, hurried away to a place of safety, he ran to the barn to untie the horses. His body was found about 5 o'clock in the ruins of the barn. He had one leg bled off, but was lying under a heavy piece of timber and had evidently been knocked senseless by the same. He had been partly burned in the body when the timber fell and was but little disfigured.

Among the first bodies reported found were four at the south end of the W. N. Y. & P. creek bridge. Three of them were finally identified as those of H. W. Shafer, of Franklin, operator in the office of Cornwall & Reed and the Postal office; a book agent named Bristol; Chas. Miller, a machinist in the National Transit shop. They had been watching the flood at that point, were literally roasted as quick as a flash and dropped almost together in a heap.

Daniel Sullivan, aged forty-five, formerly an engineer on the W. N. Y. & P., was found dead on a pile of boards in Wick's lumber yard. He was unmarried and lived with his parents, Mrs. John Roach and little child were burned and drowned at their home on North Seneca street. The husband and father saw them die and his efforts to save them are expected to result in the loss of his own life. Grant Terwilliger, who was heroically working to save women and children, was drowned, as was also his brother Will. They dived into the water as the flash came did not appear again. Both were married and leave families.

E. V. R. Planke, here on a business trip from Carthage, N. Y., was among those in the vicinity of the creek railroad bridge and was burned to a crisp.

The bodies of Councilmen Bartholomew Lyons, his wife and fourteen-year old boy, when found in the ruins of their home presented a touching spectacle. The wife held the boy to her breast and the arms of the husband were about both the wife and child.

Mrs. Edward Mills, of 30 Seneca street, was found in the evening with her two children burned almost beyond recognition.

A. F. Moran, of Rochester, N. Y., aged about thirty years, was found drowned on Seneca street.

James Rogers, of the Clapp farm, started to float down in a boat from one of the refineries and was lost. Wm. White, of Clapp farm, was in the boat with him and was also lost. He leaves a wife and five children.

Edward Keating, a W. N. Y. & P. section boss, was dreadfully burned, and after running to his home on Palace Hill, dropped dead.

Willis Stewart, of Siverlyville, one of heroes of the rescuing party, who was caught in the fearful flames also perished.

Harry Holmes, of Jamestown, N. Y., a young barber about twenty years of age, employed in John Uhlender's shop, was drowned on Seneca street.

Farther up the body of Walter McPherson, of Rousseauville, was found.

Express Messenger John O'Leary and his aged mother were found dead together and the sight presented was both frightful and touching. The son had evidently made a vain endeavor to save the mother and had then knelt by her bedside in prayer. When found he was still kneeling there burned in the frightful manner indicated in the report above of the bodies at the Mayor's office.

The body of H. D. Dougherty, of the Summit, was found at 8 o'clock this morning. The only manner in which it could be identified was by a fragment found of the shirt he wore. His wife had made the shirt and to her fell the sad lot of making the identification through remembrance of the way she had made the button holes.

William Eakin, aged fifty-five years, and his two sons, Frank and Ed Eakin, both married, lost their lives at the father's home, on Seneca street. They sent their mother and sister over the temporary bridge and remained behind to pile the furniture out of the water. They were caught in the flames and lost. The bodies of all were found and identified this morning.

The body of Sheridan Wick who is supposed to have jumped into the water to escape death by fire, was found this morning near the Wick Lumber yards and taken to the Mayor's office.

El. Mills has been found frightfully burned. Three other children are yet to be found.

A little nine-year-old girl named Edith Freeman, whose parents live on Seneca street, was found in the ruins of the house this forenoon.

S. P. Steck, who made a strong fight for life, died at 10:30 o'clock this morning.

One of the bodies found at the railroad bridge immediately after the fire was identified this morning as that of Attorney J. L. Dorworth.

Thus far forty-two bodies have been found.

The Coroner and jury are now viewing the remains.

There were several TEMPORARY MORGUES, and the sight presented at each seemed more horrible than the other. At the City Hall was a sight to cause the most stolid heart to sicken and the strongest frame to tremble at the spectacle that met the gaze. Lying side by side were the charred remains of ten of the victims stretched out along the wide hall on the ground floor.

ONE LOOK AT THE AWFUL WORK was enough to gratify the curiosity of the morbid sight-seers. Silent in death, burnt beyond the semblance of human beings were forms that with the rising of the morning's sun were full of life, ambition and hope. At the farther end of the hall lay all that was once a happy family. Bartholomew Lyons, wife and son, all terribly burned. Next to them lay Mrs. Mills and her twin daughters. The former was only slightly burned but the latter two were burned to a crisp. Only the bodies were left and the blacked and crisp arms were clasped about one another, showing that they were in one another's embrace when the summons came. Mr. Mills only came to this country from England a little more than a year ago. Four months ago the remainder of the family arrived, and now all have been swept, as with a breath, from the face of the earth. Walter McPherson and Grant Terwilliger, lay side by side, the former only slightly burned but the latter beyond recognition. The left hand was burned off and the stub of the arm was raised imploringly toward Heaven. Mrs. O'Leary and her son John, an express messenger on the Valley road, laid side by side. The former was a frightful sight but the latter was even more shocking to behold. Nothing but the charred trunk remains. The head, arms and legs were charred entirely consumed and all that remained presents more the appearance of a piece of burnt wood than what was only a few hours before a human form.

WHERE THE FIRE STARTED. Two BLIZZARD men were standing on the south stone pier of the creek railroad bridge when the gas commenced coming down the stream. It seemed to hang over the water like a haze, a kind of a transparent shimmer, such as is sometimes caused by the sun on a hot summer day. The air was soon impregnated with it and the odor became so strong that the spectators commenced feeling dizzy. J. L. Dorworth, H. W. Shafer and some others who were killed were standing by the side of the BLIZZARD men when they concluded it was time to move away from a deadly enemy which could not be seen. Mr. Dorworth was standing with his hands on his hips, looking up the stream when the BLIZZARD men left him. The newspaper man crossed the foot bridge and had just started down Shamrock street, when, glancing across the creek, to where Livsey's wells, on the west bank of the creek, by the side of the Lake Shore Railroad track, a flash was seen.

THE GAS HAD IGGED Instantaneously it flashed across the creek, and in half the time it takes to write it, everything between the starting point and W. N. Y. & P. tracks, east of the Barrel Works was in a sheet of flame. The BLIZZARD men started up the hill and had gone perhaps fifty feet when the explosion occurred.

AN ENGINEER'S EXPERIENCE. Bigler Carr, the engineer of the engine standing near the Creek railroad bridge, near the barrel works, says: "I noticed a haze rising on the water and fearing it might be gas, told the engineer of the special which was standing near, to get out of there as quick as he could so to let me out. My engine was standing on the switch near the end of the Creek bridge. The special pulled down toward the depot, and I got in the cab and tried to run it out of the switch, going towards the bridge. I was then some 75 feet from the bridge. I had scarcely pulled lever when there was a flash and I saw a slight flame dart through the cab. I searched me about the neck and hands. I sprang off the engine, and ran down the track, and was about three car lengths from the engine when the explosion took place. There was a hissing sound all around me, and little flashes of flames."

One of the men who work in the Union Refinery was near at the same time, and recognizing the danger from the gas arising from the creek, had just started to tell Carr to pull away, when he saw him jump on the engine. He says that at the same moment apparently there was a flash of flame under the engine, which seemed to shoot out into the staves at the barrel works, throwing them high in the air. There was an interval, of it seemed to him a minute before the explosion took place on the creek.

WORSE AND WORSE.

One Hundred Lives Lost in Titusville.

THE SCENE FROM THE SOUTH SIDE.

The spectators at the south end of Petroleum bridge were startled by a muffled report as of an explosion, followed in quick succession by at least four others that seemed to effect earth and air alike. The shocks accompanying nearly took the people off their feet. Then came a wall of rolling clouds of smoke and flame down Oil creek that in a few seconds ascended in the air to a height of hundreds of feet, taking its direction with the current along the river front of the Third Ward, shutting out effectually from view the North and West sides of the city.

The explosions were distinct and seemed to cover a distance of about a thousand feet apart. The appearance of these clouds of smoke and flame differed from that of the ordinary oil fire both in extent and intensity of heat, presenting a phenomena rarely if ever before witnessed. The air was hot and inflammable to the highest degree, and the observer felt as if one was in the circle of gases charged with the pungent odor of benzine and oil that was liable to hurl him into space at any moment. Masses of

FLAMES SPREAD OVER WATERS to the center of the river, setting fire to almost everything combustible along the banks of the West Side. Then, what in all probability was due to the east wind prevailed, occurred the most phenomenal incident of the day. At about Lincoln street, the heavy masses of smoke and flame swept over, high above the South Side and the hill, leaving below it the hot air with a haze that shut off the space between First and Centre street from view. The opinion of the writer this was a Providential interposition. Had this mass of flame and smoke, combined with the highly inflammable condition of the atmosphere, struck the South Side at a lower level nothing but blackened desolation would have resulted. When the shocks occurred the congregations of the different churches were on the way to their homes. Like a flash came the cry, "Run to the hills," and the only hesitation doing this was on the part of those too weak from fright.

Men, women and children praying, screaming as they ran and scrambling along, presented

A SCENE NEVER BEFORE WITNESSED. Those who were in the houses left suddenly, caring only for the safety of their lives from what appeared to be the final Day of Judgement. It was late in the evening before the scattered families were gathered together again and relieved the anxiety of many an agonized heart. No such sight of awful grandeur was ever presented to our people, and it is hoped never will be again.

GENERAL RELIEF WORK.

A meeting of the Oil City Relief Association, in whose hands the direction of the work has been put, met at 9 o'clock this morning, at the office of Noah F. Clark and proceeded with the arrangements for extending assistance and collecting funds for that purpose. For each ward committee member as appointed at Sunday evening's meeting, a paper was drawn up to be circulated for subscriptions. The Association decided to assume the expense of fitting up a temporary building in the Paul block, on Seneca street. The ladies representing the Relief Association committees in the several wards held a meeting at 9:30 o'clock at the office of Geo. P. Hukill. Each of the three members of the committee in each ward was appointed, with as many more of the ladies of the city as will do so, to solicit supplies of all kinds to be left at Relief headquarters, No. 210 Centre street. Splendid work is being done—the whole city to-day is a city of charity and sorrow. Many messages making contributions and extending condolence. Following are some of the messages which have come to the Relief headquarters:

FROM CAPTAIN VANDERBRIEF. PITTSBURGH, Pa., June 6.

J. R. Campbell: Your terrible disaster appals me, and I can't give expression to my feelings for you. Please instruct Relief Committee to draw on me at once for \$500.

J. J. VANDERBRIEF. FROM J. I. BUCHANAN. PITTSBURGH, Pa., June 6.

J. R. Campbell: Am distressed for Oil City. Please contribute \$100 for me to relief fund and draw on me at once for same. J. I. BUCHANAN.

FROM JAMES B. SCOTT.

PITTSBURGH, June 6. I desire to secure fullest information regarding condition and necessities in order to make statement at public meeting at 2 p. m. JAMES B. SCOTT. Mr. Scott is chairman for Western Pennsylvania of the State Board of Charities.

GEO. B. HILL. PITTSBURGH, Pa., June 6.

John M. Reed: Accept my sympathy, both personally and to your people in general, in the great calamity which has befallen your city. You can authorize the committee to draw on me for \$100. GEO. B. HILL.

FROM MERCER HOSPITAL. MERCER, Pa., June 6.

TO THE MAYOR:—State College Hospital at this place can give best possible nursing and medical attention to twenty of your injured gratuitously.

C. W. WHISTLER, President of Board. FROM JOHN EATON. PITTSBURGH, Pa., June 6.

Kenton Chickering: What assistance is needed in way of money, provisions, hospital service or any other? Our citizens have only got to be told to do liberally. Will leave for Oil City noon train. JOHN EATON. Mr. Eaton is President of the Oil Well Supply Company.

FROM WEST PENN HOSPITAL. PITTSBURGH, Pa., June 6.

Kenton Chickering: The accommodation of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital and the Pittsburgh Hospital for children are gladly extended to your people by authority.

F. LEMOYNE. "MORE TO FOLLOW." PITTSBURGH, Pa., June 6.

Amos Steffe, Pres., Oil City Oil Exchange:

Get deposit of \$500 dollars at Oil City Trust Co., sent by Pittsburgh Stock & Metal Exchange and its members for relief of sufferers. More to follow.

JAS. S. MCKELVY, President. Telegram from Mayor Gourley, of Pittsburgh, says:

"Will call public meeting at 2 p. m. A. V. R. R. will see that supplies

Telegram to Gen. Wiley from Gov. Patton:

Let me know full particulars. Will issue proclamation. We are pleased to report that it is not likely to be necessary to need the extra hospital service ordered, and replies have been sent to that effect, but the tenders of assistance are none the less appreciated.

TITUSVILLE TRIBULATIONS. It is Now Thought that One Hundred Lives Were Lost.

TITUSVILLE, Pa., June 6.—Never in the history of Titusville has such a scene of desolation presented itself as was unfolded to the gaze this morning. As I entered the main thoroughfare, the first sight witnessed was four men carrying the dead body of a man on a stretcher. Within fifteen minutes the sight became so common that it ceased to occasion surprise. At the present writing it is estimated that fully 100 persons have been either drowned or burned to death. The money loss will run from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000. An idea of the extent of territory covered by the flood and fire can be obtained when it is stated that over two miles were destroyed. This includes railroads, factories, refineries, private families, etc. As near as can be ascertained the following is the list of dead recovered, as well as the names of missing: Fred Reid, butcher; Mrs. Mary Hahn and children Mammie, Gerie, Peter and Clara; the only surviving member of the family is Frank Hahn, a son who was brought from Grand Valley by his uncle yesterday; Mrs. Fred Campbell and two children; two children of Jos. Spiegel, from Warren; Frank Whalen, wife and daughter, their son, a small lad who escaped with several severe burns saw them drown. Mrs. John Quinn and two daughters, Nellie and Mammie; Mrs. Furman, colored; Mrs. A. Jacobs and child; Miss Della Rice; Mr. Englesky and son; unknown man, occupation picture frame peddler; Mrs. J. Ringenheimer and seven children; one child who was at the time away from home survives, Fred Lacey and wife known to be among the dead.

Following are the names of the missing: Mr. Rolbe and son, of Mechanic street. They were seen by Mrs. Rolbe floating with the current and were last sight of below. Mrs. Henry Bruce, Miss Farnan, colored; Mrs. Fred Reid, Lillie and Frank Foster, Mrs. Osman and two children; Mrs. John Osman, Mrs. C. P. Casperson fell from the rear end of a wagon and disappeared; her body was found this morning; John McFadden and Mary McFadden. It is certain that Mary McFadden is dead.

George Stephens, a prominent merchant here, says the fire was caused by a spark from a passing train on the W. N. Y. & P. R. R., which set fire to oil in a tank alongside the line. The water had