

DISASTERS LIKE THAT AT AUSTIN

2,235 Perished in the Johnstown Flood in 1889.

PROPERTY LOSS \$10,000,000

Heavy Loss of Life at Sheffield, England, in 1864—A Dam Gave Way at Williamsburg, Mass., in 1874 and One in Arizona in 1896.

The disaster at Austin recalls the flood that overwhelmed Johnstown, Pa., on May 31, 1889. The great reservoir of Lake Conemaugh, two miles and a half long by a mile and a half wide and its greatest depth about ten feet, swept down on the beautiful Conemaugh valley, destroying Johnstown and all its surrounding suburbs. Fire completed the destruction. The number of lives lost was 2,235, and the property destroyed was valued at \$10,000,000.

For ten years before the dam finally broke it had been considered a menace to the valley in times of freshet, though equal to all ordinary emergencies. The property belonged to a hunting club, and complaints had often been made to it. Panic had frequently fallen upon the inhabitants of the valley. It was the commonness of the fear of a break in the dam that made the destruction worse when it did come, for the cry of danger had been often raised before and found to be unnecessary.

Before noon on May 31 it became evident to engineers that the dam was in great danger of giving way. Long and protracted rains had caused the level of the lake to rise so rapidly that when the danger was foreseen and great gangs of men were put to work opening a sluiceway they could not work fast enough to release the water.

At noon messengers were sent to Johnstown warning the people, but they were not believed. The water in the streets of Johnstown was already knee deep, and a log boom had come down from another creek in the morning. Only a few hundred had taken the warning seriously and carried their families to the hills. When it became certain the dam was going an engineer named Praks mounted a fast horse and rode through the valley to Johnstown, eighteen miles below, crying out that the dam was bound to go.

Then Came the Flood. At 3 o'clock the whole center of the dam gave way in a break 300 feet wide. Trees, rocks and earth bounded into the air. A great flood of water, half a mile wide and forty feet high, swept down the valley with the swiftness of a cannon ball. It caught up Mineral Point. It tore down upon East Conemaugh, where the Pennsylvania railroad had its yards. Every house was destroyed. Masses of iron bars were caught up and became so many battering rams, engines weighing twenty tons were tossed like chips of wood.

The borough of Franklin was eaten up. Woodvale, directly opposite Johnstown, with a population of 3,000, was annihilated. The distance from the lake to Johnstown was traversed in seven minutes. Two wings of the flood struck Johnstown proper, and its destruction was complete. At that time the city had a population of 28,000. It was the seat of the Cambria Iron works, employing 6,000 men. The mass of debris borne by the flood was checked by the bridge of the Pennsylvania railroad, and an effective dam was made. The water recoiled upon the city, meeting there the wing that had been diverted and had flowed around the city. The result was a gigantic whirlpool which ground to pieces any building that escaped the first onset. The noise of the destruction was maddening to the survivors. Men who passed through the experience said afterward that the horror of the night could not be put into words. Hundreds of persons floated around on frail supports in the whirlpool through the afternoon and the night.

The mass of wreckage at the railroad bridge was composed of logs, houses, masses of iron, with miles of barbed wire wound through it. While the work of rescue of living persons from this mass of wreckage was going on the cry of fire rang out. The water soaked wood offered little resistance to the terrible conflagration that started in many places at once. Hundreds of victims were burned alive, while rescuers worked wildly to save whom they could. The fire burned for twelve hours.

Other Dams That Broke. Failures of dams in the last half century have not been uncommon. The Bradford earth dam at Sheffield, England, broke in March, 1864. The flood reached Sheffield at midnight, causing the loss of twenty-three lives and great destruction of property. Mill river dam at Williamsburg, Mass., gave way in 1874 while the water was four feet from the top. In twenty minutes the reservoir was emptied of 100,000,000 cubic feet of water, which drowned 143 persons and destroyed property valued at \$1,000,000.

The Walnut Grove dam in Arizona failed on Feb. 22, 1890. It was one of the highest rock filled dams ever built being 110 feet high and 10 feet thick at the top and 140 feet at the bottom. Many deaths resulted.

BATTLESHIPS TO BE BETTER PROTECTED.

Gunnery Tests Show the Need of Thicker Armor.

One of the important changes which will be made in new battleships as a result of the firings of the Delaware at the San Marcos will be a different arrangement of the protective armor. To naval ordnance experts the destruction wrought by the projectiles hitting the San Marcos demonstrated that what armor is used should be sufficiently thick to form actual protection to a ship's vital parts and that it is of no advantage to spread comparatively thin armor over other portions.

In a general way armor thick enough to be effective and no waste of weight by adding thin armor is the plan. It also was found that the armor belt should be extended further below the water line than in the present battleships. It is considered likely, therefore, that the comparatively thin armor which has been placed over some portions of battleships will be dispensed with in future and that the protection will be concentrated over the vital portions and made sufficiently thick to give actual protection.

This, it is explained, will result in a considerable saving in weight, for the increased thickness over the vital portions will be made up for by saving the weight used heretofore for secondary protection. Lieutenant Commander Leigh C. Palmer, director of target practice and engineering competitions, has advocated a plan of assigning some ship on the Pacific coast for gunnery work similar to that conducted against the San Marcos.

His proposition has been favorably received at the navy department. Those who objected to the destruction of the San Marcos now realize the importance of practice and experiments of this kind. The problem is to find a suitable vessel on the west coast for this purpose. Officers abroad are so enthusiastic over the matter that some have even advocated that five shots be fired against one of the armored cruisers to ascertain the damage, they believing that the ship could be placed in shoal water for this purpose and that the cost of repairs would be fully worth the information obtained.

AEROPLANE IN MUSEUM.

One in Which Orville Wright Qualified at First Army Tests.

The Wright aeroplane in which Orville Wright finally qualified at Fort Myer and demonstrated conclusively the possibility of actual flight in heavier than air machines in 1908 and 1909 has been received at the National museum, Washington, where it is to be retired as an exhibit along with the telegraph instruments of Morse and the original telephone apparatus of Professor Bell. The government paid \$30,000 for this machine. It was used at San Antonio during the maneuvers there last spring.

It is not the original aeroplane that was first brought to Fort Myer for the government in 1908. That was a considerably larger machine and was the first in the world to make a flight of more than an hour. On Sept. 17, 1908, while Orville Wright was flying with Lieutenant Selfridge as a passenger, one of the propellers struck a wire at the rear of the machine and wrecked all of the controlling gear. The machine fell, killing Lieutenant Selfridge and severely injuring Orville Wright. The aeroplane was completely wrecked, but the engine was little hurt, and the same engine is in the machine now in the museum.

It was this machine that successfully passed all the government tests and made the historic flight to Alexandria, Va., and return with Lieutenant Foulis as a passenger.

OUTDOOR SLEEP FOR A "FRAT"

The Missouri "Sig Alpha" Will Have No Bedrooms.

Cold fresh air as a healthful sleep producer will be given a tryout this winter by fifteen members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity in their new chapter house at the University of Missouri. In the new home which the chapter is building itself at Columbia at a cost of \$18,000 there are no bedrooms. Instead, on the third floor there has been built one large sleeping room with plenty of windows and doors where all the members will retire at night. No heat will be allowed in the room even in the coldest weather, and the doors and windows are to be left open.

The smaller rooms on the second floor, seven in all, are to be fitted up without beds for study rooms, and two students will be assigned to each. The rest of the house will be finished as a clubhouse. The new fraternity home will be ready for occupancy by Oct. 15.

SAYS TEA WILL GO UP TOO.

Assistant Secretary Curtis on Exclusion of Colored Product.

"Going up" was the declaration of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Curtis when asked what effect on the price of tea to the housewives the new ruling excluding colored tea would have. Tea is going to keep pace with the other necessities of life in the price climbing contest. There is plenty of tea, but food experts have declared that colored tea is not to be sold in the American markets.

There are 2,000,000 pounds of colored tea at San Francisco which Secretary Curtis will not permit to come in.

MEASURING HUMAN ENERGY

Scientists Studying Experiments by Harvard Professors.

SEEK SECRET OF THE SOUL.

Also Hope to Discover Cures For Diseases Now Regarded as Always Fatal—Normal, Healthy Persons Used as Subjects.

A number of young men and women, stenographers, bookkeepers and laborers, through willingness to lend their persons for experiment by the Carnegie scientists, have made possible some interesting investigations by Professor Francis Gano Benedict, Dr. Thome M. Carpenter and others at the Carnegie laboratory, Boston. The investigations have partly solved many long hidden secrets of the human body. They virtually aim at the greatest of all secrets—that of the union of man's soul and body and incidentally the discovery of the means whereby certain diseases now declared incurable may no longer be necessarily fatal.

The influence of the mind upon the body is also being studied by means of instruments so sensitive as to record a change in the subject's interest from one matter to another. This line of observation is expected to demonstrate to a scientific nicety the value of mental healing.

For their subjects the Carnegie scientists have found it necessary to go outside the laboratory to doctors and hospitals for sick people and to business houses, schools and elsewhere for normal, healthy people.

Mrs. Florence Goodwin of Winthrop, Mass., is one who has helped the Carnegie investigators in one of the most interesting experiments.

Mrs. Goodwin spent several hours sealed in a boxlike calorimeter, having refrained from eating anything for about twenty hours before entering the machine. There was just room enough inside for her to sit comfortably without moving. Across the arms of the chair was a shelf with a book and typewriter and several sheets of paper. Running from the calorimeter and connecting with various instruments were numerous wires and pipes.

After arriving at the laboratory Mrs. Goodwin was weighed, and a sort of stethoscope arrangement was put on. She then entered the calorimeter, and it was closed and sealed so that no air could penetrate inside except that which was measured and sent in through pipes.

The method of finding the energy used by men or women under observation is by measuring the heat consumption of the body first when it is at rest and then in action. In Mrs. Goodwin's case, for instance, the energy she used in typewriting for two hours in terms of heat would have boiled about twenty gallons of ice water.

Dr. Falta of Vienna made an unostentatious trip to America for the express purpose of observing the work being done at the Carnegie laboratory. Universities in Berlin, Copenhagen and elsewhere have also sent representatives to see what is being done by Professor Benedict and his assistants.

Among other things, tables are being prepared at the laboratory showing just how much energy is caused by eating steak, eggs, fruit, and so on.

SMOKELESS POWDER DANGER

Navy Department Precautions Against Spontaneous Combustion.

Based upon the first reports of the terrible naval disaster in Toulon harbor, the experts of the navy department at Washington were disposed to believe that the explosion on the *Liberte* resulted from the spontaneous ignition of some of the smokeless powder, which had deteriorated from having been kept too long without inspection. It is to guard against just such accidents that United States naval regulations require a careful examination of the powder in the magazines of warships at comparatively short intervals of time. This examination involves a chemical test calculated to demonstrate absolutely the safety of the powder. The result of the application of this rule has been extremely beneficial not only in preventing spontaneous combustion in the first place, but in suggesting to the powder makers changes in the process of manufacture which tend toward safety.

The best American practice also provides for the refrigeration of the magazine by the adoption of a cold storage system. It is not known whether or not the French navy has adopted this additional precaution.

LEPER AT LARGE 12 YEARS.

Only After Dyregrov Is Dead Is His Dread Malady Known.

After having suffered from leprosy for twelve years, during which time he walked the streets, worked and had unlimited opportunities to transmit the disease, Ludwig C. Dyregrov, a tailor, died at Minneapolis, and the nature of his malady was discovered only after Coroner Gilbert Seashore had viewed the body and had the aid of Dr. H. B. Robertson of the University of Minnesota.

The health department immediately began taking steps to prevent further danger of infection.

UNITED STATES LAND LOTTERY IS OPEN.

466,562 Acres in South Dakota to be as Homesteads.

Uncle Sam's big land lottery is on in South Dakota, and 466,562 acres of land in the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations are offered as prizes to land seekers. Gregory, Dallas, Chamberlain and Rapid City are the registration points. On Oct. 24 the drawing will commence at Gregory.

The price of every 160 acre tract has already been fixed by government appraisers and the homesteader will pay the price so fixed regardless of whether he files first or last. And so whether the homesteader files upon some of the best land or some of the poorest he will be certain that he will be required to pay only what the land is worth and will not run the risk of making an error in judgment on the misrepresentation of a "locator" and paying a high price for poor land.

The prices fixed by the appraisers are from 25 cents an acre for the roughest grazing land to \$6 an acre for the finest level agricultural land. Of the total of about 500,000 acres subject to homestead entry about one-third has been classified as agricultural land at from \$2 to \$6 an acre.

Briefly the method of securing a homestead under this opening will be as follows:

The applicant will personally appear at a registration point and will swear before a notary public on duty at the notarial headquarters to his qualifications to take a homestead. If the application is made at any registration point other than Gregory the applicant must mail his affidavit to Judge Witten at Gregory.

When Judge Witten receives one of these envelopes he will examine it carefully, and if there are no distinguishing marks upon it to indicate from whom it came, it will be deposited with others in a large metal can.

The registration will end Oct. 21.

On Oct. 24 all of the metal cans will be opened and their contents dumped on a large public platform in Gregory. Some child will be selected to go upon the platform and pick up an envelope. It will be opened by Judge Witten, and the application therein contained will be numbered "One." The person who filed it will have the privilege of making the first selection from all the lands subject to entry and may choose for his homestead the finest level farming land at \$6, an acre or the roughest grazing land at 25 cents an acre.

The second envelope selected from those on the platform will be numbered "Two," etc. After the drawing those who receive numbers will have ample time in which to inspect the lands and select the tracts upon which they wish to file.

REARRANGE ARMY STRENGTH.

War Department Corrects Defects Revealed by Texas Maneuvers.

One of the most important lessons learned during the recent army maneuvers in Texas was the necessity of keeping all troop, battery and company organization at all times at full war strength. To correct existing defects in that respect the war department has issued an order rearranging the strength of the army.

The feature of the order is the addition of seventy men to each cavalry and seventy-two to each infantry regiment serving outside of the United States or in Hawaii. There are some slight changes in the strength of the field and coast artillery, and provision is made for permanent assignment for headquarters duty. The additional men are found by reducing by 1,000 the 8,000 now engaged in recruiting.

The order fixes the strength of the army at 77,523 men, but this includes large detachments of scouts, prison guards, signal corps men and others engaged in nonline duty, so that the normal strength of the actual fighting force is reduced to 66,698, which includes all the troops serving outside of the United States.

LONDON TO TOKYO IN 14 DAYS

Trip Possible at End of Year Will Require Only Ten Hours on Sea.

Toward the end of this year, after the railroad from Antung, on the Korean-Manchurian frontier, has been transformed into a standard gauge line, through sleeping cars will be run direct from Chanchung to Fusan in connection with the weekly trans-Berberian express of the International Sleeping Car Company of Europe, enabling passengers from London to Japan to reach their destination with a ten hour sea crossing only—namely, one hour on the English channel and nine hours between Fusan and Shimoda.

From the latter point through sleeping car trains will be run to Kobe, Yokohama and Tokyo. The trip from London to Fusan will require thirteen and a half days only, and the complete journey from London to Yokohama or Tokyo will take fourteen and a half days.

A New Census For Japan.

It appears that the Japanese are going to take their next census according to European methods. For this purpose a Japanese professor from the University of Tokyo is now in Rome with a view of studying the taking of the Italian census. He has already been in Berlin and Vienna with a similar object. The Japanese census is to be taken on more exact lines than has ever been attempted on previous occasions.

Everybody's Boss.

Who is it bosses all the staff?
Who makes us swear and makes us laugh?
Who's too intelligent by half?
The office boy.
Who comes to work with shoes unshined
And when reminded doesn't mind?
Who when he's wanted none can find?
The office boy.
Who when on errands he must go
Delays his start, walks very slow
And sees the moving picture show?
The office boy.
Who oft is told that he'll be fired?
Who, asked to work, is very tired?
Who's by stenographers admired?
The office boy.
Who is it that's not fond of soap?
Who's seldom known to sulk or mope?
Who knows the latest baseball dope?
The office boy.
Who whistles till we have a fit?
Who has surprising strains of grit?
Who's who or, otherwise, who's it?
The office boy.
—Canadian Courier.

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Total admitted assets.....	\$ 273,813,063.56
Total insurance in force	1,080,239,708.00
Total number policy-holders.....	428,481.00
New insurance reported and paid for in 1910.....	118,783,688.00
Increase in insurance in force over 1909.....	67,240,613.00
Total income for 1910	67,270,892.26
Total payment to policy-holders.....	34,800,896.00
Rate of expense and taxes to income.....	12.78 per cent.

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Comparative Growth of Deposits:

June 1st 1907,	\$24,398.54
May 1st 1908,	\$109,896.20
May 1st 1909,	\$161,077.58
May 2nd 1910,	\$241,843.67
May 1st 1911,	\$272,500.68

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