

## BY TELEGRAPH.

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

## AMERICAN.

SACRAMENTO, 2.—A review of the whole situation here and the vicinity presents these interesting facts: On the west side of the Sacramento River, from Fremont down to Bryte's Ranch, four miles above Washington, which is opposite this city, there are no longer any levees left, practically, and the whole country, as far as the eye can reach, is a vast lake of water. There are no levees opposite the line described. The Sutter basin is full and overflowing now, with the American basin. The latter is 45 miles long and nearly half as wide. The levees remaining above Fremont barely appear above the water. Men are paid \$1 an hour at Colusa to fight the flood on the levees. At Marysville, after a decided fall of the Yuba, a new rise has set in, and danger to that city is imminent. When the steamer *C. M. Small* left there at 9 a.m. to-day the Yuba had fallen four feet, but it has since begun to rise, because of heavy rains on the north Upper Yuba. The captains of the steamers *C. M. Small* and *Dana*, who have been a quarter of a century on the rivers, never before saw so much water, but they believe that higher waters are still coming. Their descent of the river was like the flight of an arrow, so swift is the current. They report much stock gathered on the mounds and knolls, and suffering.

The steamer *Enterprise* has been sent up the river from here to gather in the suffering animals as far as is possible, but thousands must be abandoned and lost.

It is now deemed certain that the whole splendid orchard section, 35 miles long, from Freeport down the river, is doomed, and that every tree will be killed. These orchards have all been grown since a former flood, and must now be again abandoned.

Steamers now run from here to Marysville, carrying mails and passengers, as the California and Oregon Railroad is disabled by the washout of bridge and track at Bear River.

At Sacramento this is the exact situation. The highest point attained by the Sacramento River was in February and to-day, and was 26 feet and 1 inch. It now stands at 26 feet. The highest water ever known here was on February 20th, 1878, when it reached 25 feet 11½ inches. This is on the Sacramento River. The levee line on that river is less than one mile long. It is a powerful levee, and utterly incapable of destruction by water pressure. For 200 feet it is from 200 to 400 feet thick on top, and its extreme height is 29½ feet. Its thinnest place is 175 feet at the base and 100 feet at top, and its lowest point is 27½. This takes it down to R street, which street is a cross levee, running at right angles and to high land.

From R to Y Street, the Front street levee is smaller, being from 75 to 50 feet thick. This is the weakest point in all our levee defenses, but is watched and shows no signs of yielding. It lies almost below our first cross levee.

Next comes the Y Street levee, which is a cross levee, and runs back to the high land.

Below all these are District No. 1 levees, one of which broke about three and a half miles below the city, and the back-water has gradually been pushing up to our Y Street barrier, and at points there is a foot deep. It occasions a little inconvenience, compelling the closing up of the gate of our drainage sewer or canal, and the pumping of the drainage water of the city over the Y Street levee. The pumps are in order and begin work to-morrow.

On the north is the north levee, running from Front Street, five miles out, to Brighton, where it meets the high land and the R Street cross embankment. This levee is intact. Near it flows the American River. Its backwaters have nowhere yet been half way up the levee, except on one section, and there fully seven feet more could have been stood without alarm. To-day the river does not touch the base of this levee, from Brown's house to the Beet Sugar Works, but below there the backwater was some five feet deep to the railroad bridge crossing the American River.

From there down to the Central Pacific Railroad depot it is about four feet high on the levee, and no current—the river nowhere impinging on the levee. Already new heavy deposits of sand have been

made above this levee, thus adding new defenses for the future.

Thus it will be seen that all our levees are sound, and no apprehension is felt here at all except that mischievous people could cut a levee, and a gopher hole might develop a crevasse. To guard against these mounted patrols are kept. A careful inspection of the levee is made daily and nightly. Watchmen who were derelict yesterday on Front Street have been displaced and new ones put on, and some seepage places below R Street have been faced to prevent the possibility of the softening of the levee.

The California Pacific Railroad, or Vallejo and Benicia line, has been abandoned for the present, because of submersion and a 400-foot washout at Swingles. It will hardly be opened for travel between here and Davisville until next summer. Below Davisville the road will be operated as usual.

It has been cloudy and warm all day, with occasional light rains.

The sky is black to-night and threatens more rain.

The river was standing at 26 feet, and has now reached 26 feet 1 inch, the highest point ever known here. The track of the California Pacific, between here and Davisville, is washed out. The levees above the town of Washington have given away. Along the Upper Sacramento almost the whole country is under water. Sections never before submerged are now overflowed. The destruction of property is immense. The losses comprise all kinds of property, including live stock, furniture, growing crops, etc. There is a most urgent demand coming from the north for steamers to save live stock. Some steamers have gone to the relief of the inhabitants. The American is high, but by no means at flood height. The highest flood point in the Sacramento is supposed to have been reached. This city is in no danger, but the breaks below the city have laid all the country south of us under water.

The steamer *Governor Dana* arrived from the Upper Sacramento last night. Her captain says that in 30 years' observation he has never seen such waters before.

He says that on their side of the river the water appears to extend to the foot hills, laying almost the entire valley under water. He found in one place a current up the channel of the river for four miles, as if it were a whirlpool in a sea.

The levees left standing out of water are covered with live stock. He says the water on the plains has attained an equal length with the surface of the river, and the whole body is moving in a current down the valley. It is admitted that this is, in volume of water, the greatest flood ever known since the American occupation of the country.

San Francisco, 7.—Dispatches from points in the central and northern parts of the State say that the rain that began last night is extending, though so far, not heavy. There will be no danger of further overflow of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, unless warm rain falls on the high Sierras, where there are immense deposits of snow. In the Sacramento Valley the water is falling, and the worst is thought to be over. Many steamers are plying over the submerged plains, taking off people and stock. The latter had congregated on the levees, knolls and barns, even, in some instances, standing in shallow water. The stock were comparatively safe until a strong wind began to blow, yesterday, when the wash became dangerous. As yet, few cases of loss of human life are reported, but accounts are coming in of cases here and there in the overflowed section, where people were drowned, and the aggregate, when all has been known, will be considerable. There has been no communication with the northern coast counties for two weeks.

Dispatches from Portland say that the destruction to live stock by the recent floods was very heavy. In Yakune County the loss amounts to 80 per cent.; and in the section east of the Cascade Mountains the loss is unprecedentedly heavy.

A dispatch from Redding says: All the buildings at the United States fishery and McCloud River have been carried away by the late storm. The loss will be very great.

PORTLAND, Oregon, 6.—On February 4th a heavy wind storm passed over Gervais, Marion County. A number of houses were blown down. A large school house with 100 pupils and teachers in it, was carried 80 yards by the gale and several of the children were badly hurt, but one killed. Heavy rains

visited the State at the same time of the floods in California. The Willamette, Columbia and other rivers were very high on the 4th and 5th inst., and were rising at the latest dispatches. The bridges on John Day's River were swept away. Deschutes River is doing much damage, but as yet the destruction of property by other streams is light.

NEW ORLEANS, 6.—An eastern gale which set in yesterday, continued during the night and this afternoon, the wind varied frequently, obtaining a velocity of 52 miles per hour. Julia Street fire tower fell, crushing the roof of the adjoining buildings. An east to southeast gale continued 24 hours, carrying the waters of the Gulf over the low lands along the New Orleans and Mobile Railroad. The track between Michon and Lookout Station was submerged and several miles washed out. No trains over the road since two this morning. A freight train is reported wrecked between Michon and Chef Menteur. The wires are nearly all down.

NEW YORK, 7.—The *Herald* says: Wm. H. Vanderbilt gave his check to Commander Goringe, on Saturday, for the transfer cost of the Alexandrian obelisk from the banks of the Nile to the banks of the Hudson. There are several conjectures as to the amount, but as the Commander has not drawn his cash, and declines to disclose what he views as Vanderbilt's business, our curiosity is at sea. It is known that \$75,000 was to be paid for taking the monolith down in Alexandria and setting it up in this city, but it is said that the transit of the pedestal was not included, and this cost \$30,000. Goringe's work in Central Park is finished, with the exception of putting in the two metallic dogs that originally upheld the obelisk. These are in the hands of an engraver, who will carve the date of transfer from Egypt to America. The commissioners of the park will make their plans for the future surroundings of the obelisk. The huge stone is to be presented to the city on the 22d inst. in the Metropolitan Museum of Art by Secretary Evarts.

SAN FRANCISCO, 6.—A dispatch from Port Townsend, Washington Territory, gives the following news from Alaska: The steamer *California* arrived from Sitka on the 23d of January, Powers, Pryor and companions, who were supposed to have been lost, were found by the party sent to their relief. The party had suffered very much from exposure and scarcity of food.

On the 15th an attempt was made to assassinate Lieut. Benson, commander of the marine force, on the *Jamestown*, by unknown parties.

By direction of Captain Glass, commander of the *Jamestown*, Lieut. Benson has arrested two Russians and two white men for distilling hooch. He captured their appliances and tools for distilling. The men are on board the *California*, en route to Portland for trial.

On the morning of the 25th, Capt. Glass planned and perfected a successful raid upon the Indian villages. A force of marines were sent back of the village to prevent any escapes, and landings were made upon the beach. Over 200 stills and 1,500 gallons of mash and liquor were destroyed. Everything in the shape of liquors was destroyed.

Merchants of Sitka have adopted a resolution not to import any more molasses or Sandwich Island sugar, from which hooch is made.

In the recent storms near Takon, two canoes containing 30 Indians were swamped and all of them lost.

The *California* left Sitka on the 25th. The *California* met two canoes of Indians on the 19th. They reported the burning of Bella Coola, including the Hudson Bay Company's station.

GALVESTON, 6.—The north-bound express was wrecked nine miles north of Hempstead, on the Texas Central Railroad, yesterday evening.

The engine fell through Cedar Creek bridge, throwing the express, two baggage and two passenger coaches down a 15-foot embankment, bottom upwards. The sleeper kept the track. The Strakosch and Hess English Opera Troupe was among the passengers. Eighteen persons were injured. The most serious are: Conductor Littig, side and hip; Rose Marion, chorus singer, thrown through a window and badly cut; one of the cornet players has a broken arm; Levi, New York, broken nose. The injured were sent to Houston.

St. Louis, 6.—The extensive wholesale house of the Greeley-Burnham Grocer Company took fire at 10 o'clock to-night, and was totally destroyed. The fire extended

across the street to the large candy factory of O. H. Prentiss & Co., which, together with the houses of S. B. Sole & Co., grocers, and Long & Hall, general storage, was also destroyed. The fire originated by the falling of a platform midway between the floor and ceiling of the shipping room, upon which was piled about 2,000 cases of matches, which were ignited by the fall. Greeley-Burnham Company's stock was valued at \$250,000; insurance, \$190,000. The other losses are estimated between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

NEW ORLEANS, 5.—The front of E. C. Palmer & Co.'s paper and printers' warehouse, 93 and 95 Camp St., was destroyed by an explosion to-night. The windows were blown entirely across the street and the building fired. The cause of the explosion and the extent of the damage are unknown. The explosion was apparently the work of inexperienced burglars. The safe and vault doors were blown open. The concussion was so great that it completely wrecked three front windows on the second floor and opened all the doors of the building, scattering glass and splintering the woodwork. Numbers of windows opposite were broken. No damage resulted from the flames.

New York, 5.—Police report an attempt to blow up the Sound steamer *Bridgeport*. Two barrels of nitroglycerine cartridges were shipped. The carriers had no bill of lading and, acting suspiciously, the clerk knocked out the head of one barrel. He was surprised to find it filled with cartridges, and more surprised that there was not an explosion. The cartridges were sent down the bay.

Deadwood, 7.—Abe Barnes was asked to take a drink by Jas. Fowler, at Custer City, last night, and declining, was shot dead by Fowler, who was taken away by vigilantes and the body found this morning hanging to a tree.

WASHINGTON, 8.—In the Senate yesterday an extraneous discussion sprang up on the liquor license, and Conkling said Thurman had made it a party question, it was so agreeable to the democratic stomach, and was thought to furnish so much inspiration. Thurman replied he would vote for the license as he had seen the effect of not granting licenses in Ohio, where under prohibition in 57 there had been at least two drinking places for one existing before prohibition. He would like the prohibition of injuries to public morals and health, and would like to see whether republicans would keep their pledges to their temperance friends. He objected to the compulsory education clause in the district bill as it compelled a father to send his children to school against his conscience.

NEW ORLEANS, 8.—A crevasse in the new and old canal levees has submerged nearly all that portion of the city west of Broad St., between the canals, and west of St. John St., and north as far as Ursula Street, embracing a hundred square miles. The streets and sidewalks are entirely covered with water. Great efforts are making by the authorities to close the break in the canal levees, notwithstanding the water at all points is rising. Shell road from New Lake End to Half Way House is two feet under water. Fences are blown down and the roof of the north end of Dryday's market is carried away. The roof of the wing of the State House, in which are the offices of superintendent of education and of commissioner of immigration is blown off, and the records received a wetting. Algiers suffered terribly, nearly every fence in town being blown down, also smoke stacks and roofs of the houses building on Rallett St., were blown to pieces. The signal officer reports threatening weather, with easterly wind, which will have the effect of forcing more water into the city from the Lake and Gulf. The water in the rear of the city is rising and spreading rapidly. The indications are that by noon all the city west of Claybourne Street, from Carrollton to Elysian Fields Street will be submerged.

## BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

Four children were drowned by the overturning of a skiff in the Columbia River on the 3d.

An effort will be made to have Garfield appoint Secretary Thurman to the Supreme Bench.

Three hundred Indians from New Mexico have invaded Chihuahua,

spreading panic among the settlements.

Three accidents on the New York and New England Railroad, on Saturday; rolling stock suffered, no person hurt.

It is understood that a careful examination of Davitt will be made in consequence of the statements with regard to his health.

The King of the Ashantes has declared war against England. Stores and ammunition are ordered to the Cape Coast from Maderia.

A New York dispatch says: J. A. McKnight, a nephew of Brigham Young, promises a book on "Mormonism—Its Rise and Progress."

## BOX ELDER STAKE CONFERENCE.

The regular Quarterly Conference of Box Elder Stake, convened in Brigham City, at 10 a. m., January 29th, 1881.

After the opening exercises, Bishop Jonah Evans reported the condition of the Samaria Ward, and said the word of God delivered by his servants is true, and will be fulfilled.

Bro. J. P. Wood remarked, the education of our children in the way of life, is a very important duty that we should attend to.

Bishop John Welsh alluded to the bright prospects of the early return of the house of Judah to the land given unto Abraham and his seed.

Counselor Isaac Smith and Patriarch Wm. Box each offered some valuable remarks on obedience to God's will, and trusted that much good would be accomplished during conference.

Singing and benediction.

2 p. m.

Singing and prayer.

Bro. George Facer rejoiced in the knowledge of the truth, and of having a residence and a home among the Saints.

Bro. L. Lewis made a few remarks on tithing, and the healing of the sick by administration and the prayer of faith.

Bishops J. M. Jones and O. A. Perry spoke of the blessings of faithfulness to the truth, and the evil results of disobedience.

Singing and benediction.

Sunday, 30th, 10 a. m.

Singing and prayer.

President John Van Cott addressed the saints in a very interesting and edifying manner.

Bro. Robert Campbell said that many in the days of youth had obtained the power of God. Joseph the Prophet obtained the plates and gave the Book of Mormon to the people and taught the way of life to the gift and power of God in his youth.

Singing and benediction.

2 p. m.

Singing and prayer.

Apostle L. Snow addressed the saints on the subject of dancing, and said that inasmuch as we have for several years past, in accordance with counsel, refrained from round dances, it would not now be wise for us to return again to that practice.

President John Van Cott occupied a portion of the time in organizing the Seventies throughout the Stake; President O. G. Snow offered some excellent counsel to the Saints respecting their duties and calling.

Conference adjourned to meet three months from date in the New Tabernacle.

Singing and benediction.

JAMES BYWATER, Clerk.

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