

it is plainly apparent that a large number of the survivors would not take the trouble to register. A great number of bodies are not identified.

#### ANOTHER ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER LOST.

A dispatch from Altona, dated June 5, says: "The delegates who have been all over the district since Sunday morning say the loss is from 12,000 to 14,000. They base this estimate on their talk with all sorts of people. The absence of the former residents and of a fixed and familiar population is most striking. There are thousands of strangers and workmen from a distance, but for the three first days the perpetual question was: "Where are the people? There are about 10,000 here. Where are the rest?"

The relief committee is to be made national in its scope, and action to that effect was taken at a meeting of the finance committee and local relief organization June 6. The plan was proposed by parties high in authority and has been given official sanction by the finance committee by the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the survivors of the flood are now and must be for some time to come wholly dependent upon issues to them of food and clothing, as there are no goods here except those brought by the relief committee, and no places in which commerce can be carried on. Agencies for making such distributions should receive consideration. It is the unanimous wish of this committee that another committee should be appointed for this purpose, composed in part of the citizens from this locality and appointed by the governors of States and by the chamber of commerce of the cities from which contributions have been received, or in such other way as will give this agency a national character and assure the country that its most generous charity will be most judiciously and fully applied to the relief of the victims of this unprecedented calamity."

Up to June 6 the committee had received in actual contributions \$25,798.16, with \$57,115.45 promised in addition. The greater part of this is represented by telegrams from a distance instructing the committee to draw on certain banks. This is an impossibility, as there are no banking facilities left here. The committee hope that contributors will forward their money by express.

On June 6 J. D. Roberts stated that Philadelphia had promised \$300,000, which was at the disposal of the committee. Governor Beaver had reported \$100,000 at hand, but had not made any move to send it so far as known. Pittsburg had about \$300,000 in receipt.

#### TRYING TO KEEP CROWDS AWAY.

A wall has been thrown around Johnstown, and nobody can enter it unless it is shown he has business in the city. The Pennsylvania Railway has been making every

effort to keep out the crowd, but the Baltimore & Ohio opened on June 5 and brought in a flood of people from Somerset Valley. Next morning when General Hastings heard of it he had a conference with Scott and others of the Pittsburg police, and it was decided to send a company of the Fourteenth Regiment to Somerset for the purpose of preventing any further rush of people. A committee of citizens accompanied the military. They would step off at all stations along the road and remonstrate with the people against coming to Johnstown.

The crowds of curious persons are constantly growing, to the hindrance of the work of removing the bodies and clearing away the debris. On the Pennsylvania road the side gates are practically shut, and it is hoped that this will have some effect on the Baltimore & Ohio. There is but one bridge across the Conemaugh and nothing but a pass from General Hastings or Scott will carry one over it.

#### THE SANITARY QUESTION.

The sanitary question is regarded as the paramount one of the hour. The State Board of Health is looked on as a more important factor than the militia and civil forces. On June 6 the work of the board was distributed, Dr. Lee taking a relay to Pittsburg, with the intention of establishing headquarters in the City Hall. There a force of sanitary inspectors were to be established, half of which were to go up the river by boat and the remainder to take the construction crew up the railroad. The latter adopted cremation as their mode, and on the night of June 7 the desolate valley was lit up with bonfires of the wreckage, which was a pyre of hundreds of dead bodies. Dr. Morrell, deputy chief of the State Board of Health, said on June 6:

"The point has come in this hour when sentiment must be laid aside. To endanger the lives of the living that the dead may be identified is no longer justifiable; besides, the bodies are past being embalmed, and friends can scarcely recognize their features any longer. Identification is only possible by the clothing or jewelry on their persons."

Dr. Gross, who is now in charge of the Johnstown Bureau of the State Board of Health and Sanitary Inspectors, said to an Associated Press correspondent:

"There is no immediate danger of an epidemic at Pittsburg. The danger," said he, "is that people will be scared into being sick. We need thousands of men to work on the debris and clear it of the carcasses."

An inspector who arrived from Woodvale district, reported great destitution. There was nothing in town but flour and bran, and very little of that.

At noon June 6 it was reported to Chief Gageby of the police committee that a body of alleged rescuers at the foot of Main Street were removing jewelry from the bodies they carried away. Gageby ordered a

policeman to go and pretend to superintend the work for the purpose of apprehending the thieves. Special police had to be selected to prevent stealing from the debris back of the general hospital.

Four of the outlying districts of Johnstown made a report June 6 to the Associated Press correspondent that affairs were brightening slowly and moving forward with some system. Supplies had arrived at Mineral Point, and new accommodations were being provided for the comfort of the survivors at Conemaugh and Woodvale. One or two cases of pneumonia were reported at these places, but none serious. Measles and diseases of the throat had broken out among children and an epidemic was feared.

F. S. Smith, of the Goueleier Steel Works, issued an order requesting employes to report at the mill office. The mill, which has manufactured steel railway specialties, is to be removed to Moxham, another suburb of Johnstown. This will leave only the woolen mill and chemical works in Woodvale. The removal will be a serious blow to its future prosperity. The new site is located on Stone Creek, near the Moxham Steel Works.

Captain Logan, at Merrellville, unloaded forty cars of relief goods June 6. He advises that all goods be consigned to him, but to send no committees, as it only creates confusion. Drafts for relief funds should be addressed to James B. Scott. A carload of supplies was unloaded on the track in Johnstown June 6 by the relief committee. There was a rush for the goods, and the strong overpowered the weak and got the best. Fights occurred at Conemaugh, Mineral Point and Woodvale.

Provisions and clothing are still badly needed. The Byron Kernville woolen mill was burned June 6. At one time it looked as if the whole village would be destroyed. The mill was a three-storey brick, situated in the midst of the wrecks of several houses. The ruins were on fire several times, but were extinguished after a hard fight by the bucket brigade.

#### PROPOSITION TO BURN THE DEBRIS.

There is a strong movement on foot in favor of applying the torch to the wrecked buildings in Johnstown, and although the suggestion meets with strong opposition, there is little doubt that the ultimate solution of existing difficulties will be by this method. An army of men have been for days employed in clearing up the wreck in the city proper, and although hundreds of bodies have been discovered not one-fifth of the ground had yet been gone over up to June 6. In many places the rubbish is piled twenty to thirty feet high, and not infrequently these drifts cover an area of nearly an acre. Narrow passages have been cut through in every direction, but the herculean labor of removing the rubbish has yet hardly begun.

At a meeting of the central relief committee General Hastings suggested the advisability of applying