

ports of the threatened epidemic. The following bulletin has been issued by the State Board of Health, and speaks for itself. It was posted today in every conspicuous place:

"Health bulletin. The general health of Johnstown and vicinity is excellent. No epidemic disease of any kind prevails, nor is it expected that any will arise. The whole region has been divided into districts, and each place is under a competent sanitarian. The state board of health is prepared to meet all emergencies as they arise. The air is wholesome, and the water generally pure. If the good people of the devastated district will go on as they have so nobly done for the past week, in their efforts to clean up the wreckage, the good health will certainly be maintained."

(Signed) GEORGE J. GROFF."

Miss Walk and Miss Ely, of the Northern Home for Friendless Children, returned to Philadelphia June 8, and took with them the Hoffman family of nine children. These little ones were found in an utterly destitute condition, as both parents and the eldest sister were drowned in the flood. The ladies will return to assist in the work of aiding the children, who have lost all. Miss Hinckley, head of the Children's Aid Society of Philadelphia at the headquarters of the Fourth ward morgue, is one of the busiest young women in the valley. The applications for children thus far exceeds the number of children thus far provided for. Miss Hinckley says the object of her society is to unite parents and children rather than send them away from Johnstown, although the little ones will be provided for if their parents are not found. There are plenty of Johnstown people who will adopt these children and bring them up as citizens of Johnstown, instead of sending them outside. Miss Maggie Brooks, the only resident member of this society who was not drowned, is a school teacher here. She spends her time in hunting every house for miles around for parents and children. When a child is found it is sent to headquarters, and note and description made of it. When any of the child's relatives or parents are found they are sent to headquarters, and in this way many families have been re-united. The object of the Western Pennsylvania Society is to furnish temporary as well as permanent homes for the orphans.

A dispatch from Johnstown dated June 9 says:

"The work of the registration of the survivors of the flood is going steadily on. Up to this evening there were about 21,000 registered, and the list is still increasing. The number lost is now placed at 5000 by those who held it would reach 10,000 a week ago. The conservative estimate is between 3500 and 4000. Up to date there have been 1500 bodies recovered."

The dispatches sent out from Johnstown since the foregoing information was received, relate almost entirely to the progress made in removing debris, recovering bodies,

administering relief, etc. Up to the latest advices there has been remarkably conflicting estimates of the number of lives lost. Figures from 8000 to 12000 have been given. It will be a long time probably before an approximately correct estimate can be made.

The *Pittsburg Commercial* prints the following account of the breaking of the dam, from the lips of John G. Parke, Jr., a civil engineer, who was engaged on the grounds of the South Fork Club:

"On Thursday night the dam was in perfect condition, and the water was not within seven feet of the top. At that stage the lake is nearly three miles long. It rained very hard Thursday night, I am told, for I slept too soundly myself to hear it, but when I got up Friday morning I could see there was a flood, for the water was over the drive in front of the clubhouse, and the level of the water in the lake had risen until it was only four feet below the top of the dam. I rode up to the head of the lake and saw that the woods were boiling full of water. South Fork and Muddy Run, which emptied into the lake were fetching down trees, logs, cut timber, and stuff from a saw-mill that was up in the woods in that direction. This was about 7:30 o'clock. When I returned, Col. Unger, the president of the club, hired twenty-two Italians, and a number of farmers joined in to work on the dam. Altogether thirty men were at work. A plough was run along the top of the dam, and earth was thrown in the face of the dam to strengthen it. At the same time a channel was dug on the west end of the dam to make a sluice-way there. There were about three feet of slate rock through which it was possible to cut, but then we struck bed-rock that was impossible to get into without blasting. When we got the channel opened the water soon scoured down to the bed-rock, and a stream twenty feet wide and three deep rushed out on that end of the dam, while the weir was letting out an enormous quantity on the other end. Notwithstanding these outlets the water kept rising at the rate of about ten inches an hour.

"By 11:30 I had made up my mind that it was impossible to save the dam, and getting on my horse I galloped down the road to South Fork to warn the people of their danger. The telegraph tower is a mile from the town, and I sent two men there to have messages sent to Johnstown and other points below. I heard that the lady operator fainted when she had sent off the news and had to be carried off. The people of South Fork had ample time to get to the high grounds and they were able to move their furniture, too. In fact only one person was drowned at South Fork, and he while attempting to fish something from the flood as it rolled by. It was just 12 o'clock when the telegraph message was sent out, so that the people of Johnstown had over three hours' warning.

"As I rode back to the dam I expected almost every moment to meet the lake coming down on me, but the dam was still intact, although the water had reached the top. At about one o'clock I walked over the dam; at that time the water was three inches deep on it, and was gradually eating away the earth on the outer face. As the stream rolled down the outer face it kept wearing down the edge of the embankment, and I saw it was merely a question of time. I then went up to the club-house and got dinner, and when I returned I saw that a good deal more of the dam had crumbled away.

"The dam did not give way. At a rough guess I should say that there were sixty millions of tons of water in that lake, and the pressure of that mass of water was increased by floods from two streams pouring into it, but the dam would have stood it could the level of the lake have been kept below the top of the dam. But the friction of the water pouring over the dam gradually wore it away from the outer face until the top became so thin that it gave way.

"The break took place at three o'clock. It was about ten feet wide at first and shallow, but now that the flood had made a gap it grew wider with increasing rapidity, and the lake went roaring down the valley. That three miles of water was drained out in forty-five minutes. The downfall of those millions of tons was simply irresistible. Stones from the dam and boulders in the river bed were carried for miles. Trees went down like you may cut a mullein stalk with a swish of your cane. It was a terrible sight to see that avalanche of water go down that valley already choked with floods. Col. Unger was completely prostrated by it and was laid up at the club-house sick from his experiences."

REMARKS

By President Wilford Woodruff, at the Sanpete Stake Conference, held at Manti, Sunday and Monday, May 19 and 20, 1889.

REPORTED BY A. WINTER.

After an absence of five years, through the providence of God we are again permitted to meet with our friends in Sanpete. This is a privilege that we greatly prize. It is a great blessing to be able to come here as free men, and to have the opportunity of opening our mouths and teaching the people as we are moved upon by the Spirit of the Lord. I have no right to say that it has been so long since we preached to the people that we have forgotten how; but I have a right to say that we are just as much dependent today upon the Lord for His Holy Spirit, to guide us in our teaching and instruction to the people, as we ever were. And in order for us to enjoy this blessing, we need the faith and prayers of the Latter-day Saints