

venting the spread of the flames. At 10 o'clock the fire was under control and at midnight it was practically out.

St. LOUIS, May 27.—The tornado proper was preceded by a fierce blow from the east. Strong and steadily the wind came and then it swelled to a hurricane and there were three distinct attacks which ripped up roofs and commenced the general destruction which followed. When this wind met one which was coming from the southwest the tornado was born and returning began its work of destruction. It struck St. Louis on the southwest at a point just north of Tower Grove park and traversed in a northeasterly direction until it reached Grand avenue. From there it followed Mill Creek valley to the river, veering slightly to the north when it reached Tenth street. At the levee it swung around almost at a right angle and swept straight up the river to beyond Venice and Madison, where it veered to the east again. Judging from the reports of the greatest damage done the path of the storm was on an average of ten to twelve blocks in width. The worst damage was done in a path about six blocks wide, extending eastward from Grand avenue to Tenth street. From La Fayette avenue on the south to the railroad tracks on the north about every other block, the wind seemed to reach out and crush a few buildings and unroof residences outside of its main path. Every wire along Chouteau avenue from Grand avenue east to Twelfth street was down and the poles and their heavy weight of cables were scattered along the street. All streets from Park avenue to Chouteau were in a similar condition. None of them were passable with a horse or vehicle and walking was a difficult and dangerous experiment.

What few telegraph and telephone wires remained above ground were draped by battered tin roofs from neighboring residences and the tin seemed to have been blackened in token of the ruin that had been brought. In the neighborhood of Jefferson avenue and the railroad tracks and for three blocks north, including Eugenia, Adams and Randolph streets, it was impossible to drive through and nearly every residence and building alone either of them within three blocks of Jefferson avenue were more or less damaged.

At East St. Louis the destruction was great. The houses, factories and workshops along the front street were cut to the ground and presents a sad sight of ruin and wreck. How many lives were snuffed out under the wrecks it will take time to find out. That there is a number of people killed is certain. Two hundred is thought to be a conservative estimate of the number dead.

A three story hotel of Wm. Wicker, in which there are fifteen or twenty people went down with a crash. How many or whether any of the guests were saved is not known. Among the buildings destroyed are the city hall, police station, Tremont house, Baltimore & Ohio and Vandalla railroad round houses. Every freight house on the island, Wiggin's Ferry company's warehouse, Standard Oil works, Griggin's hotel, Workman's bank, B. E. Harris's cooper shop.

St. LOUIS, May 27.—As train No. 68 of the Merchants Terminal pulled out of Granite city, Ill., at 6:15 p.m., it was struck by the second division of the hurricane and was carried from the track, overturning six coaches containing 340 passengers. The train is known as the "work train" and carries employees to and from their work at the Niedringhaus rolling mills and stamping works at Granite city. Robert Miller, foreman of the rolling department sustained injuries from which he died. Miss Nellie Hagerman received injuries which may prove fatal. All the other passengers escaped without injury, except about forty who received scratches.

The damage in Granite is reported slight. No words can do justice to the horrors of the scene at Seventh and Butler streets. In one wreck alone it is known that more than twenty bodies are still imbedded. Five shockingly mangled forms were uncovered and removed just before midnight. Fred Manchelmer kept a saloon on the southeast corner of Seventh and Butler, a three story brick building fitted up over head as a tenement house.

A few minutes after the tornado struck, the structure was a mere pile of bricks, woodwork and plastering, and beneath it an unknown number of men, women and children met an awful death. By the light of a few lanterns Assistant Fire Chief Gros and a corps of assistants labored under great difficulties all night. Just before midnight the bodies of Fred Manchelmer, who kept the saloon, and O. Thomas Harry and William Killian, the latter boy under eight years of age, were recovered, together with that of an unknown man. The search still went on. Manchelmer's wife and not less than twenty people, probably many more, are known to be pinioned under the ruined tenement. The bodies of the five were taken to Adolph Eyer's livery stable, near at hand. They presented a frightful appearance.

In an adjoining apartment of the stable were the remains of an old French woman said to have been taken from the demolished three story building operated as a grocery by E. H. Gundlach, on the opposite corner at 1301 south Seventh. It was stated that more bodies are in this latter wreck while a few yards south at 1335 three more people are known to have been caught in the suddenly collapsed home.

The LaCledé Gas company's tank at Fourteenth and Gratiot was struck by lightning and exploded.

Samuel Cupples's woodenware company's warehouse at Seventh and Spruce was burned.

Six unknown men were taken out of the ruins of a box factory at Ninth and Barry.

The foundling asylum at Hickory and Elm is a complete wreck.

On South Jefferson avenue four fine residences were completely wrecked.

Ganules' lumber yard was struck by lightning and destroyed, and Annunciation church at Sixth and La Salle was blown down.

A street car was overturned at Eighth and Park and crushed an unknown man. Others were injured.

Mrs. Sophie D. Martina killed by flying timbers on Clark and Twelfth street, only one identified.

The St. Louis Cracker Company's building at Eighteenth and Chouteau is a wreck.

Owing to the absence of any lights no progress can be made and work in searching the ruins for the dead is slow.

Chief of Police Harrigan has received this appeal:

St. LOUIS, May 27.—Chief Harrigan: We hereby notify you that a terrible calamity has befallen us in the way of water, storm and fire. Within the last two hours death and destruction have been followed by wire and we ask for the immediate aid for the suffering and dead. Please send fire engines as soon as possible.

J. T. MARTINE, Chief of Police.

The excursion steamers City of Vicksburg and City of Providence, lying at the foot of Olive street, were blown out and floated down the river badly damaged. Diamond Joe steamer Pittsburg, lying at the foot of Washington avenue was washed out and floated down. The Eagle company's boat and ten river packets were blown away and floated down. Anchor Line packet Captain Monroe, broke from her moorings at the wharf at Chestnut street and was blown across the river to the east side. Passengers all saved. Steamer Belle of Calhoun broke from her moorings and floated down the river.

The frail buildings at West St. Louis and the flat landscape offered a field for the storm that produced dire results. The force of the storm was felt there more than on this side, for the reason that it is less compactly built. The property loss is great. There is scarcely a house standing in the path of the storm. Some of the largest buildings of the city were blown down and many freight houses were demolished. As an illustration of its force as it was about to enter St. Louis the storm carried 300 feet of the eastern approach to the first St. Louis bridge, delaying railway traffic and almost cutting off communication between the two cities. Freight trains are picked up blown off the track and landed capsized in the swamps. A train was picked up and blown almost bodily into the river. Some of the light houses, such as abound in St. Louis, were blown bodily away. The fire also damaged property after the tornado had passed. No reliable estimate could be made last night concerning the fatalities at East St. Louis. In the darkness and rain the rescuers were forced to work blindly.

A detail of officers have been sent along the banks of the river searching for some trace of the missing steamer Great Republic, which had 500 excursionists on board. No reports of her whereabouts have been received at police headquarters and the authorities fear she is lost. Rumors that the steamer Republic has landed at Jefferson barracks and has sustained serious damage are current but no authentic report can be obtained.

The distance between Clark avenue and Washington avenue from Twelfth street to the river suffered fearfully from the ravages of the windstorm. The brunt of the violence of the storm was borne by that portion of the district lying south and along the river bank, as comparatively light damage was done to the property farther north and west.