

GREAT FALLS IN GREAT DANGER

An Uncontrollable Flood is Fast Advancing on the Mon- tana Town.

SMELTER SEEMINGLY DOOMED

**Built on River Bank, Fears for
Its Safety Felt at Every
Flood.**

**Bursting of Hauser Dam Has Caused
Widespread Devastation—Village
Swent Away—Reaches Elm**

Helena, Mont., April 15.—Early today an uncontrollable flood is rapidly advancing upon Great Falls, a city of 15,000 population, and it is believed that the Boston and Montana smelter, one of the largest in the world, is doomed to destruction. It is built on the river bank, and fears for its safety are felt at each recurrence of high water. It employs more than 1,500 men.

The employees have been engaged all night in the construction of a "wings dam," around the smelter. Preparations have also been made to dynamite the dam at Great Falls, from which the smelter secures its power, and this may be done as a last resort.

It is believed that the flood will reach the city by daylight, and that the lowlands of the town will be submerged before noon. Craig, Mont., probably hereafter.

As far as is known, all of the 400 in-
habitants escaped. Cascade, a town
of 400 population, 69 miles from Helena,
and 23 miles north of Craig, is now un-
der water, and in danger of being
swept away.

A relief train and inspecting party
scheduled to leave Great Falls at 7
o'clock morning to investigate the
situation, thus far has not been
reported, although the river has
thickly strewn the debris of ranches
and houses. Cascade, which has
many animals but battling for their
lives.

The officials of the company announce-
ment of the beginning of the
building of the structure and only
have made plans to supply the re-

Because of the fact that the Wisconsin Bridge and Iron company of Milwaukee had not yet been released from its bond for the work, it is said that this firm will be held responsible for any damage litigation which may arise. The loss to the power company, according to Mr. M. H. Gerry, Jr., manager of the Milwaukee Electric Light

A special to the Independent from

day) morning says that the water continues to rise rapidly and that the big steel bridge at that point is doomed. The ranch houses, live stock and haystacks. It is believed that nothing can prevent the river from engulfing the lower sections of Grosvenor Falls.

LAKE HAUSER DAM DISASTER.

Helena, April 15.—Later developments in the bursting of the Lake Hauser dam, near the Grosvenor Falls, indicate that the first reports as to its enormity were not exaggerated and that the estimate that the financial loss will exceed \$500,000 is a conservative calculation. The lake, covering 20 square miles in the valley below Helena had been completely drained at an early hour today and at the flood stage the enormous lake of the dam site reported the stage of the river as normal. Below Crater

ern tracks were under water according to the latest telegraphic communication. In view of the fact that the telegraphic and telephone lines had washed out, no further details are obtainable at this time, but ample warning has been given all residents by the fact that the water is rising and that there has been any loss of life. Great Falls is prepared for the on-coming waters, which, owing to the simultaneous breaking of the dam, is still in being reached, although there has been a rise reported. The entire village of Hauser lake was swept away together with the belongings of the families of employees. This is the situation at Ox Bow, where the third dam is in process of construction. The flood progressed only in slight degree, but the damage to the dam is confined to a dozen cabins and timbers which were being used in the preliminary false structure. A number of persons were killed and the dam is reported to have been washed away.

CRAIG WIPE OUT.

Craig states that the town of Craig is situated on the west side of Wolf Creek, and that the town is the only place where any structure in the place has been carried away. Craig is situated about 20 miles from Wolf Creek and had a population of 100. While the water was rising, the residents in the town to reach the hills but in their belongings were carried away. It is estimated that there were 100 buildings in the place, including a half dozen stores, the Great Northern station and nearby farm buildings. Considerable livestock has been lost.

When the water was drowned at Great Falls today while working on the dam to resist the flood, two others being rescued. The flood is now seven miles from that place.

M. H. Geery, general manager of the company today passed and advised

be re-built at once as soon as equipment can be secured. Already preliminary plans for the reconstruction of the third dam will continue as if the second had not been injured.

WATERS REACH ULM.

Butte, Mont., April 15.—A special to the Inter-Mountain at 11 o'clock says that the flood waters from Haines lake have reached the mouth of the Snake river, and are not expected to reach the Boston & Montana smelter for three hours.

A 6 o'clock this morning Carl Ide, a workman employed by the smelting company on work incident to the expected flood, was swept over the Black Eagle bridge by the flood waters and is known this is the only casualty incident to the flood. Supt. Wheeler is making every preparation to take care of the flood water, and of the injury does not rise more than eight feet, he believes there will be no loss.

consequence of Great Britain