

GREAT FLOOD AT KANSAS CITY

Financial Loss Will Amount to
Millions of Dollars.

A NUMBER OF LIVES LOST.

Stock Yards Submerged—Farms Can-
not Move—Armourdale Deserted—
Refugees Huddled Together.

Kansas City, Mo., May 31.—The great-
est flood in the history of Kansas City,
Kan., prevails here today, and millions
of dollars' loss will result. A great
body of water coming from the west
swelled the Kansas river at Kansas
City, Kan., this morning, causing a
most alarming rise. Waters rushed with
terrific force over the outlying railroad
tracks and the crowded wholesale dis-
tricts of the west bottoms, and finally
into the Union depot.

In the valley of the Kaw or Kansas
river, between this city and Kansas
City, Kan., a report has it that a num-
ber of lives have been lost. The water
is said to be about 50 ft. in the midst
of demoralization of traffic and the
ordinary means of communication it
is impossible to venture these reports.

At 10 o'clock, a mile of big wholesale
houses, elevators and freight depots
were entirely submerged, hundreds
of people were partially sub-
merged, were soon brought and water
began to reach the first floors. Within
15 minutes the tracks entering the
western end of the union depot were
entirely submerged and at 11 o'clock
the water had risen at such a rapid
rate that the thousands of delayed
passengers were making preparations
to leave for the high ground up town.

Union avenue, on which the Blossom
house and numerous smaller hotels,
restaurants and stores are located, is
a running stream. At 12:30 the water
in Union avenue was three feet deep
and people were being taken out of the
Blossom house and adjacent buildings
in wagons, which will soon be forced
up. The water rose so fast in the
vicinity of the depot that many per-
sons were forced to remove to second
floors, and preparations were made
hurriedly to remove the passengers up
town.

Trains that have been waiting in the
depot for hours had an opportunity to
start west and south stand a foot deep
in water. No trains have left Kansas
City for some time and it is probable
that the water will rise to such a level
that the Missouri river east of
here.

The houses in the wholesale district
will aggregate well into the millions,
and the losses to the various pack-
ing-houses nearer the river will be tremen-
dous.

The street directly in front of the big
Armour packing plant is under five feet
of water. Armour & Co. have a force
of 200 men working to keep the water
out of the plant. The water is so high
that the plant is being used as a
warehouse for the storage of goods.
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All of the hundreds of smaller con-
sumers are ordered to evacuate the
Missouri river, which depend upon the
river for power, are under water, and
they will be forced to suspend until the
water recedes. Several thousands of
men out of employment.

The entire stockyards, situated on the
state line, are submerged. Many of
the pens are five feet under water.
The water is so high that the stock-
yards are being used as a warehouse
for the storage of goods.

At Schwarzschild's plant 250 persons,
relatives and friends of the vicinity,
who had been driven from their homes
are imprisoned. They have been held
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DESOLATION IN NORTH TOPEKA

One Hundred and Fifty People Are
Known to be Drowned.

DIED IN THE SANCTUARY.

Many Perished in a Church—Fires
Are Out and Waters Rising—
Buildings Collapsed.

Topeka, Kan., May 31.—At 1 o'clock
the number of drowned people was
known to be at least 150 and a large
number were reported missing. Several
were reported turned to death, but
this could not be substantiated. From
all over eastern Kansas boats are
being rushed here for the rescue of the
sufferers. The north end of the Mellan
bridge, the only way of reaching North
Topeka is entirely submerged, and an
effort will be made to stretch a wire
cable across the bridge. All of the pon-
toon bridges to the north side were
washed out early this morning, and the
only possible chance of reaching the
survivors then was by boats.

Shortly after daylight nine boats ar-
rived from Ottawa on a special train,
and they were put into active service at
once. The condition of the boats was
beginning to come in. A boat containing
eight men was swept away in the swift
current at about 10 o'clock, and, as far
as known, all were drowned. A boat
containing two men was capsized. The
boats were too frail to live in the swirling
waters.

The river remained stationary after
having fallen seven inches. Heavy
rains were reported from up the
stream, however, and it was feared that
another rise would set in.

Eighty-seven people are high and dry
in the Page elevator. If the building
holds together they will be rescued.

DROWNED IN CHURCH.
Near the H street colored Baptist church
nearly a hundred people have been
standing since yesterday. Many of
them have doubtless fallen from ex-
haustion before this and drowned. The
building stands intact, however, and
those who are left alive may be res-
cued.

North Topeka is a scene of utmost
desolation. Not a square foot of land
can be seen in any direction. There
is but a small chance of any of the
residents being left standing at the
end of the flood period.

Sherry, Oakland and the region about
the reform school, north of North To-
peka, are all under the rushing waters.
The situation is favorable in these
places, however, and those who are left
alive may be rescued.

FIRE PUT OUT.
Nearly all the fires have been put out
by the heavy rain which fell at night.
The sky was overcast and the rain did
not continue all day.

A man who has just returned from
the scene of the flood says he could see
as many as ten persons hanging from
trees near the Sardin avenue bridge
at the foot of Morse street. E. D. Lang
and Charles Walden, Santa Fe em-
ployees, started out in a boat early to-
day to rescue a Russian whom they
saw on top of a house not far from
the bank of the river. They got the
Russian in the boat, which immediately
capsized. The three found resting
place in trees, where they were found
this morning. Another party is trying to
rescue the three.

WATERS RECEIVING.
At 3 o'clock the water had receded
exactly one and a half inches an hour.
Before this a rise of an inch had been
reported. The gauge went up and
down all the afternoon until 4 o'clock,
when a fall set in. At 4 o'clock the
water had left the first floor of the
Rock Island general offices, but was
yet six feet deep just outside the
building. It was then that a gang of
telegraph linemen succeeded in get-
ting a heavy wire cable stretched
across the river, and the water was
brought down to the level of the
large hand dipper was attached to
this and used to take large quanti-
ties of provisions to those who were
not yet rescued.

The first flood victim to be rescued
by means of the cable was the Rev.
A. N. Peterson, pastor of the North To-
peka English church. Mr. Peterson
said: "We spent three days on the top
of our house. We were fairly warm,
dressed, but had only two loaves of
bread for our family of four during
that time. All day Saturday and today
we had nothing to eat. Our situation
was desperate and extremely uncom-
fortable, but we at no time lost faith
in the ability of the city to rescue us.
Yesterday my wife and children
were rescued. Today my turn
came, and I cannot begin to tell how
I was rescued."

W. N. Keppard and wife, aged peo-
ple, were rescued at 4 o'clock. They
were so numb that they could not feel,
and had to be knickered down by the
rescuers. They were standing close to-
gether in the attic of a house, and so
severe had been their experience that
they could not feel the strain. They can-
not recover.

A Mrs. Anderson and her year-old
baby have been for three days in a
flat on the top of the police station.
They were rescued at 4 o'clock. The
mother clasped her child close to her
arms and managed to brace herself
against a limb of a reasonably secure
position. For three days she kept up
the battle for life. At 4 o'clock her
rescue was very near, but she lost con-
sciousness. Both mother and child fell
into the water and were drowned, be-
ing immediately drawn under by the
current.

Harvey Parsons, a local newspaper
man, had a thrilling experience. He
took a boat Friday night and made his
way to a house in the hope of making
some rescue. A woman and her baby,
names unknown, were in the house,
and Parsons took them into his boat.
They had only preceded a short dis-
tance when the boat capsized. Parsons
managed to get himself and the others
up into a tree, and there they remained
until 3 o'clock this afternoon, when
rescued. They were brought to a place
of safety, but will probably not recover
until they were taken off at 4:45, with the aid of the big cable.

B. L. Wise, former city engineer, was
drowned at 4 o'clock. His body was
found unconscious and numb from
cold, but soon revived. His story of the
beginning of the flood is dramatic.

RESCUED FROM TREES.
By aid of the small steam and gaso-
line launches 40 men in south Garfield
park were rescued. They had perched
themselves in trees. They had had
nothing to eat for 36 hours. These men
were in a fenced grove, where they
could not keep a close watch of the sit-
uation. All they could see was the
angry water rushing about among the
trunks of the trees. One of the men

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Ayer's Hair Vigor

Probably you know
how it always re-
stores color to gray
hair, stops falling,
and makes the hair
grow. Then tell your
friends.

It says they could not hear each other
speak above the roar of the water. Un-
certainty was added to their other mis-
ery, and not one of them had any hopes
of escaping.

Patrick Beline, his wife and three
small children were taken from the at-
tice of their small dwelling. The parents
were obliged to hold the two younger
children constantly in order to keep
their heads above water. They were
nearly starved and probably cannot re-
cover.

Miss Annie Noble, operator at the
Union Pacific railroad headquarters in
North Topeka, was forced to leave the
building when the water covered the
attic. With her mother and young sister,
the plucky young woman took up
housekeeping quarters in an abandoned
horse car. This was good enough shel-
ter until the water rose to the floor of
the car, but there they had to stay
until today, when they were in-
cluded among the rescued.

At 6 o'clock the evening people were
quarantined in North Topeka as follows:
In B street church 500
In Topeka flour mills 109
In Case's flour mill 94
In an elevator 54
In the fire station 81

A boat was sent to the wooden mill
with 1,000 feet of half-inch rope, which
was to have been used in making a
life-line.

FLOATING BODIES SEEN.
At 5 o'clock the first sight of floating
bodies was seen, and 14 bodies were seen
passing by the North Topeka fire sta-
tion after this it was definitely
ascertained that the following were
drowned:

Karl Rupp.
Orville Rupp.
Two "lup girls."
E. H. Jarrett.

This represents only a fractional
part of the heavy loss of life. At a con-
servative estimate 200 are dead. When
these bodies are not seen, when the
waters recede, the bodies will
doubtless be found at different places
miles down the stream.

BUILDINGS COLLAPSING.
Topeka, Kan., May 31.—A representa-
tive of the Associated Press walked out
on the pontoon bridge to the Mellan arch
bridge, where the water was so high that
the flood situation was obtained. Looking
to the north as far as the eye could
reach was one expanse of water, dotted
here and there by badly wrecked or
entirely submerged buildings.

Second street to the Mellan bridge
was covered with water six to 12 feet deep,
through which a mad current was flow-
ing.

On either side of the pontoon bridge
were brick business buildings, 63 in
number, which are completely ruined by
the foot of Morse street. E. D. Lang
and Charles Walden, Santa Fe em-
ployees, started out in a boat early to-
day to rescue a Russian whom they
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beginning of the flood is dramatic.

RESCUED FROM TREES.
By aid of the small steam and gaso-
line launches 40 men in south Garfield
park were rescued. They had perched
themselves in trees. They had had
nothing to eat for 36 hours. These men
were in a fenced grove, where they
could not keep a close watch of the sit-
uation. All they could see was the
angry water rushing about among the
trunks of the trees. One of the men

was rescued at 4 o'clock. They
were so numb that they could not feel,
and had to be knickered down by the
rescuers. They were standing close to-
gether in the attic of a house, and so
severe had been their experience that
they could not feel the strain. They can-
not recover.

A Mrs. Anderson and her year-old
baby have been for three days in a
flat on the top of the police station.
They were rescued at 4 o'clock. The
mother clasped her child close to her
arms and managed to brace herself
against a limb of a reasonably secure
position. For three days she kept up
the battle for life. At 4 o'clock her
rescue was very near, but she lost con-
sciousness. Both mother and child fell
into the water and were drowned, be-
ing immediately drawn under by the
current.

Harvey Parsons, a local newspaper
man, had a thrilling experience. He
took a boat Friday night and made his
way to a house in the hope of making
some rescue. A woman and her baby,
names unknown, were in the house,
and Parsons took them into his boat.
They had only preceded a short dis-
tance when the boat capsized. Parsons
managed to get himself and the others
up into a tree, and there they remained
until 3 o'clock this afternoon, when
rescued. They were brought to a place
of safety, but will probably not recover
until they were taken off at 4:45, with the aid of the big cable.

B. L. Wise, former city engineer, was
drowned at 4 o'clock. His body was
found unconscious and numb from
cold, but soon revived. His story of the
beginning of the flood is dramatic.

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