

the torch to the great sea of waste. He explained that this was the only great work yet to be accomplished if it were hoped to thoroughly clear every portion of the debris, and insisted that it would take 5000 men months to complete the task of removing the hundreds of bodies buried beneath the rubbish, sand and stones, and that the rotten or putrid remains of many were all that could be hoped to be recovered.

A motion was made that after forty-eight hours' further search of the debris of the city that it be consumed by fire, the engines to be on hand to play upon valuable buildings that, despite the previous destruction, might become ignited by the general conflagration. Those whose relatives and friends still rest beneath the wreck remonstrated strongly against such summary action. Physicians warned the committees that further exposure to the putrid bodies could have but one result, the typhus, or some other epidemic equally fatal to its victims. Although the proposition to burn the wreck is defeated, it was evident the movement was gaining many adherents, and the result will doubtless be that, in a few days, the torch will be applied.

At Nineveh 746 bodies were consigned to the earth June 6 from the morgues about town. This army of the dead was placed in trenches. Less than 100 had been recognized by friends. None of them were claimed for private burial, however, as in a majority of instances the survivors were too poor to stand the expense. There is an unusual amount of sickness about Kernville. Physicians claim that several hundred cases of pneumonia exist. Children are also afflicted with measles and kindred complaints. A reaction, now that the great shock has passed in a measure, has left hundreds of the survivors with their nervous forces badly shattered and broken.

Johnstown and adjoining villages are now under military and police regulations. Each place has been provided with men enough to keep out intruders and others, and none save those who are actually employed will be allowed to remain. Officers are arresting men every hour, some of them on the slightest provocation. In all cases where the offense is trivial, the victim is pressed into work with the relief gangs.

Notices were posted in all the morgues on June 6, stating that bodies would be held only twenty-four hours for identification. If, at the expiration of that time, they are not recognized they are photographed, the photograph bearing the same number as the morgue number of the corpse.

The first train east from Altoona on the Pennsylvania road since the flood left there for Philadelphia June 6. At sundry places the passengers had to be ferried across the river.

'Are the horrors of the flood to give way to the terrors of a plague?' was the question agitating the valley of Conemaugh June 7. The morning opened warm, almost sultry, and the stench through Johnstown was

almost overpowering. Sickness, in spite of the precautions of the sanitary authorities, was on the increase, and fears of an epidemic grew with every hour. Five cases of malignant diphtheria were found that morning in five different houses on one street. The health authorities anticipate much typhoid fever and kindred diseases, especially as the weather is growing warm. The scarcity of vegetables adds to the danger.

On the night of June 6 several ghouls, wandering amid the wreck on evil intent, were arrested. Next morning they were given the choice of imprisonment or going to work at \$2 per day. They promptly chose the latter.

The Waifs' Mission is doing a noble work. Within an hour after their arrival they had established a bureau and were receiving children and babies that have been orphaned by the flood and flame. When all are gathered, it is believed they will number several hundred.

BURNING OF SEATTLE.

During the last two or three years the town of Seattle, Washington Territory, had grown with almost phenomenal rapidity. It was a seaport, and certain important advantages possessed by it had given it one of the most extensive and substantial "booms" witnessed in any part of the Union. Long streets of buildings had been hastily erected, and there was every indication that the city would become an important metropolis in a few years.

At about 2:30 p.m. June 6 a fire broke out near the center of the business portion of the city, and spread with appalling rapidity and distinctiveness. A strong wind was blowing which caused the flames to leap from building to building and from street to street with a quickness and fierceness which defied the efforts of man to stay their terrible work.

Soon after the fire begun to spread it shut off telegraphic communication, and consequently it was from one to two days before the outside world was fully apprised of the calamity which had overtaken Seattle. The burned district in Seattle covers an area of thirty-one blocks. The boundary of the burned district is as follows: University, Front, Spring, Second, James, South, Fourth, Wall and Water Streets. This comprises the business portion of the city. The residence district escaped.

From official figures furnished by local and foreign insurance companies, the *Coast Review* places the property loss at \$7,000,000. It is covered by a total insurance of \$2,250,000; of this amount \$1,904,000 is held by companies represented in San Francisco. Six Oregon companies carry risks representing a total of \$250,000, and fifteen small outside companies carry risks estimated at about \$150,000.

An official record of the losses would include every business man of prominence in town. It is a dreadful calamity from which few

have escaped. Tremendous efforts were made by the fire department to stay the progress of the flames. The first thoughts of many were to save their individual possessions, and the streets were soon crowded and in many cases blocked with teams, loaded with valuables of every description, seeking places of safety on the hills. The burned region covers blocks of the solid and substantial property of Seattle. The entire water front is built mostly of wood upon piles which had been driven into the mud flats.

It has been predicted by insurance men that the city would some time be swept by fire, and it was only the wind from the north-northeast, which kept up a steady blowing, that saved that portion of the city north of Union Street.

Tacoma citizens sent to Seattle on June 7 a large quantity of provisions, blankets, tents; and ten slaughtered hives to supply the immediate wants of the homeless people. Portland sent several car loads of provisions, bedding, blankets and tents.

General Gibbons, commanding the Department of the Columbia, was to send 70 tents from Vancouver barracks. Aid in money and necessities will be forwarded from different sections of the country without delay.

The business portion of the city is in ashes. Every bank, hotel, place of amusement or business house, newspaper offices, railroad depots, miles of steamboat wharves, coal bunkers and telegraph offices are burned. The fire began near the corner of Front and Pearl streets, in the Seattle Candy Factory.

At 2:30 p.m. June 7, 24 hours after the fire started, the whole of the business section, north to Stetson and past Mill, along Front and Second streets, had been burned, involving a loss of over \$5,000,000. The residences are literally wiped out, except the portion on high ground.

At 6:30 o'clock p. m. the flames had reached the wharves, and the steamboats and ships had to head out stream as a stiff breeze was blowing from the north-west when the fire began, and it soon got the best of the fire department. The water supply gave out within two hours after the fire began and then the flames had a clean sweep. A great deal of property was moved, only to be burned again, so quickly did the flames spread.

Spectators looking southward from Union Street can see nothing for a mile but a field of charred piles, bent rails, warped corrugated iron, blackened telegraph and telephone poles, twisted wire, and uniformed guards. As far as possible to estimate at present not less than 280 firms or persons doing business have suffered. Relief in the way of money, provisions, bedding, tents, etc., is pouring in from elsewhere.

Reports of loss of life which were at one time telegraphed were afterwards contradicted in the Associated Press dispatches, and so far as definitely stated in the press telegrams, no lives were lost.