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DESERET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1903. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

A GOOD INVESTMENT: Use the Deseret News to tell your store news. Our readers will buy what you advertise.

PART TWO.

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR.

THE GREAT FLOOD AT HEPPNER, ORE.

Five Hundred People Are Its Victims.

IMMENSE WALL OF WATER.

It Coming So Sudden that No One Had Time to Flee for Safety—Darkness Intensified Horror.

Portland, Ore., June 15.—The city of Heppner, in Morrow county, this state, has been visited by a flood, the city is in ruins, the entire residence portion destroyed, and 500 of the 1,250 people who resided in the town are dead, either drowned in the awful rush of water or dashed to death against the rocky bluff.

The calamity occurred at 6 o'clock last evening, when a wall of water 20 feet high rushed down the gulch in which Heppner is situated and carried everything before it. The flood came with such suddenness that the inhabitants were unable to seek places of safety and were carried down by the torrent, and many people were killed by being dashed against the rocky bluff.

Almost the entire residence portion of the town was wiped out, but some higher ground, escaped. Hugh bowlders weighing a ton were carried down by the torrent, and many people were killed by being dashed against the rocky bluff.

Early in the afternoon a thunderstorm occurred, covering a wide region of country, and later a heavy rain-gust set in, many of the small streams overflowing their banks in an incredibly short time. Bridges were swept away like straws and the darkness of the night soon made the situation more appalling.

As soon as possible after the terrible flood subsided the work of relief was commenced by the citizens of the town. Dozens of bodies were found lodged along the banks of the stream, and in several places were piled over one another. Up to 2 o'clock this afternoon 200 bodies had been recovered, almost within the city limits.

The buildings which were not carried away were moved from their foundations or toppled over. Hundreds of cattle, horses, sheep and hogs that had gone into the creek bottoms for water perished.

News of the calamity did not reach the outside world until this morning. All means of communication having been cut off, as soon as possible news was sent by courier to nearby towns and measures looking to the relief of the stricken people were commenced.

The Oregon Railway & Navigation company started a relief train from The Dalles shortly after noon, with a party of 100, including three doctors, four nurses 50 horses, blankets and supplies of all kinds.

At 1:30 this afternoon a relief train, with doctors and supplies, started for the scene from this city. The citizens of Portland started a relief fund as soon as the news of the disaster spread over the city, and within a few hours \$3,000 was raised. Supplies will be rushed to Heppner as soon as they can be assembled.

Heppner is the county seat of Morrow county, and contained about 1,250 people. It is the center of a large farming and stock-growing country. The town is built on the banks of Willow creek, in the neighborhood of the converging point of four other mountain streams and hilly country that reaches from three to 20 miles to the foothills and along the course of Willow creek itself for a distance of 25 miles to the base of the Blue mountains.

To the west and east of the town, running southwest and southeast respectively until they empty into Willow creek, are two deep gulches which run for some three miles among the foothills as they narrow to the valley in which the town is located. Flowing almost directly south to the Willow and joining but a half-mile or so above the town is Balm creek, which drains in its course to the foothills for a distance of 15 miles, a wide region of hilly country.

Next comes the main watercourse, Willow creek, with an immense area of drainage that extends northeast for a distance of 25 miles to the Blue mountains. Farther east, four miles, is Hinton creek, that runs practically parallel with Willow creek for a distance of 20 miles, having its rise in the foothills

AN EYE WITNESS TELLS HIS STORY

Flood at Heppner Preceded by a Severe Wind Storm.

A TORRENT STRIKES TOWN.

Homes Struck by Water and Inmates All Drowned—Many Very Narrow Escapes.

Portland, Ore., June 15.—A special to the Oregonian from Ione, Ore., says: David McAtee, a business man of Heppner, whose residence is on a bench above Heppner, was an eye witness of the disaster. In company with Frank Spaulding he left Heppner about 10:30 o'clock last night on horseback, arriving at Arlington this morning at 6:30 o'clock.

"Sunday afternoon," said Mr. McAtee, "there had been a severe rain storm, accompanied with much wind. I was standing in front of the house and soon a remarkable darkness shrouded the canyon. I turned away for a moment, when a roar caused me to look again at the hill. I saw a wall of water, whose height I would be afraid to gauge, rushing down the mountain, carrying immense trees and timbers on its crest and tearing the very rocks from their foundations. The torrent struck the upper part of the town first. The residence of Thomas Howard was the first to fall, and his entire family was drowned. In the Krug home also every person was drowned, as was the case in the Hale and Saling residences. All of these houses were about four to five blocks above the business center. The house of Abram Hamrick was entirely demolished. The Palace hotel was the first building to stem the tide,

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GIANT POWDER EXPLOSION.

"Graveyard" Shift at Toltec Mine Killed by It.

Silverton, Colo., June 15.—The entire "graveyard" shift at the Toltec tunnel, numbering three men, were killed by an explosion of 50 pounds of giant powder, which they were thawing preparatory to going to work last night. The dead are:

Percy Kemper, Edward Crane, L. W. Lofgren.

The bodies of Kemper and Crane were blown to atoms, only the heads remaining intact. Kemper's head was found 400 feet from where the explosion took place. Lofgren, who was standing some distance from the powder, lived two or three hours after the explosion, but was unable to tell how the accident happened. The blacksmith shop was completely wrecked. All of the dead men were married.

GEN. JOE WHEELER.

Stories About Him at Confederate Reunion Were False.

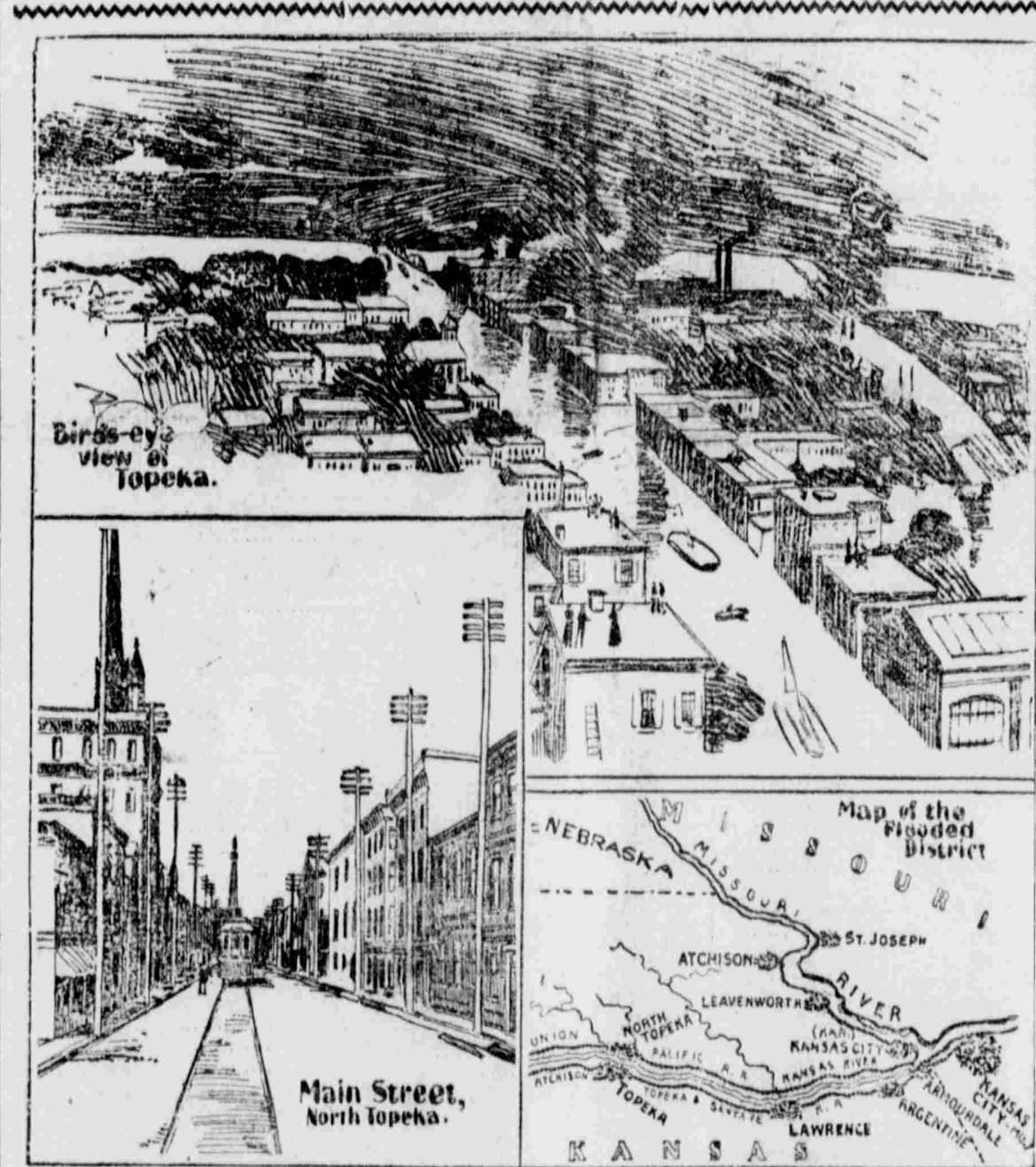
New Orleans, June 15.—Gen. Joe Wheeler, in a letter to a friend in this city, under date of June 13, says in part:

"I think that all the trouble to which you refer was caused by a fearfully false and slanderous publication which was sent in the form of a telegraphic dispatch from Atlanta, Ga., to many prominent newspapers of the north.

"If I was alone concerned I would not notice it at all, but the article is such a wicked slander upon every brave soldier at the reunion that it ought to be denied and denounced. The article untruthfully states:

"The real reason why no provisions were made for him (Gen. Wheeler) in the parade, was because he appeared in the uniform of a brigadier-general of the United States army, and that in consequence of being so clad he (Wheeler) was treated with discourtesy and was rebuked by a confederate general who asked him (Wheeler) 'What do you think Gen. Lee and Jackson would say to your appearing at a confederate reunion in that uniform?' That, therefore, he (Wheeler) was deeply hurt, and said he wore the uniform to show his veterans that sectionalism was indeed over."

"Each of these statements is absolutely false. I did not have a vestige of any kind of comment from New Orleans. Like nearly all army officers, I have never worn any uniform except when on duty."



MAP AND VIEWS OF THE FLOOD DEVASTATED DISTRICTS OF KANSAS.

AN EYE WITNESS TELLS HIS STORY

Flood at Heppner Preceded by a Severe Wind Storm.

A TORRENT STRIKES TOWN.

Portland, Ore., June 15.—N. T. Tooker of the Fairbank-Morse company of Portland, who was at Heppner when the awful disaster happened, arrived here this evening, being the first to bring out the news. He gives a graphic description of the terrible affair.

He said the rushing torrent came at 5:30 last evening, when most of the inhabitants were at their evening meal. All were taken so suddenly without warning that nothing could be done to save those who were caught in the rushing water. Homes, stores and all buildings in the principal portion of the town were torn loose and driven on ward, one jam causing the water to pile into another and then sweep away again, causing more buildings to go.

A low estimate places the dead at 200. The town has a population of about 1,500, but this morning only about one-half of the people of the town could be located. We do not know where they have gone unless they have gone down the stream. They may have gone to the hills, but this is doubtful. The whole affair was one horrible, sickening scene, with death and destruction being spread on every side.

From the time the flood came until the flood went into the regular channel of the creek, flowing through the town, it was about two hours. It was about 5 o'clock when the storm started to gather to the west of the city. It was a small dark cloud at first, but it rapidly grew worse, accompanied by heavy wind and lightning. It was undoubtedly the last heavy crash of lightning that caused the water to fall in such an immense body. It struck fairly in the canyon of Willow creek, six miles above town and there was no warning until the mighty wall of water had reached town. As it came rushing down the creek bed it tore everything before it, trees, large boulders, sand and earth.

When it reached the town the water was piled over 15 feet high as a perpendicular wall, splashing, foaming, leaping, creating a mighty roaring, rushing sound. People did not have time to get from their buildings. Those who were on the streets shouted warnings to the people as they rushed madly to the hills for their lives. They did not dare to turn back or they, too, would have been swept away. Fathers left wives and children to perish, as they had no moment to spare in some cases men returned to save members of their families, but it was too late and many were carried away to their death while returning.

Those who had reached the banks in safety immediately formed themselves into small rescuing parties and work was at once started in saving those that could be reached. Ropes were the only means that we had. It was useless to attempt to use other means. Those who were in midstream could easily be seen. Their pitiful cries for help could be heard, but nothing could be done. We could not stand and see them go to their death. The rescuing work was still going on when I came away at 9 o'clock this morning. When I was leaving 50 bodies had been placed in the Heppner bank, where the doors had been thrown open and used as a morgue. We placed a guard over the bank all night.

When we allowed the public in at day-break the scene was something awful. Women came to identify their little babies, their grown children and their husbands. Fathers came to see their dead wives and children. When the people came in no control could be kept over them at all. Mothers fainted, wives tore their hair and men cried like little children. Women fainted at the same time tearing their clothes nearly from their bodies. As it was impossible to keep order all had to be excluded and a committee formed to identify those that it was possible.

The worst could not be seen until this morning. One poor woman was found pinned between two heavy timbers, another woman was found with her little baby in her arms. In some of the houses which had not been shattered, there was found several dead.

It is estimated that the damage done to property alone was \$1,000,000. Leslie Matlock, a young man, was the hero of the day. When the flood first came he mounted a horse and rode at breakneck speed down the canyon in front of the rushing water to notify the people of Lexington, a small town nine miles below. He had to go over a rough and stony road and the night was dark and stormy. His horse leaped over boulders, sometimes nearly throwing the rider, but yet not once hesitated his feet. He arrived at Lexington just a few minutes ahead of the flood. The people were warned and immediately left for the hills, not having time to take anything with them. Every person escaped, but when the flood had passed only two houses were standing.

The dead are being buried as rapidly as they can be identified. They are simply wrapped in clean sheets, placed in a rough pine box and carried away to the burying ground.

WINTER SHEEP LOSSES.

Something of What They Have Been Throughout the West Recently.

A Washington Herald special says: The following estimate has been made by the government statisticians of the number and percentage of sheep losses by exposure during the recent winter, up to April 1, in the following states, together with the estimated number of sheep in those states on Jan. 1, 1903:

WESTERN RANGES.

States.	Jan. 1, '03.	Apr. 1, '03.	Losses.	P. C. of Losses.
Idaho	4,511,515	390,000	11.9	
Montana	3,825,215	443,000	11.6	
Wyoming	3,826,150	792,000	20.7	
Colorado	2,337,265	245,000	10.5	
Utah	2,570,070	254,000	9.9	
Totals	17,070,715	1,824,000	10.9	

FAR WEST.

States.	Jan. 1, '03.	Apr. 1, '03.	Losses.	P. C. of Losses.
Oregon	3,558,774	280,000	7.9	
Washington	1,146,394	69,000	6.0	
Totals	4,705,168	349,000	7.4	

EASTERN RANGES.

States.	Jan. 1, '03.	Apr. 1, '03.	Losses.	P. C. of Losses.
North Dakota	87,731	5,000	5.7	
South Dakota	918,005	67,000	7.3	
Nebraska	338,729	33,000	9.7	
Kansas	371,300	15,000	4.0	
Totals	2,495,765	190,000	7.6	

SOUTHWESTERN RANGES.

States.	Jan. 1, '03.	Apr. 1, '03.	Losses.	P. C. of Losses.
Arizona	1,099,190	117,000	10.6	
New Mexico	5,677,156	740,000	13.2	
Oklahoma	1,746,663	124,000	7.1	
Oklahoma	6,763	4,000	6.2	
Indian Ter.	26,319	2,000	7.6	
Totals	8,969,311	997,000	11.1	

GRAND TOTALS.

States.	Jan. 1, '03.	Apr. 1, '03.	Losses.	P. C. of Losses.
All ranges	41,844,944	4,684,000	11.2	

A prominent western sheep owner, now in Washington, to whom these figures were shown, said that the losses, large as reported, were not exaggerated, in fact were not as great as the actual losses. Newspaper reports sometimes exaggerate stock losses, but sheepmen themselves do not wish them made public, especially in official reports, because many of them are borrowers of money and it is therefore to their interests to represent the losses as lightly as possible. The correspondents of the government bureau at Washington, who furnish the reports of losses, are generally prominent sheepmen so that it may be assumed that the government estimates of losses are on the conservative side. It is probable that many of the reports on which the government estimates are based were prepared before April 1 and did not include the heavy losses of the latter part of March.

"Taking everything into consideration," he said, "I think the general average of sheep losses during the winter may be stated as 20 per cent, as against a normal estimate of 10 per cent, this of course, applying only to the five western ranges—Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah."

JEWS CALL ON PRESIDENT.

Purpose of Visit Was to Lay Before Him Case Of Their Brethren in Russia.

Soon Became Apparent No Positive Action Could Now Be Taken on Subject Nearest Their Hearts.

Washington, June 15.—Through their representative association, B'Nai B'Rith, the Jews of America today laid their case before President Roosevelt and Secy. Hay, and they are content to abide by whatever the executive decides is best for them. By appointment the executive council of this association, called today at the state department, Secy. Hay, escorted his callers to the White House, where they were received by the president.

The massacre at Kishineff was the principal topic of discussion. The council besought the president to use his good offices to secure the ear of the czar. They declared that he (the czar) was being deliberately kept in ignorance by the bureaucrats, who surrounded him, of the terrible treatment that was being meted out to the Jews in every corner of Russia, where they were allowed to reside.

They expressed a conviction that if the czar knew of the indignities and atrocities practiced upon the unfortunate Jews who were still his loyal subjects he would certainly take steps to alleviate their condition.

They said nothing about the refusal of the Russian government to recognize Jewish passports, nor did they ask the aid of the government in the distribution of funds intended for the relief of the Kishineff sufferers.

The president and secretary listened with the deepest interest and sympathy to these representations, and both replied in terms that showed the depth of their feeling in the matter. It was promised that everything that the executive could properly do without violating the principles of international comity would be done, but neither President Roosevelt nor Secy. Hay was able to make any definite promise beyond this, which was accepted as satisfactory.

Salt Lake Has Never Witnessed Such A Bargain Event As This.

OUR MONSTROUS JUNE SALE THE SALE OF SALES, And We Feel Safe In Saying That Utah Has No Record Of Its Equal.

ESTABLISHED 1864

Thayer & Bro.

ONE PRICE TO ALL NEVER UNDERSOLD

entirely new, that is the policy of this store—irrevocable—unalterable—

EACH SEASON IS MADE TO STAND UPON ITS OWN RECORD.

Wanted—50 more extra salespeople. Doors Open in the Morning at 9 o'clock. Wanted—50 more extra salespeople.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE HEAVY Purchases by Delighted Shoppers today—Scarcely an impression has been made in the appearance of our Stocks and Best and Biggest Savings you'll ever encounter are here for tomorrow's callers. We have arrived at that point in our Bargain-giving career where no word can be too forceful, no declaration too decisive—THE PEOPLE HAVE NEVER ENJOYED SUCH BUYING PRIVILEGES. OUR ENTIRE PEERLESS STOCK OF SPRING AND SUMMER MERCHANDISE IS NOW PLACED AT THE PEOPLE'S DISPOSAL AT PRICES WHICH MEAN DOWNRIGHT LOSS TO US. But we are determined to close it out in time if it costs us a fortune, so that we may commence the next season with a stock