

Jan. 22, 1904

ADVERTISING is a combination of good points set forth for the benefit of those who do not know what a newspaper is, but who would be interested in what he had to read.

The Morning Key

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FIFTY-SIX COLUMNS

FRIDAY, OHIO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1904

BLANCHARD RIVER IS OVERFLOWING ITS BANKS

Most Serious Flood in Years is Threatening Business Section of the City and Many Homes.

NEARLY ALL TRAFFIC STOPPED

Water at an Early Hour This Morning Submerged Main Street and Territory Along Water Front—Families Rescued in Boats.

In the time elapsing between 2:45 o'clock this morning and 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon the water raised exactly 27 1/2 inches. This was shown by the official gauge. At 3:30 o'clock the flood was still rising at the rate of two inches per hour.

Friday is now experiencing a flood which will become perhaps the greatest in her history. Since yesterday morning the water has been rising steadily and the Blanchard river and Eagle creek have overflowed their banks far and wide. Main street is now partially covered.

At 2 o'clock this morning the Blanchard river had grown into a raging torrent many feet deep. The water was running within two feet of the floor of the Main street bridge and the Cory street structure was nearly inundated.

Nearly five hundred people have been driven from their homes on low ground by the rising waters and many of those had to be taken out by the police, who used cabs and boats. All the officers on the force with two specials, Tom O'Hara and Ed Mason, have done heroic work and have rescued at least one hundred people from their submerged homes.

As yet there have been no fatalities reported, but there have been several miraculous escapes. The property damage will probably amount to a large figure.

The greatest flood reaches from the river, south to the Tangent line, along the T. & O. C. road, and the east side is practically cut off from the rest of the city. At every point Eagle creek has overflowed its banks and the hollows along the T. & O. C. are filled with water from ten to twenty feet in depth.

Water reaches up Lincoln, Sandusky, Main-Cross and Front streets beyond East street and the T. & O. C. depot is cut off. It is surrounded on all sides by water at least two feet deep and the railroad track is submerged from the Big Four crossing to the Tangent line. On the North Side, too, is suffering and on both sides the water has backed up and is flooding business houses and residences. Several houses on Meeks avenue and other streets are surrounded and families were taken out in cabs by the police. The car barns and power house of the T. & O. C. are under several feet of water and all the cellars of that section of the town are flooded.

At Clinton Court, at 3 o'clock a stream of water one foot deep was running across Main street and the floors of Haley's furniture store. Porter's music store and other business houses were submerged in several inches of water.

Clinton Court, Meeks avenue and North Cory streets as well as other thoroughfares are submerged in several feet of water and it is impossible to walk there.

The river has been rising at the rate of eight inches an hour all night and indications point to a steadily rising flood for some time. Practically all business traffic will be suspended this morning and it is doubtful if street cars will be able to run at all.

There seems to be great danger from the ice above the water works dam, which defied all efforts to loosen it yesterday afternoon. Several men were stationed at the dam to watch the ice which is wedged in tightly there and at 2 o'clock they reported that it was beginning to roll and break in places. The ice extends in one solid mass for a mile up the river.

A rise of two feet more will let the water into the filter at the pumping station and a four foot rise would shut down the machinery and cause a water famine. The water was running into the ice house and may cause considerable damage to the property.

At the Tausing bridge in Marion township the ice is gorged high and it is feared that the bridge may be carried away. A gorge at the trestle over the T. & O. C. switch to Kirk's flour mill threatens to tear away the structure there and if it does all the bridges over the creek between there and the river will go.

At 7 o'clock last night the T. B. G. & S. through cars were stopped at C'vmet, where a mile of track was covered with a foot or more of water. The

feet of water and several houses down the river are flooded so much as to necessitate a shutdown.

The river began rising steadily yesterday morning and by evening it had reached a point two feet below the Main street bridge while the water was washing the bottom on the new Cory street structure. The bottoms on both sides of the river between Main street and the water works were covered with many feet of water, but no great damage was done there.

The T. & O. C. and Lake Erie railroad bridges, which were recently repaired, are now threatened by the rising current which is yet several feet below the floors.

The J. H. & C. bridge west of the city was under water and the trestle work for many miles is threatened with destruction. Yesterday afternoon the T. & O. C. ran its trains to the west with little or no delay. The passengers were hauled in and out in cars. The night trains were discontinued. An effort will be made to begin passenger service again this morning, but it probably will not be successful until the water abates several feet.

The Lake Erie and Tangent lines were not hindered in running their trains yesterday and all reached this city on schedule time.

The sewers all over the city are backing water and all cellars and basements in the downtown district are filled with water from two to five feet in many places.

It was feared, yesterday afternoon that the ice on the river above the dam would break and bearing down on the bridges in the city, carry all away and an effort was made to break it up. Dynamite was sent down the river slowly. Several big charges had no effect on the ice, however, and the work was given up. The work was done under the supervision of Mayor Metcalf and Fire Chief Earles.

At the dam there is at least one mile of solid ice, varying from one foot and one-half two feet thick and weighing thousands of tons, but the experiments with dynamite proved that there was no danger of it breaking loose and being carried over.

A large gorge of ice formed at the Northern Ohio bridge over the river at Mt. Blanchard yesterday. It broke last night and was carried down the river to the ice at the dam, which is holding it solidly. The break at Mt. Blanchard caused considerable damage to the bridges, but at midnight none had been reported carried away.

Many people along the river near the dam moved from their homes last night, fearing that the ice above would loosen and come down on them during the night.

On East Front street the families of C. E. Harpoy, J. W. Latham, Lewis Gulliver, E. W. Hammond, F. W. Rouson, William Fenimore and two other families whose names have not been learned have been compelled to move from their homes.

The same has been the misfortune of J. Rouson, M. S. Cliso, John Sibold and Mrs. M. Kibler, J. E. Davies, J. E. Powell, W. Howell, Frank Crane, O. A. Long are among those on East, East Main, Cross street and Mechanic street. Practically the entire surface of East street is covered with water.

The Toledo, Postoria and Findlay electric railway is unable to cross the Hagerman creek east of the city. The water is over the bridge. Traffic is continued by driving the passengers over in a hay rack.

At 3 o'clock tonight the only encouraging features in the flood situation are that the rain has stopped and slight evidences of a lower temperature are present.

Forecaster Ridgeway is not willing to make a positive prediction as to the stage the water will reach at this point, but admits it will be high. Mr. Ridgeway bases a hope that the belated cold wave which has been predicted for the last forty-eight hours, will reach here tonight.

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TRAIN WAS LATE

F. W. & W. D. Co. at 5:35 Reached Findlay at 9:30 o'clock.

The passenger on the Tangent, due here at 5:55 p. m. did not arrive until 9:30 o'clock last evening on account of the high water. It was reported that the bridge across the A laize at Cleveland was damaged much by the ice that all traffic was suspended except what could be carried across on a handcar. They are expending the bridge to go any minute.

FLOATED ON ICE CAKE

Foolish Thomas Kirby Might Have Lost His Life on the Raging Blanchard.

WOULDN'T TAKE DARE FROM COMPANIONS

Floated Mile and a Half Down River Just for Fun of the Experiment.

TOOK ESCAPE CALMLY

The most exciting, and certainly the most foolhardy feature of the flood occurred yesterday afternoon, when Thomas Kirby, a thirteen-year-old lad, leaped onto a large floe of ice and fearlessly floated down the river to the swing addition bridge, where he caught hold of the iron on the bridge and tilted himself from his precarious position.

He, in company with some other boys, was enjoying the float bridge when he spots the rising at the town of Sibley street. They noticed an exceptionally large piece of ice coming down toward them. Some of the boys began to dare the rest to drop onto the ice as it went under them. The Kirby boy would not take the dare and as the ice, about 150 feet in dimensions, passed under the bridge his comrades were terrified to see him drop to the cake and float away.

There were a number of people along the bank who followed the young fellow along, fearing every moment that he would go down to his death. From all outward appearances he was enjoying the ride immensely.

The water was flooding all the lowlands in that neighborhood, but the young lad and his leotard kept in the current and swept around the curves at a velocity that caused the spectators to shudder with horror and fear lest he be thrown from the ice and swallowed up in the mad torrent.

The boy, however, was as cool and collected as a veteran skipper. About the only thing that bothered him was occasionally his boat would carry him under some overhanging branches that threatened to brush him into the water. When he reached the big bridge he decided that he had ridden far enough and grasping the iron rods, lifted himself up and his leotard was carried away in the current. He was no more frightened when he got off than when he started.

INSURANCE AGENT SUES "ELIJAH" DOWIE

San Francisco, Jan. 21.—Hugh Craig, insurance agent and ex-president of the chamber of commerce, has appealed to the courts to recover \$362 from John Alexander Dowie. Mr. Craig in his petition claims that twelve years ago the ruler of Zion borrowed \$272 from him. All of it was returned except the amount sued for, and that, it was alleged, Dowie refused to pay. Dowie had planned to sail for Sydney today on the steamer Sonoma.

FLORIDA REPUBLICANS ALL FOR ROOSEVELT

Washington, Jan. 21.—Delegates to the Republican national convention, selected yesterday in Florida, are a unit for President Roosevelt. In each district resolutions of instructions for the president were adopted. Today the president was in receipt of telegrams from every district convention and from a majority of the elected delegates pledging support in positive terms.

Monument to Bushnell

Springfield, O., Jan. 21.—A monument may be erected here to the memory of the late ex-Governor A. S. Bushnell. Public sentiment is in favor of such action. The first subscription for the purpose was made by E. L. Beasty, of Chicago. The amount is \$5.

EIGHT ACRES FOR EVERY PERSON

Representative Thayer of Massachusetts

DIED AT HI

Heart Failure Over Malley in B

Wheeling, W. Va., J. J. Malley, 62, of Pomeroy, O., died here last night when he was on his way to Toronto.

He took on the mail train, a few miles above did not work. He still had the pack his hand when the boiler exploded and he was killed.

CONCLUDED HI

Mr. Platt D. Headed O

Washington, Jan. 21, Connecticut, concluded Panama today. He course of the president Panama revolt and eulo tive personally as brav During the morning he spoke in explanation of annexation of Panama States, basing his argu ground that the pendin practically contemplated

EPIDEMIC SP

Fifty New T. phoid C

Deaths in Cole Columbus, O., Jan. 21 fever epidemic, which checked Sunday, is b alarming. Analysis of water indicates that it number of places, and it off of the sewage from state hospital for the I alone suffice to rid the case. More than fifty-four deaths were reported.

GEN. G ON

Washington, Jan. 21— to the house in favor of authorizing a commission to question of ship subsidy, the Grosvenor, chairman of the committee on merchant marine, says:

"There is no legitimate possible within the jurisdiction that if people do not rush lavishly to the extent of promoting in aerial navigation. We solve justly that we are a nation in all that make a r and yet we are a subser and a helpless nation in great factors of national independence. Carry our produce to the world."

HEIDELBERG

Tiffin, O., Jan. 21.—Manag of the Heidelberg football the coming season, is in c tion with teams of various a he—probabilities are that next year will be secured w culty. The Ada manager has petitioned for a date, and i gether with Heidelberg w Ohio Northerners will be pit the Reformed boys next fall. In view of the unpleasant has occurred in the relat