River Rising Six Inches an Hour and, Lapping Floor of Main Street Bridge, Will Soon Be Over.

GUAGE SHOWS WATER SIX INCHES OF RECORD

Police and Citizens Work All Night Rescuing Marooned Families --- City Cut Off From Rail Service.

With the Blanchard river and its tributaries sent out of their banks by the torrential fall of rains of the last forty-eight hours and with the prospect of no immediate cessation of the heavy downpour Findley faces within a few hours danger of a flood which will surpass that of April 1, 1904. At 3 o'clock this morning the stream was rising about 6 inches sa hour, faster than any time during the previous day, and the muddy waters are lapping the floor of the Main street bridge. Fully one-third of the city is under water, all the streets in the lowiands in the vicinty of the bridge being inundated. School was suspended in all buildings yesterday. Bisass and electric line schedules with a few exceptions were abaseoned and the city is all but cut off from outside communication. Section sance are being rushed to the city to build dykes and devote their energies to prevent forther washouts. The government forecast gives little bone for improve as rain is predicted for both today and Wednesday.

At 3 o'clock this morning the water on North Main street has risen no far that it is even with the floor of the stores, and many stocks are being moved. The water near Clinton Court was so deep that it was impossible to cross there except in carriages. The water is rushing through the street car barns like a mill race, and indications are that it may even enter the passenger station before daylight.

Early this morning the Krantz Brewing company sent in a call for the fire department to rush the city's large steamer down to pump water out of the boiler rooms so that the fires could be kept up. The fremen declared that it would be in possible to get the heavy steamer there on socount of the deep water surrounding the plant. It is probable that the company will be forced to shut down in a few hours. OLD RESERVOIR NEARLY FULL.

The heavy rain all through the county last night is causing the river to rise rapidly east of the city, and residents in that vicinity say that the crest of the flood will not be reached there before night at the earlist. The water is within about three feet of filling the old reservoir at Riverside park. Waterworks officals say that there is no danger from the water at the pumping station at the pary, as they prepared for such a flood immediately after the high waters of 1904.

At 3 o clock this morning the water had risen so far that La Rue Brothers were forced to remove their horses from their livery stable on East Front street near Main to say them from the flood danger. Driven from their-homes by an additional rise in the water of eighteen

inches scores of persons walked Main street all night and watched the progress of what bids fair to be the greatest flood in the history of the city. A hundred calls were received at the police station from persons desiring to be removed from their homes and who wished help in raising valuable furniture above the reach of the water. Several boats were in stylce all night, manual by the police and volunteers who were above the reach of the water themselves and many wer taken from the floodd districts to Main street from where they spent the night in other parts of the city. . .

The rise of eighteen inches has placed most of the southwestern part of the city under water. South Cory street, near the bridge, is covered. Washington street is still above the water but the sewers have backed up and it is covered from curb to curb. Findlay street is entirely covered in places. The river has overflowed the drive by Maple Grove for the aret time since 1904 and nearly the entire cemetery is inundated. Shinkle street. Western avenue and other streets in that vicinity will be covered before morning if the present rate of rise continus. STREAM FED FROM COUNTRY.

I). E. Marvin, who resides on East Front street, has been watching the progress of the water, says that at 3 o'clock the water was within six inches of the mark set nine years ago. That mark will be exceeded today is almost a certainty. The T. & O. C. station, which has been dry until 10 o'clock last night

was invaded by the water and at midnight Operator Bronson was forced to leave. No trains have been through for thirty-six hours. The basement of the Ewing building has been kept dry by the pumps

which have been in constant operation but at midinght it became evident that the water would flow into it in a short time. J. F. Williams, proprictor of the Brinswick billiard parlors moved his tables out after mid-

The raise in the water is bringing all streets running east from Main street under water. Sandusky is flooded nearly to the Y. M. C. A. Crawford, which has been dry, is now under water. Residents of Blanchard (Continued on Page Five.)

GREATEST FLOOD SEEMS ASSURED

(Centinued From Page One.)

street and East Main Cross were forced to move out about midnight. ... At 3:00 o'clock the position of residents of the district lying near the river and east of Eagle creek, was generally considered perilous both by the rescuing parties and by the police. It was practically impossible to reach the intersection of East Main Cross and Blanchard streets and there several families were marooned on the second floors of their homes. To cross Eagle creek was almost as dangerous as to cross the river itself and the entire district east was covered.

The ditch leading to the river from the National Refining company left its banks late last night for the first time in history. In the great flood of 1904 the streamlet was large enough to carry all the water within its banks. Late Monday night when the river's condition began to be alarming, the railroad bridges were weighted. A string of cars loaded with sand was pushed across the T. & O. C. bridge to prevent if possible its being waghed away

NEAR FORMER HIGH MARK. Jackson, Biglick, Amanda and Delaware townships received a deluge of rain yesterday afternoon that was little short of a cloudburst and this

water, sweeping down the Blanchard river and Eagle and Lye creeks is pouring into Findlay. Railroad and electric lines are the heaviest losers in the flood, there

being numerous washouts reported and bridges swept away in several places. The entire force of the T. & O. C. repair crew has been concentrated in this city and at Kenton where conditions are said to be even worse. This road was the first to feel the hand of the flood, the water reaching the tracks at about 10 o'clock Sunday night. It broke through at the Chamberlain Cartridge and Target works in South Findlay, causing washouts from ten to fifteen ties long. Almost at the same time another washout was feported near the Buckeye Traction Ditcher works on the North Side but this was avoided by detouring trains around the plant's siding. The last train over the T. & O. C. came through here at 11 o'clock Sunday night. After that train had passed through it was noted that the washout at the Target factory had greatly enlarged and Edward Lowery, foreman

of the local section gang notified the dispatcher that any attempt to run trains over it would be dangerous. Passenger train No. 5, due to leave here at 12:46, was at Dunkirk and the dispatcher, acting on the report of Foreman Lowery sent it over the Eastern division by way of Berwick. In this way trains were run into Toledo until 7 o'clock last night. few hours after the rise here the flood which is general in this part of the state, began to affect the road at Kenton. The water has risen steadily there and at midnight was fourteen inches above the previous high water mark, get several years ago. The furious current was lashing against the rafiroad bridge and according to reports coming in last night was within three inshes of the rails. Fearing that the bridge might give away at any

time and that it was dangerous to run trains over it the dispatcher ordered that it be abandoned, thus cutting off the last way in which any pretense of the schedule was maintained. Big Four Runs Two Trains. The Big Four was able to get two | persons who found it imperative to trains into this city from Carey with | leave the city went to Lima and made

difficulty. No seriods trouble is reported along the tracks of that road although ony further raise threatens

been running on fair time and many connections from there for various points.

The intererban cars on the T. B Q. & S. were run on achedule as fan darn Ohio railroad is the porth on Hammondoburg, where water drie line that has been able access the tracks made it necessary issue up the achedules. Its read is to transfer passengers to the other is and there are no streams to olde of the boundard land. It. F. &



FINDLAY, OHIO, SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 191

TO TAKE DEFINITE STEPS TO PREVENT FLOODS IN FINDLAY

A second meeting of those interested in the prevention of floods in Findley and throughout Hancock county will be held in the auditorium of the city hall at 8 o'clock this afternoon, The former meeting was held Thursday afternoon and was attended by a large und representative body of men.

D. T. Davis, chairman of the temporary organization, will announe this afternoon four men whom he has selected as a committee to enlist state or national ald in the movement to widen and deepen the Blanchard. This step he was authorized to take at Thursday's meeting.

There is no program for today's meeting although it is expected prominent men will speak. Every citizen of the county is urged to attend.

The project in the minds of these men is a big one. They believe the only way to prevent such disasters as Findlay experienced n week ago is to make the Blanch. ard river big enough to carry all the water emptying into it.

PRICE THREE CENTS

April 4,1913

Representative Citizens Hold Conference in City Hall on Disastrous Flood Situation.

BELIEVE DREDGING ONLY

Consider Reforestration and Adjustment of Drainage Systems as Possible Methods.

PRACTICAL WAY TO DO IT

Ralph D. Cole Declares Floods Are Only Natural Outcome of Increasing Artificial Draining and Not Improving River To Carry Water Bearesentative Rever Promises Support -Committee To Be Appointed To Seeks Aid From State or Nation.

Endeavoring to devise some plan to prevent such disasterous floods as

that of a week ago, a representative body of men from Findlay and Hancock county discussed deepening and widening the Blanchard river Thursday afternoon. At a similar meeting to be held at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, the discussion will be carried further and D. T. Davis, chairman of the temporary organization will announce the names of four men who with himself will investigate the matter with a view to securing federal or state aid in the project.

The meeting yesterday was scheduled to have been held in the police court room but as that room was too small it was held in the auditorium on the third floor of the city hall. In the assemblage were bankers merchants, physicians, farmers and mater with a view to securing federal or state aid in the project.

The meeting yesterday was scheduled to have been held in the police court room but as that room was too small it was held in the auditorium on the third floor of the city hall. In the assemblage were bankers merchants, physicians, farmers and men in nearly every calling, all enthuslastic in the measure proposed to prevent such great losses as were caused a week ago.

Plan Not Definite. Just what plan will be adopted and just what will be asked of the legislature has not been decided. Several methods of preventing the high waters were discussed, increasing the capacity of the river, reforestration of its territory, and other methods. Upon whether or not the Blanchard river is a navigable stream will large-

ly depend whether Findlay and Hancock county can secure the aid of the state or nation in the giant project. If it is navigable the navy department has full control over it and may justly be asked to aid. If it is not the legislators may not look favorably upon the measure. The matter will be investigated.

Ralph D. Cole, former representative in congress from the Eighth district, was a principal speaker yesterday. Mr. Cole dealt with the periodic inundations as natural outcomes of the deforestration of the territory tributary to the river and the extensive drainage systems attached to it. Ways To Prevent Floods.

"There are three ways we might prevent floods," he said. "First we might start a system of planting forests along the river's banks to hold the moisture back. But this method is impractical. If we put the forests back in the county the city must evenfually disappear and then there will be no need to prevent floods. "Again, we might stop artificial drainage into the river. This method would be effectual but very impractical. Cease draining and the productiveness of the country is accordingly stopped. This again would be the first step in stopping the life of the support of a productive county.

city. It could not exist without the "The only course then left oven to us is to widen the river and deepen it, giving it a capacity to commensurate with the water it is called upon to carry away. We are spending thousands every year to increase the artificial drainage of the country and we have not spent anything in enabling the river to care for the great volume of water." Representative Beyer Talks.

representative in the general assembly assured the assemblage of his support in getting through the legislature any measure to secure funds for improving the river. He explained that while the assembly proposed to adjourn today, the flood had delayed affairs and that it now might not adjourn until the last of the month. A farmer himself, Mr. Beyer in his address turned his words chiefly to-

Andrew P. Beyer, Hancock county's

ward the deforestration of the country as the chief cause of floods. He told how in cutting down the big trees which originally held back the water the people have brought the condition on themselves. Several others made short talks. Everyone, however was ardently in

ter what its cost, to prevent recurrences of the floods. To the meeting to be held Saturday afternoon every citizen of Hancock county is invited. There is no membership qualification and since the matter is one of general interest those in charge believe there should be a big attendance.

favor of taking some measure, no mat-

FINDLAY FACES DESOLATION

DEATH AND SICKNESS TO BE DELUGE'S AFTERMATH -RELIEF MEASURE BEING PUSHED-COUNTY'S VILLAGES SEND FORTH SUPPLIES-GAS MAY NOT BE TURNED ON FOR DAYS.

One life was lost, that of Night Police Captain Bert Mc-Gown, several are reported missing, hundreds are temporarily homeless and are being cared for in residences and relief stations established by the committee, and property was damaged to the extent of nearly one million dollars in one of the worst floods in the history of the city, which descended on Findlay early Tuesday morning and hel the city in its grip for twenty-four hours. The Blanchard river, swoller by the torential rains of Sunday and Monday, and fed by the heavy rainfall at the headwaters of the stream, inundated from inches to sight frat built thead fountly at the side I'll - 3

Pindlay's Greatest Flood Which May Be Surpassed

the high water mark of 1904, when came rushing down through the cen-

ard river, swollen by spring rains and minutes against the floor of the bridge. rapid thawing throughout its tributary | "Finally the water came clear over system began overflowing its banks, and began to creep up South Main Hour by hour the water level rose un- street. Streams had meanwhile been til at its high mark it covered Main pushing up East Main Cross, East street from Sandusky street on the Front and East Sandusky streets. At south to the C., H. & D. railroad on length the east side of Main street was the north and the only way of access a running river. to residences and business places in . "And then was made possible an inthat district was by boat. cident that will go down in the history

The damage incurred by the water of the city. Several men spent a few was variously estimated at \$80,000 to hours rowing up and down Main street \$150,000 in Findlay alone. The water in a boat. lay over the entire business section | "The new Cory street bridge was out of the city for twelve hours. The of the water at all times but the aprapid rise of the waters caught resi- proaches were covered to a depth of dents of East Findlay unawares and six feet before 3 o'clock in the afterhundreds of people were marconed in noon. the upper floors of the residences with | "The heaviest loser in the center of no fuel to keep them warm and scarce- the city, possibly, was Jule Magnee,

out the county and small out build- establishment at 5 o'clock in the afterings, chicken coops and furniture were noon was filled with water to the cellcarried whirling down the stream, ing. and bridges were damaged.

day, April 2, 1904, said: "The water reached a danger point engines and three cabooses were at the bridge shortly before 5 o'clock. knocked over near Cherry street.".

When last night the rain began | The chief of police and a number of again its steady downpour and indi-policemen then took possession of the cations were that today would see structure and forced back several hunflood conditions even worse than those dred persons who had been watching of Monday, it seemed probable that the antics of the water. The stream Findlay was visited by the biggest tral channel with terrific force. Pieces flood in history, would be passed. of barns and wreckage, buried four-On Friday, April 1, 1904, the Blanch- fifthe under water pounded every few

proprietor of the Dairy Lunch in the The damage was general through- basement of the Adams block. His

Dams across the river were torn away . "At midnight the water had reached the C., H. & D. on North Main street. The Morning Republican of Satur- On the T. & O. C. tracks the current had washed out the ballast and five PRICE THREE CENTS.

Mass Meeting of Citizens To Take Up Methods of Flood Prevention at

City Hall Today. MAY ASK NAVY DEPARTMENT

TO AID IN WIDENING RIVER

Tiffin Takes Similar Action Declaring Had River Been Wider Flood Would Not Have Been.

Merchants of Findlay Have Stores Rearranged and Are Again Ready To Care for All Trade, Local and Rural -- With Cars Running Rural Patrons May Reach City-Mayor's Employment Bureau Brings Good Results-Clean-up Progressing.

To discuss proposed methods of widening and deepening the Blanchard river with a view to preventing the recurrence of such disastrous floods as visited Findlay a week ago, representative citizens of Findlay and all parts of Hancock county will meet at 3 o'clock this afternoon in the police court room of the city hall. An informal meeting was held Wednesday afternoon when the meeting this afternoon was planned. D. T. Davis has been chosen chairman of the meeting to be held today. A general call has been sent out for

inday's mass meeting. The proposition those in charge declare is one of general interest and there should be representatives from the entire countv as it shares in the loss from floods. Working on the declaration of prominent citizens and lawyers that the Blanchard river is a navigable stream and that the navy department has full control of it, local citizens ronose to anneal to the federal govrnment for aid in the proposed dredging matter. A committee will be appointed this afternoon to investigate t e proposition along this line.

To Work Out Plan. The proposed gathering for this aferngon is to work out on a more genand scale the action asked in petitions presented to the county commiscioners Saturday afternoon bearing the signatures of several hundred residents of Findlay and the inundated rownships. These papers asked the tengthening and elevating of all bridges in Findlay. The matter now discussed is the dredging of the river through its entire course that it may be sufficient to carry any amount of water drained into it.

Such action as it is proposed to take this afternoon has already been passed et a similar meeting in flood stricken Tiffin. From that city an appeal has pireally been sent to Weshington asking that the banks of the Sandusky river and its channel course be estabdished by the navy department with a view to dredging and straightening. It is thought there, had the channel been twenty feet wider the flood which took nineteen lives and caused thousands of dollars property loss there would have been averted.





POLICE CAPTAIN M'GOWN, ONLY FLOOD VICTIM. LOSES LIFE IN RESCUING MAROONED FAMILY

body was found at a point on East rushing water.

about 60 hours. The accident in away.

McGown was about 49 years old boots and clothing he were to di- ers held the cance while Mr. Ross and leaves a widow and two chil rect his course.

dress, one of them an infant, a year Mr. Saunders managed to grass paddle so that the man and woman old. He was bern in Urbana, O. bold of his wife and Headerson in the water could get to safety. but spent most of his roung man- who was clinging to her arm. To- Mr. Ross then returned for Henhood in southern Illine's and Mis- gether they were whirled toward derson who was still clinging to the slesippt where he was employed in the E.st street corner. The first tree but was unable to get him to paper and iron mills. He was ap tree fireb Saunders grasped in his majety until assistance had arrived notated to the police ferce in 1967 effort to escape being survised fato from police headquarters. Officers and was raised to captain two years | the river, smapped beneath the Grant and Houser answering the seconding as Captain Great combined weight of himself and the call in another book. whose health compelled him to dis two persons he was afternyting to For some time it was thourst After the body was recovered but the resistence stopped that far the water longer than the others Thursday afternoon it was taken to a brief moment, long enough for would not recover but after some McGown residence on Promoct him to muce a firm hold in a large time physicians revised him. Mrs.

course, of West Broducky street, motiving the section than the me | was

headquarters up to Thursday night Mps. Saunders when the accident | by, Saunders called for held was the death of Police Captain construed. They arrived safely at Throwing off his heavy outer circulwas the death of Police Captain the Saunders home and it was after ing Mr. Rose pushed out from his Albert McGown who lost his life two passengers were taken in house in a canon which was faste the waters in an attempt to rest to the boat that the craft, a pressed tened to his front porch. cue Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. steel row boat, filled with water With Mr. Saunders clinging to Saunders from their residence on and sinking in eight feet of water the gunwhale of the bark holding East Main Cross street. McGown's left its occupants floundering in the Mrs. Saunders with his free arm. it was rearly impossible to steer the street about 200 feet north of the . The current at this point, made cance in any direction in particuintersection of East and East Main swiming almost impossible and it lar. However it was manipulated

Cross after the water had subsided was rapidly carrying the four pec- so that it passed close to the second about 3 o'clock Thursday after- ple toward Bast street/where it was story window of the residence at noon. It had lain in the water Sowing straight to the river a block East and East Main Cross streets, which the police officer was drown- When last seen McGown was be- where the passengers were spilled ed occurred retween 7 and 8 o'clock ing whirled around into East street and the rushing whirling river. sashid because of the heavy rabber | Grasping the shutter Mr. Saund-

remon. The next one also masped that Henderson who had been in

the last house between the point broke in the glass with the cance Captule McGown and John Res- To Fred M. Ross, was was dition for many hours after the resHEADWATERS OF BLANCHARD SUBJECTED TO DOWNPOUR

Forest, March 24,-. (Special.)-The regions of the headwaters of the Blanchard river have been subjected to a down pouring of rain today which tonight appears to be little abated. The fall has not been exceptionally heavy but has been steady. The rainfall since Sunday morning has been estimaed at nearly 5 inches. The Blanchard west of here is many

feet above normal and the surround-

ing fields are under water to varying depth. In Forest cellars are filled and many streets under water. Indications here are that there will be little relief from present conditions in less than twenty-four hours.

Falls Causes Big Flood. HOW THE WATER PALL Lighest, 6 o'clock Tuesday

in the police alley, where readings were made. This ter in the police headquarters. The water begun to fall shortly after 6 o'clock. Rollowing is a table showing how fast the water fell. TUESDAY EVENING. a'so o'clock 89 inches

7:00 - clock . . . 29.5 inches 7:36 o'clock 29 inches 8:00 o'clock ... stationary 8:30 o'clock 28 inches 9:00 o'clock ... 27.75 inches 2:20 o'cleck ... 27.25 inches 10:00 o'clocal 25.5 faches 10:30 o'clock 25.5 inches

WEDNESDAY MORNING. 8 a. m. 12 taches 4 a Ba 9 inches

6 a. m. inches

7:80 a. 10.

More Than Fourteen Inches of Water and Six Inches of Show Which

IS WETTEST MONTH ON RECORD Mercury Ascends to Soventy-Four on Wareh 14. While Low Mark Is

March will go down in history as the wettest month on record at the government weather bureau here. Durthe period a total of 14.266 inches of rainfall was recorded, as well as 6 inches of snow. This is more moisture than has fallen in the city any time since the establishment of an official weather bureau here in 1898. Nine Inches of this rainfall was re-

corded within four days, and this caused the most disastrous flood in the history of the city. On March 23, Easter Sunday, 2.2 Inches was recorded: on March 24, 2 inches fell: on March 25, the same amount, and on the following day 3 inches more was

recorded. Weather Is Warmest on 14th. March 14 was the warmest day of the month, the mercury climbing to 74 degrees on that day, while March 7, just one week before, was the coldest day, one degree above zero being registered on that day. There were eighteen clear days, seven cloudy and thirteen partly cloudy during the month.

A table showing the maximum and