THE WEATHER.
Rain tonight and Sunday.

The Parkersburg Sentinel

YOUR CONFIDENCE
In us is our most valuable asset, and we take good care of our assets.

TWENTIETH YEAR | PARKERSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA, SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 20, 1909 | PRICE TWO CENTS

AFTERMATH OF DIRE DISASTER

Things Seen and Heard in the Stricken District

Those Who Suffered are Busy at Work Cleaning Housc

Thousands of people visited the vicinity of the calamity on Friday Avery street and Prospect Hill were thronged until late in the night, and this morning there was a continuous stream through that section. All marveled at the havoc wrought by the rush of water, and also marveled that there were not more fatalities.

This latter is largely accounted for by the fact that the hour was so early that many were still in their sleeping rooms on the second floors of the buildings where the greatest havoc was wrought. Had it occurred later in the day when there were many moving around in their houses and on the streets, or when the pupils had been in the Sumner school, the death list would doubtless have been largely increased. Or had it occurred at a time when services were being held in St. John's Lutheran church, the result would have been frightful to contemplate. It is truly fortunate that it occurred when it did.

Removing the Wreckage.

The large force of men under the charge of Chief Oliver and street commissioner Baker worked until late Friday evening. Each of these officers appointed several men to patrol that section of the city during the night to protect the property of the unfortunate ones from the raids of thieves. This morning the men were out bright and early and the result of their work is noticeable on all sides, though it will be some days yet before the streets are in their normal shape. The residents of that locality have gone bravely to work and are cleaning the mud from their homes and getting them in habitable shape. Quite a number have lost the greater portion of their furniture, as it was so badly wrecked as to be useless. Furniture and household articles of every description in many instances were swept out of the houses and wrecked in the wreckage. Some of the houses had from five to six feet of water in the lower floors and when the water found its way out the mud in some instances was six and eight inches deep.

Relief Committee at Work.

The council relief committee composed of J. Loyal Gilbert, Dr. Link and Charles Scholl took a trip over the stricken district on Friday evening and made an effort to locate all those who needed assistance. Several families who had lost all their worldly possessions were given attention.

Many of the residents of Avery street were up in arms last night when they learned that temporary tanks were to be placed on the top of the hill on the site of the old tanks. As soon as it was learned that this was to be done, they discussed it in excited groups, and even went so far as to threaten injunction proceedings to prevent it. However when it was explained that the tanks were small ones and that it was absolutely necessary to have them for fire protection and for other purposes, they were mollified and many withdrew their objections. It is an unfortunate condition of affairs and the people will have to bear up patiently until there is something better in prospect.

Many Heard the Crash.

Many of those who heard the crash when the tanks burst declare that there were two loud reports like an explosion, one following in a moment after the other. It was a noise that struck terror to those in the immediate vicinity, the greater number of whom were awakened from their sleep and were for a moment at a loss to locate the exact direction of the sound and what caused it. But it was only for a moment, and then they were made painfully aware of the cause when the water began pouring down over the steep hill.

As soon as the tanks went down the lights went out. The arc light wires were snapped off the current destroyed, but the broken wires were all live ones, which sizzled in the water and burned all the wood with which they came in contact, making it very dangerous for pedestrians. Helpless ones apparently paid little attention to the danger, although many of those who knew of the danger sounded many warning notes.

Disaster Widely Discussed.

Nothing has happened in Parkersburg since the flood of last that has been as widely discussed. The flood could not be prevented but the disaster of Friday could have been prevented was the sentiment of every one, and nearly all declared that it was due to negligence and inefficiency. They were not sparing in their criticism of those who have been responsible for the disaster.

The iron in some portions of the tanks is rusted and crystalized to such an extent that it could not withstand the pressure.

At Work on New Tanks.

The Parkersburg Rig and Reel Co., which has the contract for providing the new tanks for temporary use, began work on the contract on Friday afternoon and will rush it through to completion with a large force of men.

There will be four tanks, each of 1600 barrels capacity, and the first of these will be ready to be set up about Tuesday, but in order to do this it will be necessary to work night and day. All will be placed in position during next week.

A Dangerous Condition.

A dangerous condition of affairs confronts the city. An accident now at the pump station would leave the city without a water supply and the result would be disastrous, especially in regard to a water supply, and the health of the community would be endangered. It is not pleasant to contemplate what may happen.

A Narrow Escape.

Elmer Sorrell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sorrell, had a thrilling experience and a narrow escape. The family occupy a first floor flat on the east side of Avery street in the path of the flood. The rush of water brought down a large pile of drift which was forced through the rear of this flat. Elmer's bed was in the rear of the flat and was caught by the drift and forced into the front room where it lodged against the front door and he floated off into the dining room getting a cold bath, and where he was rescued by his father, who waded waist deep in the water to get to him.

Dennis Jones, the colored boy, who was carried down Tenth street for half a square in the wreckage, denies that he was asleep during his travels after the house was crushed to kindlingwood. He was very much awake from the start and was yelling lustily for help when rescued from the surging waves.

Talking of Damage Suits.

From present indications the city will have to face a number of damage suits. It is said that several persons have already consulted attorneys with this end in view and that they mean to prosecute the cases against the city, on the ground that the city knowing the condition of affairs allowed it to exist.

Damage Ten Squares Away.

The Bijou Dairy Kitchen, in the basement of the United Woolen Mills Company building at the corner of Market and Third streets, was put out of business on Friday, but is running as usual this morning. The flood of mud and water which swept down Market street was of such a large volume that the sewers were unable to carry it off, and the curb line at that point being somewhat lower than at other points the water poured over the sidewalk into the restaurant, the mud clogging up the sewers in the building. The mud and water was a foot deep in the restaurant, and eighteen inches deep in the kitchen. It was several hours before the sewers could be opened and the remainder of the day was spent in scrubbing out. This place is nearly ten squares from the accident.

Adam Heckler's barber shop under the Blennerhassett also got a mud bath. The flood swept over the sidewalk into the areaway and then into the shop. The mud in the areaway was about two feet deep and gave the proprietor a busy two hours in digging it out. It was an all day job to clean out the shop.

Never Heard of It.

On Friday evening at six o'clock, Dave Mair, who occupies rooms in the Dare building on Market street, came over to the Sentinel office and got his paper. Looking over the headlines he was considerably startled when he read of the tanks bursting, and remarked that that was the first he knew or heard of it. He explained that he had been in his room all day, busily engaged in reading, and had not been out on the street until he came after his paper.

About one o'clock Friday morning, Mrs. E. S. Moore, of Sixth street, was called up over the phone by her sister, who resides near Rockport, eighteen miles from the city, who inquired if they were all safe here. Mrs. Moore replied in the affirmative and asked why the inquiry had been made. Her sister replied that they had received a report out there that the water tanks had burst and that a number of people were injured and killed, and they feared that something might have occurred to Mrs. Moore's family. The latter replied that she had not heard of it, but would make inquiries. She soon learned the news.

At an early hour Friday morning telegrams were received here by various persons from relatives in distant cities, making inquiries as to their safety. Quite a large delegation of people came in on the noon train along the Baltimore and Ohio, as far east as Clarksburg and Grafton. The reports of the affair that they had received were highly exaggerated, in some instances that there had been as many as a dozen persons killed, and every house on several squares totally [illegible].

Those Lightning Flashes.

The arc light circuit wires which were broken by the bursting of the tanks, were repaired as soon as possible on Friday. Superintendent Stout states that he is satisfied that the flashes that were noticed by several persons who were of the opinion that they were caused by lightning, were really the flashes from the live wires that were strewn on the ground, which emitted sparks and flashes and even set the wood on fire where they came in contact with material of that kind. Persons who were up and around at the time state that there was no thunder or lightning during the shower which prevailed when the accident occurred.

Thieves Were at Work.

Complaints are made that boys and even men are stealing and carrying away articles from the Maloney home and the Lutheran church despite the presence of the police in that vicinity. This morning a rope was thrown around the church property in order to keep the crowd away. Mr. Maloney states that a number of articles have been taken from his house. Attempts were made to rob other places and the victims of the accident who have sustained heavy losses are indignant over the matter and some one is liable to get hurt. There are many who are gathering up souvenirs of the accident and carrying them away.

Household articles from the scene of the accident were carried in every direction by the water after they had been swept out of the houses. Several articles were picked up in the rear of the jail which had been swept down Market street and then down Third, and several other articles were found on Ann street. A cupboard which had been swept out of the rear of P. C. Garrard's home was carried nearly to Thirteenth street on Avery and his sewing machine has not yet been located. Mr. Garrard sent his family today to the home of his parents at Marysville, Ohio, where they will remain for several weeks.

Getting Things in Shape.

All the people in the stricken district are busily at work getting things in shape, but they find that it is a big undertaking, on account of the great accumulation of mud and other damage that has occurred at their homes. It will be weeks before some of the houses are habitable. Casper's store on Tenth street, where the water and wreckage was clear over the show cases, is open for business this morning and things are moving along as usual there.

Read of Accident at Cincinnati.

A. G. Jackson, who arrived home at midnight last night from the Illinois oil field was on Avery street this morning gazing at the empty lots where two of his houses formerly stood and which were carried down and wrecked. He first learned of the accident at Cincinnati where he purchased a paper containing an account of it. He has not determined whether he will rebuild or not.

Saw Wigal's House Carried Away.

Miss Kate Maloney, who resides on Avery street in the house next to the Carney residence was up and around the house at the time of the accident. She heard the crash of the bursting tanks, and looking out of the second story window saw the water sweeping down over the hill. The Wigal home she says was picked up off its foundation and was carried over the steep precipice and dashed against the rear of the Robert Jackson home and both collapsed and were carried across the street. The cries of the imprisoned ones were heartrending and she hurried down stairs to lend assistance. In her hallway she encountered several feet of water but she waded out to the sidewalk and was endeavoring to get to the wrecked buildings when she was herself surrounded by floating wreckage. The Bailey family next door called to her to come into their home as she was in danger, and, as she could not get back to her own home she went to the Bailey home, getting there with considerable difficulty.

The Old Tank Iron.

A force of men began work this morning on the base of the tanks which had been left intact. The rivets are being cut and the iron will be removed in order that the other tanks can be placed on the site. Quincey street is completely blockaded by the mass of iron from the south tank which is lying across the street. It will have to be cut up before it can be removed.

Narrow Escape of Entire Family.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Crim and their daughter, Miss Gracie, had a very exciting experience, and it was only through the prompt assitance of others that they were saved from drowning. The family reside in the building at 950 Avery, on the east side of the street, right under the steep declivity below the water tanks, where the force of the water was the greatest. Their sleeping apartment was in a rear room on the first floor. A mass of wreckage was swept down off the hill and crashed through the rear of the building into the room where they were sleeping. Mr. Crim was carried off the bed into another room, while his wife was caught and imprisoned in her bed by a heavy stone which fell across her chest, and a mass of other wreckage. The cot of the daughter was swept to the other side of the room and she was also pinned down and helpless under the wreckage. Mr. Crim waded out to render assistance, but he was unable to extricate either. Neighbors hurried to their assistance, and Mrs. Crim and her daughter were finally dragged out from under the wreckage and carried to the home of a neighbor. There the physicians ascertained that Mrs. Crim had sustained a broken collarbone, and the daughter a broken foot. Both are still suffering from the shock.

(Continued on page 6.)

COOPERS ARE FOUND GUILTY

Of Murder in Second Degree With 20 Years as Penalty

Motion to Set Aside Verdict Because of Disagreement of Friday

Nashville Tenn., March 20.—Guilty of murder in the second degree, with twenty years imprisonment as the penalty, was the verdict of the jury this morning, in the case against Col. Cooper and his son, Robin Cooper. Immediately the defense moved to set aside the verdict because of the verdict disagreement of yesterday and asked the Court to declare it a mistrial. Judge Hart said he would listen to arguments on this motion later. He then fixed the defendants' bond at $25,000 each, which amount was acceptable to both sides.

The defendants took the verdict coolly. Mrs. Burch and Mrs. Wilson Young, daughters of Col. Cooper, were brave, aside from tearful eyes, restrained their emotion. The jurors were tired looking and disheveled and when the Court, after thanking them, said that they were dismissed, they sprang from their seats and hurriedly left the court room. The defendants and counsel remained to complete bond preliminaries and motions for the new trial. There was a large crowd in the court room when the verdict was announced. Motion for a new trial probably will be argued next week.

The Cooper-Sharp trial has been one of the most remarkable murder cases in the history of the south, not only because of the prominence of the principals in the tragedy, but because of the reasons that led to the killing.

Colonel Duncan P. B. Cooper, a former officer in the Confederate army under Forrest and a man very prominent in Democratic state politics once lived at Columbia, Tennessee. In that town also resided Edward Ward Carmack, a young lawyer, who also did some newspaper work. Cooper bought the Nashville American and induced Carmack to come to Nashville as its editor. Whether the men ever were in thorough accord is a disputed point. Carmack's friends say not. Colonel Cooper swore on the stand that they were close friends until Governor Taylor opposed Carmack for re-election to the Senate. This fight was long and bitter. A fea[illegible] of it was a series of joint debates and Carmack lost. Cooper supported Taylor, but Robin, the boy who killed the Senator, supported the latter.

Malcolm R. Patterson was Governor of the state at the time of the Carmack-Taylor fight, and he announced his candidacy for re-election. Carmack just beaten for the Senate was urged into the race for Governor against Patterson. This was last June, and the fight between the men for the Democratic nomination was the most spectacular ever seen in Tennessee. Again, joint debates were arranged, and again the feeling between the factions grew very bitter. In these debates, Cooper charged that Carmack assailed the Colonel's good name. Cooper was an ardent Patterson man—the Governor on the stand described him as "my closest personal and political adviser." Again, Carmack lost; and, a month before the election, became editor of the Nashville Tennessean. He had made the race on the prohibition platform, and while he did not get the nomination, he did secure enough representatives to assure the passage of the so-called state-wide liquor bill.

In the meantime, Governor Patterson and former Governor Cox, once deadly enemies, were reconciled. The Tennessean charged that Colonel Cooper brought this reconciliation about, and referred to it in a humorous and sarcastic vein in its editorial columns. Carmack also intimated that, to save Governor Patterson, the Democratic leaders were preparing to trade Bryan for the governorship. Colonel Cooper was chafing under the comment, and becoming more incensed every day. On Sunday, November 8, the day before the killing, the following editorial appeared in the Tennessean:

"Across the Muddy Chasm."

"We trust there will be no unseemly ribaldry on the part of the base vulgar concerning the happy reunion of long sundered hearts, which was accomplished in the joyous reconciliation of His Excellency, Hon. M. R. Patterson and His Ex-Excellency, Hon. John Isaac Cox. All honor to that noble spirit, Major Duncan Brown Cooper, who wrought this happy reunion of congenial and confluxible spirits separated by evil fates although both for each other. All honor to Major Duncan and may the blessing of the Peacemaker be upon him. May he be heir to all the beatitudes, and especially to the blessing reserved for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. And there goes also a blessing to His Excellency—for as he has been merciful to Cox, so shall he obtain mercy.

"But the choicest blessing as is right and proper, are for Governor Cox himself. For if there be any reward for meekness, and any for enduring persecution for righteousness sake, he shall inherit the earth and his is the kingdom of heaven. Yet such is the meekness of his spirit that we doubt not that Governor Cox would be entirely comforted with the meek man's reward.

"If we pause here briefly to review the unhappy differences that have armed these valiant souls against each other, it is for no purpose of renewing the strife, but rather of emphasizing by contrast, the felicity of the present situation. It will serve, also, to bring out in bold relief the gracious spirit which enables Governor Patterson to 'condescend to men of low estate,' lift up where he has trampled down and lay a poultice of warm words upon the reputation he has so fearfully bruised. It will teach also those who most unjustly have regarded Governor Cox as a man of proud and haughty spirit, that he is in fact, a man of 'modest stillness and humility,' one who can forget injuries the most grievious, forgive insults the most flagrant, indure every assault upon his honor and good name without resentment, and, in general, humble himself that he may be exalted. It will also show that no one can ever sin away his day of grace with the present all-merciful machine; that no man can ever become so vile, so degraded, so corrupt in its estimation that it is not ready to raise him up and load him with dignity and honors if he only will give up everything and serve it with fidelity and singleness of heart.

"It will be remembered that Governor Patterson professed to have only one great motive in seeking the office of Governor—the wholly patriotic and unselfish desire to purge the state of the shame and infamy brought upon it by Cox and the Cox machine. He openly declared that he would rather some other than he had the task and the honor, but his soul would not consent that such a man as Cox should be the Governor of Tennessee. He charged that Cox had degraded and debauched the politics of the state; he represented him as the pliant tool of the saloon and the corporations; he charged that he was Democrat only in name, a Republican in fact; he called him a 'traitor to the Democratic party.' Not only that, but he viciously assailed his personal honor; his pecuniary integrity, and from every stump in Tennessee, he pictured him in the bitterest words in his vocabulary as a common grafter. And the whole crew joined their voices in one universal chorus of defamation—'crook,' 'grafter,' 'corrupt politician,' 'cheap John demagogue'—such were the words that flew thick and fast from the mouths of Duncan B. Cooper and all the leaders in the great movement to reform and purge and purify the state, to destroy the power of the political machine and restore power to the people of Tennessee. The whole campaign was conducted with a view not only to defeat Governor Cox, but to load him with infamy and drive him out of the politics of Tennessee. So far was this carried, that after Governor Patterson had been nominated for Governor, and Cox had been nominated for the State Senate, Major Cooper journeyed to Bristol for the purpose of getting out an independent candidate against him.

"These facts will serve to glorify the recent pact of peace. It shows how far Governor Patterson had to stoop, how much Governor Cox had to forgive and matches an infinite condescension with an infinite humility. Of course, there are other details. When Governor Cox was summoned to Nashville, some weeks ago, it was not simply for the purpose of falling on somebody's neck or of having somebody fall upon his. There are honors and dignities and offices and substantial rewards to be distributed—things that go 'to heal the hurt that honor feels'—and these things were talked of and considered.

"But no doubt, the main thing was that Governor Cox agreed to join himself with Ban Murray, Dune Cooper and Sparrel Hill and aid them in their battle for the Holy Cause of Local Self Government."

By local self government, Carmack meant the fight against prohibition. The liquor interests led by the Governor, declared in favor of local option, and of letting each community settle the saloon question for itself.

Colonel Cooper, upon reading this editorial, sent the famous message to Carmack: "If my name appears in the Tennessean again, one of us must die." The warning was delivered to Senator Carmack by Ex-State Treasurer Craig. Carmack said that Colonel Cooper's threat had made a cessation of the editorials impossible—that if the Tennessean never again used Cooper's name, the public would believe that the paper had been bluffed and it would lose caste. So on Monday, November 9 the day of the killing, there appeared in the Tennessean this editorial:

"The Diplomat of the Sweibund."

"To Major Duncan Brown Cooper, who wrought the great coalition; who achieved the harmonious confluence of incompatible elements; who welded the pewter handle to the wooden spoon; who grafter the dead bough to the living tree and made it to bloom and bourgeon and bend with golden fruit; who made playmates of the lamb and the leopard and boon companions of the spider and the fly; who made soda and vinegar to dwell placidly in the same bottle, and who taught oil and water how they might agree—to Major Duncan Brown Cooper, the great diplomat of the political Sweibund, be all honor and glory forever."

What happened next is history. The State's witnesses say that Carmack was shot down from behind, while he was in the act of raising his hat to a lady, Mrs. Eastman. The Coopers swear that they walked across the street to reason with Carmack and that he opened fire at once, wounding Robin, who, thereupon and in self-defense fired the shots that killed the editor.

WILL OF THE LATE JOSEPH H. DILS

The will of the late Joseph H. Dils, of Denver, formerly of this city, dated September 16, 1903, was recorded today at the county clerk's office.

To his wife, Margaret W. Dils, is bequeathed as her absolute property, the household furniture and furnishings in their Denver residence, and also absolutely and in fee simple, two lots and the homestead residence in Denver, and also one-half of his estate, absolutely and in fee.

Subject to the foregoing is bequested to his daughter, Bessie E., and son, Charles R. Dils, a one-quarter interest in his estate, absolutely and in fee, when they attain the age of 28 years, and the income from this half of the estate shall be used for the support of the two above named children until they attain the age of 28 years, respectively.

Margaret W. Dils is appointed executrix, and in the case of her death, it is his desire that Hugh P. Dils, of this city, shall be appointed executor.

FUNERAL OF THE WIGALS ON SUNDAY

VICTIMS OF THE AWFUL ACCIDENT OF FRIDAY

TWELVE PLUMBERS TO ACT AS PALLBEARERS.

The remains of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wigal who were killed when the water works tanks burst on Friday morning have been taken to the home of Mr. Wigal's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Wigal on the South Side and on Sunday they will be taken to the 1st M. E. church, where services will be conducted at two o'clock and interment will be made at the I. O. O. F. cemetery. The victims of the disaster had been married about five years. Mrs. Wigal was before her marriage Miss Flora Toneray of near Limestone Hill, W. Va. Her mother, one sister and three brothers survive. Beside his mother and father, Mr. Wigal is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Anna Boso of Jackson county, W. Va., and Mrs. C. M. Ferguson of New Cumberland, W. Va. Mr. Wigal being a member of the local Plumbers' Union twelve members of the union will serve as pallbearers at the funeral.

GIVING CREDIT WHERE IT IS DUE

In the various descriptions of yesterday's disaster, the writer, a flood sufferer, has been somewhat surprised to see that no mention has been made of the heroic work done by several men of the neighborhood in the first few moments of horrible suspense, following the catastrophe and in fact while it was raging, long before people had been able to establish any communication with the city authorities. This rescue party was led in a systematic manner by Tom Gallagher of Avery street, an employe of the Mountain State Gas Company and was composed of Campbell Neptune, Alfred Sayre, Walter Boette, E. P. Boette, and Tom and Pat Galvin. These guided by the faint light of an electric lantern, waded through the surging waters over piles of debris to the back of the Lutheran Church where they rescued Mrs. John Maloney and little son and Mrs. Carnes from their perilous position. Campbell Neptune a few seconds after the fall of the church crossed the street at the risk of his own life and took Mrs. Eliza Davis and daughter from their flooded house to a place of safety. The prompt action and support of these men during the terrible ordeal makes it an act of justice that their assistance be made public and it is to discharge this debt that this article is written, not to detract or criticise the force of city workers, who did efficient work when they did arrive. It is also probable that the vicinity of Tenth and Eleventh streets had its corps of men to render prompt assistance.

HOME AGAIN.

Washington, March 20.—President Taft arrived in Washington this morning.

Food is more tasteful, healthful and nutritious when raised with

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

The only baking powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar

Made from Grapes

Absolutely PURE

Notice to Deaf People

Deaf or partially deaf people will please call at our store today or Monday and make free trial of STOLZ ELECTROPHONE.

H. P. Moss Bookstore Company

It is Foolish

To hoard money when it can be deposited with absolute security in the Central Banking & Security Company of Parkersburg, either as a checking account or in the Savings Department. In the latter it is constantly available and while in the bank draws interest every six months. It is the policy of this bank to encourage young business men. Every patron should understand that he is entitled to the full credit warranted by his responsibility and account.

CENTRAL BANKING & SECURITY COMPANY
"BANK FOR SAVINGS"
615 Market St., Parkersburg, W. Va.

Every Individual Every Firm

Should have a reserve fund for emergencies. If you have none, you should begin today to make one by regular deposits at four per cent in the savings department of the

Merchants & Mechanics National Bank
Capital $100,000.00
FOURTH AND MARKET STS.

$1.00 Up
$4.00 Down
HATS

We have just opened our new spring line of Men's and Boys' Hats. They are all beauties. All colors and styles.

NATHAN
SELLS IT FOR LESS.
225 ANN STREET.