

The thirty hour is a reasonable time for the printing of a paper, but is time well spent.

WATSONVILLE REGISTER

Established 1876

WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1911.

The Successful Merchant is a constant advertiser. It costs him nothing to sell, nothing to pay for.

Price 5 Cents

ALL PAJARO VALLEY FLOODED

Watsonville Gets Bathing Which Shatters all Traditions in History of the City

Boats Land Passengers at Third And Main Streets--Water Clear to Lake Avenue

Yesterday will always be remembered in the history of Watsonville as "Flood Day" and it will take a larger amount of water than that which swept down the swollen Pajaro, covered the adjacent territory and saturated everything for miles, to wipe from the memory of the local residents the sights seen during the day.

Never before in the remembrance of the oldest inhabitant has the sometimes placid Pajaro been swollen to such a height. An idea of the distance reached may be gained from the fact that water rose until boats could be rowed as far as the corner near the Klanson House. All the lower side of the city from Third street was practically a sea of water. Stores along Main street will suffer a loss of thousands of dollars and the city's streets are in a very bad condition in some places.

Yesterday morning as stated by The Register when its forms were being locked up, the Salinas Creek broke its banks a short distance above the city. The waters rushed down through the Waters' addition onto Lincoln and then came in behind Main street from the plaza to the river.

Commencing with yesterday morning's sudden rise of waters, due to heavy rainfall in the valley augmented by raging torrents from the San Benito country, Pajaro Valley and Watsonville passed a strenuous and lengthy day. All records have been eclipsed and never in the remembrance of the oldest old timer have the waters from the river ascended the town and valley as in this instance. The waters from the river backed up to a few feet from the corner of Lake Avenue, and the beautiful plaza was covered. Main street was a river, ranging from a few inches in depth at Third street to several feet at his end of the bridge.

Lower floors of houses were submerged, stores were awash, restaurants and saloons were compelled to suspend business. Second street, Bridge street and Third were running torrents and confusion generally occurred.

Promptness on the part of many merchants who used sand bags and lumber, saved many thousand dollars worth of stock, but in a number of instances the damage done is considerable. Up the river many bridges were washed away and considerable damage done to property, while down toward the bay on the other side of the river the lackless inhabitants have evidently had a serious time, although no reports have been received.

To write of all the incidents and happenings would require more pages than the average newspaper contains, but in this issue will be found a resume of the various occurrences, told as tersely and at the same time as completely as possible.

RELIEF FOR FLOOD SUFFERERS

All persons needing assistance from the Relief Committee will please apply at the committee headquarters, No. 418 Main street. Immediate attention will be given. Donations of cash, clothing, food supplies and rooms will be received at the same place.

P. K. Walters, Chairman.
E. Steinhauer, Secretary.

WILL CALL UPON BUSINESS MEN

The committee appointed last night by Mayor Walters which is composed of Attorney H. C. Wyckoff, J. D. Richard and George G. Radcliff will call upon the business men of Main street this morning for donations to the relief fund. There are hundreds of homeless people in this city at the present time and all contributions should be found walking the committee.

GLOSS CALL FOR TWO SLAVONIAN

Two Slavonians at the Peckham ranch in the Aronias country find a thrilling experience yesterday morning. When the waters reached the house they fled for safety to an apple tree, where they remained until nearly one o'clock yesterday afternoon, having been freed by the swirling waters from four in the morning. One of the men was nearly all in when the life saving crew arrived and could not have held out much longer. It was feared serious complications would occur for the men's lives were in danger.

Bridges up River go Out--Narrow Gauge Submerged--Water Works Loses Pipes

No Loss of Life Reported--Close Calls in Some Cases--The Story of the Deluge

The San Juan railroad bridge at Chittenden and the wagon bridge adjacent both washed out, and but for the fact the two lodged a short distance below, the Southern Pacific bridge at Chittenden would have been endangered and would have undoubtedly gone also.

The new tri-county bridge, recently constructed by San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, at Stony Ford, went out also, as did the bridge at Aronias and at Berkeley between Sargents and Gilroy. The spur tracks at the Berkeley bridge were also washed out. The new bridge went out in one piece, practically, and landed on the flat below. Although there is no definite information on this point, it was stated by telephone last night there might be a chance to recover the most of its and prevent an almost total loss.

A report from San Juan by telephone last evening said a part of the long bridge this side of Hollister was also washed out. This is a pile bridge and only a part of the superstructure was washed away and may be easily replaced.

PIPES OF WATER COMPANY TAKEN AWAY

Owing to a rush of water down Brown's Valley and Corralitos creeks 90 feet of the flume in Corralitos and forty feet of water pipe in Brown's Valley were washed out, which cuts off the supply from the mountains, and leaves the reservoir with two days' supply from on hand. Attention is directed to a statement by the water company in this connection and people are enjoined from a lavish use of water until repairs can be made.

Water jenkins came in from Corralitos last night and said he would have as many men at work making repairs this morning as he could possibly get on the job and hoped to close the breaks right away. The volume of water which rushed down Brown's Valley was considerable, and farm lands at the mouth of the canyon suffered, several of them being washed headly.

Preliminary work on repairing the breaks started last night and will continue today as fast as human hands can accomplish the repairs.

not drop to gins, not even in the alcoves.

The crossing at Third and Main streets was the last vestige of land on Main street. From there to the river the street was flooded, many of the stores were protected by hastily constructed bulkheads built across the entrances. The water was up to the floor of the Paragon Valley National Bank, the pile of the Lyric Theater was tall and they were a foot above the entrance floor; in the postoffice the lower boxes were just above the level; a stream flowed through the engine house two feet deep at a lively clip; all the stores in that section were seas of muddy water on which here and there floated articles which once were on the shelves. The water was up to the windows of Daily Brothers' store; down farther Central Avenue was renamed "Central Rapids" for the occasion and on all sides were evidences of destroyed property.

Through Main street from Maple avenue into Second a lively stream found its way and even Third street resembled a small sized creek, the water coming up to the very floor of The Register office. First street, Bridge street and the lower ends of Third, Second, Union, Marchant and all of the streets in the lower end of town including Pine and Lowry were impassible.

Main street presented a sight strange to those who saw yet which will always remain in their memory. The stores as far up as the hardware department of the Charles Ford Company were all barricaded by bulkheads, thrown up with a few boards and sand. The bulkheads did good work and many of the stores and establishments as far down as the California Restaurant were successful in keeping out the water.

In the gutters along Main street the water backed up to Lake Avenue and on all the side streets the gutters were full. Pedestrian traffic was rendered impossible on the sidewalks at the farther end of the Mansion House and from there everybody took to the street.

All day long men procected by rubber boots, boats, saddie horses and bugries were in the street and served as the only communication between those in the stores along the streets.

The plaza was a sea of water with here and there a few flowers or bunches appearing above. On the front lawn, "Old Betsy" stood grand while the water crawled to within a few inches of its pedestal. The paths and lanes were more like streams and creeks and the lawns will this morning find a fine coat of sediment left for them to do good work during the coming year.

As long as the flood remained at its height the last bit of visible bitumen on Main street and the Mansion House steps served as vantage points for the big crowd which had appeared despite the weather to see one of the history-making spots of the valley.

The schools were dismissed during the morning and the students joined in the throngs which were continually pressing and jostling to gain sight of the stream and following it up as the waters receded.

All business was suspended for the day in most of the stores and from Third street to the river but little business could have been done on account of the fact every store was an island within itself.

SOL ALEXANDER IS A PROPHET

Sol Alexander is a sort of prophet. At least he had a great hunch Monday. Sol felt a storm coming up—it doesn't make any difference whether it was rheumatic or not—and he telephoned an order for wading boots to the city at four o'clock. An hour later the order was filled and the case arrived yesterday morning in time to be shipped over and as a result the supply was augmented.

Wading boots and rubber boots were at a premium yesterday. All stores handling them sold out and by noon there wasn't a pair in town. It is estimated between \$2500 and \$3000 worth changed hands during the day.

WILL CALL UPON BUSINESS MEN

The committee appointed last night by Mayor Walters which is composed of Attorney H. C. Wyckoff, J. D. Richard and George G. Radcliff will call upon the business men of Main street this morning for donations to the relief fund. There are five hundred of them in this city at the present time and all of them should be found waiting the committee.

CLOSE CALL FOR TWO SLAVONIANS

Two Slavonians at the Peckham ranch in the Avonams country had a thrilling experience yesterday morning. When the waters reached the house they had for safety to an apple tree, where they remained until nearly one o'clock yesterday afternoon, having been freed by the swirling waters from four in the morning. One of the men was nearly all in when the life saving crew arrived and could not have held out much longer. It was feared serious complications would occur, for the man's jaws were set and he could not speak. His companion revived last evening under the influence of stimulants, and will doubtless be all right by this morning.

Both men were wet to the hips when they climbed the tree, and their sufferings later on, deprived of exercise as they were, were very intense.

It was reported last night a man was tread in the Allison orchard where he had been all day and a rescue party was about to leave Avonams to bring him in, when the telephone message was received.

OLD TIME STORIES LAID ON SHELF

The old timers, like Jim Kitchen, "Dad" Coffman and the balance have had a cramp put in them by the breaking of all records by this flood. It used to be either one of them could "hang it on" the younger generations by alluding to the high water of '32 or '34, and one could hark back to the old days when Salspieders creek and the river formed a combination and sent the water biting to the plaza corner. But now the youngsters of us have a chance to get even. The floods of ancient days were merely little showers as compared to this. Sad to relate, in future, or until he can grow a new crop, this locality will have to depend on the weather bureau for its prognostications. All of Kitchen's frogs were drowned yesterday. Kitchen's frogs were not water frogs, but tree frogs and water overcame them. It is said Jim provided most of them with life preservers, but they did not know how to operate them and perished. One of them floated past the Mansion House at three in the afternoon, making a hard struggle for life, but succumbed to a whirlpool in front of Alexander's across the street.

WIRES DOWN IN ALL DIRECTIONS

Wires were down yesterday in all directions. The Western Union was out of commission, the telephone people had nothing between here and Santa Cruz nor San Francisco and only one line open, that being to Salinas. Late in the afternoon the Associated Press correspondent got a wire to Salinas and thence by way of San Jose to San Francisco and gave out the story, and was fortunate enough to get a follow up story on the wire last night.

There are a great many Watsonville people in San Francisco at present and all are interested, besides the story is of general interest to the state and country at large.

The telephone company had trouble with outside wires all day long, and early in the day sent a crew to the Chittenden grade to make repairs to the lines. When the men got there they found the road four feet under water, with poles leaning in all directions.

FIVE BRIDGES WERE WASHED OUT

Chris Langermann came over his ranch at Chittenden yesterday afternoon, riding a horse over the hills, the Chittenden grade being four feet under water.

On the west end of water down town a thirty and Corcoran creeks 90 feet of the flume in Corralitos and forty feet of water pipe in Brown's Valley were washed out, which cuts off the supply from the mountains, and leaves the reservoir with two days' supply only, on hand. Attention is directed to a statement by the water company in this connection and people are enjoined from a lavish use of water until repairs can be made.

Water jennies came in from Corralitos last night and said he would have as many men at work making repairs this morning as he could possibly get on the job and hoped to close the breaks right away. The volume of water which rushed down Brown's Valley was considerable, and farm lands at the mouth of the canyon suffered several of them being washed badly.

Preliminary work on repairing the breaks started last night and will continue today as fast as human hands can accomplish the repairs.

GILROY AND HOLLISTER IN DARKNESS

Gilroy and Hollister were without light and power last night, as these two towns depend on Watsonville for their current. This town has really four sources of supply, three emanating in Santa Cruz and the mountains above and one on Walker street. During the morning hours the current was supplied by the local station, while in the afternoon and during the night it came from Santa Cruz. The local light and power company had men at work constantly, but it is more than probable that they can draw on four different sources if it is more than probable that Watsonville would have been dark last night.

Down at the gas works there was all kinds of trouble. Extra men were put to work to keep the water out, and it was only by dint of hard work that the company was able to continue to supply gas.

MAYOR WALTERS HAS NARROW ESCAPE

Mayor Walters had a very narrow escape from drowning while making a professional call on First street. He had two men row him to the house, but an oar was lost and the current then played with the boat as if it were a clip. The tiny craft was upset and the swift current carried the doctor straight for a telegraph pole. He grabbed the pole with both arms and commenced to climb. The other men also made for the pole and soon all three were perched high and dry. They stayed there half an hour before being finally rescued. The water at that point was over their heads.

HORSES HAVE NARROW ESCAPE

Six horses belonging to Frank Silva were in five feet of water from early yesterday morning till 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The Silva barn is located on Bridges street, and the water rose so rapidly there that before any one thought of the horses, it seemed impossible to reach them. Several attempts were made to rescue the animals but failed. Finally two daring men made the trip on horse back, and with axes broke down the fence and barn door. The horses were out loose and immediately started to swim down Bridge street. They got on their feet at Main and then started on a wild run up the street, but were finally caught on Rodriguez street.

STRENUOUS DAY FOR JULIUS AND JOSEPH

Yesterday was a strenuous one for the Coast Counties Light & Power Co. The supplies from the high hills were out of and the engine and machinery at the local plant under water, so recourse was had to Santa Cruz.

During the day the wires went down at Big creek and there was no possibility of getting them across the raging torrent of the San Lorenzo.

Finally one of the officials conceived the idea of borrowing one of the small cannon from the naval reserves, and this was placed in commission, the result being a rope was shot across the stream at the first attempt and the wire pulled over and the connection made.

From files, we have found material as follows:
 1861 - Jan. 1890
 March 1911 - particularly severe
 1914
 1938
 and later

At that D. J. Daly arose:

"Yes, there is a Catholic in this house. I am a Catholic."

"No, that man is not a Catholic," Thompson and J. P. Kane will be there at all hours to receive plans for assistance, and accept donations.

Last night Mayor Walters instructed Chief of Police T. J. Abrahm to have all officers and the three special patrolmen to report all destitute cases to relief headquarters where the officers will be taken care of and assigned to rooms and given meal tickets. "I would not care if every member was a Catholic, for I would work with them just the same," Mr. Stafford, in an effort to put all on the troubled waters arose. "I do not think Mr. Hasselt should have brought the question of religion into this matter," he said. "I for one do not know of the religion of any of the members of the committee and I read by don't know whether any of them have any religion or not."

A long laugh greeted his remark and following which Father Hasselt secretary and treasurer and will handle all funds. No warrants are to be held unless ordered by Mayor Walters or Superintendent Harcus.

Last night at the meeting and also Mr. Daly quietly left the room words, resumed his seat.

When the clergyman had finished his remarks:

Many people in this District with their homes flooded and many of their home hold effects washed away a large number of people residing in the lower section of the city was last evening the sleeping place of a dozen men and many others gave what they could.

The following are the amounts received in cash:

T. H. Melandell \$ 2.00
 Rev. P. A. Kenal 5.00
 Cash 1.00
 Rev. C. L. Thackeray 5.00
 Otto D. Steeener 20.00
 Watsonville Garage 2.50
 Hahn-Hammond Lumber Co. 100.00
 Pajaronian 10.00
 J. A. Linscott 5.00
 Watsonville Water Co. 25.00
 Cash 1.00
 T. J. Horgan 5.00
 H. J. Sheldler 2.00
 W. H. White 5.00
 P. G. Townsend 5.00
 Cash 1.00
 P. M. Andrews 5.00
 G. W. Howe 5.00
 Y. M. C. A. 5.00
 J. M. Lank 2.50

(Continued on Page 5.)

by the hundreds, stories were found
 "stick to the ship."
 not care to be saved, preferring to
 men stated there were some who did
 inundated section although the res-
 might all had been brought from the
 yesterday morning it was thought that
 rescue work carried on since early
 many being sick but due to the herci-
 ing unable to get to high ground and
 found themselves in bad plights, be-
 ing in the lower section of the city
 away a large number of people resid-
 of their home hold effects washed
 the coffee Club donated \$10 worth of
 received in cash. Besides the above
 tion to the amount of \$132.50 were
 at the relief headquarters, contribu-

In order to assist those rendered homeless by the flood yesterday a relief headquarters were established in the office of Alderman T. J. Horgan P. G. Sheehy was established in 12 E. Kelly Street, N. W. Schuchard 1.00
 20.00
 1.00
 1.00
 2.00
 2.00
 20.00
 2.00
 2.00
 5.00

Walters, and definite steps were taken to organize the relief work. A committee of five was appointed to take charge, an active discussion ensued and a large amount was raised to carry on the work.

Later the committee met in the office of Mr. Horgan and had out an appointment the previously named committee to have charge of the relief work and to provide means to accommodate the destitute. Several spokesmen of Attorney H. C. Wyckoff, and at the adjournment a large number came forward and contributed to the fund.

Rev. Father P. D. Hasselt was one of the principal speakers of the occasion. Immediately after the appointment of the committee he rose to speak and in the course of his remarks stated there was not a Catholic on the committee. He raised the question of the relief of the destitute and they plan to be on the street this morning at 8 o'clock. A second meeting of the main committee will be held at 11 this morning to further perfect plans.

ALL PAJARO VALLEY WAS FLOODED
 (Continued From Page One)
 Manager Schuchard, of the local company, says this is the first time Joe Noble who worked hard for 18 hours says he is in favor of a "dry" town from this time on.

RELIEF COMMITTEE IS ORGANIZED

Mar 8
 1911
 from
 W. J. Lank
 records