

THE FLOOD.

Situation of the High Waters Elsewhere as Gleaned From the Latest Papers.

Fargo, N. D., April 6.—The highest water in Fargo, in the memory of all residents, occurred in the spring of 1882. The first uneasiness was manifested on April 8, and in a few days almost the entire south part of the city was afloat. The high stage was reached on April 12, when the water was twenty-six feet and eight inches above normal height. Some of the old timers here, state the high stage was reached April 19, but no reference is made in the Argus to flood after April 13.

The local situation is fast becoming extremely serious. Contrary to the expectation of many the river shows no indications of receding, and by today will have passed the high water stage of 1882.

The flood of 1873 is not in it. The "oldest resident" must now take a back seat in flood stories, and the most recent acquisition of the divorce colony can spin as big a yarn as the pioneer of '71.

An immense gorge of ice has formed near the Great Northern railroad bridge, extending from the Fargo side of the river across the stream a distance of about 900 feet, and raised from six to eight feet above the surface of the water. Dynamite was used yesterday afternoon and the ice moved some, but quickly closed up again. Last night the plan of attempting to blow open a passage way was abandoned, for fear of the bridge being swept away. Water backing from there will probably cause an additional rise.

As a fitting climax for it all comes a report that the Wild Rice river near Wahpeton rose five feet yesterday, and is sweeping everything before it. If this report is true Fargo will very likely get the benefit of that also.

The water has been rising steadily at the rate of two inches per hour, and those who thought that they were safe yesterday morning moved out last evening. W. C. Minnis, foreman of the Northern Pacific, was the last to move out on Lower Front street. Men were at work south of the city yesterday breaking up the ice as much as possible and starting it down the stream.

The water has made its way into nearly all the basements of the stores on Front street. The deLendrecie basement is deluged and the fires in this block was out at an early hour yesterday morning. The tenants of the First National bank block are also without fire.

The danger from the big slough west of the city is no more feared by the residents of the fourth ward. The culvert on the N. P. road was enlarged yesterday and the water rushed through with a roar, and in a few hours the water over the entire ward had receded five or six inches and by nightfall there was little evidence of the overflow of a few hours before.

Superintendent Wilson of the Dakota division of the N. P. was in the city last evening and everything was ordered out. The passenger from the east arrived about 7 o'clock on the main line. No. 4, the local passenger, was sent out on time and two or three freight trains were sent out immediately afterward. No. 2 came in from the west last night about 12 o'clock and it was sent east a few minutes later. A train in from down the Southwestern last evening and reports are that the washouts have been fixed up.

All trains on the Great Northern are running on time. The Milwaukee is stalled, and may not run trains for several days.

Moorhead, Minn., April 5.—The high water situation as far as the prairie is concerned looks more encouraging today. Reports came in from the country saying the water is falling rapidly. Some of the houses on the east side of the city are still surrounded but the water is gradually subsiding while there is still a flow from the prairie. But the ditches are amply large to carry it off. The Northern Pacific is again open for traffic. No. 5 express came through at 8 o'clock this evening. General Manager Harding went east in his car on the work train this morning.

Wahpeton, N. D., April 5.—The Wild Rice river, five miles west of here, has raised five feet today, and all bridges have been swept away. The river is a mad, whirling torrent. Nothing like it has been known in years. The water in the Red river receded two feet today. All bridges are safe except the Northern Pacific. The ice in the Otter Tail has commenced to move out. No trains are running.

Casselton, N. D., April 5.—The first melting of snow during the week just ended has given the city and many individuals plenty to do, but energetic labor in opening up drains had let the local water off without any serious damage. Yesterday morning however there were reports of a huge column of water coming from the northwest, and that the city would hear from it before night. At noon it became evident that there was truth in the rumor, as the country above the city suddenly became an ocean, and those who went out to examine came back with great stories of an extensive flood. By three o'clock reports of the advancing wave were verified. Soon, however, the angry billows swept over the railroad track and began to tear their way between and under the ties in a mad gallop to the lowlands of Swan creek just beyond. The tide of back water immediately began to subside and danger was over for the east side of town. A work train happened to be on hand with Roadmaster Daley on board, and its force augmented by the local section gangs, at once went to work to open up wide passage ways at intervals along the portion of track endangered—some 600 to 800 feet. The town was out to witness this portion of the labor but did not wait to take in the completion of the job which was reached at morning when the track was bolstered up sufficiently to let trains over, and several delayed passenger trains passed west.