

**WEATHER**  
 CLOUDY, RAIN SATURDAY; SUNDAY  
 FAIR, COLDER.  
 Max. temperature yeast. 64° at 2.00 A. M.  
 Min. temperature yeast. 44° at 3.00 P. M.  
 Light Vehicle Lamps at 5.07 P. M.

# The Providence Journal

TWO  
 SECTIONS

VOLUME XCIX. NO. 265 TWENTY-FOUR PAGES PROVIDENCE, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1927 \*\*\* PRICE TWO CENTS 14 Cents Per Week Delivered by Carrier

## NEW ENGLAND FLOOD HORROR MOUNTING; BIG DEATH TOLL FEARED IN MONTPELIER; R. I. DAMAGE HUGE; MANY FLEE HOMES

### PARTS OF STATE NOW 16 FEET UNDER WATER

Dozen Bridges Collapse; Factories Closed: 5000 Out of Work  
 TWO PROBABLY DROWNED IN RAGING WATER

Many Forced to Turn to Municipal Poor Farms for Refuge, Especially in Woonsocket.—Highway Damage Set at \$150,000.—Rowboats Rescue Marooned City Dwellers.—Dams Fail.

Rhode Island rivers, swollen by the rain torrents of Thursday night and yesterday morning, ran rampant yesterday and left devastation and probably death in their wake as they began a slow recession late last night. With parts of the State under water that varied from a depth of six feet in South County to 16 feet in the Blackstone Valley, property worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, although estimates were impossible last night, are destroyed.

### HOMES ABANDONED IN SOUTH COUNTY

One Life Believed Lost, 500 Jobless, Damage Set at More Than \$200,000.

### BRIDGES ARE SWEEPED AWAY

Westerly, Ashaway and Potter's Hill Hardest Hit with Pawcatuck and Ashaway Rivers Eight Feet Above Usual Level

Bridges were swept away, farm lands inundated, traffic blocked, foundations of mills undermined and families forced to abandon their homes as rivers in the southern part of the state yesterday morning overflowed their banks. One life was probably lost, 500 persons were thrown out of work and property damage estimated at more than \$200,000 was caused. Westerly, Ashaway and Potter's Hill in the southwestern part of the State were the most severely hit as the Pawcatuck and Ashaway rivers rose more than eight feet above their usual level and the Laurel Dam and Green Falls dams upstream gave way and released thousands of tons of water through the valleys. Albert Blackmall of Wequetequoque, while attempting to cross the bridge over Pawcatuck Cove, was swept into the water as the stream rose above the bridge. Efforts of Capt. John Emmet and Lewis Lamphear to reach him as he was borne out into the cove by the torrent were of no avail. Coast guardsmen from the Watch Hill station were dragging for his body last night.

### HOMES ABANDONED

A dozen families were forced to abandon their homes in the northern section of Westerly as the stream rose to the first floor level of their tenements.

Fear that the Flat River reservoir in Westerly would give way under pressure of the unprecedented rainfall was somewhat allayed last night, as the Pawtucket river was caring for the unusual flow.

Roads through the southern part of the State were impassable for the most part as bridges, particularly on the toll roads through the country, were washed away.

In Hope Valley the swirl of waters over the State road washed away a garage. The family of Paul Babcock on the shore of the pond at Alton was obliged to abandon its dwelling.

The Ashaway Woolen Mill and the Ashaway Line and Twine plants in Ashaway, employing more than 200 persons, will be closed down for some time as a result of the flood, while schools in the village were closed yesterday and transport practically brought to a standstill as the inhabitants worked feverishly to stem the tide of the rising waters of the Pawcatuck.

Howard Main of Clarke's Falls, whose garage was swept away when the Laurel and Green Falls dam collapsed, passed the warning down the valley to Julian T. Crandall of the line and twine works, who routed his employees out of bed at 3 o'clock yesterday morning in order to save more than \$10,000 worth of stock before the rushing stream cut off approach to the plant.

### TWO FIRMS LOSE \$40,000

The side of the picker house of the Ashaway Woolen Company fell into the stream, as did the grist mill of the company. The latter building so diverted the flow of the stream when it fell that fear was felt for the foundations of the picker house. Ralph M. Briggs of the woolen company estimates his firm's damage at \$20,000, while Julian T. Crandall of the line and twine company figures his company's loss at

ple thrown temporarily out of work. Nearly 90 families were rendered temporarily homeless and some of these, notably in Woonsocket, were forced to resort to municipal poor farms as a refuge.

One man was probably drowned in Wequetequoque Cove, an estuary of the Pawtucket river. An unconfirmed report from Pawtucket last night said that a body of a man had been swept over the falls at Main street bridge.

A dozen bridges were swept away by the rushing waters and many more were weakened or submerged. Roads everywhere in the State were inundated and rendered impassable to motor traffic. The damage to highways and bridges alone is estimated by the State Board of Public Roads at more than \$150,000.

### RESERVOIRS MENACED

Mill dams collapsed under the enormous pressure to which they were subjected by the racing streams. Reservoirs were bloated and several threatened to break bounds. Populations in the vicinity of these reservoirs were in a state of earnest alarm until a late hour last night, when it became evident that the crest of the flood had been passed.

In several communities schools were closed because of the danger to which children were exposed in attempting to attend classes. Scattered sections of the State witnessed the spectacle of rowboats rescuing marooned city dwellers from the second stories of tenement houses.

Swirling waters, invading streets, roads, yards, fields, dwellings, stores and workshops, lifting men and women from their feet, and spread panic and consternation, as well as suffering, both mental and physical. Many stirring rescues were effected, and many narrow escapes experienced.

Many pathetic scenes were witnessed by police in the mill tenements of Woonsocket. Here parents had left their children alone in the morning and had gone to work in the mills, not realizing that a flood was imminent.

As the waters entered the first floors of these tenements, rose above the floorboards and ascended gradually as high as windowsills in many instances, the trapped children clambered upon chairs and tables, not knowing what else to do. The submerged streets outside seemed to furnish them no avenue of escape.

Police succored many frightened youngsters from such terrifying predicaments. During the early part of the day railway transportation was almost completely disrupted, but an improvement had been accomplished last night.

Telephone, telegraph and electric light service, however, was demoralized almost the entire day, as many as 400 telephones being reported out of order in this city alone, where the storm caused the least trouble.

### GARAGE HURLED 200 FEET

In the gale that accompanied the downpour, a gale which reached the velocity of 64 miles an hour yesterday morning, signs, wires, trees, doors and chimneys were blown down all over the State. A garage in Woonsocket was hurled 200 feet down an embankment, and a garage at Clarke Falls was carried away by the raging Ashaway river. Both garages contained a considerable number of automobiles.

Although shipping was less disturbed than might have been expected, scores of small boats, motor boats and skiffs were torn from their moorings in the Blackstone river, Providence harbor and Narragansett bay, and were battered about by the wind and currents.

Several New York freight and passenger boats scheduled to leave this port Thursday night were forced either to remain at their docks or to seek shelter yesterday morning after starting on their trips. Waves were

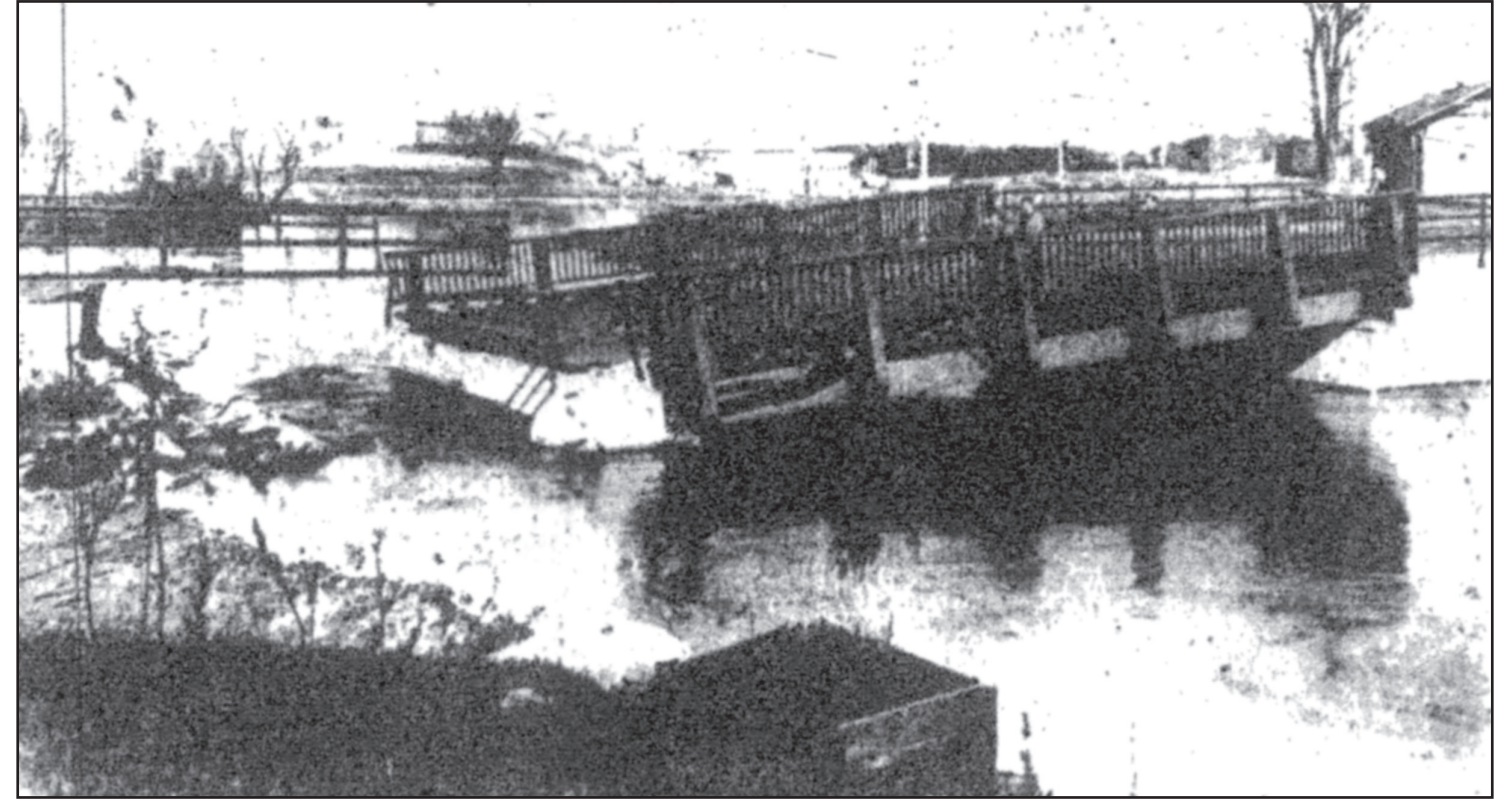
### Continued Rain Forecast Over Flooded Region for Today

Washington, Nov. 4 —(AP)—Continued rains tomorrow with a drop in temperature by Sunday were forecast for flood-stricken New England by the United States Weather Bureau tonight.

Continued cloudy and cooler, probably light local rain or snow was indicated for the northern section of New England, with fair and colder weather Sunday.

Lowering skies and light local rains were in sight in the southern part of the region for tomorrow, the Weather Bureau reported.

Airplane Picture of Part of Flooded Area in Westfield Mass., Where Main Road from Springfield to Pittsfield Is Under Water and Impassable



BRIDGE AT GLENDALE ON THE MASONVILLE-HARRISVILLE ROAD CARRIED AWAY BY RUSHING WATERS OF THE CLEAR RIVER



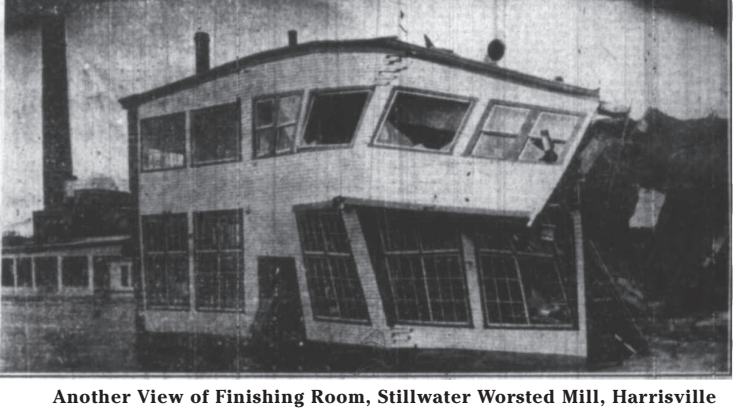
Fairbanks Bridge on Pawtucket Valley—Moosup Road



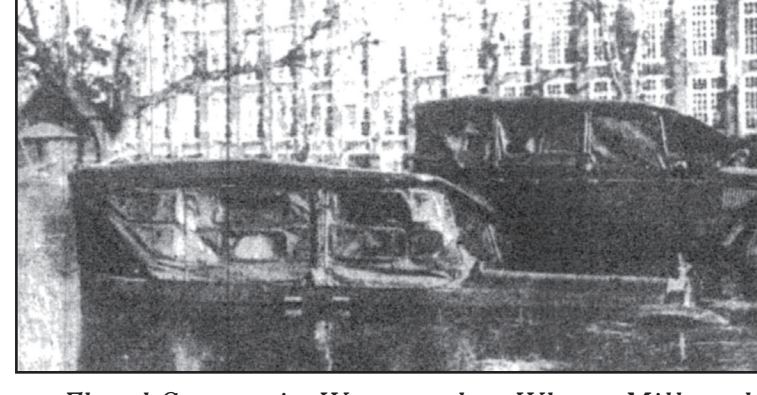
Potter Bridge Carried Away—Rice City—Moosup Road, Coventry



Stillwater Worsted Company's Mill at Harrisville Collapses



Another View of Finishing Room, Stillwater Worsted Mill, Harrisville



Flood Scenes in Woonsocket Where Mill and Tenement Districts Were Especially Hard Hit At the Left Are Autos That Tried to Reach the Samoset Mill. At the Right Are Some of the Office Help going to the Nyanza Mill in a Boat.

### TEXTILE DISTRICT IDLE; FOOD SHORTAGE LIKELY

Bursting Dams Add to Suffering; Rivers Still Steadily Rising

### PROPERTY LOSS TOTALS FAR IN MILLIONS

Cost in Human Life Unknown.—More Than Score Known Dead, With Figure Growing Rapidly.—Thousands of Families Forced to Flee Homes.—Red Cross Acts.—Train and Wire Services Paralyzed.

(By the Associated Press.) A steadily mounting death toll and property damage of millions of dollars was indicated today in flood-ravaged town of New England. Fear also was expressed of a food shortage.

Unconfirmed reports were that from 137 to 212 persons lost their lives in Montpelier, Vt. with the collapse of a large reservoir.

A score or more of other deaths were reported from widely separated towns in Vermont, Connecticut and Massachusetts in the grip of floods for two days due to dams in rivers burst-

ing as a result of excessive rains. The affected area comprises largely the New England mill district, and due to lack of power machinery was idle today, while residents of many sections spent the night in darkness and thousands of families were forced from their flooded homes.

Flood conditions extended into part of New York State, up into Maine where a 60-mile gale whipped the sea into a fury and sank at least one ship, and into Canada where crops were destroyed and railroad lines washed out.

### COST NOT COUNTED

The cost, in human life and in property damage, could not yet be counted, for the waters had not receded to reveal the full tragedy of their passing, and communication to many of the most seriously affected districts was still completely destroyed.

It was easy to estimate, however, that the loss in property would run well into the millions of dollars, and it was feared that when the final count of human life sacrificed to the surge's ferocity was made the total would be more than a score.

The flood began two days ago, when dams in New England rivers, strained beyond endurance by excessive rainfall, began bursting asunder to release upon the valleys through which they ran more terrible torrents than the inhabitants had ever seen.

Houses, whole districts, were washed away, livestock was swept to death from field and barn, fugitives from the rushing flood were drowned, and in the manufacturing centres industry was brought to a complete standstill.

### IN STATE OF SIEGE

Telephone and telegraph lines were disrupted, train service was brought to a halt, whole families were marooned and the entire countryside was placed in a state of siege under the relentless attack of the forces of nature.

Boston, Nov. 4.—(AP)—Flood waters tonight still gripped New England. Rain had ceased in most sections, but streams which had taken a toll of at least 16 lives and probably more continued to rise. Railroad service was paralyzed in Vermont, New Hampshire and western Massachusetts. Scores of bridges had been swept away, with several dams. Highways were many feet deep in water over extended areas. The damage will total several million dollars.

All day there were rumors of heavy loss of life in Montpelier and Barre, Vt. Both cities were cut off from all communication and the rumors could not be confirmed. Last night both places reported have storm damage and Montpelier sent an appeal to Burlington for boats for use in the flooded streets.

The flood came without warning. The heavy rains of last summer had left the streams higher than usual at the season. Rain began to fall yesterday in Vermont and western Massachusetts. Last night it became a down-pour and spread into New Hampshire and eastern Massachusetts. The rainfall varied from three to seven inches in different localities. Countless brooks carried the surface flow into the little rivers which quickly became rushing torrents, went over their banks, and in turn sent a mighty volume of water into New England's great rivers, the Connecticut and the Merrimack.

### HOUSES SWEEPED AWAY

There was no withstanding the force of the walls of water which swept down the valleys. Foundations of bridges crumbled and the superstructures crashed into the streams. Where small streams had been dammed to form reservoirs or millponds the great added weight of water burst the dams. Houses were swept away by the dozen and hundreds of others were left standing with water up to the second story or higher. Cattle and sheep, in the pastures or tied in barns, perished in large numbers.

Electric light and power ceased to function in numerous cities and towns, industry came to a standstill, and schools were closed. Telegraph and telephone wires went down by the hundreds and many communities were isolated. Even the supply of drinking water was cut off or contaminated in some places.

In a day filled with excitement and heroism there were some outstanding occurrences. Perhaps the most spectacular incident of the flood was the bursting of a reservoir on a high hill a mile from the little village of Becket in Berkshire county, Massachusetts. The owner of this private body of water, William Ballou, fearing that this would happen, had watched the property all night.

### VERMONT CAPITAL FLOOD STRICKEN

Unconfirmed Reports Tell of 137 to 212 Killed, After Reservoir Bursts.

### NINE DEAD AT BARRE

Lieutenant Governor of State Among Those Drowned.—Water Runs 20 Feet Deep in Streets of Montpelier

White River Junction, Vt., Nov. 4.—(AP) Unconfirmed reports of heavy loss of life in Montpelier, the State capital where the collapse of a large reservoir was said to have flooded the city deeply, were in circulation here tonight.

According to these reports the death list ran from 137 to 212. Montpelier is about 56 miles from this point, and is completely isolated.

Telephone and telegraph service from the State capital failed early last evening and since that time little definite news has been received. Two telephone girls who left Montpelier at 8 o'clock last night and arrived here today said water was running 10 feet deep in State street, the main street of the city at that hour.

Several persons here with relatives in the capital tonight were striving to find some means of reaching Montpelier over the rainwrecked roads. Persons familiar with the layout of the capital said that collapse of the reservoir would place practically the entire city under water.

Binghamton, N. Y., Nov. 4.—(AP)—Lieutenant Governor S. H. Jackson of Vermont lost his life in the flood which has engulfed Montpelier, according to a wireless telegram from station IBEB at Rutland, Vt., signed by L. J. Kely, the Montpelier correspondent of the Associated Press.

The message said also that nine persons were reported dead in the neighboring city of Barre.

### RED CROSS AT WORK

The message was picked up late today by Arthur I. Kent, an amateur operator at 199 Court street, this city.

Station IBEB reported that it had been trying all day to get in touch with the outside world, but owing to the lack of power, it had been unable to do so. The message reported that the flood waters were 20 feet deep, that people had been marooned in their homes and that the Red Cross was dispensing food and relief. No check had been made on the local loss of life and damage to property.

Correspondent Kely requested Mr. Kent to transmit the message to the Associated Press.

### TEXT OF MESSAGE

The text of Kent's message was as follows: BY L. J. KELTY (Associated Press Correspondent) Montpelier, Vt. Nov. 4.—(5:30 P. M.) —(AP)—(By Radio via Binghamton N. Y.). Montpelier and Central Vermont experiencing worst flood in history. Extent of damage unknown. No check yet on loss of life. Rain has been falling for the past 38 hours. All businesses places flooded. Property loss may reach millions. Red Cross distributing food. All communication except radio cut off. Report of nine killed in Barre. Not confirmed. Thrilling rescues of life occurred. Many people still marooned in blocks with water running in streets. Water 20 feet above normal. Water in principal streets. Lieutenant Governor S. H. Jackson reported killed in Barre. Light and power off all day. Many bridges, highways and railroad tracks carried away. Am using door bell batteries to transmit. (signed) "L. J. KELTY."