

FEAR LOSS OF LIFE IN SOUTHERN FLOOD

**Mississippi River Converts Louisiana and Arkansas Borders
Into a Vast Lake.**

WATER STREWN WITH DEBRIS

**Inundated Stretch Above New Orleans Is Forty Miles Wide and
Hundred Miles Long.**

Special to The New York Times.

NEW ORLEANS, La., April 13.—North-eastern Louisiana and a corner of South-eastern Arkansas to-night form a vast lake in which it is feared that the bodies of many persons are mingled with thousands of carcasses of animals. The swirling Mississippi pouring in through two great gashes in the broken levee is strewn with debris of every imaginable sort and crowded with craft carrying the homeless and the suffering.

Reports of the loss of life from the flood could not be confirmed to-night, although half a dozen towns, including Roosevelt, Tallulah, and Lake Province, all in Louisiana, had heard and credited such rumors. Through the great Dogtail crevasse, near Roosevelt, the muddy tide still pours and is mingling its waters with those from the break further up the river in Arkansas.

Official statements show the loss of live stock to be enormous. John M. Parker of New Orleans, the cotton planter who entertained Col. Roosevelt on his Southern bear hunt, alone lost 2,500 head of cattle, and other plantation owners suffered as heavily. The break near Alsatia to-night was 1,200 feet wide and was spreading steadily. The stretch under water is from 30 to 45 miles wide and is nearly 100 miles long. A number of persons are known to be marooned in isolated farmhouses and dwellings in the vicinity of Roosevelt, with the telegraph wires down and the water steadily rising.

Every available kind of boat and raft is in service, and many parties, without food or clothing, are afloat upon craft of the flimsiest sort. Where these are near the river they are being picked up by steamboats whose searchlights are playing steadily, but in the interior no such means of rescue is available.

It is not only the immediate damage in this section that gives alarm. The farmers will be practically unable to make crops, thousands of whites and negroes will be out of work, and it is feared that pestilence will come in the wake of the receding waters, especially from the carcasses of the dead animals. An urgent

appeal for Federal aid is being sent out. Nearer New Orleans conditions continue practically unchanged, although the flood stage in the city limits is such as may warrant emergency measures any moment.

Rains in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas to-day further softened the levees, and everywhere below Vicksburg the danger to-night is imminent.

Preparations have been made at Vicksburg and Greenville to care for the refugees. Weather conditions this morning were not favorable to the levees. Rain is reported at several points. Natchez reports all the levees holding as far south as Bayou Sara, La.