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THE JOURNAL

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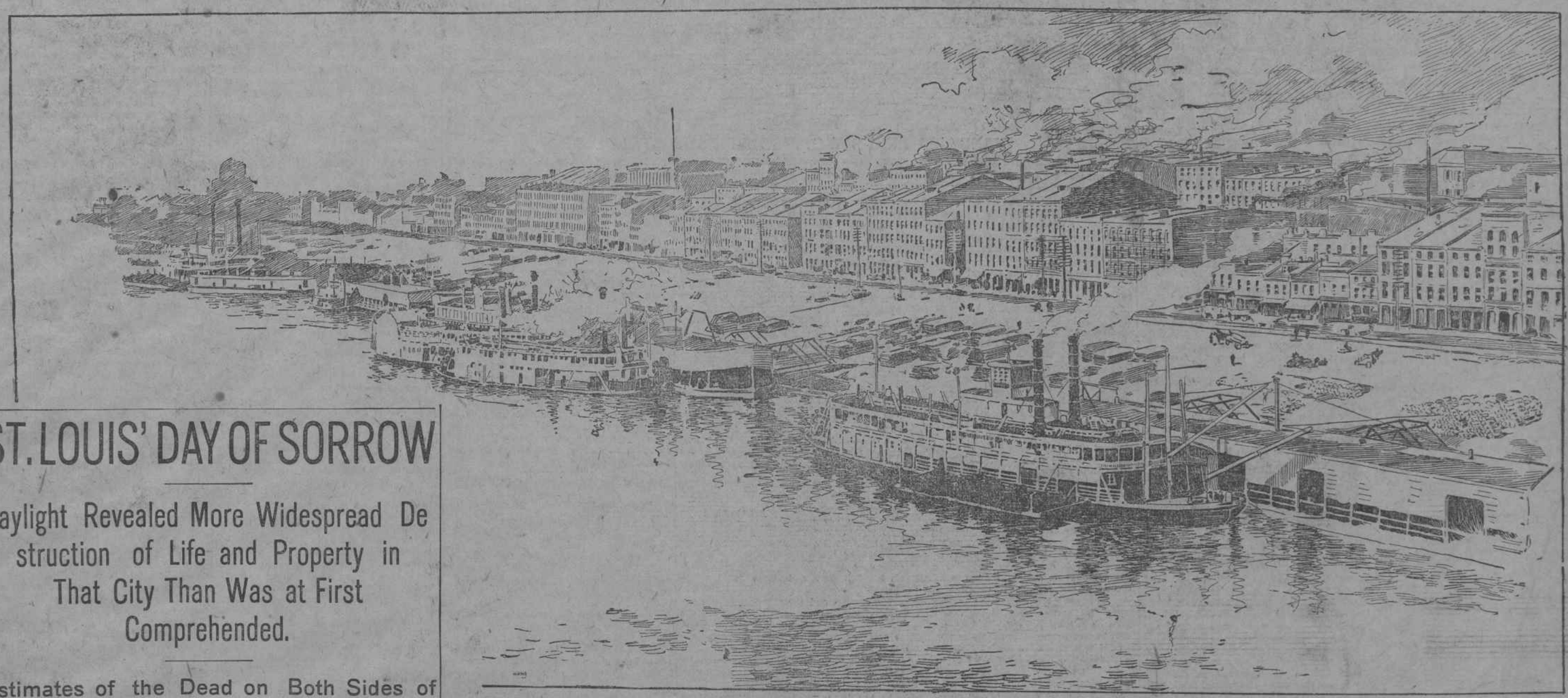
WATER FRONT OF ST. LOUIS, ALONG WHICH THE STORM LEFT A TRACK OF RUIN.

The scene is below the Eads Bridge. Elevator B., which was destroyed, is shown in the shadow at the left. At that point the tornado came out of the Mill Creek Valley, tore steamboats from their moorings, carried them up stream, dashed them against the piers of the bridge, and spread destruction over East St. Louis.



ST. LOUIS' DAY OF SORROW

Daylight Revealed More Widespread Destruction of Life and Property in That City Than Was at First Comprehended.

Estimates of the Dead on Both Sides of the Mississippi Now Place the Figures at 450, While the Injured Number Thousands.

DAMAGE BY THE TORNADO IN OTHER STATES.

STATISTICS OF THE TORNADO.

The dead in St. Louis and East St. Louis	450
The dead in other places	150
Damage by storm and fire in St. Louis and East St. Louis	$15,000,000
Number of miles traversed by tornado in its path	410

FROM ST. LOUIS'S MAYOR.

To W. R. Hearst, Journal, New York:

The full extent of the damage done by the tornado has not yet been learned. No one can estimate the loss of life nor the damage to property. I think the latter will be between $15,000,000 and $20,000,000.

The rescue work was conducted by the Health Department in an admirable manner, and no injured person was allowed to suffer unnecessarily. Although the city hospital was entirely demolished, all the patients have been removed to a temporary hospital in safety. There were but two deaths at the institution. The other damaged institutions are being repaired rapidly.

The work of recovering bodies is being pushed rapidly. The Merchants' Exchange is raising funds to aid any destitute sufferers, $12,000 being subscribed in one hour. The Municipal Assembly will take proper steps to-morrow to rebuild and repair city institutions and to relieve all suffering. I visited the wrecked portions of the city to-day.

The damage is appalling. No one can realize the extent of this disaster. It will take days for the full and horrible truth to be known.

St. Louis, May 28. CYRUS P. WALBRIDGE, Mayor.

The destruction caused by the tornado which struck St. Louis on Wednesday afternoon is even more terrible and more widespread than was at first supposed.

At daybreak yesterday it was found that the storm had swept before it a rectangular slice of St. Louis in the vicinity of the Union depot, had passed on its destructive course to the river front, and after wrecking nearly all the shipping and a portion of the Eads Bridge, had spent the greater part of its force in East St. Louis.

Thence it passed on into Illinois, and, coming further east, reached this city yesterday afternoon. Reports from the various sections over which the tornado swept indicate that the damage to life and property has been great everywhere.

An estimate of the damage by storm, fire and water in St. Louis places the total at $15,000,000. This sum seems wofully inadequate when it is remembered that many huge warehouses and factories were wrecked, steamboats sunk, and the same estimate places the damage on the Eads bridge at $500,000.

Tower Grove Park represents an annual expenditure of $50,000 for nearly twenty years and contained many gifts of valuable bronzes and marbles. Shaw's Garden contained nearly a million dollars' worth of botannical specimens. The extent of the loss in these parks is not definitely known, but it is said to be enormous.

The Cupples building, which is the largest structure destroyed, cost nearly $1,000,000, covers an entire block, and was filled with groceries, wooden and willow ware and druggists' sundries.

Elevator B was the largest elevator in the St. Louis territory, and contained a vast quantity of grain. The loss there will be nearly half a million.

These are but samples of the direct damage, and do not cover a good proportion of the large instances. The indirect loss through the stoppage of business and diversion of trade is an incalculable quantity; but the total must be enormous.

The damage to shipping will go high into the hundreds of thousands, and may equal the sum estimated as the total loss.

Add to all this the cost of buildings destroyed in East St. Louis, and the paralysis of traffic consequent, and you have a sum of bewildering proportions representing the ruin wrought by the storm in a few minutes on Wednesday afternoon.

St. Louis, May 28.—The desolation in St. Louis was the work of a hurricane followed by a triple tornado, lasting in all a little over an hour.

In that space of time blasts of wind and a deluge of rain swept over the city from the northwest. For a few moments the warring elements seemed at peace. Then from the southwest were seen the terrible funnel-shaped clouds that mean destruction to everything in their path.

Down they came on that portion of the city lying between the railroad tracks which run into Union Depot on the north, Tenth street on the east, Park and Lafayette avenues on the south, and Grand avenue on the west. In this district the great wholesale houses are located.

East St. Louis Attacked.

From here the tornado passed to the water front, and thence, partially demolishing the big Eads Bridge, as it swept over it, attacked East St. Louis. Here the fury of the storm was at its height.

Within twenty minutes after the tornado struck this city over four hundred people, many of whom will never be found, were slain by the crumbling walls of countless buildings or engulfed in the rising waters of the Mississippi River. Mingled wth the dead were thousands of people who were injured by the flying wreckage, and who either dragged themselves or were taken from the ruins.

The day was an oppressive one in the city. There was no wind, and the people suffered greatly from the heat. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon the entire western horizon was banked with clouds. These were piled one upon the other, with curling edges, yellow in tinge.

A light wind sprang up, and a sudden darkness came upon the city. This darkness increased until the storm broke. It gave the first alarm to the thousands of persons on the streets, at the pleasure parks, in the light craft on the Mississippi, or at work in the great mercantile establishments.

Caught in the Deluge.

It was 4:45 when the first storm of wind and rain broke. Its descent was so sudden that many men, women and children were caught in the deluge of rain before they they had time to flee for shelter. For half an hour the hurricane blew. Then there was a lull, and it was thought that the storm was over.

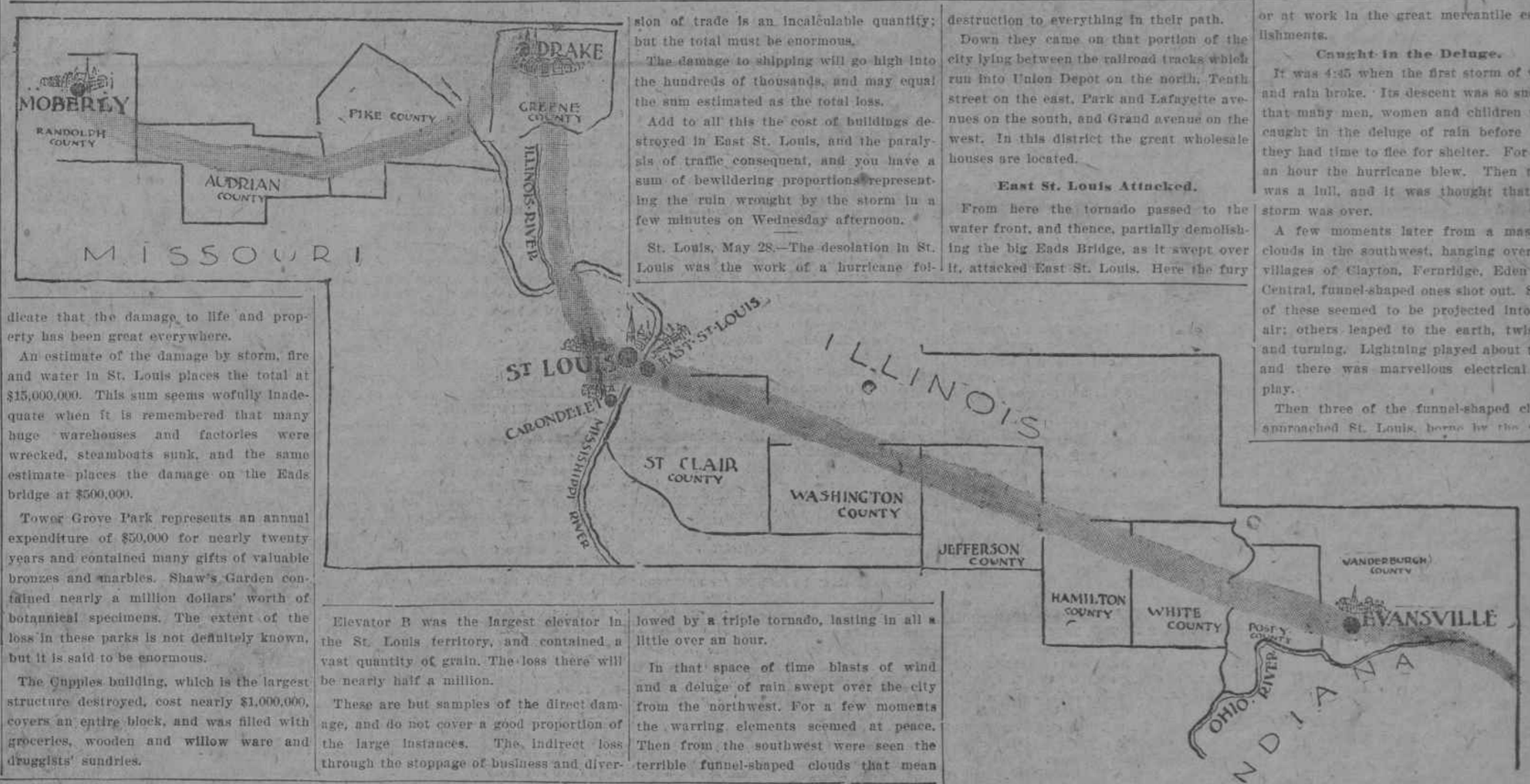
A few moments later from a mass of clouds in the southwest, hanging over the villages of Clayton, Fernridge, Eden and Central, funnel-shaped ones shot out. Some of these seemed to be projected into the air; others leaped to the earth, twisting and turning. Lightning played about them and there was marvellous electrical display.

Then three of the funnel-shaped clouds approached St. Louis, borne by the wild that was travelling at the rate of eighty miles an hour. From the clouds above a strange, crackling sound came. This filled the air and at times was stronger than the incessant peals of thunder.

The Tornado at Work.

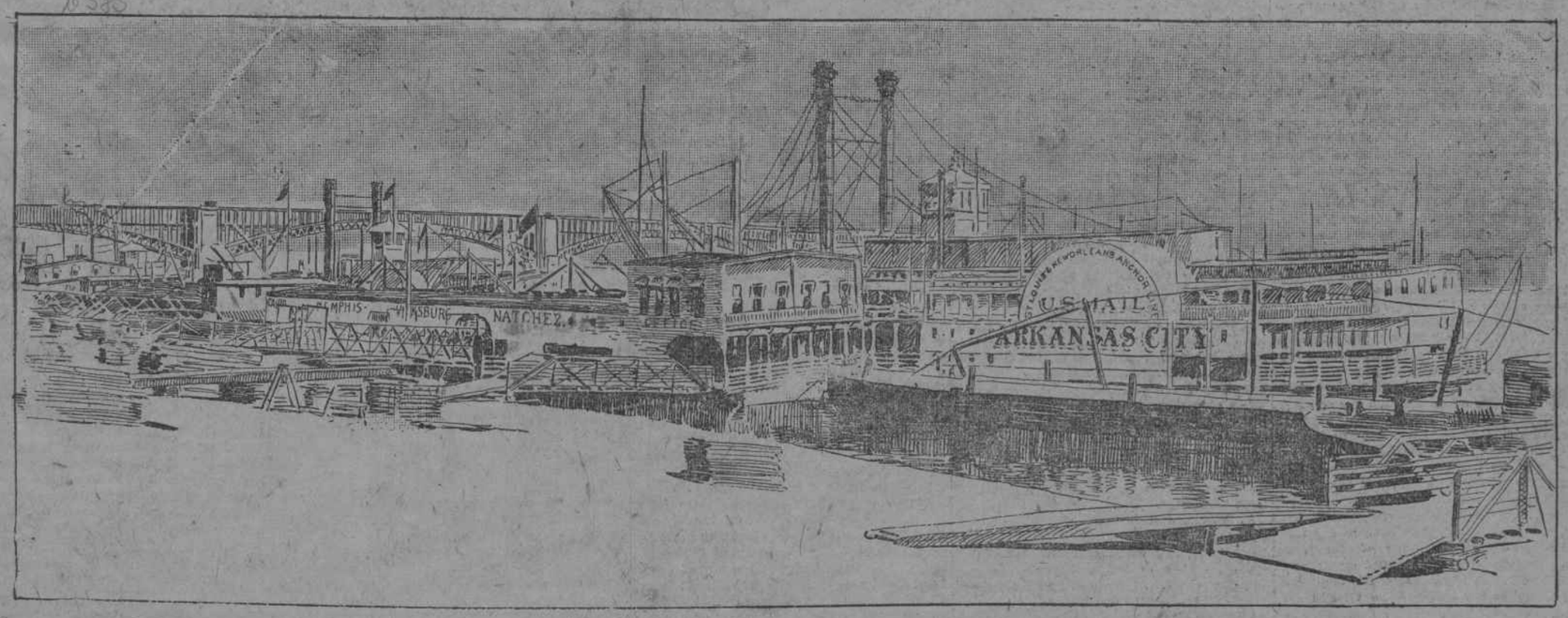
The tornado enveloped the western side of the city, and for thirty minutes was wreaking destruction everywhere. Some of the stanchest business blocks went down before it. Iron beams were torn from their fastenings and carried blocks away, as if they were feathers. Roofs braced and held to their positions by every device known to builders were torn off as if held only by threads. Telegraph poles fell in long rows, not coming down one by one, but in groups of a dozen or more at a time.

Through blinding lightning and with a roar which can never be forgotten by those who heard it, the storm cloud, travelling with incredible speed through an atmospheric veil which was green one moment and yellow the next, tore across the river and demolished one end of that supposed



Track of Wednesday's Two Great Storms.

A tornadic storm appeared Wednesday afternoon in the vicinity of Moberly, Mo., where it destroyed some frail buildings and trees. Its track eastward is not distinctly traced in the stories that have reached here by wire, but it seems to have gained great energy by a northward shoot to the little town of Drake, Ill., where it destroyed a schoolhouse, and is said to have killed eighty children. Another storm originated in the vicinity of Evansville, Ind., moved rapidly northwest to the centre of lowest pressure, which was the vicinity of St. Louis. Both storms gathered fury as they neared each other, and, meeting, wrecked the town of East St. Louis, destroyed a part of the great Eads Bridge, sunk steamboats and cut down a wide swath of buildings in St. Louis.



MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVEE AT ST. LOUIS, AND THE GREAT EADS BRIDGE.

Along the levee the full force of the great storm was felt and the loss of life was heavy. Boats of all descriptions, from the big "side-wheeler" Arkansas City to the little skiff and house-boat, were torn from their moorings and either set adrift or capsized. The funnel-shaped cloud, after sweeping along the river front, struck the bridge, wrecking the eastern end of the structure.