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J. J. MINER, Mgr.

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NORTH STATE HAPPENINGS

Occurrences of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the Busy Tar Heel State

Severe Damage to Soils.

In a bulletin just issued by Joseph Hyde Pratt, of the State Geological Survey, the terrible loss to the soils of the State occasioned by recent heavy rainfall is given. The bulletin in full follows:

The heavy rains during the last of August not only did an enormous amount of damage to crops, bridges, railroads and roads, but, according to an estimate made by W. W. Ashe, Forrester of the North Carolina Geological Survey, the upland farming lands of the middle portion of the State have been washed to an extent of more than half a million dollars, the damage being heaviest in those sections where the country was most hilly and the rainfall most concentrated.

This estimate, which is based on the amount of soil which was shown to be in the water of the rivers during the floods, indicates that more than 1,500,000 tons of soil were washed from the hills of the Piedmont during that one week of rain. About one-fifth of the solid matter which causes the muddiness of the water during floods is humus, which is washed chiefly from the hillside farms. At two dollars a ton, which is probably less than the cost of replacing it, the loss to the farmers of the State only in the impoverishment of their soils exceeds \$500,000. This is a loss which is much underestimated or entirely overlooked by the farmer because it is a loss which takes place so constantly. In the aggregate, however, it is so enormous that it is one of the chief, if not the chief reason for the poverty of so many of the red clay hillside farms, and it is keeping them depleted of the humus or manural portion of the soils. This is a loss to which northern soils are not nearly so subject on account of the lighter rainfalls and their more general character.

The rainfall at Raleigh and at many other points in middle North Carolina was 12 inches in four days; at points in upper South Carolina 15 inches fell in two days; while more than 4 inches fell in one day at many places. Such concentrated precipitation, tropical in character, does not occur in the farming regions of the northeast. It follows that if the farmers of the South wish to preserve their hillside lands they must not only use every possible means of preventing erosion which are used at the North, but additional means as well; not only deep plowing and cover crops but terracing as well; not hillside ditches, but level terraces. There should be no land lying idle without a crop of some kind on it to protect the soil. All land which is not in cultivation should be protected from washing by keeping it in timber.

In North Carolina there are about 1,000,000 acres of idle farming land which should be planted in timber if no other reason than to prevent it from washing, but timber will make a good investment besides, as it will be growing all the time without any cultivation, and will soon be large enough for posts, barn poles, and even small saw logs. For any information about how to plant old gullied fields in young trees, write the State Geologist, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Mills Resume Work.

Salisbury, Special.—The Patterson Cotton Mills at China Grove, Rowan county, have resumed operations on full time after several weeks running at half time. It is said the mills will not curtail its force again this year. The mills at Coolemeec Davie county, are also running on full time, having occupied a large new building in place of one burned last spring.

New Hanover Votes Road Bonds.

Wilmington, Special.—By a majority of 370 New Hanover county voted an additional \$50,000 for continuing the system of permanent road improvement inaugurated here in 1901, since which time approximately \$100,000 has been spent. The vote was light but very decisive, few ballots being cast against the improvement.

Arrested on a Charge of False Pretense.

Winston-Salem, Special.—Oliver B. Cox, a young man of good appearance, was arrested in Mount Airy on the charge of obtaining goods from merchants of this city on bogus checks. He will be brought here for trial. He says he worked with Harwood & Moss, contractors. He first put in a bogus check for \$100 in the Wachovia National Bank, got a book and then had three different merchants cash checks of various amounts. The same game was worked in Mount Airy, the police say.

New Steamboat Line in Operation.

Washington, N. C., Special.—The new steamboat line recently organized in this city by Captains J. W. Dixon and H. M. Bonner, who formerly were in the employ of the Norfolk & Southern Railroad Company on the steamer Hatteras plying between this city and Belhaven, which recently discontinued, has now commenced running on schedule time. The steamer Blanche has been chartered by these gentlemen and is now giving a tri-weekly service between this city and Belhaven and other points on lower Pamlico river. The steamer leaves this city one day and returns the next. It is rumored that these gentlemen will put on another large steamer at an early date for handling freight exclusively.

Drug Company Placed in Receiver's Hands.

Goldsboro, Special.—The Higgins Drug Company of this place, went into the hands of a receiver upon an action of the National Bank of Goldsboro. Judge O. H. Allen, of Kinston at chambers appointed Mr. B. H. Griffith, proprietor of the Kennon Hotel, temporary receiver who was bonded in the sum of \$8,000. The assets are estimated at \$7,500 and the indications are that the firm will be able to pay all indebtedness and in a short while resume business again.

Supposed Murdered Boy Turns Up.

Winston-Salem, Special.—Garfield Tilley, the young white man who disappeared Tuesday night, alarming his family so that they feared foul play and had the sheriff and a score of deputies scouring the woods hereabouts in a search for him, appeared at his father's home in good health. He would not say where he had been since Tuesday night.

Immigration Office at Wilmington.

Wilmington, Special.—W. R. Morton, of Norfolk, has been designated by the government to open an immigration office here during the heavy shipping to and from foreign ports during the cotton season. Mr. Morton has already arrived.

Items of State Interest.

The Caroleen-Henrietta cotton mills are now running on full time which, because of the continued depression in prices is more an accommodation to operatives than profit to the owners.

The bridge committee of the Fayetteville board of aldermen last week rejected all bids for the erection of a steel bridge over Blount's creek to replace the "half way" bridge, which was damaged by the recent flood.

The graded schools of Caroleen and Henrietta opened last week with more than usual interest intensified by the recent educational revival there. Professor Moore, of Shelby, is in charge of the Henrietta school and Professor Beene, of the Tennessee University, conducts the school at Caroleen.

Bids will be opened September 29 for the erection of the proposed Nathaniel Jacobi Memorial Building on the grounds of the I. O. O. F. Orphanage at Goldsboro.

The Shelby Cotton Mills is reported as having plans and specification prepared for an additional building to hold 2,550 spinning and 6,500 producing spindles.

Prof. W. C. Riddick, of the A. & M. College, Raleigh, has completed surveys for construction of waterworks and sewerage systems at Weldon and submitted the report to town authorities, together with profiles of streets, showing depth of cuts, grades, sizes of pipes and manholes, and blueprint map showing location of sewer lines, waterpipes and hydrants. The cost is estimated at \$37,526.50.

R. W. Bishop, patent attorney, Washington, D. C., reports the issue of a patent on the 22d instant for a garment creaser to George L. Edgerton, of Goldsboro.

Mr. H. C. Eccles, for many years one of the proprietors of the Buford Hotel, in Charlotte, and one of the most popular and best known hotel men in the South, died Thursday.

The Harnett county board of commissioners let the contract for two steel bridges Monday, to be built right away. One is at Lillington and the other at Duke. The Carolina Engineering Company of Burlington got the contract for \$1,000.

GREENSBORO'S BIG WEEK

Centennial Will be an Occasion of More Than Ordinary Interest.

Greensboro, Special.—The week of October 11th-17th will be observed here as "centennial and home-coming week," in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the village that has grown into the prosperous and progressive city of Greensboro. Committees of leading citizens have been at work for months planning to make the event the greatest affair of the kind ever witnessed in any Southern State. Nothing has been left undone to add to the comfort, pleasure, instruction and edification of the many thousands of visitors expected in the city during the week. The municipal, county, state and national governments are contributing to the success of the occasion. The centennial exercises proper will open Monday, October 12th, with a parade of 10,000 Guilford county school children, headed by a United States military band and reviewed by Governor Glenn, Senators Simmons and Overman, and distinguished educators. The parade will end at the auditorium where the centennial oration will be delivered by Dr. George T. Winston, probably the foremost living North Carolinian. At 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon will be held the opening session of the United States Peace Congress, which will be one of the greatest features of the centennial. Sessions of the congress will be held daily during the session and among the distinguished non-resident visitors expected are Hon. James B. Rice, ambassador from Great Britain; Hon. Richmond Pearson Hobson, a member of Congress from Alabama, and United States Senator McCreary, of Kentucky, president of the congress. Thursday will mark one of the most important features of the occasion, a good roads conference, participated in by delegates from all sections of the country. The annual fair of the Central Carolina Fair Association will be held during centennial week, and in view of the large influx of visitors expected, the management has planned to make it the greatest fair and the most creditable exhibition the State has ever witnessed along its lines. The railroads will give reduced rates.

North State Brevities.

Col. J. R. Lane, of the immortal Twenty-sixth North Carolina Regiment, is desperately ill at his home in western Chatham. He has pneumonia with some other complications.

The Warsaw graded school and county high school has closed the first month of the current term with the largest enrollment and the best average attendance of any month in the history of the schools.

Miss Anna T. Jones, who for the past four years taught in the High Point public schools, has resigned. Miss Jones some time ago volunteered as a foreign missionary and will go to East Africa in November.

Mr. A. H. Slocumb, of Fayetteville who was nominated for Congress by the Republicans of the sixth district and who at first declined the nomination, has decided to accept the honor, and will make a canvass of the district.

Saturday, October 3d, will be a big day in the history of Thomasville. A grand fireman's tournament has been arranged and an interesting programme will be carried out. It is the intention to make the day brim full of excitement from early in the morning to very late at night. The programme has been arranged for the benefit of the Thomasville fire department.

While attending recently the convention of druggists at Atlantic City, Mr. Charles R. Thomas, of Thomasville, entered the contest in the exhibit hall for the identification of 50 specimens of botanical drugs mentioned in the United States Pharmacopoeia and Saturday he was notified that he had won third prize and would receive it in a few days. This contest was entered into by druggists from all parts of the United States.

Buys Piney Woods Inn.

Southern Pines, Special.—One of the most important events that has transpired in Southern Pines recently is the sale of the Piney Woods Inn to J. M. Robinson, who has for two years been at the head of two of the Pinehurst hotels. Mr. Robinson is a hotel man who has made a success at the business and will take the Piney Woods Inn, which is one of the large hotels of the State, and put it on a business basis.

KILLED IN A WRECK

Early Montana Snowstorm Is Responsible For Collision

A NUMBER SUSTAIN INJURIES

Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway Passenger Train Crashes Into Freight Train on the Northern Pacific Railroad at Youngs Point, Mont., Resulting in a Number of Fatalities.

Livingston, Mont., Special.—Plowing through a snowstorm, eastward bound, a Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy passenger train running over the Northern Pacific Railroad, crashed head-on into a freight train at Youngs Point, where the trains were to pass and in the demolition that resulted a crowd of lives were crushed out and score of persons were injured, several probably fatally. The freight flagman failed to signal the passenger in time to prevent the collision, it is said, because of the blinding snow. The express car telescoped with the smoking car and most of the fatalities and injuries were of persons in the latter car. The express car was raised over the platform of the smoking car and the superstructure swept the seats away. Not a passenger in the smoking car escaped death or injury.

Fireman Ora Babcock jumped and was killed. Milo Holloway, a brakeman, was killed. The smoking car's debris was hopelessly mixed with heads, bodies, legs and arms, presenting a horrible sight. In one place seven bodies were so tightly wedged together that they were separated only with great difficulty.

The known dead:
Colonel Bonson, of Utah.
John Cawlin, Billings, Mont.
Lon Anderson, Hardy, Mont.
Lorenz A. Stewart, Dean, Mont.
H. C. Gomblee, Minniston, Iowa.
E. L. Eimock, Denver.
D. H. Barnes, Seattle.
G. M. Konsick, Anaconda, Mont.
Ora Babcock, Billings, Mont.
S. C. Hingdon, Chico Springs, Mont.
Charles E. Johnson, Denver, district passenger agent, Nickel Plate Railway.
George Battlerock, Anaconda, Mont.
John Ryan, Cushing, Okla.
Milo Holloway, Billings, Mont.
Siehemram, address unknown.
Four unidentified coal miners.

Says Gambling Must Stop.

Lynchburg, Special.—In dismissing D. M. Dabney and O. Patterson last week in the police court, after holding that there was no evidence to convict them of operating a gambling resort, Mayor Smith declared that gambling must cease in Lynchburg. In future, he said, persons found in raids will be held as principals, and not as witnesses, and they will be fined under the State law, instead of having their cases treated under the common law. He also declared that technicalities would not go in his court; that the place to raise them will be in the Corporation Court on appeal.

New Political Party.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—Politics was given a new turn in this State when a call was issued for the assembling of what is termed "The Liberal Party." Delegates from all States in the Union are asked to assemble in Chattanooga, October 8th, to nominate candidates for President and Vice President. The call is signed by Sidney C. Tapp, as chairman, and R. D. Woodhall, as secretary, both men being Atlanta residents.

Attempt to Wreck Freight Train.

Greenville, S. C., Special.—It was learned recently that an attempt was made to wreck freight train No. 71, on main line, at Taylors, near this city. The switch at that place had been thrown open, but the engineer happened to see it in time to reverse his engine and thus prevent the wreck.

Another Ginner Warned by Night Riders.

Greenville, S. C., Special.—Another ginner of Greenville county has been warned by the night riders to close his plant until further notice. Mr. T. C. Griffin is the ginner and his ginny is situated only a few miles from that of Mr. Willimon who was notified a few days ago to close. Sheriff Gilreath has made an investigation, but has secured no evidence which would incriminate any one.

PART OF HEAD BLOWN OFF

Contractor Joseph Edgerton and Two Negroes Seriously, Probably Fatally, Injured by Explosion of Dynamite in Blasting on New Railway.

Rutherfordton, N. C., Special.—An accident occurred on the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railway some seven or eight miles northeast of this place Friday night in which a white man and two negroes were seriously, if not fatally, injured. Mr. Joseph Edgerton, of this county, a sub-contractor, was the most seriously injured and now lies in the Rutherfordton Hospital in this town hovering between life and death, with the chances of his recovery against him. The facts so far as have been obtained are these:

Mr. Edgerton and the two darkies whose names could not be learned, had just finished drilling a hole in which they had used a small quantity of powder and dynamite to spring it. After giving the first blast sufficient time to cool, as they thought, they then inserted a large quantity of dynamite, powder and fuse and were engaged in tamping it down, when it was thought the fuse caught from the blast in springing the hole and caused an explosion. The whole of Mr. Edgerton's forehead was blown off, leaving his brain exposed. Both eyes were put out and he received bad wounds in the side and stomach. He was brought to the hospital Friday afternoon when the first news of the accident was made known. It is impossible to learn the extent of the injuries of the negroes, but they are also badly wounded.

Mr. Edgerton would have completed his contract next week. He is a good citizen and many are the expressions of regret over the sad accident.

Engineer and Fireman Dead.

Spartanburg, S. C., Special.—Southern Railway southbound passenger train No. 41, from Charlotte to Seneca, ran into an open switch one mile and a half south of Wellford, a station twelve miles south of this city, Friday night about 8:45 and Engineer W. J. Fonville, of Greenville, and his colored fireman were killed. The baggagemaster had a leg broken. None of the passengers suffered more than being badly shaken up. The engine and tender turned completely over. Dr. Earl, of Greenville, rushed to the scene in an automobile and rendered aid to the injured baggagemaster. A wrecking crew left here at midnight. Traffic will be blocked for several hours. It is believed by officials of the road that the switch was thrown by some miscreant.

Confesses to Wrecking Train.

Spartanburg, S. C., Special.—Charged with having had a hand in throwing open the switch at Wellford, resulting in wrecking Southern passenger train No. 41 and the death of Engineer W. J. Fonville and Fireman Bowers and the serious injury of Baggage-Master McConley and several passengers, Clarence Agnew, colored, was arrested near Wellford by Constable T. W. Moore. Agnew made confession in jail here. The negro finished serving a term on the chain-gang at Greers Wednesday. He says his home is Toccoa, Ga.

Cholera Condition Bad.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—St. Petersburg is in the grasp of Asiatic cholera, which already has exceeded in severity and number the visitation of 1893. The disease is increasing daily at an alarming rate, and unless the authorities show in the future a much greater degree of ability to cope with the situation than they have in the past, there is every reason to fear that it will get out of hand.

News of the Day.

Walter Moore of Portsmouth, jumped overboard from a launch with a blazing gasoline tank, thereby saving himself and six friends from serious injury or death.

Mr. Isadore I. Strause, of Richmond, whose will was probated, made a number of bequests to charitable institutions.

President Roosevelt received his friends and neighbors from Oyster Bay.

A decree annulling the marriage of Helen Maloney to Arthur Herbert Osborne was handed down in New York.

The Michigan Supreme Court decided that the Maximum Rate law is constitutional.

The Congressional committee investigating the subject was informed that there is enough wood for pulp to last for generations.

One of those charged with causing the Springfield riots was convicted and sentenced to hang.

DROUGHT IS SERIOUS

Large Section Suffering Badly For Rain

DISEASE OUTBREAK IS FEARED

Each Day Increases the Seriousness of the Unprecedented Conditions Which Obtain in Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia.

Pittsburg, Pa., Special.—With losses aggregating several million dollars from forest fires and heavy damage to crops and live stock; the reported loss of a number of lives due to fighting timber conflagrations; the enforced idleness of thousands of workmen owing to the suspension of manufacturing establishments because of lack of water; the health authorities anticipate a serious epidemic of contagious diseases and many small streams dried up and practically obliterated, the drought of 1908 which has held western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio and West Virginia in its grasp for more than two months remains unbroken; each day gradually increasing the seriousness of the unprecedented situation.

Three times during the excessive dry spell there have been very slight rains, accompanied by much lightning and thunder, but the rain fall was so slight that many persons were unaware of the fact and were only convinced that it had rained when shown evidences of the same on tin roofs.

Aside from the millions of feet of timber destroyed and the daily loss to manufacturers and farmers, probably the most serious phase of the situation is the threatened disease epidemic. A majority of the population of western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio and West Virginia are even now suffering from throat affections caused by the great accumulation of dust and the heavy clouds of smoke.

In this city, used to smoke, the sun is almost obscured by smoke from forest fires miles away and persons in the vicinity of these fires are experiencing difficulty in breathing. It is feared that when rain does come it will wash great amounts of filth into the already stagnant streams with the result that disease, especially typhoid fever, will become epidemic. The health authorities have sounded warnings to the public to boil all water used for internal purposes and say by doing this only can many deaths and much sickness be prevented.

Next in importance comes the enforced suspension of numerous industries and the throwing out of employment of thousands of workmen, many of whom had just returned to work following the recent depression. While in the Pittsburg district the water supply is sufficient to carry on all business the low stage of the rivers has caused a congestion of much coal in this vicinity.

Every available barge and float has been loaded with coal and at present with almost twenty million bushels in the Pittsburg harbor, the river coal mines have been compelled to shut down for the want of shipping facilities. There are about 15,000 miners employed in river mines along the Monongahela valley. This great fleet of coal is for the supply of points in the West and South and the probabilities are there will be a coal famine experienced, especially in the Northwest, should conditions prevent the shipment of the coal before cold weather sets in. In West Virginia lumber plants, glass factories and iron and steel mills, located along the rivers, are closed on account of insufficient water. In Eastern Ohio the same conditions prevail and it is feared the great iron and steel mills at Youngstown, O., employing over 20,000 men, will have to suspend operations unless the drought is speedily broken.

Interest in Yarn Mill Sold.

Yorkville, S. C., Special.—Mr. J. B. Pegram, of this place, who with Mr. W. B. Moore bought a controlling interest in the Neely Yarn Mill, located here, about two years ago, and who with Mr. Moore was actively engaged in the management of the business, sold his interest to Mr. Moore about two weeks ago because of impaired health.

Arranging for King Peter's Junket.

Belgrade, Serbia, By Cable.—The Stampa says that the question of the visit of King Peter to the foreign courts will shortly be settled by the joint action of the powers. The expressed desire of the powers that the officers who were instrumental in the death of King Alexander and Queen Draga be removed from the active list will be complied with, says The Stampa, after which King Peter will be received with full honors at the courts.