

ASHEVILLE CITIZENS CLAIMED BY FLOOD

Five Known Dead and Property Damage Estimated at Ten Million Dollars.

Through the courtesy of J. H. Morrison, who walked here from Asheville Tuesday, arriving late Tuesday evening, the editor of The Progress was in possession of a copy of The Asheville Citizen published Monday giving a detailed account of the storm of Saturday and Saturday night in and about Asheville and a summary of The Citizen's account is as follows:

Exactings unknown, with the property loss exceeding three millions of dollars, Asheville is absolutely isolated from the outside world and finds herself helpless in the grasp of the most terrific flood conditions ever known here. The loss in the vicinity of Asheville is estimated at \$1,000,000. The dead are Capt. J. C. Lipe, Biltmore; Miss Nellie Lipe, Biltmore; Lonnie Trexler, Asheville; Mrs. Leo Mulholland, Biltmore, and Luther Frazier, colored, who was drowned while passing provisions through a window at the Glen Rock Hotel.

Miss Mabel Foister and Miss Charlotte Walker, Biltmore hospital nurses, are reported drowned but this is not confirmed.

The bodies of Capt. Lipe and daughters had not been recovered up to last night.

Added to the list of four known dead is an account of an eye witness who stated that he saw four bodies crushed by the wreckage floating in the stream being swept through the arches of the cement bridge.

At a point above Biltmore a house was carried almost whole out in the river with two men clinging to the roof.

The Weaver Power plant, supplying Asheville with lights and power, has been seriously damaged by the flood. It will be a period of several days before the machinery can be put in order. The substation is almost submerged.

The unknown dead will long remain a secret of that angry flood

swirling a mile wide through the lower portions of the city, and men, women and children were seen on wreckage and buildings down the river by thousands of spectators massed on the West Asheville bridge who were helpless to aid.

All trains are suspended in all directions and the Southern railway does not know when traffic will again be resumed. The Southern railway depot is under water almost to the ceiling of the first floor. Guests at the Glen Rock hotel have taken refuge in the second story of that building and boats are being used to rescue them.

There will be a shortage of ice and all farm products, and the supply of gas is almost exhausted. The gas plant is ruined. The substation of the Asheville Power and Light company was out of business yesterday and it will be many days before the city again has current for lights or car service.

Any number of railroad bridges have been washed away by the flood. Freight cars, oil tanks, scores of dwellings and entire lumber yards have been swept away.

At Biltmore the number of houses swept away is not known. The waters are now in Ail Souls' church on an elevated place.

The Biltmore passenger depot is under water and the Southern Railroad leading to Salisbury has probably gone by now.

The Southern railway is undoubtedly the hardest hit as result of the terrific flood. The tunnel at Old Fort is blocked and slides on Saluda mountain are still coming. The Southern Railway has no definite idea as to when traffic will be resumed. They have bridges down in all directions.

The town of Marshall is probably gone.

In Henderson county the loss

must be enormous, three dams given away there, and narrow escapes from drowning are many.

Lake Toxaway still holds, according to information last night.

Conservative estimates of damage to roads and bridges is placed at not less than half a million dollars.

Property losses suffered by industrial plants in and about Asheville is estimated at ten million dollars.

Little is left of Azalea and the lumber plants, while property at that place suffered a loss of \$120,000.

Hendersonville Isolated.

Hendersonville, July 16.—Hendersonville is cut off from communication with the outside world, with the exception of badly crippled wire service, as result of the heavy rain storm yesterday, last night and today. The plant of The Hendersonville Light and Power Co. was put out of commission last night and the city reservoir overflowed with muddy water, rendering its contents unfit for use. Not a train has arrived here since 9 o'clock last night and the railroad is said to have suffered heavily from slides, wash-outs and damaged bridges. Many persons were driven from their homes by rising water and the property loss will no doubt be enormous.

Murphy Branch Hard Hit.

Conditions along the Murphy branch are said to be almost as bad as within the immediate vicinity of Asheville. It is believed that the champion fibre mills are out of commission and that much serious damage has been the result of the most terrific flood in the history of Western North Carolina. There are no trains being operated on the Murphy division and will be none for several days.

Saluda—It is quite indefinite as to when the Southern will operate trains over its Asheville and Spartanburg division. Train 42 which left Asheville Friday is tied up at Melrose. It is uncertain when the road will again be open to travel.

Catawba Bridge Washed Away.

Charlotte, July 16.—What is said to be the worst flood ever known in Catawba and Broad river today had done damage that will run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars in the territory within a radius of fifty miles north and west of Charlotte.

Ten or twelve bridge workers under Joe Killiam, division engineer of the Southern, went down with the Southern's main line bridge at Belmont, out of Charlotte, late today. Five or six were reported caught in tops of trees and rescued.

Just above the Southern's bridge the Piedmont and Northern Interurban bridge and the Seaboard Air Line bridge were washed away. Farther up the river near Mooresville and Statesville two highway bridges went out, while at Catawba the Southern bridge on the Salisbury-Asheville division was washed away. At Munbo, below Catawba, the west Munbo Cotton Mill of 5000 spindles is under water and the East Munbo Mill is almost under water, while a cotton warehouse with four hundred bales has been washed away.

Damage to mills is laid to a water spout in Alexander county that caused the earth embankment of the Lookout Shoals power plant of the Southern Power Company to give way today, adding fifteen feet of water to the already more than twenty foot tide in the Catawba. That volume of water also caused the last two or three bridges to go.

The Dravo Power Company dam on Broad river near Shelby went out late today, menacing the Southern Power Company plant near Blacksburg, S. C.