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BIG DRY GOODS COMPANY FAILS

That of H. B. Claffin Co., of New York, Greatest in History of United States—Owes Thirty Million; Assets Forty-Four Million.

New York, June 25.—The biggest mercantile failure in the history of the United States was precipitated today when receivers were appointed for the H. B. Claffin Company of this city. The company, it is estimated, owes more than \$30,000,000, which at the present time it is unable to pay. Its assets are said to be \$44,000,000.

John Claffin, head of the company and its chief individual stockholder, is the owner of a chain of nearly 30 other dry goods enterprises throughout the country, which are involved in the failure. Receivers for several of these were named today and similar action, it was announced, would be taken in the case of the rest. Their business will be continued under receivers' management until their financial affairs have been adjusted.

From 3,000 to 5,000 banks in all parts of the United States compose the bulk of the Claffin creditors. They hold notes aggregating the major part of the liabilities. These notes are said to have been issued by the various Claffin stores, endorsed by the H. B. Claffin Company, and the proceeds used, when discounted, in financing their needs.

The United Dry Goods Company, a \$51,000,000 corporation, financed several years ago by J. P. Morgan & Company, to take over other Claffin interests, is not involved in the failure. Neither is the Associated Merchants Company, owned by the United Dry Goods Company, and which in turn owns one-half of the H. B. Claffin Company and other large stores, principally in New York.

Mr. Claffin, who was president of both the dry goods and Associated Merchants companies, resigned those positions today and it is understood that when the H. B. Claffin Company is re-organized its connection with both the former companies will be severed. Cornelius N. Bliss, son of the late New York dry goods merchant of that name, was elected to succeed Mr. Claffin.

Shifting Caused Failure.

According to Mr. Claffin the failure was due to the unprecedented shifting of trade centers in New York city which compelled the concern to rely mainly upon its retail stores in other cities for its profits.

"Their rapidly extending business," he said, "occasioned large capital requirements which we have not been able to meet."

The crash came today after vain efforts had been made by Mr. Claffin to induce J. P. Morgan & Company and other Wall street banking interests to loan him money to tide over his embarrassment. These bankers, it was learned, advanced the company several million dollars about two weeks ago, but banks continued to press their claims until it became evident that virtually the whole \$30,000,000 would have to be raised to save the company from failing.

WOMAN HAD 62 CHILDREN.

Birth of "Quintet" to an Italian Recalls Famous "Gravata Case."

The London Chronicle.

The Parlermo woman, Rosa Salemi, who presented her husband recently with five boys, all well formed, and, according to the doctor's report, "eating well and crying well," has not wrested the record from the peasant girl, Gravata, of Tuscany.

She was the twin daughter of a woman who was herself one of triplets, and married a man of her own class. She set the seal on the family reputation, though she led off modestly with a baby girl. On the next occasion she made her husband a present of six little sons, and followed that the next year with five more. Then came a couple of triplets, which were followed by a quartet. Then ensued a long procession of ones and twos, and, as a wind-up, came four boys, bringing the number of her living children up to 62, and assuring to her endless fame in obstetrical annals as the "Gravata Case."

In a bloody battle between General Villa and the Federals at Zacatecas, Mexico, it is reported that 4,000 Federals were killed and 2,000 wounded. General Villa estimated his dead at 500 and wounded at 800.

NEWS FROM CLAYTON.

Clayton, June 24.—Quite a number of people from Clayton and vicinity went to Oxford this morning on the annual excursion.

On Wednesday evening last, a delightful picnic was given by Miss Melba McCullers in honor of her guest, Miss Lois Pugh, of Savannah. The party, chaperoned by Miss Helen Day and Dr. E. H. McCullers, left town about eight o'clock for the pond on Mr. C. W. Horne's plantation, carrying baskets filled with everything good and tempting. Those enjoying the hospitality of Miss McCullers were Misses Lois Pugh, Annie Lee Webb, Ebeline Coker, Margery Luther, Kitty Pool, Elizabeth Bearden, Helen Day and Messrs. Rudolph Barnes, Hubert Olive, Warren McCullers, Foster Barnes, Robbie Sanders, Dwight Barbour and Swade Barbour.

Rev. A. C. Hamby preached to a well filled house Sunday morning, considering the day, which was warm and sultry. His text was found in the Second Chapter of Revelations, twenty-sixth and twenty-eighth verses: "And he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations; and I will give him the morning star." He said that only those who were faithful to the end would receive a reward; that in this life the work of the godly had just begun; that their influence would go on and on indefinitely; that Elijah and Moses appeared to Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration; that they long since inhabitants of the other world, might have a part in the redemption work of saving men. The subject of the evening service was "The prayer of the Pharisee and of the publican." As the prayers of each portrayed the man, so our prayers in secret are indicative of our character.

Mrs. H. L. Jones left for Greenville Tuesday morning to be gone several days. Miss Mabel Cower, of West Clayton, is visiting her aunt, Mrs. C. W. Ferrell, at Wakefield. Mrs. J. G. M. Cordon and family left Tuesday morning for Lynchburg, where they will make their home.

Mrs. Jno. Talton and children came home Tuesday, after a week's visit to her sister, Mrs. R. W. Finlator, of Greensboro. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilson and two children, with Mrs. Finlator and little son returned with Mrs. Talton. They are at present visiting their sister, Miss Cleve Barnes, on Oneil street.

Mr. and Mrs. D. H. McCullers with four of their children, went to Holland, Va., last Friday. Mr. McCullers has returned, bringing with him the two little boys. Mrs. Battle A. Hocutt left last Friday for Smithfield to visit her brother, Mr. Hunter Ellington.

We notice in the last issue of The Clayton News a letter from Prof. Geo. T. Whitley, telling of his trip to Florida. Prof. Whitley has been with us for the past several terms in our school, and has done some good work in our midst and we are always glad of a word from him. Mr. and Mrs. Chas. L. Barnes went to Oxford today.

Wake Forest Man to Teach English in Chinese College.

Mr. T. C. Britton, who received a diploma from Wake Forest College at the recent commencement, left Raleigh last night for San Francisco where he boards a Pacific liner for China there to engage in work in the government school at Soochow. He will teach English.

Mr. Britton came from China six years ago to complete his education in the United States. He is the son of Mr. T. C. Britton, a Baptist missionary to Shanghai, known among mission workers from India to Korea, and he has been through the various Chinese uprisings up to the time of his return to America.

Mr. Britton is very optimistic about the outlook for young men in China. At the present time the Standard Oil Company together with several other large corporations doing business in the Orient are making every effort to extend their trade and the demand is for capable English speaking men as representatives. The biggest demand, however, he says is for English teachers in the colleges there.

MAY SEND 3 WORDS A SECOND.

Tuckerton Trans-Atlantic Wireless Experts To Achieve That Rate.

The New York Sun.

Theodore R. Lemke, New York representative of the Tuckerton Radio Station, told the Sun recently that not only had President Wilson, Mayor Mitchel, Congressman Herman A. Metz and others exchanged messages of congratulation with Emperor William of Germany by trans-Atlantic wireless through the Tuckerton station but that the German Emperor and Empress had personally visited the company's station near Hannover to witness the workings of the new system.

Emperor William and the Empress were interested in the mechanism used, which is the invention of Dr. Rudolf Goldschmidt. The distinguishing features of Dr. Goldschmidt's apparatus are the elimination of the spark gap and a "singing wheel," which enables the receiver to be turned instantly to any wave length. The spark gap is replaced by a high frequency machine in which the electromagnetic radio waves are formed. These are sent out by antennae at the summit of the steel masts. The singing wheel makes the Goldschmidt wireless almost interference proof. Outsiders must pitch their instruments to within .05 per cent. of the wave length being used in order to get anything understandable out of the air.

Mr. Lemke said that messages had been sent and received at the rate of 70 to 80 words a minute. This is extraordinary speed, but it is expected that a rate of 200 words a minute will be achieved eventually.

The men in charge of the Goldschmidt system expect ultimately to send trans-Atlantic messages at a rate as low as 8 cents a word.

Terrific Heat Wave in East and South.

Washington, June 24.—Terrific heat that established new June records in several cities spread over almost all of the country Eastward and Southward from the Ohio Valley today. In Augusta and Savannah, Ga., the mercury reached 102 degrees. Other new records for June were established at Louisville and Jacksonville with temperatures of 100 and in New Orleans, where the official thermometer showed 98 degrees.

Around the Great Lakes and in the Northwest the weather was comparatively pleasant.

Washington, with a temperature of 97 was the hottest city in the East. That was the record for this Summer. Boston and Philadelphia sweltered under 92 degrees. In Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis the mercury climbed to 98. Denver had a temperature of 92. New York was comparatively cool at 84.

20 Aeroplanes at Funeral.

Vienna, June 24.—An escort of twenty aeroplanes, flying mourning flags, and manned by aviators from several nations, formed a flying guard of honor at the funeral today of the nine Austrian officers and men killed in the tragic air catastrophe of last Saturday.

An enormous concourse of people, including several archdukes, members of the Austrian cabinet, and foreign military attaches, were present.

While the funeral service was in progress the small-air craft circled round and round the cemetery, and then flew off in company.

The nine victims of the disaster were Capt. Johann Hauswirth, Lieuts. Ernst Hofstetter, Flatz, Hosta, Briuer, and Haidinger; Corps, Hardina and Weber, and Engineer Kammerer.

The aerial tragedy, which cost the lives of the nine Austrian aviators buried today, occurred during the Austrian army maneuvers. A military dirigible was opposed by an aeroplane. The smaller craft soared above the balloon during the sham battle, with the object of taking up a position to drop on its adversary a mimic bomb. The pilot of the wigs of his plane ripped the great balloon, causing an immediate explosion.

Typhoid vaccine. It don't hurt.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN AUGUST 21 NEXT.

Persia, Russia and Scandinavia the Favored Countries—Be Visited By Astronomers.

Washington, June 22.—The eclipse of the sun on August 21 next—total in part of Europe and Asia and partial in northeastern America—is attracting the widespread attention of astronomers and scientists, various expeditions being arranged to witness this phenomena. In view of the public interest in the event, C. G. Abbott, head of the astronomical branch of the Smithsonian Institute, and a recognized authority on solar phenomena, gives the following popular account of the eclipse, and the scientific results sought from such events.

On August 21, 1914, the moon will pass exactly between the earth and the sun, and there will be a total solar eclipse. It will not be observed in America, except as a small partial eclipse at sunrise in the northern States and Canada, but in Persia, and Scandinavia the full effect will be seen.

Although the moon looks about the same size as the sun, it is very much smaller and nearer. The sun is 865,000 miles in diameter and 239,000 miles away. On account of the moon's small size compared with the sun the shadow cast by the moon is a cone, and the point of this cone just barely reaches the earth.

In the August eclipse the diameter of the cone at the earth's surface is only about 85 miles, so that the eclipse is visible as total only in a belt about 85 miles wide stretching over the countries named above. The important cities of Bitlis, Trebizond, Keif, Minsk, and Riga lie near the center of this belt. It passes about 100 miles north of Stockholm and Trondheim. The eclipse will be seen as partial over a very wide area, including northeastern America, Greenland, Europe, half of Asia and half of Africa. Within this region only a portion of the sun's disk will be hidden by the moon.

Wherever the solar eclipse is seen as total, the sky will become nearly as dark as full-moonlight, and a few of the brighter stars and planets may be seen. The duration of the totality is longest near Kief in Russia, where it is two minutes 13 seconds. Sometimes the moon and sun occupy such positions that although the moon passes directly between the earth and the sun the shadow cone does not quite reach the earth. Such solar eclipses are called "annular" and are nowhere total eclipses. In the most favorable case a total eclipse may last over seven minutes at a station, but such occasions are very rare. The very long total eclipse of this century are as follows:

1919—May 29, six minutes nine seconds, Peru, Brazil, Central Africa.

1937—June 8, seven minutes one second, Pacific Ocean, Peru.

1955—June 20, seven minutes two seconds, Ceylon, Siam, Philippines.

1973—June 30, seven minutes two seconds, South America, Africa.

1991—July 11, seven minutes one second, Pacific Ocean, Hawaii, Central America.

There will be total eclipses visible in the United States on June 8, 1918; September 10, 1923, and January 24, 1925.

As the glare of the sun in the sky is removed and yet the moon hardly more than covers the sun, it is possible at times of total solar eclipses to see all the celestial objects near the sun. These can not be seen at other times because they are lost in the bright sky light. It is this which makes astronomers so eager to observe total eclipses. The most striking thing seen is the solar corona, a beautiful pearly light stretching away from the sun in all directions, something like the Aurora Borealis seen in northern countries.

The corona extends from one to three solar diameters away from the sun. Its form changes from year to year in connection with the number of sun-spots which prevail. As the present year will be one of the comparatively few sun-spots the corona is expected to have short but well-marked polar rays and long equatorial streamers. In 1913 a total eclipse will be visible in the United States, and as the sun-spots will then be numerous the corona will proba-

bly extend nearly equally in all directions.

Formerly it was believed probable that one or more planets of the solar system exist nearer the sun than Mercury, and it was hoped to discover these during total solar eclipses. But the sky has been so carefully searched that no such objects large enough to be worth counting exist.

Formerly also it was regarded as necessary to wait for eclipses to see and study the beautiful rosy flames of hydrogen and other gasses called prominences, which surround the sun. But these may now be observed at any time by means of a special apparatus. While the value of total eclipses has therefore somewhat diminished, there still remains many studies which are confined to them.

Astronomers make very careful preparations and rehearse all details of their programs lest some of the precious time should be wasted. They observe with the eye and the photographic plate to determine the exact times of totality and the form and extension of the corona. They photograph the spectrum of the corona, and also that of the bright colored ring of light which lies at its base just on the edge of the sun. They measure the brightness of the sky and of the corona, and make many other observations useful in learning about the nature of the sun.

Important Town Falls to Rebels.

El Paso, June 24.—Zacatecas, an important city of central Mexico, fell into the hands of the constitutionalists at 6 p. m. yesterday, according to an announcement tonight by Gen. Villa's officials here. Two of Villa's generals were wounded.

The constitutionalists were heavy losers, according to an official dispatch. No mention is made of the federals killed, but it was said many prisoners were captured with much arms and ammunition.

It was believed Villa's lack of effective artillery ammunition had made it necessary to rush the federal positions with infantry, taking the city by a sudden attack which, according to official reports, resulted in the capture of a large portion of the garrison and its munitions.

Up to a late hour only one official message had arrived from the front. No press messages had arrived.

The border city of Juarez immediately plunged itself into a celebration.

The telegram describing the victory was received by Col. Ornelas, the Juarez commander, and by Lazaro de la Garza, Villa's agent here. It was signed by Gen. Orestes Pereyar, commander at Torreon, and read:

"I have the honor to communicate to you that yesterday at 6 p. m., the important city of Zacatecas was captured by the forces of the division of the north. We took prisoners and captured a large quantity of ammunition and arms. There were large losses on our side.

"Gen. Trinidad Rodriguez was seriously wounded and Gen. Herrera was slightly wounded."

South Receiving Very Fine Weather For Growing Crops.

Washington, D. C., June 23.—Crop growing weather during the week which ended last night was, on the whole, the most favorable thus far this season in the cotton belt, the weather bureau announced today in its national weekly weather bulletin:

"Good rains," it says, "occurred over much of the eastern and central portions of the belt and the plant made excellent growth. Over the western portion of the belt warmth, with occasional showers permitted of rapid growth and the outlook has greatly improved. Boll weevil are reported as numerous in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

"In the principal trucking districts of the south considerable rain occurred and the outlook is materially improved but more rain is needed over a large area.

"Severe drouth still prevails in Virginia. The weather was somewhat too dry for tobacco setting.

"Crops showed decided improvement N. C. especially corn and cotton. The drouth was relieved by good rains except in some northern and a few southern counties.

"The long drouth in S. C. was broken by good general rains except in the extreme northwestern portion."

THE CROP OUTLOOK.

Conditions Much More Favorable, And Temperature Higher Yesterday.

Bulletins of the Weather Department yesterday indicated a much brighter outlook in most sections of the country as a result of the recent rains. The temperature yesterday was slightly higher than on the day before, the local station reporting 97.8. Charlotte, Wilmington and Louisville, Ky., had the same temperature, while Savannah had a temperature of 100 degrees, and Phoenix, Ariz., 102. Wilmington had a rainfall of .10 of an inch, but that was a local thunder shower. But little rain was reported from any section of the country, except on the Pacific coast. The humidity here yesterday was not as great as on Monday.

The Weather Bureau's crop bulletin, issued yesterday from Washington, and given out by the local station, follows:

"In much of the cotton belt this was the most favorable week of the present season. Good rain broke the drouth over large areas in the eastern section, especially the Carolinas and Georgia, and plants made excellent growth, especially early planted. In the western belt the weather was favorable in Texas and Oklahoma and cotton continued rapid growth, while beneficial showers over large areas of Arkansas and Louisiana caused rapid growth. The boll weevil is spreading in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Good rains over much of the truck growing region of the South further improved conditions, but early crops are mostly short."

Across the Atlantic by Air.

Charlotte Observer.

It may transpire that Rodman Wanamaker's flying boat will score as much of a fiasco in its effort to cross the Atlantic as Walter Wellman's dirigible balloon did. Or it may fall through mismanaged details, as did the late Professor Langley's pioneer aeroplane on the one and only trial flight near Washington.

The aviators, two of them, will leave Nova Scotia or Newfoundland for the Azores, a distance of about 1,200 miles. Here the weather conditions average well and they keep close to one of the steamship tracks. Here they will alight on water unless otherwise compelled; for there is a \$50,000 prize if they can complete passage without touching land. But they will be met by John Callan, a Curtiss aviator who flew 50,000 miles last year without an accident, and he will probably replace one of the original two. From the Azores the trip to the Spanish coast is a little shorter than the first leg of the trip and decidedly less hazardous. From Spain the flight will be continued to England. This route as a whole was judged to be the safest possible, though by no means the shortest. We shall hear from the adventurous voyagers by carrier pigeon, because the weight of wireless apparatus would be too much. While the chief pilot is British, the craft is wholly American. It will be an epochal event of the venture does succeed, and especially if the aviators can avoid landing on land. Always partial to adventure which may increase the sum of human possibilities, we shall wave a most friendly adieu.

Stewart School House Items.

Crops are looking fine in this section. Some of our farmers are laying by old corn.

We are glad to say that we are having a fine Sunday school at Stewart School house. There will be a Sunday school dinner here July 4th, with some good speakers to address the people. Also there will be three or four classes present to sing with us on that occasion. The public is invited to come and bring well filled baskets, and let's have a good time. Will say that there will not be any lemonade or ice cream stands allowed there to sell that day for fear of the tiger, so bear this in mind. If anyone wishes to come to drink or to disturb, he had better stay away. The singing will be conducted by Mr. C. M. Moore, our leader. Come one, come all, and let's have a good time in the Old Flat Woods.

J. R. BEASLEY, Superintendent.