

BIGGEST AND BEST OF BRIDGES GONE

Southern, Seaboard, Interurban and County Bridges Over Catawba in Mecklenburg County Swept Away by the Mighty Waters. Many Others Go.

MANY COTTON MILLS ARE UNDER WATER

Damage to Concrete Dams and Power Stations is Immense.—Several Mills Along Catawba Under Water.—Wires Down and Communication Broken at Many Places.—Train Service Demolished.

The Catawba rampant, with waters flooding cities and towns situated along its banks, submerging houses, cotton mills and manufacturing enterprises almost without number, smashing great railway and highway bridges spanning its tempestuous course, twisting great trees and doing incalculable damage, ranging into the millions, such was the record of the most destructive flood that ever visited the Piedmont section of the Carolinas. As though the mighty stream sought to shake itself in one mighty protest against the almost superhuman efforts of man to constrict its course and limit its activities it gave an exhibition of its almost irresistible power which resulted in many mighty steel railway bridges going down; three, four and possibly five or six state and county highway bridges, including the new steel bridge at Mount Holly, and according to reports the elegant \$100,000 built-for-the-ages reinforced concrete structure at Sloan's Ferry, the partial submergence of dozens of cotton mills unfortunately located too close to the banks of the stream, such as the East and West Monbo Mills, near Statesville, Woodlawn and Mount Holly Mills at Mount Holly and various others, and of damage to roads, crops, houses, timber that cannot be estimated at this time.

One of those who had witnessed several fierce Ohio and Mississippi floods likened the Catawba to one of the tributaries of those streams during the flood tide of their irresistible way, when there was nothing that could withstand its fury. The damage to the immense concrete dams and power stations of the Southern Power Company on the Catawba could not be figured but it will range into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. No big dam was washed away but the power houses of every description were flooded, thus curtailing operations and of course entailing much injury to machinery and equipment. At Lookout Shoals, 12 miles north of Statesville, the water had washed over and carried away a great embankment fill on the Catawba side which, while it relieved part of the pressure on the dam proper, turned loose such a flood of water that the old West Monbo Mill below, with its 5,000 spindles was submerged and the East Monbo new mill directly across the river partially put under water. The warehouse was flooded and hundreds upon hundreds of bags and bales of cotton washed away.

Passing down the river, the Seaboard Air Line bridge at Mount Holly was the first to break, the middle pier being smashed which dropped down the two central spans. Later in the afternoon at 5:35 the Southern's steel main-line bridge across the Catawba near Belmont, on the direct route through to Atlanta, went down, the shock carrying a force of workmen engaged in seeking to relieve some of the driftwood pressure on the lower end of the bridge. This bridge was built about 12 years ago and was regarded as one of the best on the line.

The Interurban new all steel bridge at Mount Holly went out about 8:30 when all telephone connection with the river was lost. This break was almost inevitable when the Seaboard bridge fell, thus superimposing all the pressure on the already heavily burdened structure below. The reports as to the Southern bridge on the line to Rock Hill indicated that the structure was holding but the crest of the flood had not reached that point at that time.

On the South Fork of the Catawba, the damage was almost unbelievable. The mills, which hover close to the banks of these streams were flooded and the damage to reservoir dams, power stations and textile machinery

The Southern Railway's Charlotte-Atlanta steel bridge over the Catawba near Belmont was carried away by the flood at 5:35 Sunday afternoon. A dozen men are reported to have been lost, including Division Chief Engineer of Maintenance Joe Killian.

At Mount Holly, the Seaboard Air Line steel bridge, the Interurban steel bridge and the county highway steel bridge were smashed Sunday afternoon. Driftwood accumulated against the Seaboard, then against the Interurban and early Sunday night against the county bridge, all being torn away. These three bridges were comparatively new and represented an investment of more than \$125,000.

The \$100,000 reinforced concrete highway bridge at Sloan's ferry was covered and reported gone.

Dravo Power Co. dam and station on Broad river was washed away early near Gaffney, S. C.

The C. & N. W. steel bridge across Catawba near Rhodhiss reported washed away.

The dam at Osceola lake, built seven years ago, by Hendersonville capital, burst early Sunday morning.

Kanuga lake dam owned by Geo. Stephens of Charlotte broke Sunday morning about 10:30 o'clock.

One man and two women drowned by the rising waters at Biltmore, just below Asheville.

Railroad service out of Asheville to North and South Carolina points is at a standstill.

A big dam at Lake Toxaway was carried away.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of timber is reported carried down the Yadkin river Sunday.

Embankment fill at the Lookout dam broke at 5:30 Sunday afternoon, sweeping away the old West Monbo mill, the East side warehouse with 400 bales of cotton. The West Monbo Mill and its 5,000 spindles are submerged. East Monbo is half submerged.

A waterspout on Little River, near Taylorville in Alexander county, swept away a flour mill and some of the tenant-houses are submerged. Part of the Lilledoun mill is submerged and the Alspaugh mill is covered with several feet of water.

The Southern Railway bridge at Catawba broke.

A highway bridge between Statesville and Newton broke during the day.

The Central highway bridge between Mooresville and Lincalnton was swept away.

The Southern Power Company reported all power houses at Lookout Shoals, Catawba, Ninety-Nine Islands and the steam plant at Mount Holly partially submerged. No power dams have yet been washed away.

The flood has eclipsed the record of more than 100 years.

At Laboratory, High Shoals, Long Shoals, Harden and elsewhere, the loss was estimated into the hundreds of thousands.

The Dravo Power Company dam and power station on the Broad River near Gaffney was carried away, demonstrating that the Catawba was not alone in its demonstration of mighty power. At Ninety-Nine Islands some 15 to 20 miles below, the water was tumbling across the top of the dam of the Southern Power Company station but not doing any vast amount of damage when last heard from. The power house had been submerged but this damage can be rectified. The Broad was far ahead of anything ever known before in the history of the stream.

Officials of the Southern Power Company did nothing but watch the rising waters. At Lookout the water was higher than ever before. Indeed there are no records in over 100 years that approach the present levels. The dam was constructed to withstand anything imaginable but such a flood as this was never considered. The fact that the great pile of reinforced concrete was able to stand was a splendid tribute to the work of the contractors and those that designed it.

A dramatic incident in connection with the breaking of the Seaboard trestle in the afternoon was the presence of at least a hundred or more spectators along the trestle just a few moments before the crash came, but some wisecracks gave warning of the close proximity of danger and nearly everybody left the bridge before the break came. With the exception of two boys, who were almost in the middle of the structure when it began to bend and snap. Their quickness alone saved them. With a dash they escaped to an adjoining span before the broken part of the structure gave away and were greeted with cheers by many of the bystanders.

SERIOUS FLOODS SWEEP CAROLINAS

MANY PEOPLE ARE TRAPPED IN RIVERS—LARGE NUMBER REPORTED DEAD.

ESTIMATE LOSS \$10,000,000

Five Known Dead in Asheville and Biltmore.—Western North Carolina Hit Hard.—Power Lines Wrecked.

Charlotte.—Serious floods in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia Sunday caused five known deaths with 18 others known to be missing and rendered hundreds homeless, damaged property and crops to the extent of \$10,000,000 according to first estimates and demoralized railway, telegraph and telephone communications. Following the hurricane that struck the South Atlantic Coast unprecedented rains have fallen, driving rivers and smaller streams from their banks and imperiling many lives.

What are said to be the worst floods ever known in the Catawba, Broad and Yadkin Rivers did untold damage in the territory within a radius of 50 miles of Charlotte with the possible loss of 18 lives.

Just above the Southern bridge, over the Catawba at Balmont, the Piedmont & Northern Interurban bridge and the Seaboard Air Line Railroad bridge at Mount Holly were washed away Sunday afternoon and night. Farther up the river, near Mooresville and Statesville, two highway bridges went out, while at Catawba, the Southern's bridge on the Salisbury-Asheville line, was washed away.

At Monbo, below Catawba, the West Monbo Cotton Mill of 5,000 spindles, is under water and believed to have been washed away, and the East Monbo Mill, across the river, is practically submerged, while a cotton warehouse with 400 bags of cotton has been washed away. Still further up the Catawba, the Lilledoun and Alspaugh Mills are under water.

The damage to these mills is laid to a waterspout in Alexander county that caused a section of the earth embankment of the Lookout Shoals power plant of the Southern Power Company to give away adding 15 feet of water to the already more than 20-foot tide in the Catawba. That volume of water also caused the last two or three of the bridges to go.

The Dravo Power Company's dam on Broad river near Shelby, went out late Sunday afternoon, menacing the Southern Power Company's plant near Blacksburg, S. C., and cutting off the electric supply for Spartanburg and the textile towns surrounding that city. The Southern Power Company however, may be able to meet this demand.

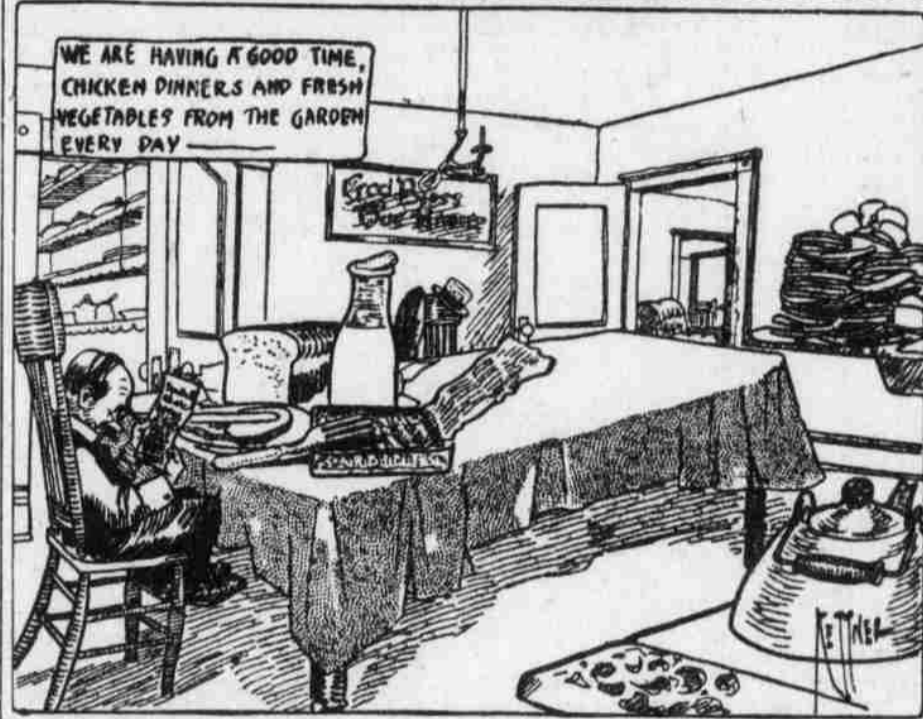
Near Winston-Salem, the town of Rondo was cut off from the outside world for several hours until a telegraph operator, flooded out of his office, carried his instruments to a high hill and cut in on a telegraph wire. Trains cannot be gotten to North Wilkesboro and will not be operated west of Donagha for some time because of the tide on the Yadkin river, which is eight and one-half feet higher than known in 43 years. A Southern Railway train supposed to have left North Wilkesboro Sunday afternoon has not been heard from, while one that started from Winston-Salem to that town had to stop at Elkin. Residents of Jonesville and adjacent towns were moving to high land.

The French Broad River broke from its course near Asheville, flooding factories and homes in the lower part of the city. At Biltmore three persons, Capt. J. C. Lipe, Miss Nellie Lipe and Mrs. Leo Mulholland were drowned when the Lipe house was flooded. Two persons were drowned at Asheville while trying to put food into the upper story of the Glenn Rock Hotel. Many are marooned in their residences along the river and rescue parties for hours have fought their way against the rushing current in an effort to reach them.

Swift streams of water are flowing down some of the streets of lower Asheville. The Southern Railway station is flooded to a depth of six feet as are all other buildings in that vicinity. The city proper, 300 feet higher, is without lights, but otherwise is not affected.

Industrial plants everywhere suffered severely, property loss in cotton mills, woodworking plants and lumber yards along the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers was estimated at from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000.

OUR SUMMER HERO



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SAYS VICTORY IS COMING

THE CREST HAS BEEN CROSSED SAYS BRITISH MINISTER OF WAR.

Change Is Due to Improvement in Equipment.—Russians Strike Terror to Foes in East and the French Defend Verdun.

London.—David Lloyd-George, British Minister of War, presiding at an Entente Allied conference on equipment, declared that the combined efforts of the Allies had wrenched the initiative from the Germans, never, he trusted, to return.

"We have crossed the watershed," he said, "and now victory is beginning to flow in our direction. The change is due to the improvement in our equipment."

The conference was held at the War Office and was participated in by Albert Thomas, French Minister of Munitions; General Blichaff, Assistant Minister of War of Russia; Gen. A. Dall Olio, member of the Italian Ministry of War, and the new British Minister of Munitions, Edwin S. Montagu.

"Since our last munitions conference," said Mr. Lloyd-George, "there has been a considerable change in the fortunes of the Allies. On that date the great Champagne offensive in the West had just failed to attain its objective, and the French and British armies had sustained heavy losses without the achievement of any particular success. In the east the enemy had pressed the gallant armies of Russia back some hundred miles, and the Balkans had just been overrun by the Central Powers.

"The overwhelming victories won by the valiant soldiers of Russia have struck terror into the hearts of our foes, and these, coupled with the immortal defense of Verdun by our indomitable French comrades, and the brave resistance of the Italians against overwhelming odds in the Southern Alps have changed the whole complexion of the landscape.

"Now the combined strength in the east and west has wrenched the initiative out of the hands of the enemy—never I trust, to return to his grasp. We have crossed the watershed and now victory is beginning to flow in our direction.

GERMAN AMBASSADOR VISITS SUBMARINE.

Bernstorff Spends Hour Examining the Wonderful Boat.

Baltimore.—Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, spent an hour aboard the German submarine merchantman Deutschland. He inspected the vessel from stem to stern, had the intricate machinery and instruments aboard explained to him and personally congratulated Captain Keonig upon bringing his vessel safely through waters infested with hostile war craft.

Two attaches of the German Embassy and the German and Austrian Consuls accompanied the Ambassador on his visit to the submarine.

The Ambassador informed Captain Keonig that he would send to him before the Deutschland starts on her return voyage several packets of official papers which he desires to have delivered intact to the Berlin Foreign Office.

"It is a wonderful boat and with as courageous a crew as ever sailed the sea, has made a wonderful voyage," said he. "I climbed up and down every hatchway, looked into every compartment and had my first experience with a periscope."

MAMETZ WOOD IS TAKEN

ALLIES GAIN IN REGION NORTH OF SOMME AND TRONES WOOD.

Around Verdun and Right Bank of Meuse Bitter, Fighting Ensues.—Germans Make Few Gains But Pay Heavily.

London.—Fighting desperately in the face of determined German attacks the forces under General Haig succeeded in gaining control of the entire Mametz wood, which had been entered the previous night by the Germans. In the same region, north of the Somme, the British made some progress in the Trones wood and repulsed two heavy attacks against Contalmaison. The Germans are reported to have lost heavily.

The French and German forces south of the Somme apparently are resting as there has been almost no activity in the region of Picardy since the first of the week.

Around Verdun, however, and especially on the right bank of the Meuse bitter and heavy fighting is in progress. The Germans, following up their success in the region of the Damloup battery, have undertaken a strong offensive toward Fort Souville, the possession of which would strengthen their position for further advance on Verdun.

Attacking in mass formation from the village of Fleury and the Chapelle and Vaux woods, the Germans gained ground at the intersection of the Fleury and Vaux roads. The gain, however, Paris asserts, was made at the cost of "enormous losses." Violent bombardments continue in the region of Chenois, Souville and La Laufee. There was relative calm on the left bank of the Meuse.

HUGHES TO MAKE CAMPAIGN TOUR CROSS CONTINENT.

Cornelius N. Bliss is New Treasurer of Committee.—Make Campaign Arrangements.

New York.—Charles E. Hughes continued the weekly conferences which he has held with party leaders since making Bridgehampton his summer home. Chairman Willcox of the Republican National Committee, Senator Penrose, Murray Crane, Mayor Thompson of Chicago and other advisers of the nominee, unanimously endorsed his proposal to make a trip to the Pacific Coast beginning early in August.

Cornelius N. Bliss has been selected as treasurer of the National Committee to succeed George R. Sheldon and Fred W. Upham of Chicago will be in charge of the western end of the work, with headquarters in Chicago. Mr. Bliss is the son of the late Cornelius N. Bliss, who was treasurer of the committee during the Roosevelt campaign of 1904.

Mayor Thompson's invitation to Mr. Hughes to begin the speech making on the proposed western trip at Chicago, probably will be accepted.

MEXICAN PARLEY SHOWS FAVORABLE PROGRESS.

Washington.—Informal negotiations for settlement of border disputes between the United States and the de facto government of Mexico are progressing favorably. Acting Secretary Polk said after his second conference with Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Ambassador Designate. Steps now being taken foreshadow appointment of commissioners by each government to formulate a plan of action for the permanent relief of border conditions.

100,000 GUARDSMEN ON MEXICAN BORDER

NO MORE TROOPS WILL BE SENT UNTIL THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED.

50,000 REGULARS ON BORDER

Statement That War Department Contemplating the Draft System Recruit National Guard is No Sense.

Washington.—Department commanders of National Guardsmen mobilizing for service on the Mexican border, were instructed by the War Department to defer transportation to the frontier until the militiamen have been thoroughly equipped and organized. This order revokes a ruling issued by the department which the Mexican situation was such which waived certain requirements. About 25,000 men are affected.

The latest information of the Department is that about 100,000 National Guardsmen now are at the border. With the 50,000 regulars there are 5,000 additional men called from the reserves, officials estimate that the American strength on border service within a few weeks will be adequate to cope with any present emergency and will make unnecessary the dispatch of any more guardsmen until they are completely equipped and organized.

Published stories that use of general draft was being considered to fill the National Guard ranks were denied by the Department. The following statement was issued by the Official Press Bureau.

"The statement that the War Department is contemplating the draft system to recruit the National Guard is nonsense. Statements to that effect are purely speculative and have no basis in fact."

Reports that National Guard units are being supplied poor and insufficient food are not borne out by preliminary telegraphic reports received from all the Department commanders.

A message from General Funston reported that General Trevino had sent many troops south with the intention of occupying the Guernica-San Barja-Santa Rosalia line against any possible northward advance of bandits. The dispatch added that newspapers in Chihuahua were urging the necessity of an active campaign against bandits "to prevent their reaching United States forces and border."

HURRICANE DOES SMALL DAMAGE ALONG COAST.

Force of Storm Passes and Normal Conditions Are Being Rapidly Restored.

Charleston, S. C.—Comparatively little damage was done here and along the coast by the hurricane which swept the Carolina and Georgia coast. Reports from Sullivan's Island a summer resort across the bay from here, said damage was slight, while from the Isle of Palms, another nearby resort, came similar messages. Hundreds of persons were warned in time to leave the exposed points.

The force of the storm had passed here and normal conditions were being restored. A number of windows were blown in here, hundreds of trees blown down and trolley, telephone and telegraph service was stopped by the high winds. At one time the hurricane raged at 64 miles an hour. The barometer which fell to 29.02 was rising steadily.

MEXICAN PARLEY GETTING AT DEFINITE STATUS.

Washington.—The informal negotiations for settlement of the issues between the United States and General Carranza are understood to have advanced a long step when Acting Secretary of State Polk and Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican ambassador designate, held their third conference since General Carranza's proposal for a diplomatic adjustment was received and accepted.

Although both Mr. Polk and the ambassador declined to say what matters were under discussion, there were indications that the conversations had passed into the definite stage, where specific questions were being formulated for probable submission to a joint international commission.

The commission plan of settling differences between the two countries is provided for in the treaty of 1848. Unofficial advices from Mexico indicated that General Carranza favored resort to it in the present case, and Mr. Polk is believed to have acceded to the suggestion.