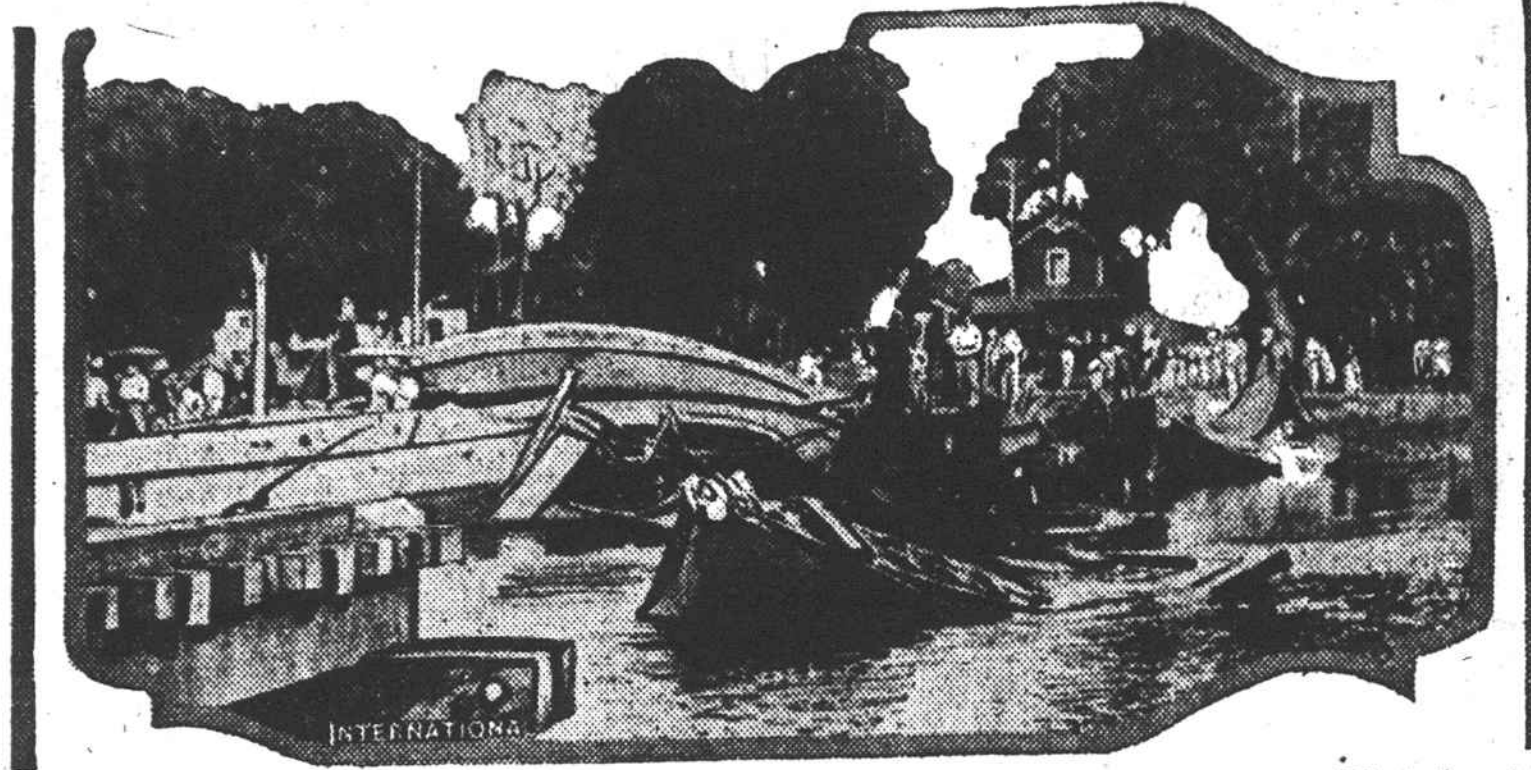


## Destruction Wrought in Hawaii by the Tidal Waves



Photograph shows a railway drawbridge over a stream near Hilo that was wrecked by tidal waves. Hilo is the principal city on the island of Hawaii, and is approximately 225 miles from Honolulu, which is located on the island of Oahu.

## Wages Endless War on Rodents

Modern Pied Piper Rid the Country of 10,000,000 Rats Last Year, by Government Count.

### SAYS PESTS ARE ON INCREASE

Theoretically, if Rat Population Increases in Next 100 Years as It Has in Last 15, the Rat Will Destroy Human Race.

Washington.—The modern Pied Piper, J. L. Nicholes, was in town the other day, and he brought the sad news that rats are on the increase. Even with all the rat-killing campaigns, and with the interest of the public aroused, these pests are flourishing. Rats are being killed by the million, but the surviving mothers, sisters and cousins and aunts energetically offset the tribal losses by building up new and widening family circles.

Mr. Nicholes is not a gloom dispenser. For seven years he has conducted rat-killing campaigns. He has swatted the rat cheerfully and with telling effect. He says that last year he rid the country of 10,000,000 rats, by government count. But the outlook is that, theoretically, if the rat population increases for the next 100 years as it has in the last 15 years, the rat will destroy the human race.

**They Are Costly "Pests."**

Mr. Nicholes says that in 1910 rats in the United States destroyed \$80,000,000 worth of food and other property. In 1916 the amount was \$180,000,000; in 1919, \$300,000,000, and this year rats are expected to do \$1,000,000,000 worth of damage.

And that is not the worst of rats as pests. They are among the most efficient disease carriers that we have. They have taken the bubonic plague all over the world. Their connection with typhoid, scarlet fever, diphtheria, meningitis and tuberculosis is also being investigated. Rats are flea-infested creatures, and that alone makes them both dirty and dangerous. They are pests to be attacked relentlessly.

This modern Pied Piper has no pipe, and he has never tried charming rats with music. But he has studied rat character and intelligence, and he applies his knowledge to bring about the rat's downfall. After hearing Mr. Nicholes talk about their cleverness, it seems likely that rats have changed since the Hamelin town Pied Piper story. The rats of 1281 never hesitated in following magic tune, we are told. But you cannot help fancying that the 1922 rat would merely have smiled impudently at the piper and have wrapped his tail securely about his ears to shut out the dangerous notes.

Mr. Nicholes says that rats distinguish between different colors. If bait is put on a number of papers, some red, some white, and some blue, the rats will eat the food on one kind of paper and will avoid the other colors. Presumably they try one type of food, and if that seems satisfactory they continue to eat as long as it lasts. If they try the bait on blue paper and like that they will ignore the red and white paper and eat only the blue.

**Most Cunning of Animals.**

Rats are the most cunning of animals, Mr. Nicholes says. He tells of a case in which a basement was overrun with rats which were almost tame. One day a trap was set in the basement. A rat ran along the floor directly toward the trap. Suddenly he saw the danger and tried to stop so quickly that he slid on his haunches and caught himself only a few inches from the trap door. He scampered away hastily, and evidently spread the exciting news of the trap, for no more rats came out all afternoon.

That rodents warn one another of danger is further shown by Mr. Nicholes in a story of Lexington market. Several years ago Mr. Nicholes conducted a rat-killing campaign in Baltimore, and cleared this market of 1,500 rats. For a year, which is about six rat generations, there were no more rats in the market. It may be that the survivors told all of their friends about the terrible massacre of the market place. After that the fear wore off,

or else the tradition became lost, for the market had to be cleaned out again not long ago.

However the news of danger is spread, it is evident that rats do possess a degree of intelligence which helps them to avoid danger. They are anything but gullible, and this makes the problem of destroying them the more troublesome. They quite often avoid traps. Predatory animals, such as cats and ferrets, cannot as a rule be used to kill them off in large numbers. Poison, carefully and properly used, is the most effective means of disposing of them on a wholesale scale.

Mr. Nicholes uses barium carbonate, which is tasteless and odorless. Its action upon rats is slow, so that poisoned animals generally leave a house or barn in search of water, and the small quantities used to bait food for rats are not often sufficient to kill other creatures.

**Three Kinds of Bait Used.**

The American Pied Piper carries his reasoning about rat intelligence over into his work of poisoning the pests. He knows that rats are suspicious, and so he uses three kinds of bait, perhaps cheese, apples and hamburger steak. The rodents do not seem to be able to suspect danger in as many as three kinds of food at one time.

Food is placed not less than five nor more than fifteen feet apart in baiting an area. No special effort is made to avoid handling the bait. A wild animal might be warned by the association of a human being with the food, but a rat is domesticated. The scent of man is attached to much of the food it eats regularly.

The rat brain seems to work something like this: The first rat comes out and finds a piece of poisoned food. He sniffs it suspiciously and decides it might be dangerous. He goes a little farther and finds a different kind of food. The first kind he avoided as dangerous. He tries the second and apparently it is all right. Other rats follow the example of the discoverer of the food. A banquet follows, and then wholesale tragedy.

**15,000 on One Farm.**

The scale on which an expert rat killer works may be imagined from the following case: A Louisiana farm five miles square was so overrun by rats that nothing could be successfully grown on it. Mr. Nicholes took 16 barrels of sweet potatoes, 16 cream cheeses and an entire cow and baited drain ditches for a length of two miles. The result was that 15,000 rats died that night.

In spite of such sweeping destruction no community has ever been entirely cleaned of rats. A 75 per cent death rate is about the best record made when a city conducted a rat-killing campaign. Some rats escape to the country and come back later, and some buildings are not cleaned at all.

### Mother Killed Children Trying to Keep them Warm

Desire of Mrs. Edna Gilhany of Philadelphia to keep her two babies warm cost the lives of Thomas Gilhany, twenty-two months old, and Mary Gilhany, nine months. The mother dropped a quarter in a slot meter, ignorant that a gas heater in the room where the children were asleep had gone out. Escaping fumes asphyxiated the little ones.

It is not enough for one or two people in a town to fight rats for a week. The entire community must join in the battle and continue the attack after a campaign is over. Houses should be rat-proofed, food shut up in rat-proof containers and refuse cans kept covered.

This appears to be good advice when it is known that each rat costs somebody half a cent a day, or \$1.82 a year. In inland cities there are now two rats to each person, Mr. Nicholes figures. In seaports the proportion is four rats to each person and in the country eight. The burden of supporting these parasites falls on the human race, and evidently people are making it easier, rather than harder, for rats to get a living, for Mr. Nicholes reports that rats are not only increasing in numbers; they are getting fat.—Chicago Daily News.

### FIND JEWELS IN INDIAN MOUND

Diggers Find 300-Pearl Necklace Worth \$15,000 and 14-Inch Ceremonial Quartz Spearhead.

Chillicothe, O.—A necklace valued at \$15,000 and containing 300 freshwater pearls has been dug out of the Hopewell Indian mound, near here. In announcing the find recently, Dr. W. C. Mills, head of the state archeological society, declared that the necklace was the first ever found among mound builders' relics.

The gems now are the property of the state. An offer of \$15,000 for them was rejected recently. Several of the gems in the string are polished and in excellent condition. The majority are imperfect, however.

At the big Pricer mound, near Bainbridge, another valuable find was made when a ceremonial quartz spearhead 14 inches long was dug up. This is the largest spearhead ever found in Ohio. The valuable relic was washed out of the mound on the property of Mrs. Mary Wood. It is in the possession of a state historical society.

### Italy's Army to Be Doubled.

Rome, Italy.—Army reorganization in Italy, under Premier Mussolini, will double the force of men under arms if one includes the national militia. The kingdom will have land forces numbering between 400,000 and 500,000 officers and men.

## Ambassador Warren Comes Home



Charles B. Warren, the retiring American ambassador to Japan, and his family photographed on their arrival in San Francisco from Tokyo.

## QUESTION RIGHT TO ORDER STATIONS

SOUTHERN MAY CARRY FIGHT AGAINST ORDER TO U. S. SUPREME COURT.

### CASE DATES BACK TO 1914

Passenger Station at Selma is the Particular Mote in the Railroad Eye.

Raleigh.

The power of a state railroad commission to compel an interstate line to build a passenger station was before the supreme court of North Carolina, the appeal marking the third of its kind in the United States since the passages of the Esch-Cummings transportation act in 1920.

Appeal of the Southern Railway company from a decision of Judge Cranmer, in Wake superior court, on a mandamus action brought by the North Carolina corporation commission to compel the construction of a union passenger depot at Selma, junction point of the Southern and Atlantic Coast Line, brought the case before the highest court here. Previous cases were heard in the courts of California and Illinois and subsequently passed on by the United States supreme court. Decision was rendered in favor of the railroad in their cases.

The history of the case before the court dates back to 1914 when the Southern and Coast Line were ordered to build the Selma station. Because of emergency conditions due to the world war, the corporation commission was indulgent and did not enforce the order, it was stated. On December 20 last, however, this commission, following several conferences, promulgated an order directing the construction of the station to proceed.

In a supplemental order, written by Commissioner Maxwell, blame for the delay was fastened upon the Southern, the commission stating at that time "that the Atlantic Coast Line stood ready to perform its part of the building ordered."

Appeal from the original order not having been filed within the required time, according to the brief for the commission, filed by Attorney General Manning and Assistant Attorney General Nash, the Southern sought a certiorari of the record following the mandamus hearing in which Judge Cranmer directed the order be carried out. The Southern appealed to the supreme court.

According to the contention of counsel for the Southern the corporation commission "is without authority to require the Southern Railway company and the Atlantic Coast Line railroad company to construct a union depot at Selma because Congress, through the transportation act of 1920, manifested its purpose to take possession of this field and has taken possession of this field, resulting in the suspension of the powers of the corporation commission, theretofore possessed."

### Calls Attention to Banking Law.

B. W. Kilgore, director of agriculture extension work in North Carolina, has addressed a letter to county agents asking them to call the attention of farmers to the state banking law which entitles agricultural paper to run nine months. This period would allow farmers time in which to produce and market their crops.

The section of the law mentioned by Mr. Kilgore is as follows:

"Section 36. Commercial and business paper defined. The term 'commercial' more than ninety days, except act, is hereby defined to mean a promissory note, and the term 'trade acceptance' to mean a draft or bill of exchange issued or drawn for agricultural, industrial, or commercial purposes, or the proceeds of which have been used or are to be used for such purposes, but such definition shall not include notes, drafts, or bills of exchange covering merely investments, or issued or drawn for the purpose of carrying on or trading in stocks and bonds for other investment securities, except bonds and notes of the government of the United States and state of North Carolina. Such notes, drafts and bills of exchange shall have a maturity at the time of discount of not more than ninety days, except when drawn or issued for agricultural purposes, or based on livestock, when such maturities shall not exceed nine months from the date thereof."

### New Notaries Public.

Notaries public were commissioned by the Governor as follows:

Walter R. Price, Raleigh; John D. Carroll, Charlotte; H. P. Cash, Winston-Salem; H. L. Dillard, Spring Hope; James C. Fink, Concord; R. L. Fox, Charlotte; M. M. Hopper, Kinston; Lueco R. Harris, Henderson; Miss Mary Louis Langley, Greenville; Miss Trula Miller, Asheville; C. Octinger, Kinston; W. A. Pope, Asheville; C. F. Rich, Rocky Mount; T. R. Thig, Mt. Oliver; Rupert H. Trull, Marshville.

### Big Road Letting April 3.

Nearly 200 miles of new highway construction, representing every district in the State will be placed under contract April 3 when bids are opened on 23 new projects, aggregating 111.24 miles of modern hard surfaced road, 18.87 miles of penetration macadam, 48.91 miles of gravel; three projects for the construction of bridges and railroad crossings.

The approximate cost of the 23 projects will be in the neighborhood of \$4,000,000, bringing the aggregate of expenditures and contracts made by the Highway Commission since Frank Page became chairman to very nearly fifty million dollars and the total mileage built or contracted for under his direction to nearly 3,000 miles. This is the second big letting for the present year.

Three projects involved in the letting will further reduce the unpaved mileage of the Central Highway, leaving only a short link in Johnston county between Statesville on the west and New Bern on the east that has not been surfaced during the past three years. The Jasper-Fort Barnwell link in Craven, the Hillsboro-Durham line link and the Statesville-Barbers Junction sections are included.

Another important link of road provided for in the coming letting is the second section of the Raleigh-Franklin county road via Wake Forest. The new project will begin at the Neuse river on the Wake Forest road and extend beyond Wake Forest to the county line, a total distance of about 18 miles. The Raleigh end of the road was put under construction last fall, and the road is now closed to traffic.

More than 300,000 barrels of cement will be required in the construction of the 111 miles of hard surface to be let, and just where and how to get that much cement immediately is the problem that concerns the Commissioner just now. The entire country is in the midst of a cement famine, and mills are unwilling to make new contracts until present obligations have been met.

Chairman Page has already bought the entire output of two of the largest mills in the country, and has contracted for half the output of a third, to be applied to contracts already outstanding. These mills, as well as others not under contract with the State, were forced to suspend operations for months during the past year, for a time on account of the coal strike, and later by the railroad strike.

Reserve stocks usually held on hand were entirely depleted, and although conditions in the industry have returned to something like normal during the past few months, the demand is greater than the supply.

### Changes Made in Health Board.

Announcement of the appointment of Dr. G. M. Cooper, who has been director of the division of medical inspection of schools, as assistant secretary, and of several other staff changes was made by the state board of health.

Dr. J. S. Mitchner, who has been epidemiologist of the board, has been transferred to the division of medical inspections of schools, as director. The division which he formerly directed has been abolished and the work consolidated with that of the division of statistics, headed by Dr. F. W. Register.

Dr. K. E. Miller, of the United States health service, for the past several years assigned to the board as director of county health work, has been sent to Louisiana for similar duties. He is succeeded here by Dr. E. F. Long, who formerly was assistant director under Dr. Miller.

In point of service, Dr. Cooper is one of the oldest members of the board's staff, having been with the organization since 1914. From 1914 to 1917 he was director of field work, and then became head of the medical inspection of schools division. Dr. W. S. Rankin is secretary of the board. The position of assistant secretary has been vacant for several years.

### To Appoint Chief of Deaf Bureau.

Appointment of a chief of the bureau of labor and printing will be made by Commissioner M. L. Shipman within the next several days, it was announced. Although the names of the applicants for the position have not been made public by the commissioner, it becomes known that J. H. Robertson, president of the North Carolina Association of the Deaf, has been recommended.

The bureau was created by the 1923 session of the general assembly and the new officer will devote his time to special work of labor for the deaf. He will collect statistics relating to his duties, ascertain what trades or occupations are best suited for deaf persons and inspect the school for the deaf. It also is provided that the bureau chief study educational methods for deaf persons in other states.

A salary of \$2,000 and an expense allowance, not exceeding \$1,000 per year, is provided for the position.

### New Corporations.

Dixie Clothing Co., of Durham, with \$25,000 authorized capital and \$4,500 subscribed by D. T. Lunsford, J. L. Cozart, and Warren Bishop.

Robertson Manufacturing Company, of Concord, to manufacture cotton, silk and wool goods with a capital of \$400,000 and with \$81,500 subscribed by E. C. Barnhardt, A. H. Howard, and W. B. Bruton, all of Concord.

Roanoke Construction Co., of Roanoke Rapids, with \$100,000 authorized capital and \$7,500 subscribed.

## CONDENSED NEWS FROM THE OLD NORTH STATE

SHORT NOTES OF INTEREST TO CAROLINIANS.

Wilson.—Carl Coarch, for the two years editor of The New Sun-Journal, has purchased an interest in The Wilson Mirror, a morning paper published in this city, and assume management of the publication.

Durham.—Definite assurance that effort will be made to change the form of municipal government in Durham was given when the city board of elections issued a call for an election of a commission form to be held April 14.

Elizabeth City.—James L. Twilley, 40, and Barney C. Burrus, 28, Hyde county fishermen, are believed to have been lost during the 70-mile gale that swept Pamlico Sound on March 6, according to word received here from the Sound.

Charlotte.—While attempting to raise an umbrella in the face of a high wind, Edmund C. Barto, aged 67, was dashed to the pavement, sustaining injuries to his head which resulted in his death within a few moments.

Monroe.—Marshville Manufacturing company, a tire fabric mill, is the name of the new corporation for which application for charter has been made. Stock to the amount of \$100,000 has been subscribed and an option on 100 acres of land has been secured for a site.

Greensboro.—Eighty dollars is what it costs for a witness to be late in Judge A. M. Stack's court, the judge slapping a fine for that amount on A. J. Schlosser, local butcher, when he was not present to answer to his name at the trial of a negro, Walter Murray, on 10 counts of forgery.

Raleigh.—The Tobacco Growers Co-operative association will pay out a million and a half dollars to growers in Virginia and North Carolina, according to announcement of James H. Craig, treasurer of the association.

Duke.—The foundation for the erection of the St. Stephen's Episcopal church has been practically completed and with a corps of workmen daily at work upon it will soon have it finished. This edifice is to be of brick and will be on a par with any other building of its size in the state.

Greensboro.—The Greensboro community chest will be raised in one day if plans made by the committee charged with the duty of putting the campaign over go through, as they are expected to do. The date set is March 27, and the campaigners are asked to act toward their own businesses that day as if they were out of town.

Asheville.—The recent Legislature enacted a law requiring that of the five members of Canton's school board two shall be women. The school committee are to be elected at the regular municipal election. The number on the Board of Aldermen was reduced from five to three in another law sponsored by Representative Gwynn, of Haywood.

Wadesboro.—There seems to be a great demand for Anson county cotton seed. Ell Griggs and Charles Robinson, well known farmers of Guilford township, have recently shipped several hundred bushels of pure seed to points in South Carolina. Anson county has the reputation of making the finest staple of both long and short variety of any county in the state.

Greensboro.—Southern railroad officials made announcement that a one-cent a mile fare will be granted to Confederate veterans and their immediate families to the general reunion, to be held at New Orleans April 10-13. Other organizations, the Sons of Veterans, Daughters of the moral association will also get a reduced rate, one fare for the round trip.

Lumberton.—A very painful accident occurred here on Third street when Mr. W. H. Barton got his foot caught in the machinery of the steam roller, losing two toes and badly lacerating his foot.

Wilson.—Wilson is to have a new enterprise, to be known as Wilson & Co., Packers and Provisioners. Land has been secured and a permit issued for the erection of an \$8,000 plant which will be rushed to completion.

Dunn.—Three whiskey stills have been captured and two men charged with operating a still arrested near Dunn during the past week. The stills were captured and the arrests made by A. B. Adams, special prohibition officer, and Deputy Sheriff H. H. MeLeod.

Charlotte.—Charles P. Stallings, 25, was shot to death by W. A. Rhyne, when Stallings, it is alleged, attempted to rob Rhyne's grocery store at four Spring street. An army discharge in the dead man's pocket identified him as having enlisted in the army from Mooresville, N. C.

Burlington.—Mrs. Walter Thrift was found dead in her bed at her home in Saxapahaw, this county, by her husband upon his return from his work as night watchman in the cotton mill at that place. It is not known how long the woman had been dead.

Kinston.—Fred Simmons, 26, found suffering from bichloride of mercury poisoning in the annex of the Hotel Tull here, may recover, according to physicians. Simmons admitted taking a tablet in a fit of despondency, stating that he had been unhappy at home and that the future held no particularly bright promise for him.