FULL STORY OF THE FLOOD CANNOT BE TOLD IN WORDS

Clarkton Editor, Marconed at Mt. Mitchell Station, in the Heart of the Mountains, Gives Graphic Account of Personal Observations and Harrowing Experiences in Rural Sections

By Samuel T. Meares.

Clarkton, N. C., July 22 .- Estimates rain coat, wrapped up one light suit, will be made, accounts given of the some papers I had to take along and a letter the lady from on the Cape Fear property loss of the great flood in desired me to mail when I reached Western North Carolina, the story of Marion where mail would be going, ushardship and even death will be told, ing the straps from my suit case to but the true idea, a right conception make ties for the package, and thus of the grief and suffering can never Mitchell station at 8 o'clock Tuesday he given in the dull avenue of words. morning, leaving the railroad, the more I had planned a trip to the land of prosperous homes of the ruined public

the

"out back" ways.

Sickening Spectacle.

my heart sickened and every nerve and

faculty within me became blended with

a sincere sympathy for the humble,

honest inhabitants of this section of

Mitchell and McDowell counties usual-

ly so rich in inspiring scenery. We

could have kept no record of the moun-

tain slides seen on every hand, and

which in many instances wrought dam-

age beyond that of simply mutilating

to 100 yards wide sweeping through the

fields on the mountain side taking crops

and soil clean to the bed rocks of the

soil, taking up hugh trees as if they

were only tiny rooted flowers and dash-

ing all in a tangled mass at the foot

of their devastating journey. On three

occasions noted on this trip, were

dwellings the victim of these slides, and

in one case human life was claimed,

this being Mr. Sherman McKinney, of

McDowell. I counted twelve places

where the slides had completely de-

molished the public roads and it will

require a new survey and building of

Cap of Woe Filled.

damage of wind and water, but it was

in the valley of Armstrong creek where

we found the cup of woe had been most

lavishly filled. Where houses were left

standing, the pinched faces, the melan-

choly look, the subdued and saddened

voices of those about bespoke the com-

many fields where corn, of almost ma-

turing age and promising a 60 bush-

el to the acre yield, completely washed

again we would see fields and crops

On every hand could be seen the

forest. No few had taken areas 50

40

59

77

It was on this perilous journey that

the skies as is my custom each sum- highways and plunging into the hard, mer, and on this occasion I had scheddangerous and exciting tramp of the uled a stop of two days at Mt. Mitchell. then a day each at Asheville, Waynesville, Lake Junaluska and Murphy, then back home. I attended the Press Association at Durham Wednesday, July 12th, and took the Asheville train Thursday morning for Marion Junction. My girl happened to be on the same train, she coming from her home on the Cape Fear in the East and going for a few days' visit to her old college friend at Mt. Mitchell. We comnlimented ourselves for selecting just that time as the skies looked so bright from the Pullman car window as we nassed the stations from Salisbury up. At Marion Junction the mountains to the west could not obscure the beauty of a perfect sunset and no one could have entertained the least thought that ere the transit of a half dozen more suns, those dignified mountains would be scarred by thousands of rugged slides, the fertile and innocent valleys below swept with merciless waters in torrents and dashes and leaps, leaving a saddened, weeping and devastated path to lament for many days the property loss, to grieve for months the lives claimed, to be remembered for many decades as the greatest flood ever weeping through that section.

Even the trains were friendly to the anticipated pleasures, and were on schedule time, the C. C. & O. train soon having us speeding on our journey past the Linville mountain to the Blue Ridge at Mt. Mitchell.

The Rain Begins.

I frankly disputed the lady from on the Cape Fear in the East, when she | mon grief which had been spread like a asserted that it was raining, but the pall over the whole section. I saw proof was easily obtained and the twilight was darkened by the suggestive clouds and soon the rapidly forming clouds made the open view from the away, the crops and soil gone leaving a car windows as dark as when in the clean exposure of the sub-soil, then tunnels.

covered to a depth of three feet with It rained frequently Friday, and came with such constancy Friday night and sand and mud. Along the edges of the Saturday morning, that I decided I bottom sections in tree tops and clusTHE MORNING STAR, WILMINGTON, N. C., SUNDAY, JULY 23, 1916.

WARRANTS ISSUED

By the City of Wilmington for the Month of June, 1916.

For Typewriter Co Repairs to Typewriters . . .

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STATEMENT GLENS FALLS INSURANCE CO. GLENS FALLS, N. Y. Condition December 31, 1915, as shown Board of Health Monthly Appropriation\$ 1,592:56 by Statement filed. Amount of Capital paid up 2.40 in cash \$ 38.22 Amount of Ledger Assets 116.25 December 31st of previ-105.47 ous year; Total 5,515,804.52 56.25 Income - From Policyholders, \$2,432,624.34; Miscel-3.00 60.00 laneous, \$315,490.86; Total 2,748,124.20 1.200.00 Disbursements - To Policy-1,189.95 holders, \$1,252,681.97; Mis-71.75 cellaneous, \$1,179,601.56; Total 2,432,283.53 Mortgage Loans on Real Es-tate.... 6.00 1.50 2,50 Value of real estate 247.419.79 7.20 Mortgage Loans on Real Es-33.75 tate 1,699,300.00 1,184.68 Loans secured by pledge of 3.546.36 Bonds, Stocks, or other collateral.. 54.21 200.000.00 48.75 Value of Bonds and Stocks 2,619,071.60 95.00 Cash in Company's Office ... 1,197.21 2.00 Deposited in Trust Compa-571.55 nies and Banks on interest 655,873.95 9.52 Agents' balances, represent-29.45 ing business written sub-200.00 sequent to October 1, 1915 407,006.57 123.65 gents' balances, repre-1.304.42 senting business written 15.00 2,973.28 prior to October 1, 1915 625.00 Interest and Rents due 125.00 and accrued 31,279.53 101.79 93.38 Total\$5,862,919.72 21.00 less Assets not admitted 2,973.28 10.50 10.00 Total admitted Assets.\$5,859,946.44 1,592.50 LIABILITIES: 150.00 Net amount of unpaid losses and claims\$ 233,931.09 833.33 Inearned Premiums . . . 2,625,838.07 445.41 Salaries, rents, expenses, 540.54 bills, accounts, fees, etc., 33.00 due or accrued 1.000.00 92.43 Estimated amount payable for Federal, State, coun-1.187.23 ty and municipal taxes 76.47 due or accrued 40.000.00 4.885.41 Reinsurance and return 231.00 119.00 premiums due other companies..... 4.967.08 3.50 All other Liabilities, as de-318.78 tailed in statement 200.000.00 50.0 25.00 Total amount of all Li-1.250.7 abilities except Capi-283.17 tal\$3,105,736.24 241.60 282.00 Capital Actually paid in in Cash. . . . \$500,000.00 3.30 Surplus over all Liabilities. \$2,254,210.20 14.00 8.00 Surplus as regards Policy-534.89 2.49 Total Liabilities . . . \$5,859,946.44 2.45 **Business** in North Carolina During 1915. 4.00 Fire Risks written, \$1.090.512.00: 45.25 Premiums received, \$17,864.18. 10.00 Losses incurred - Fire, \$15,159.31; Paid. \$15.592.91. 38.06 President, R. A. Little: Secretary, H. 14.00 N. Dickinson; Treasurer, C. J. DeLong. 5.10 Home Office, Glens Falls, N. Y. 19.90 Attorney for service, Insurance Com-

LAFAYETTE MUTUAL INS. CO. LUMBERTON, N. C. Condition December 31, 1915, as shown by Statement filed. 500.000.00 Amounts of Ledger Assets December 31st of previous year: \$24,808.60 Income - From Policyholders, \$18,558.61; Miscellaneous, \$1,790.61; Total . . . 20,349.22 Disbursements - To Policyholders, \$3,894.61; Miscellaneous, \$11,246.89; Total . . 15,141.50 ASSETS: tate.. 13,171.66 Loans made to Policyholders on this Company's Policies assigned as collateral . . . 2,491.70 Cash in Company's Office . . . 288.89 Interest and Rents due and accrued 467.43 Premiums unpaid 2,436.69 All other Assets, as detailed in statement 14,064.07 Less Assets not admitted 441.60 Total admitted Assets\$32,478.84 LIABILITIES: Net Reserve, as computed . .\$27,400.00 Premiums paid in advance, including Surrender Values so applied 131.30 Unearned Interest and Rent paid in advance 84.08 commissions due to Agents, etc 35.00 Estimated Amount payable for Federal, State and other Taxes 32.40 Amounts set apart, apportioned, provisionally ascertained, calculated, awaiting apportionment, etc 175.0 All other Liabilities, as detailed in statement. . . . 1,700.07 Total amount of all Lia-Total Liabilities\$32,478.84 Business in North Carolina During 1915. Policies in force December 31, 1915 — Number, 778; Amount 414,845.00

Losses and Claims settled dur-

E. Page; Treasurer, E. E. Page.

Beatty, Lumberton, N. C.

berton, N. C.

Home Office, Lumberton, N. C.

J. R. YOUNG

STATEMENT

Edinburgh, Scotland

by Statement Filed.

ASSETS

LIABILITIES.

Ledger Liabilities

bills, accounts, fees, etc.,

due or accrued

Estimated amount payable

for Federal, State, coun-

ty and municipal taxes

due or accrued

Surplus as regards Policy- .

Fire Risks written, \$534,210;

U. S. Manager, C. H. Post.

missioner, Raleigh.

osses incurred-Fire, \$5,-

Total amount of all Liabil-

Salaries, rents, expenses,

STATEMENT



ARCHITECT

38--39 GARRELL BUILDING

Eleven.

would wait till Sunday to journey to tered around projecting cliffs the station, two miles from where I lodged almost every conceivable article, was sojourning. By Saturday night, wrecked mountain shacks, material the planter and stockman with whom from the more handsome residences I was stopping became alarmed at the chicken coops filled with dead fowls. continuation of the rain. While his home was quite secure from either mountain ons and farm vehicles and tools. We slides or any streams which might have saw a grown yearling hanging in the gotten out of their banks, he realized fork of an oak tree fully fifteen feet the great damage to his meadows and above the ground and in some places even danger to his cattle. Sunday the air had already become offensive morning the rain had fallen with by the decaying of cattle and other anialarming regularity and the little mals.

streamlets near by hinted by their Among the homes saddened by deaths river appearance the destruction in the was one where two of the three chilvalleys.

With the passing of the clouds, the cessation of the downpour, began the sathering of the distressing news which came from points on the railroad, from mountain side and from the vallevs. Wires down, the railroad gone, I for unknown distance. realize my pent up position but this and the discomfiture for the absence of newspapers and mail were eclipsed from my thoughts which became a mourning sympathy for the citizens of the section, who looked out upon their once promising fields of corn and other crops in the low lands, now swept clean. In the section around Alta Pass, Spruce Pine and Mt. Mitchell mountain slides were reported on every hand and I stood on a high knob near Mt. Mitchell and counted over 20 slides on Linville mountain and it was from this point that sympathy went out for the Clinchfield people, for here could be seen the high fills, the well pletely demolished, tunnels with the appearance of having been constructed for the passage of hugh volumes of ruined, not the fault of due consideration of the surveying engineers, but bacause of unseeming weather conditions. At Alta Pass, I saw seven cars almost under them. The guests at the beautiful ing just such a rare treat, or at least Alta Pass hotel were making the best in perfect safety and plenty, they were ing from the outside world. many months. Over at Little Switzer- Catawba, we crawled up the rocky cliff land, the residents and guests were to the road embankment and look d

off with no way out except possibly bridge and carried it down. on horse back.

To Get to Marion.

and possibly some danger be encount- | ginia.

boxes of store merchandise, whole wag-

dren were found dead and the third s injured that life was despaired or Whole lumbering hamlets in the Woodlawn and Sevier sections were washed away, carried down by the mud current and shattered along the wayside

Homes Swept Away.

The beautiful country home of Mr. George W. Conley, one of the most influential and progressive citizens of upper McDowell and vice president of the Merchants and Farmers Bank at 105 Marion, was swept away and it was 106 with the greatest difficulty that he and his estimable family were saved by means of cables. His barn with all its 109 contents and six of his horses together with his beautiful plantation were extracted from him as his share of the 111

ruined section. Along the north fork of the Catawba was the same sad heart rending specbuilt trestles, and miles of track com- tacle. It was here our guide lost his footing in a dangerous climb and fell, 116 receiving a severe wound about his 117 head which compelled his quitting the 118 journey. We secured shelter for him 119 gaged. The famous road, the pride of and another man of the locality to get railway construction, wrecked and us to a point where we could use the railroad. I was indeed sorry for this accident as I then had no means of sending a newspaper back to my girl the lady from on the Cape Fear down East, who I left at Mt. Mitchell expectit had been rare for the past few days of the situation they could and while to think of getting a paper and read-

Arriving at a place where the railno mail, no wires, and no trains for road crosses the north fork of the perfectly unharmed although their well upon the ruins of this costly railway built road to the railway at Mt. Mitch- bridge, a complete wreck. I was told ell was completely wrecked by moun- by one of the homeless citizens that a tain slides and they were entirely cut cluster of floating houses struck this

Sore Disappointment.

We were then only six miles to With the thoughts of two, three or Marion and while we had to cross seveven six months before train service eral undermined fills and walk around would be restored to Marion, 30 miles some cuts which were covered with distant by rail, 20 miles by county road, mud and mire, we were able to follow my time near out, my girl from on the the track the balance of the way, but Cape Fear in the East impatient in a the realization of our greatest danger desire to get a letter back home to re- behind us, the joy of being near Marion, lieve anxiety of those who were con- the big town on the railroad built becerned, my desire to get a newspaper fore the Civil War, now a part of the and send messages turned my atten- great Southern Railway, began to retion to a way to reach Marion, where I ceive defeating news which came by felt that on the old Western North degrees as we met one after another Carolina railroad, seventy-five years coming from Marion. Our perilous trip old, operated by the Southern, I could was of no avail, at Marion we would get a train home, get papers and send only swell the number of marooned messages. My only task to again get passengers from the last Southern train back into the world was simply to get to arrive and become tied up there. to Marion, but what of the problem? No telegrams could be sent, no tele-You will not go on a train in six phone, no mail, no newspapers, no train months asserted the lonely agents at out to any place. Marion, a little world he stations," "The public, highways all to itself and little by little the story cannot be used for many moons," de- was unfolded that a rain storm of unclared the citizens who were more in- precedented proportions had lingered in terested in home affairs than in my great activity for three days over a getting to Marion. But cannot I walk broad extent of the mountain section and get there, even though hardships of the Carolinas, Tennessee and Vir-

ered? I queried, but no consolation It will require many months before could be obtained from any idea ad- the public highways of this section willvanced. I could do no service to the be fully restored, the railroads were

Total for the Month \$30,665.41

Published by order of the Council.

THOS. D. MEARES, Clerk.

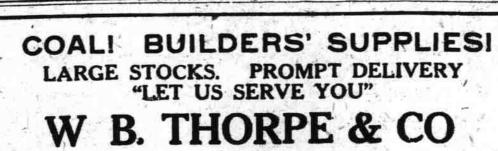
INITIATIVE The power to "get somewhere" in a financial way requires first: The

power of initiative-the ability to Start Something.

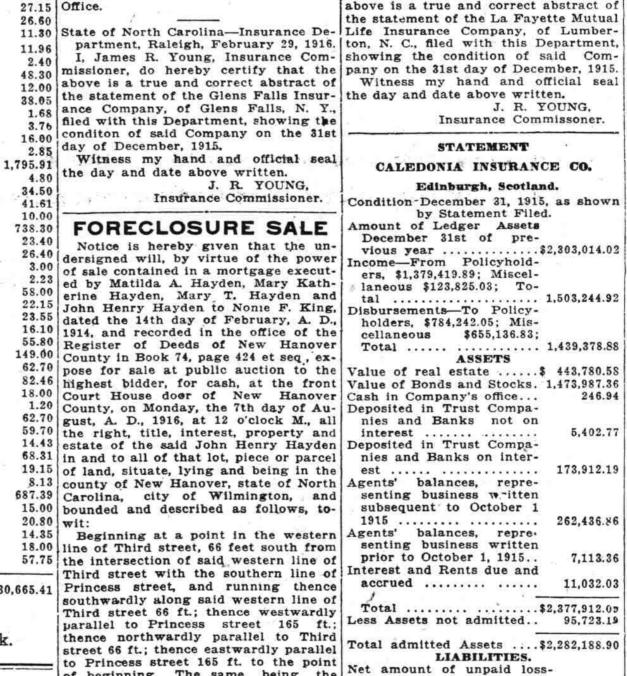
Millions of people are barring their possibilities because they can't

bring themselves to make a beginning. On the other hand, those who started long ago at the Home Savings Bank are well on the way successward, and you, if you begin now, will soon be under full headway.

HOME SAVINGS BANK Wilmington, N. C.



2



6.00

7.45

19.80 missioner, Raleigh, N. C.

Manager for North Carolina, Home

of beginning. The same being the eastern half of Lot 2, Black 166, according to the official plan of the city of Wilmington. At this sale, only the interest of the

aid John Henry Hayden will be sold, and not the interest of Matilda A. Hayden, who owns a life estate in the same, nor the interest of Mary Katherine Hayden, Mary T. Hayden, or Ellen Agnes Hayden. Dated and posted this the 7th day of July, A. D., 1916. NONIE F. KING,

E. K. BRYAN, Mortgagee. Attorney.

FOR SALE

AT A BARGAIN



-Call 'Phone 1354-W.

Manager for North Carolina, Home Office. STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, INSURANCE DEUARTMENT Raleigh, February 7, 1916. I, James R. Young, Insurance Commissioner, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the statement of the Caledonian Insurance Company, of Edinburgh, Scotland. filed with this Department, showing the condition of said Company on the 31st day of December, 1915. Witness my hand and official seal the day and date above written.

J. R. YOUNG,



and with the second s