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WHOLE NO. 2705

HUNDREDS DROWNED AND TOWN SWEEPED AWAY.

Dam Breaks at Austin, Pa., Drowning Hundreds—1,000 Houses Swept Away or Burned—Many Die in Fires Following Flood.

Austin, Pa., Dispatch, Sept. 30.
Between 850 and 1,000 persons were drowned and untold numbers were maimed here this afternoon when the great dam of the Bayless Pulp and Paper Company, holding back more than 500,000,000 gallons of water, went out.

Forty bodies have been recovered, many of them so maimed that recognition is impossible. Gov. John K. Tener, of Pennsylvania, has been asked for help, and a relief train was sent from Coudersport, 14 miles away. The survivors are in a frenzy. There is no organization, the town being dazed by the force of the calamity, which came without a moment's warning. Hundreds of men, women and children are searching through the ruins of the village for their families and friends.

The only light is the glare from hundreds of houses and business buildings which caught fire from broken gas pipes almost before the flood had passed. Chaos reigned from the moment the mighty wall of water tore through the town, and there will be no relief until help comes from the surrounding towns. Meantime many bodies lie in the track of the flood.

The dam was built two years ago, a great structure 530 feet long, spanning the little valley formed by Freeman Run and rising to the height of 49 feet. It was of concrete, 32 feet wide at the base, and said to have been constructed after the most approved plans of modern engineering. The basin behind it had never been filled with water until this week, and today it was noticed that water was running over the top of the structure. Many persons went out of the town a mile and a half away to see the unusual sight. While they were watching the overflowing water the first break occurred.

[The quotations which follow are from a description given by one of the persons at the dam.]
"I came down to Austin as soon as possible, but it was an awful sight. The water had torn through the place, taking all the principal buildings and crushing houses like egg shells. Then the fire broke out. The timber and sides of houses were piled up against the railroad shops and they were soon in flames. I know there were men in the shops, how many I cannot say, but there was no way to help them. They were probably burned up. I have not seen any of them since. I don't know how the fire started, but it seemed as though it began in a score of places at once.

"But worst of all were the cries of the women and children. You see, most all the men were at work, and they were at home alone. They had heard the warning sent out by the telephone girl—at least, some of the people say the fire bell rang—and thought it was a fire. Some of them rushed to the business section and were caught in the water, for that flood traveled like a race horse. Those not drowned were crushed in the crumbling buildings and others were caught in the flames. It was frightful. I cannot begin to tell it all.

"Little children playing in yards at home were caught up by the water and tossed about on the flood like playthings. Cattle and horses were swept off and even the sidewalks were torn up. I never imagined there could be such force. And over and above it all were the shrieks of the hundreds of poor people who could not escape. I don't know how many of us got away."

It is estimated that a thousand buildings have been torn from their foundations and crushed in the flood or have been destroyed by fire.

Victims Number Less Than 500
A dispatch from Austin dated yesterday states that the victims of the flood will number less than 500. The property loss is placed at \$6,000,000.

ITALY DECLARES WAR AGAINST TURKEY.

Italian Forces Occupy Tripoli and Benghazi—Turkish Destroyer Sunk—Trouble Dates Back to 1878—Fighting Strength of the Two Countries.

London Dispatch, Sep. 29.
Affairs developed today with extraordinary rapidity. A state of war exists between Italy and Turkey, and hostilities have begun.

No sooner had the time limit fixed in the ultimatum expired than, ignoring Turkey's conciliatory request for a period of delay, Italy declared war. The Turkish representatives in Italy were handed their passports. The Turkish commander at Tripoli was asked to surrender the town, but declined and the Italian forces immediately occupied Tripoli and Benghazi.

Apparently the Turks offered no resistance, but this is only an assumption, as immediately on landing the Italians evidently seized the telegraph lines. From the hour of their landing, no message of any kind has been received from Tripoli, and dispatches sent to that place remain undelivered.

It should be noted, however, that a Constantinople dispatch, announcing Italian occupation of Tripoli, makes no mention of resistance, and a mere protest by the governor would be in line with Turkey's announced policy.

The Turkish cabinet, which had been for some time insecure, resigned as soon as war was declared, and a new ministry was formed under Said Pasha, but retaining the former able war minister, Mohmoud Shekfat Pasha.

Turkey continues her efforts to secure intervention by the powers. In the meantime Italy is actively pursuing hostilities. Italian battleships are reported to have appeared off Smyrna and Salonika. The Italian cruiser landed troops at Prevesa, after destroying a Turkish torpedo boat destroyer and the Italian fleet has blocked the whole Tripolitan coast.

There are unconfirmed reports that Turkey intends to send an ultimatum to Greece to abandon her claim on Crete, and is massing troops on the Thresalian frontier.

The greatest activity was ensued in all the European chancelleries on the announcement that war had been declared and notification of a blockade. It is expected that the various governments will issue the customary neutrality notices and will devote their diplomatic efforts as far as possible to localizing hostilities to the combatant powers and especially to avoid complications in the Balkans.

Trouble Dates Back to 1878.

The trouble between Turkey and Italy, which culminated this afternoon in a declaration of war at Rome, dates back to 1878, when, with the making of the treaty concluding the Russo-Turkish war, the powers are understood to have agreed to permit Italy a "pacific penetration of Tripoli." Turkey claims that this is a right which has been respected ever since. Italy has colonized Tripoli until her interests in that African province are very great. She has asserted, however, that her subjects have been mistreated by the Ottoman authority and constantly discriminated against. Frequent disputes have arisen but the prolonged negotiations have never resulted satisfactorily to Italy.

At the time that the Franco-German differences regarding Morocco were acute, Italy turned her attention again to Tripoli and in subsequent negotiations with Constantinople set forth that many outrages against her subjects had been perpetrated and for which no redress had been made. She assumed a decisive attitude and presently began the mobilization of her army and navy.

Italy's standing army 1910 11 numbered approximately 225,000 men and 14,000 officers, but a far greater number could be put in the field in case of necessity. The Italian navy consists of vessels commissioned, built, or

HOLDING COTTON.

A Representative of the National Farmers' Union Will Speak in Lumberton on This Subject Tomorrow.

The Robesonian has received from Mr. E. C. Faires, State secretary of the Farmers' Union, notice of a speaking in Lumberton tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock of a representative of the National Farmers' Union on the subject of holding cotton. Quoting from this notice:

"The National Union is strongly fighting for the principle of holding cotton and thereby obtaining the price that was agreed upon at the National meeting recently held at Shawnee, Okla. To bring this matter before as many farmers as practicable at present, the National Union is sending a representative to speak at the following places on the dates named"—and here follows a list of places, the date for Lumberton being given as Tuesday, October 3. Quoting from this notice again:

"It is requested that the officials of each county Union use every available means to gather as large a crowd as possible, so that the cause may be successful and unionism bettered in numbers and purpose. The meetings will be held at 10 o'clock a. m. or at such time as the county officers may deem best suited. Every one who is interested in this cause is cordially invited to attend these meetings."

It is to be regretted that this notice was not received in time for publication last Thursday. This paper will not reach many of its subscribers in the country in time for them to attend the speaking in Lumberton tomorrow, but it is to be hoped that the speaking has been well advertised in other ways.

building: 15 battleships, nine armored cruisers, 17 unarmored cruisers and gun ves-els. 36 destroyers, an equal number of first-class torpedo boats, and 22 submarines.

As a whole, the Italian navy is generally ranked fifth among nations. As seamen, the Italians are skilled and ingenious. They have constructed some remarkable war vessels.

Naval lists show that Turkey has a fighting strength of nine coast defense iron clads, five protected cruisers, six torpedo vessels, one gunboat, 21 torpedo boat destroyers, 27 torpedo boats and two submarines. As compared with the greater nations, this array is a negligible quantity. There are 929 officers as against 30,000 sailors, besides 9,000 marines. English and American officers play an important part in Turkish naval affairs. The Empire is divided into seven army corps districts and there are two independent divisions at Medina and Tripoli, respectively. The total fighting strength is close to a million men and by the existing recruiting laws all Musselmans are liable to military service.

Conflicting Reports and Rumors Concerning Opening Days of Turko-Italian War.

London Dispatch, 1st.

Out of a perfect maze of conflicting reports and rumors it is utterly impossible at this stage to sift the grains of truth concerning the opening days of the Turko-Italian war. It appears even doubtful whether there has been any actual occupation of Tripoli, and it is practically certain that there has been no bombardment by the Italian warships.

It seems also certain that the reported destruction of the Turkish fleet is untrue. In fact, the only result of the first three days' hostilities which can be vouched for is the destruction of the Turkish destroyers by the Duke of the Abruzzi's ships off Prevesa. The Tripoli cable is closely sealed, so that it is impossible for the outside world to know what is going on there.

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TOWN AFFAIRS.

Important Orders Passed at Meeting of Town Board—Chestnut Street to be Paved—Suits to be Instituted Against Railroads to Require Sanitary Conditions on Their Rights-of-Way—Seaboard Must Pave Right-of-Way on Elm.

At a meeting of the town commissioners Friday night some important orders were passed.

It was ordered that granolithic sidewalks be laid on Chestnut street from the Seaboard right-of-way to Tenth street, provided a two-thirds majority of the property owners on this street sign a petition for this work to be done, under the same conditions under which Elm street was paved.

Mayor White was authorized to institute suit against the Seaboard, Raleigh & Charleston and Virginia & Carolina Southern railroads in order to require them to put their rights-of-way within the corporate limits in sanitary condition. Mayor White has been after the Seaboard to do some much-needed work which it has refused to do and the order was passed to include all roads that enter the town. Orders were passed also requiring the V. & C. S. to move its water pipe so as not to block the Chestnut street crossing when trains are getting water, also to put its crossing at the intersection with the Whiteville road in sanitary condition; and requiring the Seaboard to put a granolithic walk from the northern edge of its right-of-way on Elm street to its track, under supervision of the street committee.

An order was passed requiring the chief of police, the town clerk and treasurer, the superintendent of the light and water plant and the sanitary inspector to attend all regular meetings of the board.

Solicitor Sinclair Announces Candidacy For Congress.

In an interview published in yesterday's Wilmington Star Mr. N. A. Sinclair of Fayetteville, who has been solicitor of this, the seventh, judicial district for the past 5 years, announced that he will be a candidate for Congress to succeed Mr. H. L. Godwin. Mr. Sinclair has been urged for some time by friends to enter the race. He is popular throughout the district and will make a strong candidate. Owing to the crowded condition of today's paper it is necessary to hold over this interview until Thursday, when it will be printed in full.

Cotton Condition Report and Census Bureau Report of Number of Bales Ginned.

The cotton condition report, the last of the season, issued at noon today, gives the condition of cotton as 71.1, which indicates that cotton has about held its own during the past month, while for the past ten years cotton has lost about 7 per cent during September. The census bureau report, also issued at noon today, gives the number of bales of cotton ginned to September 25 as 3,663,066, which is about three-fourths of a million bales larger than any previous September report.

Accident at Oil Mill.

Mr. A. R. Currie, manager of the gin at the oil mill, just across the river, got his right arm caught in the saws of the gin about one o'clock this afternoon and is badly cut, though it is not thought that it will be necessary to amputate the arm. Dr. T. C. Johnson was summoned at once and he brought Mr. Currie to the Thompson hospital and at the time of going to press he is in the operating room.

Apron Party for Benefit of New Baptist Church at Renner.

An apron party will be given at the school house at Renner Friday afternoon of this week, the 6th, for the benefit of the new Baptist church. There will be music, refreshments and other features. The public is cordially invited.

Subscribe for The Robesonian.

A PLAN TO HOLD COTTON.

Arrangements Made to Warehouse a Limited Number of Bales and Get Money on Certificates.

To the Editor of The Robesonian:

I wish to say through the Union department of your paper to the Union people that I have made arrangements with the Charlotte bonded warehouse to house several thousand bales of cotton and also have arranged that on the receipts of the cotton the Farmers & Merchants Bank will finance the deal. Just ship the cotton to the Charlotte Bonded Warehouse Co. and it will send you the warehouse certificate and you can take it to the Farmers & Merchants Bank and it will lend you money on the cotton and this will enable you to hold your cotton until the mills will pay a fair price. And this is the thing to do. Everything is favorable for a rise in cotton—the crop is short, the cotton scarce, the demand great, the mills with but little on hand and with thousands of mouths to feed every day; and if the people won't take the price the mills will give more before they will stop. Cotton brought \$1 a pound just after the Civil War and there are a thousand calls for it today where there was one then. Yarn is no lower than it was 12 months ago and the demand is greater. Why should we sell our cotton for less than 13 cents per pound? The mills will give it if the people won't take less.

I will be in Lumberton on next Thursday and will assist the people in getting started to shipping to the warehouse. Cotton can be shipped from any depot in the county under this contract up to the limited amount.

W. K. Culbreth, Rus. Agt., Robeson County Division, Farmers Union.

Superior Court—Another Term Next Week.

The special one-week's term of Robeson superior court for the trial of civil cases which began last Monday closed Friday, the calendar having been exhausted. The only jury case disposed of since the report in Thursday's Robesonian was Rhoda Branch vs. Haynes Branch and C. T. Pate, a suit for dower as widow of the late Johnson Branch, the executors claiming that she was not the widow of the deceased. The jury answered that she was entitled to dower and defendants appealed, giving bond in sum of \$25. A large number of consent judgments was signed.

Another one-week's term of civil court will begin next Monday, the 9th. Judge H. W. Whedbee, who presided last week, will also preside next week.

The county commissioners, road commissioners and board of education are holding their regular monthly meetings today.

Mr. E. F. Purnell, who has been rural mail carrier on route 6 from Lumberton, and Mr. Rowland Townsend, formerly carrier on route 2 from Buie, have swapped routes. The order making the transfer went into effect yesterday and they are making their first trips on their new routes today. Mr. Townsend will move his family to Lumberton.

Some 25 or 30 feet of the wasteway over the dam of the old McKay mill at Tolarsville blew out yesterday morning about 10 o'clock and the water is gone. This pond was redammed about 14 years ago by the Butters Lumber Co., principally for the purpose of floating logs, but for some time Mr. J. M. Butler has had a grist mill there, operated by Mr. Alex Willis.

Mr. Ellis Miller, of route 1 from Fairmont, who has for the past 15 years been the first man in the county to pay his taxes, came to town Saturday to get in first this year but could not pay then because the books had not been ordered turned over to the sheriff. Mr. Miller was here again this morning and the necessary order having been made by the commissioners Mr. Miller was first to the bat again and paid also for his son-in-law, Mr. P. H. Lewis, whose record as the second man to pay is the same as Mr. Miller's.

LOCAL BRIEFS

—License has been issued for the marriage of Blanche Flowers and Charlie Britt.

—Born, to Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Page, Thursday, September 28, an 8-pound girl.

—Mrs. A. W. McLean entertained the Young Matrons Club Saturday morning at her home on Chestnut street in honor of her guest Miss Marjorie Bethell of Norfolk, Va.

—Mr. Raymond Reynolds, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Reynolds of Lumberton, began clerking last week at the Cnetwynd hotel in Laurinburg, of which Mr. D. C. Sinclair is proprietor.

—Mr. Will Johnson, formerly of Lumberton, but now of Hamlet, was brought here Saturday sick with appendicitis. He was taken to the home of Mr. Van Edwards at the Lumberton cotton mill.

—Mr. A. A. Page returned Friday night from Raleigh, where he took a course in King's Business College. He will begin keeping books shortly for the LaFayette Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Fayetteville, of which his father is secretary and treasurer.

—Mrs. Sue Rowland has been very ill with diphtheria at her home in the western part of town since Friday, but her condition this morning was thought to be somewhat improved. Dr. J. G. Murphy, throat specialist of Wilmington, was here to see her yesterday.

—Quite a number of the Lumberton theatre-goers were so well pleased with the Manhattan Opera Co.'s opera given here last week that they expect to go to Rowland Wednesday evening to witness again the same performance. The Manhattan Opera Co. will be at Rowland Wednesday and Thursday.

—Mr. Norment Britt, a member of the sophomore class of the North Carolina Medical College, Charlotte, has been elected president of his class and secretary of the student body. Mr. Britt is a son of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Britt, of Ten Mile, and a brother of Messrs. O. M., E. M. and W. S. Britt, of Lumberton.

—Mr. A. W. Prevatt, who went to the western part of the State some eight or ten days ago in search of relief from a spell of hay fever from which he has been suffering for some time, returned Thursday evening. Mr. Prevatt says that he does not think that he derived any benefit from the trip at all. He is but little if any better than he was when he went away.

—Friday morning about 10 o'clock fire was discovered in the waste house at the Dresden cotton mill. The alarm was turned in and by some timely work the flames were soon extinguished. The origin of the fire is unknown and had it gone unnoticed a few minutes longer the loss probably would have amounted to several thousand dollars, but as it is the damage is not thought to be over \$300 or \$400.

—The town authorities have a force of hands at work making some much-needed improvements on Chestnut street. The work is being done between Mr. C. M. Fuller's sales stable and where the street crosses the Seaboard track. Four or five trees that were in the street have been moved, the hill opposite the tobacco warehouse is being graded down and some filling in is being done between the V. & C. S. and Seaboard tracks. This street has been needing some attention at this particular place for a long time.

—The old barn and stable, corner Chestnut and Sixth streets, that has been an eyesore for many years is to be moved. Ex-Sheriff Geo. B. McLeod started a force of hands to work tearing down and moving the building this morning. Mr. McLeod says that he will build a private garage on the corner where the building is being moved from, all of which will certainly make a great change in the appearance of things in that part of town. This building is one of the old landmarks of the town.