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RALEIGH, N. C., SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 25, 1899.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

LEADS ALL NORTH CAROLINA DAILIES IN NEWS AND CIRCULATION.

In a Cauldron of Steam FATAL ACCIDENT AT DURHAM COTTON MILLS YESTERDAY.

W. H. Branson Dead and J. C. Mathes Seriously Injured as a Result of a Bursting Steam Pipe.

Durham, N. C., March 24.—(Special.)—Mr. W. H. Branson died at 5:15 this afternoon as a result of the scalds received from the bursting of a steam pipe at the mill of the Durham Cotton Manufacturing Company in East Durham, at 10 o'clock this morning. Mr. Branson suffered greatly before his death. He was 38 years old and leaves a wife and two children. No arrangements have yet been made for the funeral, pending the arrival of relatives from Concord and Greensboro.

Mr. J. C. Mathes, who was injured at the same time with Mr. Branson, is resting easier at this time, 9:45 p. m. He may recover but is not yet out of danger. His physicians fear that he will lose his eyesight as a result of the accident.

HOW THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED.

Messrs. W. H. Branson, secretary and treasurer, and J. C. Mathes, superintendent of the factory, were in a little brick house that is used as a pumping house, from which place water is pumped to the engines that run the mills. By some means, a five-inch steam pipe burst, enveloping the two men in a cloud of scalding steam.

Messrs. Branson and Mathes were both badly burned. Mr. Branson's injuries are thought to be the worst. He is badly scalded about the face, head and body, the skin peeling from his face like an onion. He also had his hands painfully hurt in breaking out some glass in a window, in order to call for assistance. Mr. Mathes is pretty badly burned about the face and eyes. It is thought he may lose his eyesight. Mathes, after one or two unsuccessful efforts, got the door of the house open and made his exit in that manner.

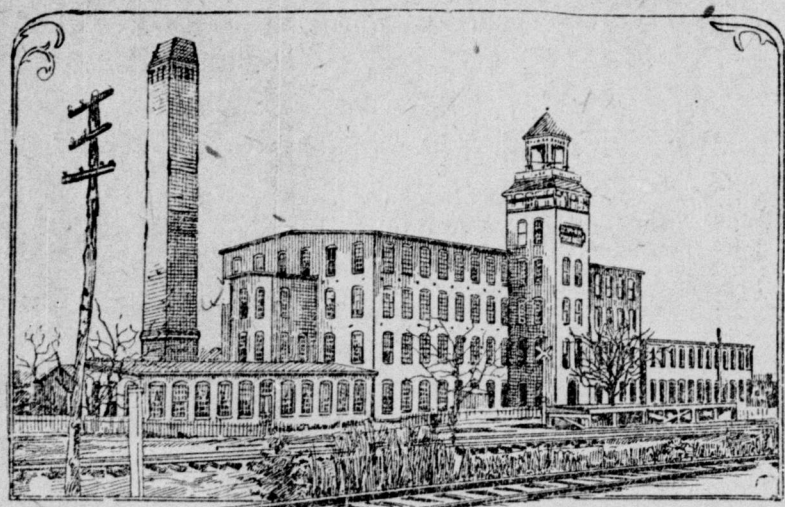


WM. H. BRANSON,
Secretary and Treasurer of the Durham Cotton Manufacturing Company, Who Was Killed Yesterday.

So powerful was the force of the explosion that a hole some five or six feet in diameter was made in the brick wall of the house.

The wonder of all who have viewed the scene since the accident is that either of the gentlemen got out of the house alive.

As soon as possible physicians were telephoned for, and



DURHAM COTTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY, DURHAM, N. C., WHERE THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED.

Drs. A. G. Carr, J. M. Manning, W. N. Hicks, A. Cheatham, N. P. Boddie and others responded, and went to the relief of the suffering men. Willing hands assisted in carrying Mr. Branson into the office of the company, and Mr. Mathes to his office nearby. Physicians have been with them ever since the accident. At this writing, Mr. Branson has recovered consciousness. Mr. Mathes is also conscious.

It is thought that the only reason that prevented the gentlemen from being killed outright was the fact that the pipe that burst was above their heads. Had it been lower, there would have been no escape for them.

The announcement of the accident flew over the city like wild-fire, and cast a pall over our entire people.

NO PHILIPPINE POLICY AS YET

Awaiting Report of Schurmann Board.

A FIXED POLICY THEN

THE PRESIDENT FLIES DOWN TO TALLAHASSEE.

FLORIDA'S CAPITAL ADORNS HERSELF

And the Chief Executive is Welcomed With More Ceremony and Display Than he Has Met With Elsewhere on the Trip.

Thomasville, Ga., March 24.—The Administration will not decide upon its permanent policy respecting the Philippines until the Schurmann commission reports. It feels that its present knowledge of the islands is too indefinite as a basis for a fixed policy. Moreover an immediate decision is felt to be needless since for the present the only problem is the restoration of law and order, and the establishment of stable peaceful conditions. This and the appointment of a diplomatic representative at Madrid are two of the most important matters remaining open. The Madrid mission probably will be raised to an embassy soon after payment of the \$20,000,000 indemnity, and a man of the highest qualifications and attainments chosen for this delicate and important post. General Woodford may not be the new envoy, owing to the fact that New York already has such an undue proportion of the highest diplomatic appointments.

President McKinley and quite a large party made a flying trip to Tallahassee, Fla., to-day. Vice President Hobart has not been well, never having recovered from the results of an attack of grip last winter, so he and Mrs. Hobart remained behind. A special train was provided by the Plant System and included 2 Pullmans, one extra coach and a baggage car. It left Thomasville shortly after 10 o'clock.

At Monticello, the home of Senator Pasco, that gentleman and his family greeted the President. The Senator could not proceed to Tallahassee, but by invitation the two Misses Pasco and a young son became members of the Presidential party. At Tallahassee the party was received by Governor Bloxham and a local committee. The town had been elaborately decorated in honor of the President. Salutes were fired, an escort provided, a regular programme carried out, and the visit made more of a ceremonial affair than any feature of the present Southern trip. The party was driven first to the State capitol where a large crowd from the town and surrounding country had assembled. On the portico of the State House the entire party, including the Governor and the Floridian committee were photographed. After a brief rest during which the ladies of the party were presented with immense bouquets of beautiful violets, the party was driven to the Leon House, where an informal public reception was held by the entire party, and an elaborate lunch served to about 100 persons. Governor Bloxham sat on the right of the President, and Judge Raney on his left. Then followed drives to points of interest, and a visit by the President to a large negro college having about 300 students. A band of music, a local military company and organizations of the students were assembled here in the President's honor. No speech making occurred in Tallahassee. The party left there at 3:30 and arrived in Thomasville at 5:40. An effort is making to induce the President to visit Tampa. He is disinclined to make the trip, and unless he changes his mind will be in Washington late next Tuesday.

FOUR DEAD FROM THE RUINS.

Twenty-Three is the Number of known Victims of the Fire.

New York, March 24.—Four more bodies were recovered from the ruins of the Windsor Hotel to-day. The record as it now stands is 23 dead, 40 or more missing, and a large collection of small bones. The injured in hospitals and other places are recovering. Anxiety on the part of the friends of persons who have been reported missing has increased to a certainty almost that they perished in the fire. From the condition of the bodies so far recovered there is but little hope that they or any of the bodies that may be found hereafter can be identified.

FISH BRING GOOD PRICES.

Elizabeth City, N. C., March 24.—Our fishermen are a very busy set of men at this time. Fish are coming through right lively, 360 boxes having been shipped to New York and 180 boxes to Philadelphia yesterday. The shipments will be even larger to-day, and we are glad to know that the prices are holding up pretty well.

BRUNSWICK, GA., MARCH 24.—

Speaker Reed left Jekyll Island to-day for a trip to the Florida resorts. Ex-Secretary Bliss who entertained the President while here departed for New York.

THREE MORE DEAD NEAR RED RIVER

They Also Had Conspired Against the Whites.

WILD RUMORS AFLOAT

BUT VERY LITTLE AUTHENTIC INFORMATION.

WHITES STILL PURSUING THE NEGROES

Such is One Report, While Another is to the Effect that the Negroes are Arming and Threatening Vengeance on the Whites.

Texarkana, Ark., March 24.—Details of the wholesale lynchings reported to have occurred in Little River county, are slow in coming in. Three more dead negroes have been found in Red River bottoms between New Boston, Texas, and Rocky Comfort, Ark., two of them, Joe King and Moses Jones having been hanged or shot to death. The third body was stripped entirely naked when found.

A justice of the peace held an inquest over these bodies and a verdict was returned by the jury declaring that the men "came to their death from natural causes or were frozen to death." The verdict is regarded as a gruesome joke. There is some doubt as to where these lynchings occurred, it being near the State line. The inquest was held by a Texas justice of the peace.

Joe King is one of the negroes who was whipped by a crowd of whites Wednesday, near Rocky Comfort. Just after the lynching of Duckett, a constable went to King's and told him that Duckett had been lynched for the assassination of Farmer Stockton. King replied that he knew all about the Stockton killing, and said that the farmer ought to have been killed sooner, and also intimated that others would be killed before the matter was settled. A crowd of indignant whites soon had King in charge and took him to the woods, where he was thoroughly whipped and released. It is not known where or by whom he was afterward strung up, but he no doubt fell into the hands of one of the lynching parties that were organized after the plots of the negroes to start a race war were unearthed.

John Johnson was whipped by the same crowd who took King in hand, and as he has not been accounted for since, it is believed that he met his death at the end of a rope somewhere in the vicinity of Red River.

Many sensational reports are reaching here to-day from the scene of the disturbance, but very little authentic information can be gathered. One report states that the whites are still in organized posse hunting the leaders in the negro revolutionary plot with the avowed intention of stringing them up wherever found. Another report states that the negroes are recovering from their terror, and are securing arms, and threaten vengeance on the whites. If this proves true serious trouble may result.

General Duckett, the first man hanged, was a power among the negroes and had many followers.

A colored man who arrived here to-day from Wilton, says that all negroes in the neighborhood of Rocky Comfort and Richmond have left their homes and are afraid to return. A large number of them have crossed Red river and gone into Bowie county, Texas.

He says more negroes have been killed than have yet been reported.

TRAGEDY AT SWEET WATER.

Judge Cochran, of Texas, Shot by F. P. Woodruff, a Lawyer.

Dallas, Texas, March 24.—At Sweet Water, F. P. Woodruff, a lawyer, attacked and shot Judge John H. Cochran, with a revolver, the trouble growing out of the court's refusal to approve a bill of exceptions in a lawsuit. Judge Cochran attempted to defend himself, and a bystander named R. P. Watts was shot in the hip. Watts and Judge Cochran are in a critical condition. Woodruff is under \$3,000 bond.

Judge Cochran is an ex-Speaker of the Texas House, and was a candidate for Governor in 1894.

TO EXAMINE BLUE WING.

Chapel Hill, N. C., March 24.—(Special.)—Professor Collier Cobb and Dr. J. H. Pratt, State mineralogist, left to-day for an examination of the Granville Copper belt. They were accompanied by Messrs. Duke Boyd, Coffey, Hewett, Allgood Holmes, Lockhart, Gudge and W. F. Taylor.

Dr. Thos. Hume will deliver two lectures before the Southern Biblical Assembly, which convenes at Charlotte in June.

TOTAL BANK CLEARINGS.

New York, March 24.—The total bank clearings in the United States for the week were \$1,884,504,791; per cent increase, 73.4. Exclusive of New York, \$611,270,453; per cent increase, 35.4.

Our Boys Rush to Victory AGUINALDO'S FORCES DEFEATED WITH HEAVY LOSS.

Our Own Loss Including Killed and Wounded, is Estimated at One Hundred—The American Plans.

New York, March 24.—The World will tomorrow print the following Manila cable under date of March 24th: "A sweeping victory over Aguinaldo's forces has just been won by the United States troops. "The total American loss is estimated at about 100, including both the killed and wounded. "The Filipino loss is between 300 and 400." Hoey, Hoffman, Holland, Holman, James, Johnson, of John-

ACTIVITY AT MALABON.

Manila, March 24.—(Noon.)—The enemy are extremely active in the vicinity of Malabon in preparing defenses, evidently anticipating an attack. They keep well under cover. A small body of rebels, however, emerged from the jungle on the extreme left yesterday and fired upon the Kansas troops in the trenches, fatally wounding Private Cohen, of Company B, and Private Murr, of Company E.

The Oregon volunteers and the Twenty-Second regulars marched to the front to-day. The Third and Seventeenth regiments have disembarked on the Sherman. General H. G. Otis' brigade struck their tents this morning, and an early move is probable.

Sixteen English refugees arrived here yesterday from Dagupan, the railroad terminus on board the steamer Saturnus. They report that the natives are generally friendly and the officers invariably courteous. Mr. Higgins, manager of the railroad, and about a dozen unmarried men in charge of various business interests declined to take advantage of the opportunity to leave.

Nothing has been heard from the two American planters at Calumpit since hostilities began.

According to Filipino accounts a thousand Americans have been killed, the fatalities being especially heavy at Calocuen, where the United States troops "rushed like madmen against a storm of bullets."

DEFEATED, WILL FLY TO SWAMPS.

Manila, March 24.—6:25 P. M.—Two Spanish prisoners who have escaped from Polo to the lines of the Kansas regiment, report that the Filipinos have concentrated their forces at Malabon and Polo. They add that only Aguinal-

do's body guard is at Malolos and that the rebel leaders apparently intend to stake their fortunes on a fight at Malabon, where it was expected an engagement would take place yesterday. If defeated, it is further asserted, the rebels intend to disperse to the swamps and mountains. The rebels were putting their bolos in front, believing that the bolo men's charms will avert the bullets. The bolos of the Filipinos greatly outnumber the rifles in their hands. The rebels are further said to have admitted that they could not stand the American shells and bayonet charges. The escaped Spaniards corroborated the stories told of food shortage among the rebels, and they added that their hospitals are short of supplies.

WHEN OTIS STRIKES AGAIN.

He Will Attack Both by Land and Sea.

Washington, March 24.—It is understood here that General Otis has so far matured his plans of campaign that within a week or ten days he will be able to begin the movement which is expected to mark the destruction of Aguinaldo's army. Although stragglers and fugitives may infest the army of Luzon for some time, it is believed that after Otis has delivered his next blow, the insurgent army as an organization will have ceased to exist. The new movement will be, it is understood, by a combined land and water attack, though it is not expected that the navy's part in the program will be particularly prominent. Otis has procured 13 of the gunboats formerly owned by the Spanish Government, and these are to play an important part in the development of the campaign.

FROM VIRGINIA SOUTH

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RAILROAD TO BE BEGUN AT ONCE.

The Stockholders Meet and Elect Officers
Col J. S. Cunningham One of the Directors.

Norfolk, Va., March 24.—The stockholders of the North and South Carolina Railroad Company held a meeting in this city to-day and elected the following officers:

President—Colonel H. S. Haines.
Secretary and Treasurer—Adam Tredwell.
General Counsel—Alfred P. Thom.

Directors—Colonel H. S. Haines, W. B. Hatcher, Alfred P. Thom, W. W. Tatem, John N. Vaughan, James A. Lockhart, Colonel J. S. Cunningham, R. B. Tunstall and W. H. Sterling.

The board of directors was authorized to undertake immediately the construction of the first section of the road from Virginia, Va., southward.

THE CRUISER RALEIGH.

Secretary Long Asked to Order Her to Southport.

Washington, March 24.—The people of North Carolina are now anxious to see the Raleigh at Southport, and Secretary Long has been requested to order the ship there. The citizens wish to present her with the remainder of the silver service which the State was to provide.

The application has been referred to Assistant Secretary Allen, and it is probable that it will be granted.

Ex-Representative Bowden, of Norfolk, with some of the citizens of that place, urged upon Secretary Long to-day the propriety of having the alterations to the Raleigh made at the Norfolk Navy Yard. A spirit of rivalry has sprung up between Norfolk, Va., and Portsmouth, N. H., and strong pressure is being brought to bear on the Navy Department from each quarter to have the Raleigh repaired there. After the ship arrives at New York, according to the last orders, and when the demonstration there is over, it will be determined just where she will go.

Rudyard Kipling had a fainting fit yesterday, the result of too much talking and reading. He is now much better.

CHINA'S CRY FOR BREAD

AMERICANS THERE ASK AID FOR SUFFERERS FROM FLOODS.

The Yellow River, "China's Sorrow," Rises and Buries Beneath its Turbid Waves the Food of Millions.

Washington, March 24.—Citizens of the United States residing in Che Foo, China, have made an earnest appeal, through Consul Fowler at Che Foo, to the charitable in America and elsewhere in behalf of the suffering from the appalling Yellow river floods of this year. These floods have been described by the natives as "China's Sorrow," and the petitioners state that never before was the distress so great and heart-rending as now. The most conservative estimates place the number of starving at 2,000,000, and time and the increasing cold weather will undoubtedly augment the distress.

MME. DREYFUS' APPEAL.

Court Rejects it and Orders a Nominal Fine to be Paid.

Paris, March 24.—In the Court of Cassation to-day, M. Ballet de Baupre, President of the Civil Section of the Court of Cassation, read a report recommending the rejection of the application of Madame Dreyfus for the exclusion from the revision inquiry of three judges, Mm. Petit, Crepon and Lepelloiter, who in the early stages of the proceedings, decided unfavorably on a Dreyfus question.

The public prosecutor, M. Manau, recommended that contrary action be taken, formally supporting the granting of the application of Mme. Dreyfus.

After a long deliberation the court decided to reject the application and condemned Mme. Dreyfus to pay a fine of 100 francs.

The filing of Mme. Dreyfus was a formal matter. The civil code dictates that if a request for the exclusion of judges is rejected the applicant must pay a fine, the minimum being 100 francs.

HER FIRST GOVERNOR DIES.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 24.—Hon. Francis Pierpont, the first Governor of West Virginia, died to-night in this city at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. W. H. Siviter, after an illness of several days.