

The Mount Airy News.

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TERRIBLE GULF STORM

Damage on Florida Coast Worst Ever Experienced

Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 26.—The entire water front of St. Petersburg was wiped out by the gulf storm, the worst gale the city has ever experienced, according to a message received by the Times Union tonight from Thomas W. Parkins, of St. Petersburg, deputy license collector of Pinellas county.

Mr. Parkins said he had traveled in an automobile from St. Petersburg to Brooksville in Ford car, only means get wire connections. This city badly damaged and observations coming through county 90 per cent citrus fruit gone. Reports say 10:30 a. m. Passagrille absolutely wiped out. Entire St. Petersburg water front wiped out. All previous storms no comparison. Town in total darkness for at least three days.

Wind Reaches Velocity of 100 Miles an Hour

Fort Myers, Fla., Oct. 26.—The fiercest gale this section has known in several years raged here for 36 hours beginning at midnight Monday and attaining a maximum velocity of 100 miles. Transmission service was prostrated while the property loss for this, Lee county, is expected to total well over a million and a half dollars. Reports from Sanibel and Captiva islands, near here, on which two beach resorts are located, was badly damaged, the casinos, cottages and other buildings being wrecked.

Local railroad officials said this city will be without transportation facilities for three days. The highways out of Fort Myers are almost impassable. The majority of the houses in Punta Rasa were either badly damaged or washed away.

Millions of Dollars Damage, But Little Loss of Life

Lakeland, Fla., Oct. 26.—South Florida spent today in recapitulating the damage, estimated to run well into millions of dollars caused by the gulf hurricane which tore northwardly across the Florida peninsula yesterday at times attaining a velocity of 70 miles an hour, the gale wrought destruction to smaller obstacles in its path but only in a few instances, according to reports, causing a loss of life.

While there have been only three or four isolated cases of deaths from the storm it is feared the clearing away of the debris in Tampa's wrecked portions might add to the list. Of the cities and towns within a radius of 40 miles of Lakeland, that could be reached today, Tampa appears to have suffered the greatest damage. The bay shore drive, residential section from Franklin street to Port Tampa are down, houses with roofs torn away and foundations, weakened from the tidal wave that swept in over the sea wall from Tampa bay, have collapsed, and logs and other debris, swept in on the onrushing waters' crest, now grace what were once the beautiful lawns of the Hyde park section, one of Tampa's most fashionable suburbs. Along the water front large sections of the sea wall were swept away and parts of streets were washed into the bay. Houses immediately adjoining the boulevard were crushed in by the gale.

Sunset beach, a popular resort of Tampa, was completely destroyed. Small houses were torn down and washed away and the white sands on the beach now show no vestige of ever being inhabited.

The downtown section of Tampa was more fortunate than the suburbs, the damage in the city proper being confined to the breaking of plate glass windows, and tearing away of awnings and the unroofing of houses. A warehouse occupied by the Gulf and South Steamship company was destroyed as was part of the Mallory line docks.

Here and there throughout the city are stranded street cars, the victims of the sudden falling of the city's power plant. Telephone and electric light wires dangle in a tangled mass, giving little hope of an early resumption of service.

Conservative estimates place the damage in Tampa at \$3,000,000.

The storm, traveling north, appeared to concentrate its full force on Ybor City, the Latin quarter of Tampa. Nearly 500 houses were wrecked in that section. In the Palmetto beach section approximately four square miles of ground was inundated. Wo-

men and children in this section were rescued by a band of 40 volunteers and carried to safety in the highlands of the city. All the dwellings in the Palmetto section were completely demolished and it is feared that some of the rescuers may have perished, as boats brought into play were swept out from shore and wrecked later, giving mute evidence of their fate.

The anxiety felt for the safety of some 300 hundred students of Southern college at Clearwater beach was relieved this afternoon when messengers reached Tampa stating that all the students were taken across the bay into Clearwater early Tuesday. Fifty automobiles from Clearwater negotiated the long bridge while the storm was breaking. The students and members of the faculty fled with only their immediate possessions. Several of them were taken to Grey Moas inn at Clearwater and it is reported some slight injuries were sustained when that building later was badly damaged. The last automobile to cross the bridge was barely ahead of the tearing away of a long span of the bridge, it is reported.

Reliable communication had not yet been established tonight with Passagrille Manatee, Sarasota, Venice, Bradenton, Palmetto, Terra Ceia, Ellington or any of the towns on the Tampa Southern railroad, a branch line of the Seaboard, extending from Turkey Creek to Sarasota.

Fears for the safety of a trainload of refugees who left Boca Grande early yesterday morning were expressed tonight by officials, of the Charlotte harbor and northern railway at Mulberry. They have been unable to obtain any information from Boca Grande. A relief train was dispatched early this morning but it was halted ten miles north of Boca Grande by a series of washouts.

Five Dead in Tampa and Property Loss Over Million

Tampa, Fla., Oct. 26.—Five persons are known to be dead in this city and St. Petersburg, across Tampa bay, as the result of yesterday's storm, which caused a local property damage estimated at between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000. The storm was the worst that has struck this section since 1841. The 150 residents of Passagrille were saved, though the island was damaged to the extent of approximately \$100,000.

This city's property loss is shared half by the street car, telephone and telegraph companies. About one-fourth of the damage was borne by roads and bridges. The remainder of the estimated loss is widely scattered among buildings, principally among the residential section.

FUTRELL SERVING PRISON SENTENCE

Leader of Mob That Attempted to Storm Goldsboro Jail Gives up Court Fight

Wilson, Oct. 25.—When Superior court convened Monday morning Judge Oliver H. Allen wanted to know what had become of the H. R. Futrell case that was appealed to the Supreme court, and was informed by Clerk J. D. Bardin that Futrell is now in the State Penitentiary serving the sentence imposed by Judge Allen.

Futrell is the man who several months ago shot into the courthouse in Goldsboro in an effort to rescue three negro prisoners from officers of the law when they were about to be put on trial.

The trial was removed from Wayne to Wilson county. The defendant was ably represented by attorneys of the Wayne county bar and representative citizens in great numbers, did everything in their power to have the sentence reduced to a fine and pay the damage done to the court by Futrell and the angry crowd he was leading, but to no effect. The jury found him guilty and Judge Allen sentenced him to serve four years in the State prison.

The seven-year-old ban on the French language in Berlin has been broken. A Chicago opera star has received permission from the German Government to sing the role of Mephisto in French. The rest of the cast will sing in German.

Fires have been burning continuously for more than 130 years near Fort Norman, not far south of the Arctic circle. They feed on great seams of lignite that have ignited spontaneously. Alexander Mackenzie, the explorer, reported them in 1789, and it is likely that they had been burning many years before he saw them.

Red Cross Membership Drive

November brings the annual membership drive of The American Red Cross, that agent of mercy that has reached out its hands in succor to those in need both at home and abroad.

Perhaps some of our readers do not know that 50 per cent, of the \$1.00 per member asked for in the annual membership drive, remains in the treasury of our own county for health work among our own people.

The main work, being done by the National Red Cross at this time, is that of relief work among the wounded soldiers in the government hospitals, so that practically every cent you contribute during this drive will be used to bless suffering humanity in America.

Surry's quota in the membership drive is 1000 members, if Surry responds with 1000 members at \$1.00 each \$500 of that amount goes into the National Red Cross treasury and \$500 will remain in the treasury of the Surry chapter. However if one hundred men in Surry county give \$10.00 each \$5.00 of that amount goes into the National Red Cross treasury, and \$995.00 remains in the treasury of the Surry chapter for work in Surry.

Does it not therefore behoove our people to make large contributions thereby providing liberally for the work in our own county?

Of course you know that the salary of Miss Jones, the Surry county health nurse, and her predecessors was paid by the Red Cross. You also know that these funds were becoming exhausted, and the board of commissioners for the county took over her salary, recently, that left the upkeep of her automobile, which was a gift from the Elkin Red Cross, and all other expenses incidental to her work in the county to be paid out of the money contributed during the drive.

The date for the National Roll Call was set for Nov 11th but owing to the fact that the Woman's club had launched a war memorial campaign for that date the Surry county roll call will begin November 17th and conclude November 24th which is Thanksgiving day.

The Surry Red Cross executive committee is composed of W. G. Sydnor, chairman, Mrs. G. T. Roth, 1st vice, Mrs. J. H. Fulton 2nd vice, and Mrs. J. G. Powell 3rd vice chairman; Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr. secretary; C. C. Creveling, treasurer; Mrs. R. C. Freeman, Mrs. R. E. L. Flippin; J. D. Sargent; and Thomas Fawcett. T. B. McCargo Jr. is chairman of the 1921 roll call for Mount Airy district and Miss Louise Roth chairman for the Elkin district.

The Elkin district takes in the townships of Elkin, Marsh, Rockford, Bryan and Siloam.

Other committee members are Mesdames R. R. Jackson, S. T. Flippin, W. E. Jackson, A. D. Folger, L. W. Beamer, Silas Stone, C. A. Houck, Nat Marion, Miss Loline Payne, Messrs Truelove, C. A. Sebastian, C. W. Williams, Frank Lewellyn, J. S. Patterson.

Many Jobless Men Heading Southward

Thousands of people are leaving the bread lines and soup kitchens of the northern cities and flocking to North Carolina in search of work. Labor Commissioner M. L. Shipman finds, after an investigation into employment conditions in this State. Half of them are foreigners, and most of them are willing to accept most any kind of work at most any kind of wage.

The Salvation Army in Raleigh maintains barracks for the accommodation of stranded men. On several nights that post has been forced to turn away men who sought a night's sleep following their arrival from the north. Conditions are reported to be similar in other large cities of the State.

The commissioner said many of these people are finding employment in the State, employers accepting them because of their willingness to work for a small wage. In the crowd are many skilled workmen, not over one half being of the class which have no particular line.

The Raleigh office of the employment service has received numerous requests from these immigrants for assistance in finding jobs, while some have called with the request for aid in getting farther South. Two Windus called on Mr. Shipman last week and with difficulty explained to him that they had come South in search of work, hearing that jobs could be now found down here.

One man in every 25 in the United States is a coal miner.

WARD SEES LEDOUX CONDUCT HIS SALE

First District Congressman Not Impressed by Auction Sale of Human Beings

Washington, Oct. 25.—Congressman Hallet S. Ward was an interested spectator of the winding up of the affairs of "the stepping stone," the lodging house established here by Urbain Ledoux, the "Mr. Zero" who auctioned off jobless men on Boston Common, but who was forbidden by the Washington police from auctioning off jobless in Washington. He sold the coats and had a tag attached to each pledging the labor of a man with it, and 50 of the jobless were taken care of in that way, persons in Washington taking over the services of the men. Here is Congressman Ward's description of the "auction."

"I have been hearing and reading and seeing pictures of these labor sales that seem to have commenced in Boston and have swept over the cities in their flood tide of Republican prosperity and exclusive Americanism. I saw in the papers here a notice of one of the things to be held at 225 Pennsylvania avenue. I quit everything and went and saw it out with my own eyes. Immense crowd, numbers of young men, many in uniform, standing around in a hall. A preacher and an auctioneer, talking, singing patriotic songs, etc. Presently the man in charge announced that he could not get a city auctioneer on account of pressure brought to bear by the city government. The sale of labor had been regarded as similar to the sale of the man, which was unlawful, so he had fallen upon the plan of selling the fellow's bed by number, with the responsibility to the purchaser to take the fellow that sleeps on it and furnish the young man labor at 30 cents an hour. So 50 beds were sold off to somebody representing some charitable institutions. Tears were seen in many eyes as the leader, a splendid talker commenced, and two policemen stepped to the front and stood in a few steps of him and watched him. Taking the whole thing all up and down and through and around it was the d— thing I ever saw."

Government by Gunmen.

Henry Ford's Weekly.

Evidence multiplies day by day that the anarchy in West Virginia is traceable directly to the displacing of government of, by and for the people by government of, by and for the coal and railroad corporations.

For all the orderly processes of law in a modern democratic community, these corporations seem to have succeeded (in the regions that were in insurrection and controlled by the mine-owners) in substituting the rule of gunmen, of hired thugs and mercenaries, assassins and plug-uglies furnished by a private detective agency and imported from outside the state. In the districts in which the mine-owners play the part of dictators, the local governments are on record as pliant tools of their will and mere auxiliaries of the gunmen.

This on one side of the question. On the other it is charged that similarly anarchistic combinations of working miners inaugurated a reign of lawlessness in the regions that were actually in their hands. Any attempt to apportion blame between the warring interests of mine-owners and mine-workers is entirely beside the great main issue. This is nothing less than the imperative necessity of restoring an American form of government in the state of West Virginia. Now that the legally constituted state authorities have abdicated in favor of the Federal Government, opportunity and duty synchronize. It is high time, indeed, for a decisive cleaning up of the state.

To Find the Best Speller Among N. C. Children

President R. H. Latham, of the State Teachers Assembly, has arranged for a spelling contest in connection with the annual meeting of the assembly November 23, to ascertain the champion speller in the seventh grade, or below, in the public schools of North Carolina.

Each county will be entitled to two representatives. All pupils in the first seven grades, regularly attending the public schools during the present term, will be eligible to choose representatives by means of organized county contests approved by the county school superintendents, the details of the county contests being left to the superintendent. The elimination plan is recommended, beginning with a spelling match in each school, the winners of these school contests to constitute a township contest; the township winners to participate in county contest.

The State spelling contest will be held in the Senate chamber in the capitol on the afternoon of the 23rd. A list of 200 words will be selected from the New World speller, book two, and the contest will be written. Should there be a tie, lists of 25 words additional will be pronounced until the winner is selected.

Definite Plan for Methodist Unification

Detroit, Oct. 25.—A definite plan for uniting the Methodist Episcopal Church, North and South, is to be made immediately preceding the world conference at the Methodist Episcopal church that opens November 14. Announcement that the commission on Methodist unification, composed of representatives of the northern church, would hold a session here to map a program for that purpose, was made today by Bishop Theodore S. Henderson head of the church in Michigan.

When the plan is formulated, Bishop Henderson said, it will be submitted to the unification commission of the Southern church. If unification is effected, Bishop Henderson added, the church would be the largest of the protestant denominations in the country.

Hunter Had a Thrilling Experience With an Elephant

London, Oct. 3.—A good elephant yarn is told by J. Morewood Dowsett, a well-known big game hunter, who has just returned from a hunting trip in South Africa.

He was hunting elephants in Uganda when information was brought him of the whereabouts of a large herd. With a native chief and a house boy, he started to find them.

The party came upon the herd in the forest. Mr. Dowsett got several photographs within 20 yards of the beasts when the chief warned him that they had been "scented" and that the animals were coming for them. Snatching up his rifle Mr. Dowsett shot and killed the big leader, a big bull.

While some surrounded their dead leader, many of the beasts stampeded and, running the wrong way, Mr. Dowsett was cut off from the party. Reloading his gun, the hunter dashed off for safety and ran into a big bull elephant which crashed through the bush six yards in front of him.

Trunk aloft, ears extended and trumpeting wildly, the beast rushed at Mr. Dowsett and swept him to the ground with his trunk and turned rapidly in its own length to trample him.

The hunter took a flying dive under the monster's belly, realizing he would then be on the right side of the wind, but the beast turned rapidly round and again tried to trample him. Instead the animal rolled him over and over with its legs and the hunter saw above him two great tusks as the beast tried to maneuver his body into position and pick him up. Mr. Dowsett managed to roll behind the animal and get to his feet and make a rush for cover.

To the hunter's relief and surprise, the furious beast set off in the opposite direction and disappeared.

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Harding-Wilson, a Contrast

Seven months of the Harding administration enables us to form an estimate of what this administration means to the country, and to compare the present executive with his illustrious predecessor. The first thing worthy of notice is that both men were lied upon most grievously. So fine a paper as the New York Times, led us to believe that Harding was a puppet in the hands of his master, the senate, and that he would meekly obey the orders of his boss. We find that Harding long ago mastered the senate, and compelled it to do his bidding. The senate was bitterly opposed to the appointment of Charles E. Hughes as secretary of state, but Hughes was appointed. The senate hated Herbert Hoover, but Hoover is a member of the cabinet. The senate was determined to pass the soldier's bonus bill, but meekly bowed to the will of the White House and slaughtered the bill. Under the soft and courteous phrases of Harding there is an iron will, and Lodge and Penrose have discovered that they made a mistake, and must take rather than give orders. But the papers in the campaign called Harding a putty man. Wilson has been traduced and slandered as has no other man in the public life of America. It is the shame of the age that any man with pure and lofty motives should have been hounded out of public life. Mr. Harding is not in the same class with Mr. Wilson in mental strength, but he has better judgment than Mr. Wilson. Wilson surrounded himself with small men; Harding with big ones. Harding strives to please, but because of his fine skill, accomplishes what Wilson did by main strength and awkwardness. Wilson by nature was cold and repellent; Harding is attractive, warm hearted and magnetic. Wilson understood perfectly the science of government; Harding understands the science of politics. Wilson could plan better than he could execute; Harding can execute better than he can plan. Wilson won immortality as the creator of a plan to bring about world peace; Harding if his conference is successful, will win world favor by putting across the great dream that was born in Wilson's brain. Both are honest men and sincere patriots. Each is a Christian and not ashamed of it. Wilson maimed himself for life for trying to do the work of 10 men. Harding will let Charles do it and take a game of golf. Both have been shamefully slandered, but the shafts of malice have fallen harmless at their feet—Charity and Children.

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Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the winners of the State contest. Banners for the first, second and third places will be also given and the best speller of grammar grades in the public schools of this State.

Dr. E. C. Brooks, with a committee of three to be selected by him, will be in charge of the contest, and competent disinterested persons will be chosen to select and pronounce words. The State contests, and the many preliminary township and county contests, are expected to revive interest in spelling matches throughout the State and those directing preparations for the annual meeting of the teachers' assembly are expecting the contest to prove among the chief features of the convention.