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GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed into Brief Paragraphs.

Tom Ketchum, better known as "Black Jack," the noted leader of a gang of outlaws that terrorized the southwest for several years, has been convicted of train robbery at Clayton, N. M., the penalty for which in New Mexico is death.

A dispatch from New Orleans says: A trip over the storm-stricken section along the Mississippi river, starting some 80 miles below the city and reaching to the gulf, shows a damage of about \$100,000 to the rice crop. Truck farms, poultry, cattle and other damages will double the amount. The river rose six feet during the storm and flooded the section. The disabled steamer Oteri was towed into Port Eads this evening, all well.

A consolidation of the Southern Cotton Spinners' association and the Hosiery Yarn Spinners' association has been practically concluded. The consolidation will bring together under one organization between 80 and 85 per cent. of the yarn makers of the south. The Hosiery Yarn Spinners' association represents a business of \$10,000,000 and the Cotton Spinners' association a business of more than \$80,000,000 annually.

Ben Rickamore, foreman in the Baltimore & Ohio blacksmith shop at Keyser, W. Va., lost his right arm Saturday afternoon in a large, slowly revolving cog wheel. He was cleaning the wheel when his fingers were caught, and in attempting to extricate them his hand and forearm were crushed. Seeing that death was sure unless he could free himself, he then braced his feet against the machine, and with superhuman strength literally tore his arm off at the shoulder. The wound was dressed, and the nery patient is doing very well.

It is said that Edison has solved the problem on which he has been working for years, of generating electricity direct from coal without the use of an engine or dynamo. Heretofore 90 per cent. of the heating power of coal was lost, while with his process there is practically no loss of heat. A company is now being formed to put his machine upon the market. This achievement, if what it is represented to be, will relegate the steam engine and revolutionize the methods of propulsion. It simply means that everything new propelled by steam will be propelled by electricity. But this is only one of the many things it will do.

Prof. Olin A. Wilson, of the manual training department of the public schools of Chesterfield, Md., was drowned Sunday afternoon, under distressing circumstances. In company with Mr. J. King Wright, Misses Mary and Julia Burchinal and Louise Brown, he went bathing a half mile below Chestertown. After a short time in the water he got beyond his depth and called for help. Mr. Wright went to his assistance, and had almost got the drowning man to a place of safety when Prof. Wilson lost his head and grappled with his rescuer, who only saved his life by diving. The professor then sank, calling for help as he disappeared from sight.

Torpedo Boats.

The average distance of discovery of a torpedo boat by the searchlight from a battleship has been calculated to be 781 yards and the greatest distance 8,000 yards. Thus, taking the distance at which the torpedo can be fired with effect at 500 yards it will be generally found that a torpedo boat will have to cross about 300 yards under fire from the ship she is attacking, and it will take the little craft about half a minute to do this.

Consideration.

Clerk—I have been in your employ now going on five years, and I am getting the same salary I started with.

Proprietor—I know it, but every time that I've made up my mind to cut you down or discharge you something has reminded me of your wife and little ones at home, and so I just couldn't do it. There, my man, you see I have a heart as well as a head.—Chicago News.

The mushroom's life is measured by hours, but it flourishes long enough for an insect to hang its egg on the edge of the "umbrella" and for the egg to become an insect ready to colonize the next "silver button" that pushes up.

Free of Charge.

Any adult suffering from a cold settled on the breast, bronchitis, throat or lung troubles of any nature, who will call at Temple-Marston Drug Co., will be presented with a sample bottle of Boschee's German Syrup, free of charge. Only one bottle given to one person, and none to children without order from parents.

No throat or lung remedy ever had such a sale as Boschee's German Syrup in all parts of the civilized world. Twenty years ago millions of bottles were given away, and your druggists will tell you its success was marvelous. It is really the only Throat and Lung Remedy generally endorsed by physicians. One 75 cent bottle will cure or prove its value. Sold by dealers in all civilized countries.

An Impetuous Resolve.

When little Dickie Swope's a man,
He's goin to be a sailor,
And little Hamey Tincner, he's
A goin to be a tailor;
Bud Mitchell, he's a goin to be
A stylish carriage maker,
As when I grow a grea' big man
I'm goin to be a baker.

An Dick'll buy his sailor suit
Of Hame, an Hame'll take it
An buy as fine a double rig
As ever Bud can make it,
An then all three'll drive rum' fer me,
An we'll drive off together,
A-singin pie crust 'long the road
Ferever an ferever.
—James Whitcomb Riley.

Steel Forks in the White House.

Writing of "One Hundred Years in the White House" and recalling some of the notable entertainments given by our chief executives, Rene Bache in 'The Ladies' Home Journal' says that "President Madison revived much of the formal ceremony which Thomas Jefferson had discarded, and under his administration great attention was given to the state banquets, no expense being spared in making them as fine as possible. President Jackson disliked ceremony even more than did President Jefferson, and, preferring a steel fork himself, he always provided each guest with one silver fork and one of steel. After dinner he smoked a long stemmed cornucop pipe. He wished to throw the doors of the White House wide open to the public, but this idea he was forced to relinquish after the experience of one occasion on which he extended an ill judged hospitality to all comers. The carpet in the east room was ruined by punch which the mob spilled in its eagerness to get at the buckets containing the beverage, the gowns of many ladies were spoiled, and the furniture was broken. At his farewell reception President Jackson introduced a curious novelty in the shape of a gigantic cheese which was cut into pieces and distributed among the guests."

An Aerial Anchorage.

On last bank holiday a fete and gala was held in a country town. A balloon ascent was the chief feature of the day's amusements, and the process of filling the balloon with gas was watched with great interest by a crowd of country bumpkins, one of whom cast his eye upon the grappling iron in perplexity.

"Wot be that, Gollies?" quoth he to a companion.

"Whoy, that be the anchor," answered Giles.

"Anchor!" repeated the first bumpkin in even greater perplexity than before.

"Wot use be an anchor to 'em up in the air? Wot can they anchor 'er to?"

"To the clouds, o' course!" replied Giles in tones expressive of scorn for his mate's ignorance. — London Answers.

APPALLING STORM.

Galveston Overwhelmed by Storm And Tidal Wave. Loss of Life Estimated at 3,000. The City a Complete Wreck. Other Towns Wiped Out.

Houston, Tex., Sept. 9.—The West Indian storm which reached the Gulf coast yesterday morning, wrought a awful havoc in Texas. Reports are conflicting, but it is known that an appalling disaster has befallen the city of Galveston, where it is reported, a thousand or more lives have been blotted out and a tremendous property damage incurred.

The first news to reach this city from the stricken city of Galveston was received tonight. James C. Timmons, who resides in Houston, and who is the general superintendent of the National Compress company, arrived in the city at 8 o'clock from Galveston. He was one of the first to reach here with tidings of the great disaster which has befallen that city, and the magnitude of that disaster remains to be told, because of his endeavors to reach home. After remaining through the hurricane on Saturday, he departed from Galveston on a schooner and came across the bay to Morgan's Point, where he caught a train for Houston. The hurricane, Mr. Timmons said, was the worst ever known. The estimates made by citizens of Galveston was that 4,000 houses, most of them residences, have been destroyed and that at least 1,000 people have been drowned, killed or missing. Some business houses were also destroyed, but most of them stood, though badly damaged.

THE CITY A COMPLETE WRECK.

The city, Mr. Timmons avers, is a complete wreck, so far as he could see from the water front and from the Tremont Hotel. Water was blown over the island by the hurricane, the wind blowing at the rate of 80 miles an hour straight from the Gulf and forcing the sea water before it in big waves. The gale was a steady one, the heart of it striking the city about 5 o'clock yesterday evening, and continuing without intermission until midnight last night, when it abated somewhat, although it continued to blow all night.

The city of Galveston, he said, is now entirely submerged and cut off from communication. The boats are gone, the railroads cannot be operated and the water is so high people cannot walk out by way of the bridge across the bay, even should that bridge be standing. Provisions will be badly needed as a great majority of the people lost all they had. The water-works power house was wrecked and a water famine is threatened, as the cisterns were all ruined by the overflow of salt water. This, Mr. Timmons regards as the most serious problem to be faced now. The city is in darkness, the electric plant having been ruined.

Houston, Texas, Sept. 9.—The relief train has just returned. The party got

no closer than six miles of Virginia Point, where the place was covered with lumber, debris, pianos, trunks and dead bodies. Two hundred corpses were counted from the train.

Nothing can be seen of Galveston. Two men were picked up who floated across to the mainland. They say they estimate the loss of life up to the time they left at 2,000.

Wreck of a Santa Fe Train.

Houston, Texas, Sept. 9.—The Santa Fe train which left here at 7:55 Saturday night, was wrecked at a point two miles north of Alvin. Mrs. Prather, of Rosenberg, Tex., was killed and several were injured. The train was running slowly when it encountered the heavy storm. It is reported that the train was literally lifted from the track. Mrs. Prather was thrown across the car and half way through a window. When the car was reached it was found that her head had been under water and she was drowned.

3,000 LIVES LOST.

Governor Sayers' Report on the Galveston Disaster.

New York, Sept. 9.—The World will print the following:

"Austin, Texas, Sept. 9.—Information has just reached me that about 3,000 lives have been lost at Galveston, with enormous destruction of property. "No information from other points. (Signed) "JOSEPH D. SAYERS, "Governor."

ALVIN WIPED OUT.

Not a House Left Standing in Altiloma.

Houston, Texas, Sept. 9.—Meagre reports are arriving here from the country between Houston and Galveston. Along the line of the Santa Fe road the tornado was the most destructive in the history of the State. The town of Alvin is reported to be practically demolished. Hitchcock has suffered severely from the storm, while the town of Altiloma is reported without a house standing.

[Galveston is situated off the mainland on an island 30 miles long by one and a quarter wide. Four great bridges connect it with the mainland. It is only 18 inches above the sea level. The whole city is under water and relief parties must reach it by ferries and skiffs.]

Sabine Pass Said to Have Been Wiped Out.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 9.—A special from Beaumont, Texas, says it is reported there that the city of Sabine Pass has been almost entirely demolished.

Scenes of Death and Destruction.

New York, Sept. 10.—The World's Austin special says: "Five thousand lives are now thought to have been lost in the West India hurricane. The property damaged at Galveston is placed at \$10,000,000. The destruction of rice and cotton crops amounts to \$5,000,000. Gov. Sayers admits that his estimate telegraphed at midnight of 3,000 dead at Galveston may tell only half the terrible story. At midnight 1,200 bodies had washed ashore on Virginia Point. Steamers laden with water and physicians left Houston at daybreak for Galveston.

Houston, Sept. 10.—Additional particulars of the storm at Galveston show that about 1,500 persons were drowned and \$10,000,000 of property destroyed. Not a building in the city escaped damage. All the bath houses on the beach were destroyed and the attendants drowned. The Seely Hospital was destroyed and most of the patients drowned. The Ball High School and the Rosenberg school are in ruins and many who had taken refuge in them are lost. Eight big steamships in port are wrecked. All three railroad bridges and county bridges are swept away and the keepers and their families drowned. The loss of life is appalling. The entire island was submerged. The water was eight feet on Tremont Avenue, probably the highest point in the city.

Your fall goods are now in or will soon arrive. To sell them they must be properly exploited. Put an advertisement in THE FREE PRESS and let your former patrons and prospective customers know what you have and the inducements you are prepared to offer to secure their fall and winter trade.



That lazy liver of yours needs a whip. Ayer's Pills will stir it without stinging.

All druggists. 25 cents a box.

J. C. AYER COMPANY, Lowell, Mass.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla, Ayer's Pills, Ayer's Hair Vigor, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, Ayer's Ointment

STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items in Condensed Form.

John Lewit, the fat boy of Currituck county, weighs 500 pounds. The report of his death was not true, says The Fisherman and Farmer.

The Lincoln Journal says Will Springs, aged 9 years, was shot and killed at Lowesville last Monday afternoon by Andrew Springs, aged 11. Both were colored.

Columbus News: A colored man by the name of King was killed by lightning one day last week while he was standing near the fire-place. The lightning ran down the chimney, striking him and killing him instantly.

Concord Standard: Mr. Pink Misenheimer tells us of a feat that is hard to beat and he dares you to repeat, in which he got the meat if he didn't choose to eat. On Friday he fired both barrels of his gun at a pestiferous group of English sparrows. He gathered up results to the number of 104 dead birds.

Wilmington Messenger: The Wachovia flouring mills have purchased property at Winston, and will erect a three-story building to be filled up with new machinery and to have bins for holding 25,000 bushels of grain. The new plant will have a capacity of 100 barrels of flour and 500 bushels of corn and will be completed not later than October 15.

A dispatch from Winston Sept. 9th says: The impression prevails here that the negro who assaulted Mrs. Patterson, wife of a prominent farmer in Rockingham county, Thursday has been caught and hanged or shot to death. A man who was out with the searching party was here today, and told officers that there was "no need to hunt for the negro any longer." He gave no particulars, but the officers were led to believe that the negro brute, whose name has not been learned, has paid the penalty of his crime.

Tarboro Southerner: Fire last week broke out in the savannahs on John Cherry's farm and has burned over a mile of the county fence. The soil is so dry that the small roots and fibres burn with ease. Clearing the land of leaves, straw, etc., has no deterrent effect other than delaying the progress of the fire for a short time. The soil of some of this land is like peat and burns readily. The fire often will bury under the ground for a short distance and then come to the surface again. In that section there are hundreds of acres of this savannah land, which is now being burned over. The fire is raging in both this and Martin counties.

Rockingham Anglo-Saxon: Miss Sarah Brady, a young lady who has been employed in one of Mr. Morgan's mills near Laurel Hill, was brought to Rockingham on the train Tuesday night. She was violently insane, and it was with great difficulty that she could be managed at all. She had shredded her clothing en route and gave other evidences of totally dethroned reason. She was carried to jail to await admission to the asylum. Her conversation in her sanest moods showed plainly that the holiness scamps who have been going about the country preaching the monstrous doctrine of sinless perfection and gathering up the loaves and fishes were responsible for her pitiable condition. She told Sheriff Wright that the holiness preachers told her that unless she was sanctified she would go to hell. She was very much calmed when the sheriff told her that the devil was dead—that Judas was the devil and he was hung eighteen hundred years ago.

LaGRANGE ITEMS.

FREE PRESS BUREAU, LaGRANGE, Sept. 10, 1900.

Mr. R. M. Harper has accepted a position with Mess. Williams & Creech.

Mr. Alex Milton McDonald left today to enter as a student at Chapel Hill.

Mr. Frank Garriss has opened a grocery in Dr. Hadley's store on the corner.

Mrs. J. Y. Joyner and family, of Greensboro, are visiting at Mr. T. R. Rouse's.

Mess. G. E. Sutton and R. B. Kinsey will go on the Pipkin excursion tomorrow.

Mr. Haywood Edmundson, of Wilson's Mills, visited at Mr. T. R. Rouse's last week.

Mrs. Julia A. Creech and daughter, Miss Rosa, are visiting Mr. Jno. Taylor at Hookerton.

President Bryan has had a siding put in for the convenience of the tobacco warehouses.

Capt. Ben Webb is here adjusting the new ginney for the LaGrange Manufacturing company.

Mr. Wiley Phelps and family, of Georgia, are here on a visit to his grandfather, Mr. Wiley Gurganus.

Prof. Joseph Kinsey, of Wilson, is here today. We hope the Prof. will come back here to live. We miss him.

When you want a pleasant physic try the new remedy, Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. They are easy to take and pleasant in effect. Price, 25 cents. Samples free at J. E. Hood's drug store.



Photo by Venhoyer, Boston.

THE ALABAMA DURING HER SPEED TRIAL.

The battleship Alabama is the new queen of the navy. During her recent speed trial she steamed an average of 17 knots an hour for four consecutive hours, and she made one spurt of over 18 knots an hour. She is the fastest of Uncle Sam's battleships.