

MARION PROGRESS

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF McDOWELL COUNTY.

ESTABLISHED 1896.

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, AUG. 3, 1916.

VOL. XX—NO. 49

SITUATION IN McDOWELL

Official Statement of Conditions—
Many Families in Need of Assistance—Relief Fund.

Silent suffering summarizes the condition of the people living in flood stricken districts of McDowell County. Careful investigations have been made in several districts by representatives of the Federal and State Departments of Agriculture and by special committees sent out by the McDowell County relief committee. All these reports agree that hundreds of families are in immediate need of food and clothing.

The silence of these people may be accounted for in one of two ways. First, many, true to their nature, are too proud to beg. Second, it has been impossible for any one to visit some of these communities on account of the utter destruction of all trails and roads by the slides that occurred during the flood. As soon as some trails had been opened and the county bridge at Garden City repaired, some hardy travelers made their way into these communities. Soon reports began to reach Marion of the destitution and suffering in hundreds of families.

Relief committees have visited Clear Creek, Buck Creek and North Cove settlements, investigating reported cases of destitution and distributing funds for immediate relief.

Many of these people are suffering not only from a lack of food and clothing but also from exposure during the night of the flood. One or two typical cases will indicate the horror these people underwent and their present distress.

On Clear Creek the family of Robert Johnson lives, consisting of himself, wife, five children and Mrs. Johnson's aged father, a confirmed invalid from cancer. Early Saturday night the family had to leave the house in a hurry and take refuge in the upper story of an outhouse on higher ground. About midnight an awful roar was heard, as if the mountains were falling into the little stream. Then came a mighty landslide, 100 yards in width, beginning at the top of the high mountain. With a roar and a crash it struck a small stream that entered the creek below, jumped a hill 40 feet high and plunged into the creek, bringing with it trees two feet in diameter and huge rocks as large as a bale of cotton. The shock of the river as it was dashed from its bed by the slide knocked one of the Johnson children from the house in which they had taken refuge. All then fled to the top of the mountain where they spent the remainder of the night in a downpour of rain, the grandfather and five children lying on the ground, their only shelter being a quilt hastily snatched by the anxious mother as she fled with her baby. The family were nearly frozen before daylight made it possible to build a fire. Everything they possessed was destroyed.

Over in North Cove possibly the greatest destruction of life and property occurred. Four lives were lost, sixteen houses, horses, cattle, hogs and other property too numerous to mention. One little child lay in a drift for eight hours before anxious and frantic parents

could find it. Two other children in this family were lost. Many families in this community are in absolute need. The good neighbors are doing all they can for those in want, but very little food was left. A typical case was reported by the committee. A hungry man came to the home of M. C. Caldwell and asked for corn. Caldwell turned to his boys and said: "Boys shell five bushels for our own use and then open the crib to any and all who are in need." Others have done the same but this liberality is limited by the small amount of food that escaped the flood. The greatest need of this community is a road to Marion and bridges across the streams. The only way to reach Marion is by walking a distance of 20 miles over almost impassable trails.

Crooked creek and other communities are being investigated today. This investigation will continue until every section has been visited. The report of the government survey made by its representatives will show a 75 per cent. loss of present crops in all flood stricken districts and a permanent loss in hundreds of farms.

The county as a whole is suffering from the complete destruction of all bridges and nearly all roads. There is no approximate estimate of the time and of the cost necessary to open up the roads. The loss in taxes due to the complete destruction of so many valuable farms and of all crops will hinder the county officials to a great extent in their efforts to rebuild roads and bridges. Government aid to reopen these roads would do more than any other one thing to restore normal conditions.

One destitute renter was requested to furnish a team for hauling supplies needed in some repair work. He found that it would cost him \$200 to get his team where it could be used. Many such cases have been reported.

The health conditions are being looked after with all available skill. Dr. Applegate, the Southern's chief surgeon; Dr. Rankin, secretary of the state, board of health, and the local authorities have examined all the construction camps and the health conditions in general.

The above is a careful and conservative summing of the reliable reports secured by the McDowell county relief committee. There has been no exaggeration of the conditions as reported in the daily papers. Millard F. Tate said today the biggest liar in the county could not exaggerate the conditions. It would be difficult for any one to imagine conditions as they exist here in this county.

All outside help will be gratefully received and intelligently distributed.

J. W. PLESS, Chairman,
I. C. GRIFFIN, Secretary,
McDowell County Relief Com.

McDowell County Relief Fund.

As early as reports reached here from remote sections in the county, it was found that a number of lives were lost by the flood and many people were homeless, hungry and suffering. A large fund has been raised in the State for relief of flood sections and last week Mr. Britton of Raleigh, Chairman of the State Relief Fund, wired Mr.

Pless to draw on him for \$500.00 and again Sunday morning Mr. Pless received further wire authorizing him to draw for another thousand dollars. A committee was organized, composed of George I. White, J. Q. Gilkey, I. C. Griffin, B. B. Price, J. H. Tate, Rev. L. D. Thompson and J. W. Pless to receive this money and dispense it. It was organized with Mr. Pless as Chairman and Prof. Griffin as Secretary. The committee at once circulated a subscription paper and received the following amounts:

First National Bank, \$100; Merchants & Farmers Bank, \$50; J. Q. Gilkey, \$200; B. B. Price, \$25; J. W. Pless, \$25; W. M. Goodson, \$25; A. Blanton, \$100; J. W. Streetman, \$5; J. A. Laughridge, \$5; J. W. Winborne, \$5; S. E. Whitten, \$2; P. A. Reid & Co., \$5; G. W. Giles, \$5; Marion Pharmacy, \$5; W. H. Hawkins, \$5; R. L. C. Gibson, \$5; Cash, \$5; D. E. Hudgins, \$25; W. T. Morgan, \$25; Mr. Kirkpatrick, \$2.50; R. A. Cooper, \$10; Marion Mfg. Co., \$50; Clinchfield Mfg. Co., \$50; W. M. McNairy, \$2.50; Payne & Decker Co., \$10; Mrs. W. B. Ratliffe, \$1; Miss Jessie Ratliffe, \$4; Saunders & Bowman, \$1; D. R. Geer, \$2; W. B. Ratliffe, \$1; W. H. McMahan, \$5; A. W. Grayson, \$1; R. S. Clay, \$1; M. J. Hoover, \$1; Joe Williams, \$1; Peerless Store, merchandise, \$5; Miss Laura Merrill, \$1; Misses Davis, \$5; Cash, \$2; Pomona Terra Cotta Co., \$25; T. F. Wrenn, \$25; J. P. Wenchel, \$5; Beaman Lumber Co., \$5; J. R. Davis, \$5; R. J. Noyes, \$2.50; J. J. Fritz, \$5; Gaston & Tate, \$10.

The people of the County are invited to make such additional subscriptions as they will to relieve the great suffering in the county. There is not only immediate suffering, but there will be much more suffering during the winter. Donations may be sent to the Treasurer, Geo. I. White, or delivered to the office of the Progress, or handed to any member of the committee. The committee also greatly desires that all reports as to suffering where financial aid is needed be made to any member of the committee, or to Mr. W. R. Bailey, the Farm Demonstrator, who is in the County dispensing funds and rendering advice and assistance as to rebuilding of farms. We desire to help all needy people. The people of the State have been very generous and the committee feels that it has a very great responsibility and large work to do in properly distributing this fund, and we ask all citizens to aid us with information so that we may deal with the fund as wisely as conditions will permit.

Arrangements have been made through Mr. Bailey to obtain seeds of various kind for fall planting and we will later make additional statement as to how and where they may be obtained by those who need such assistance.

J. W. PLESS, Chairman
McDowell County Relief Com.

Forest fires raging in northern Ontario are believed tonight to have resulted in the loss of from 150 to 200 lives. Other scores of persons have been injured and it is feared many of them may die. Several small towns have been wiped out by flames.

Child's Body Found Sunday.

The body of a child apparently about two years of age, was found in drift wood on the bank of the Catawba river early Sunday morning and promptly reported to Sheriff Laughridge. Men were dispatched to the scene of the discovery, which was only a short distance below the point where the North Fork empties into the Catawba, and the body was interred at Murphy's Chapel. While it is supposed to be Mr. Bulow Gillespie's child, of North Cove, one of the victims of the flood of two weeks ago, it could not be identified with any degree of positiveness.

The body was in a bad state of decomposition and efforts to communicate with Mr. Gillespie having failed, the interment was made Sunday. It is probable that the child may be identified by a piece of clothing found with the body. The garment has been sent to Mr. Gillespie.

The Gillespie child was drowned on North Fork July 15 when the Gillespie family were driven from their home by the high waters. In attempting to cross to a point of safety with the child in his arms Mr. Gillespie was knocked down by the swift current of the stream and the child was lost.

Promising Pasture Plants.

W. R. Bailey, Farm Demonstrator.

Sweet clover and bermuda are very promising pasture plants for McDowell. The two will not combine well since bermuda is a sun-loving plant and would be shaded by the rank growing clover. But each could be combined with other plants and thus have two distinct pasture systems. Bermuda, bur clover, trefoil rescue grass, narrow leaved vetch, white and Japan clover would make a good combination. Sweet clover is so very vigorous from early spring to late fall that it seems to need no running mate. It is a general principle that a combination of a grass and a legume will give more hay and pasture than either alone. Possibly later a suitable grass will be found to go with sweet clover. If we believe half that we see and hear of this clover all of us will be planting it freely soon. One point worthy of note is that with either of the systems one will always have a legume to make the soil rich so the grasses will grow well. The combination of alsike, red and sapling clovers and orchard, herds, timothy and rye grasses, so often recommended, will, as a rule, have clover for a few years only. But sweet, bur and Japan clover and trefoil reseed and continue to come back.

C. M. Hall and A. W. Hogan of Sugar Hill have tried out Dallas grass and speak well of it. When once well established it spreads rapidly and never needs re-seeding, tho it does not become a pest in this climate. It is good for both hay and pasture. Progressive farmers who fear bermuda would do well to give this a trial. In the dairy districts of Australia it is considered the "sheet anchor of the dairy farm."

Coniferous timber has been found to be better suited than any other for the production of ethyl alcohol.

STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

The relief fund for the flood sufferers in western North Carolina being collected by the state relief committee has passed \$28,000.

Regular train service on the main line of the Southern Railway between Washington and Atlanta was resumed Monday with the completion of a new bridge over the Catawba river at Belmont, N. C.

Unless some bad luck is met with it is expected to run trains across the Catawba river on the Western road Thursday or Friday of this week. The trains will be run over the temporary bridge being constructed there.

At the meeting of the State Relief Executive committee held in Raleigh Monday one thousand dollars was directed to be put into seed, that the farmers in the flood section of Western North Carolina might have opportunity to make a start for raising new crops.

Mr. R. L. Huffman of Morganton says that the Burke county commissioners have decided to rebuild the seven bridges destroyed by the flood and that work will begin as soon as material can arrive. The county will spend \$100,000, and all the structures will be high water affairs though erected on the old locations.

Scotland county farmers have lost approximately one-half of this year's cantaloupe crop as a result of the continuous heavy rains, which have fallen almost daily for more than a week. This means a loss of about \$150,000. Hundreds of car loads of the Scotland Gem, Scotland's Pride and other varieties have either rotted in the fields or have been dumped into hog pastures.

Rutherford County Losses Are \$600,000.

Caroleen, July 29.—A low estimate of the losses sustained in Rutherford County by the great freshet is about \$600,000. The estimate does not include damage to railroads, telegraph lines, growing crops and the devastation along the lowlands. Citizens have gone earnestly to the work of repair, with determination to build higher and stronger. This wealthy and progressive county will not long remain in a state of mourning. The Southern Power Company now has a force here and some time in August there will be electricity again.

Another Clash With Bandits—Two Americans Killed.

Two Americans were killed and one wounded in a clash with Mexican bandits who had crossed the Rio Grande 50 miles below Fort Hancock, Texas, early Monday. There were five bandits in the party.

Private John Twoney, troop F, Eighth United States cavalry, and Robert Woods, United States customs inspector, were killed. Sergeant Lewis Thompson, troop F, was seriously wounded.

Reports to General Bell, commanding the El Paso military district, indicated the bandits had been killed.