

# Chatham Observer.

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## A MARCH BLIZZARD

Sweeps Down On the Western States  
Bringing Deep Snow

### RAILROAD BUSINESS PARALYZED.

Telegraph Wires Down and Trains  
Unable to Plough Through Drifts  
of Snow.

St. Paul, Special.—North Dakota and the Canadian Northwest have experienced the worst snow storm in many years and railroad traffic is practically paralyzed. The Northern Pacific and Great Northern have not moved a wheel for nearly 26 hours in the blizzard-stricken district, and have abandoned all efforts to do so until the fury of the storm shall abate. The high winds has piled the snow in the mountains, and packed it in solid masses, many deep cuts being entirely filled. The temperature has been gradually falling and is now at or below the zero mark. Not a transcontinental train has arrived at St. Paul since Friday, and none is expected for several days. The Northern Pacific reports its westbound coast trains which left St. Paul Saturday morning, tied up at Fargo, the road beyond there being blocked.

Every effort is being made by the road to keep its passengers who are snow-bound warm and well fed, and for this reason trains are being held at stations where the accommodations are good, rather than attempt to get them through with a possibility of being tied up between stations. The valley division of the Northern Pacific between Frankfort and Winnipeg is entirely abandoned. No trains have attempted to run since Friday night and exact conditions on this division are not known by the general officers here, as the telegraph wires have been carried down by the burden of sleet that preceded the heavy snowfall.

The situation on the Great Northern is equally as bad. The line is tied up entirely between Grand Forks and Williston, N. D., a distance of about 25 miles, and all wires have been lost beyond Fargo. All communication with western Dakota and Montana points has been lost. So fierce has been the storm that it has been inadvisable to attempt to re-open the road until it abates. Reports received at the general offices indicate that the gale has somewhat subsided, but that the snow still continues to fall. The branch of the Great Northern running to Winnipeg is also tied up. No trains have been started northward since Friday night, and those that were caught out on the road by the storm have been held at the stations near the border.

Winnipeg is reported to be entirely cut off from railroad communication with the outside world. The Canadian Pacific transcontinental trains are snow-bound somewhere west of there, and no prospect of relief is yet in sight.

The storm started on Friday, being preceded by a light rainfall and accompanied by high winds. The rain soon turned to sleet and then to snow and this has fallen without cessation for more than 26 hours. The terrific gale drifted the snow badly and it is next to impossible to wade through the streets. Business of all kinds has been at a standstill since Friday night. So far as known there has been no loss of life, but owing to the demoralized condition of the wires late news has not been received from the remote districts. The farmers had the advent of the snow with delight, as the ground has been very dry, and this abundance of moisture will put it in excellent shape for the spring seed.

### A Georgia Cyclone.

Macon, Ga., Special.—A cyclone swept across the corner of Monroe, Upson and Crawford counties Sunday and a messenger who came from there reports that Cicero Tharpe's handsome residence was blown down and scattered about the plantation and one of the negro tenants was killed outright and a number of negro families rendered homeless. The track of the storm was by Moran's Mill to Montpelier Springs, and the same report is to the effect that Montpelier Springs, an old college settlement, was destroyed, two big brick houses and a frame dwelling being demolished and the families occupying them rendered homeless.

### Flood Warnings.

Knoxville, Tenn., Special.—Flood warnings issued here predict a rise in the Tennessee river of from 12 to 15 feet Monday. The warnings were of the Tennessee river, which is controlled by the United States Weather Bureau. The system has been established only recently and it is thought will save thousands of dollars to property owners.

## SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL

New Enterprises That Are Enriching  
Our Favored Section.  
The South's Iron Interest.

### Manufacturer's Record.

The consumption of iron, which is now running at about the rate of 18,000,000 tons a year, is so staggering that it is difficult to fully grasp the fact that this growth is permanent. It is altogether probable that we shall again see much lower prices in iron than at present, as it would not be natural to expect an unbroken record of the phenomenal activity which now pervades the iron and steel industry; but we have probably reached a period where the consumption of iron and steel will expand as rapidly as the productive capacity of the country. We may have temporary fullness, as in the past, but the increasing uses of iron in fireproof construction, which must come about in the better class of dwellings, as in office buildings; the vast extension—now a necessity—in the terminal facilities of the railroads of the country, and in the improvement of roadbed and rolling stock to meet the heavier traffic, are all factors in augmenting the consumption of iron even beyond the 18,000,000 tons which we have reached. In the light of the growing power of iron and steel, it is of more than sectional interest that the South has passed the speculative period in this industry, and is now in position, by virtue of the improvements which have been made and the new capital which has been secured during the last few years, to reap the benefit of a very active and sound extension of its iron interests. The experimental, and to a large extent speculative, condition which so long prevailed in the Southern iron trade, to the great detriment of its legitimate advancement, has passed away. One by one the leading iron companies of the South have been putting their plants in a high state of efficiency, enlarging their furnaces, improving their facilities for mining ore and making coke, and thus getting on a basis for lower cost of production, which, when lower prices come, will enable them to continue in profitable operation without the troubles which hampered so many of them in times past. With all its advantages for ironmaking, the South made comparatively little progress in this industry between 1890 and 1900. This was due in part to lack of adequate capital and experience, and in part to many cases of thoroughly bad, even if not knowingly corrupt, mismanagement, the evil influence of which directly and indirectly injured the iron trade of the whole South. It is since about 1900 that the South's iron interests have been getting into better shape, and henceforth the development of this industry promises to be more nearly commensurate with the advantages of this section than has been the case in the past. The outlook is altogether cheering.

### A \$300,000 Additional Capital.

A dispatch from Spartanburg, S. C., announces an extensive addition to be made by the D. E. Converse Co. of Clendale, S. C. It states that the directors definitely decided at a meeting in Spartanburg on March 1 to erect a No. 2 mill, which will have an equipment of 15,222 spindles and 464 looms. The production will be high-grade cloth. Structures to accommodate the machinery will be 100x180 feet in size. The capitalization of the No. 2 plant will be \$300,000. A. H. Twichell is president and treasurer.

### Erecting Weaving Addition.

Mention was made recently of an increase of capital stock from \$50,000 to \$200,000 by the Anchor Mills of Huntersville, N. C. It has been ascertained now that extensive improvements have been commenced by the company preparatory to adding weaving to its operations. An addition two stories high 75x200 feet, is being erected, and in it will be installed the looms necessary (probably 140) to consume the product of the company's 4100 spindles. Possibly other betterments will also be made.

### Textile Notes.

Jonesville (S. C.) Cotton Mills has increased capital stock from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Tucapan (S. C.) Mills Co. has added seventy-four looms, increasing its total to 839; plant has 28,000 spindles.

J. F. Williams of Shelby, N. C., has admitted E. A. Wetman to a half-interest in his hosiery mill, and the plant will be enlarged.

Gonzales (Texas) Cotton Mills will increase capital from \$125,000 to \$150,000. The company's 500-spindle and 100-loom mill was completed recently.

W. M. Hagood of Easley, S. C., is organizing a company, with capital stock of \$200,000, to build cotton factory. About \$60,000 has been subscribed.

It is reported that Sumpter Cogswell of Pell City, Ala., has completed arrangements for the erection of a \$1,000,000 cotton mill by New England and local capitalists.

Mesars. W. R. Lloyd, T. J. Hogan, John Lloyd and W. E. Lindsay of Chapel Hill, N. C., have incorporated Blanche Hosiery Mills Co., with capital stock of \$65,000, and privilege of increase to \$15,000.

## 20 PEOPLE DROWNED

Terrible Disaster on a River Boat.  
Only Nine Persons Escaped

### WHILE THE LITTLE STEAMER WAS

Entering Lake Palmyra a Sudden Squall Struck Her, Almost Lifting Her Out of the Water and Turning Her Bottom Upward.

Vicksburg, Miss., Special.—The steamer Providence, plying between this port and Lake Palmyra, was overturned at 2 o'clock Wednesday morning by a sudden squall at lone landing and 29 of her passengers and crew were drowned. The dead: Capt. Cassidy, of Vicksburg; Chas. Roup, of Vicksburg; Clyde Scott, of Vicksburg, cotton seed buyer; Dr. N. A. Lancaster, a prominent physician and planter of the Palmyra neighborhood; 17 colored roustabouts and deck passengers whose names have not been reported.

The ill-fated boat left here at noon Tuesday on her regular trip, carrying a large miscellaneous cargo of freight and a number of passengers. At 2 o'clock, as the steamer was entering Lake Palmyra, a sudden storm of cyclonic proportion came out of the west, catching the Providence broadside on. The little vessel was lifted almost entirely out of the water, her upper works blown away and her hull turned bottom side up in 40 feet of water. The victims were drowned like rats in a trap. Only nine of the entire-boat's company were saved. The property loss will amount to several thousand dollars. Messrs. Cassidy, Scott, Roup and Lancaster were all married men and leave large families. A steamer carrying coals and divers left here for the scene immediately and will attempt to recover all the bodies.

Those rescued were J. B. Johnson, pilot; Walter Kain, clerk; J. M. Wilkinson, mate; eight negroes. The survivors reached here late this afternoon coming overland, a distance of about 40 miles. The Providence was built at Lyons, La., in 1886, and had been in the trade here for some years. She was about 120 tons burden and was considered one of the fastest stern-wheelers on the lower river.

The Belle of the Bends is overdue from Greenville, but other boats moved on time.

### Ex-Governor Altgeld Dead.

Joliet, Ill., Special.—Former Governor John P. Altgeld died in room 58, Hotel Munroe, Wednesday morning at 7:09 o'clock. He had been unconscious since midnight.

### \$50,000,000 in Bonds.

Philadelphia, Special.—The board of directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad at a meeting authorized the issue of \$50,000,000 of convertible 19-year 3-1-2 per cent. debentures. The resolution adopted was in part as follows: "Resolved, That for the purpose, first, for the purchase of 19,000 additional 50-ton steel cars and 250 locomotives required, as stated in the annual report, the increase of traffic of the company, at an estimated cost of \$24,000,000, and, second, for the construction of the tunnel extension of the company's system into the city of New York and the purchase of the real estate required for the passenger station, the expenditures for which purpose for the years 1902 and 1903 are estimated at \$20,000,000."

The bonds referred to are an issue of \$50,000,000 gold bonds of the company of the denomination of \$1,000 and \$500 respectively, bearing date November 1, 1902, running for ten years therefrom with interest at the rate of 3-1-2 per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, free of taxes.

### Col. Lowery President.

New York, Special.—At the quarterly meeting of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Gen. Thomas T. Eckert was elected chairman of the board of directors and Col. R. C. Clowry, now vice president and general superintendent of the Western division at Chicago, was elected president and general manager of the company.

### Telegraphic Briefs.

The Amalgamated Association, in the Wheeling district will not make any new demand on the bar iron wage scale.

Attorney General Sheets, of Ohio, began the prosecution of the Eastern Consolidated Oil Company, of Maine, under the Foreign Corporation act.

It was learned Thursday that C. W. White, a prominent attorney and father of C. W. White, of St. Louis, was cremated in the debris of the Southern Pacific wreck near Sanderson last week. White was an aged man, on his way from Mobile to Washington State and his name did not appear on the casualty list.

## IN CONGRESS.

Detailed Doings of Our National Law-makers.

### HOUSE.

47th day.—The House closed the debate upon the post-office appropriation bill and completed consideration of twelve of the twenty-seven pages. No amendments were adopted. The principal portion of the general debate was devoted to the discussion of the appropriation for special mail facilities. Mr. Crumpacker, of Indiana, opened the debate on this topic. The Southern Railway, which received the subsidy between Washington and New Orleans, he said, now received \$669 per mile in regular mail pay against \$335 when the subsidy was inaugurated in 1893. He contended that the road could not afford to withdraw its fast train if the subsidy was withdrawn. Mr. Underwood, of Alabama, defended the subsidy to the Southern Railway on the ground that it was absolutely necessary to give the South quick mail facilities. The whole South, he said, was benefited by the extra train run in return for this appropriation.

75th day.—The House passed the postoffice appropriation bill. The only amendment of importance was one to incorporate in the bill the provisions of the bill to classify the rural free delivery service, passed a few days ago. Mr. Crumpacker, of Indiana, moved to strike out the appropriation of \$142,728 for the special fast mail facilities from Washington to New Orleans. His motion was lost, 36 to 56.

### SENATE.

74th day.—The Senate resumed consideration of the ship subsidy measure and Mr. Berry, of Kansas, a member of the commerce committee, which reported the bill, made a vigorous argument in opposition to it. He charged that it would foster trusts and monopolies in the shipping industry and that already J. Pierpont Morgan and his associates were forming a syndicate for the control of the shipping on the Atlantic. In this connection, he became involved in a colloquy with Mr. Hanna, of Ohio, who maintained that the ships secured by Mr. Morgan from foreign countries could not participate in the subsidies provided by the pending measure.

Mr. Perkins, of California, another member of the commerce committee, read a carefully-prepared speech in support of the bill maintaining that it would add to the prosperity of the entire country.

76th day.—Throughout the session of the Senate, the ship subsidy bill was under consideration. The measure was discussed by Mr. Furaker, of Ohio; Mr. McLaurin, of Mississippi; and Mr. Harris, of Kansas. Mr. Foraker supported the bill, although he admitted that he would have preferred to build up the American merchant marine by the levying of discriminating duties. He was willing, however, to defer to the judgment of the majority that the pending measure embodied the better plan. While Mr. Foraker was discussing the mail routes to be established under the pending bill, Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, insisted that the measure should specify what routes should be established, that no such important question should be left to the Postmaster General. Mr. Foraker stated that he would prefer such a course, but Mr. Hanna suggested that the ship owners ought to have something to say upon that subject, as it would not be just to provide routes that could not be operated at a profit. Mr. Foraker asserted that the International Navigation Company—the American line—had made no money by carrying the mails, under the postal subsidy act, and did not care for a renewal of its contract.

Mr. McLaurin, of Mississippi, followed Mr. Foraker. He was opposed not only to the bill, he said, but to the principles it represented. He said there had been no decadence in ship building in the United States, all reports tending to show that that industry is now experiencing a boom such as it has not had in 50 years. He attacked the proposed United States Ship-Building Company, and called it a combination formed for the purpose of employing labor as economically as possible.

### Methodist Missionary Work.

Chattanooga, Special.—The conference of missionary workers of the M. E. Church, South, closed Thursday. The conference today decided to raise sufficient funds to support five additional missionaries in Corea. It was stated that \$5,000 annually will be required and \$3,050 of this was pledged. A committee consisting of Drs. Lambuth, Pritchett and Reid, was appointed to raise the additional \$1,450. Centenary church, Chattanooga, will support one of these missionaries.

### The Boston Strike Ended.

Boston, Special.—Through the efforts of the representatives of the great mercantile bodies of the cities, seconded by the chief executive of cities and State, in conference with the recognized leaders of organized labor the great strike of freight handlers and kindred trades represented in the allied freight transportation council was broken. Fully 20,000 men who have been idle for four days will go to work in the morning. This result was attained at a conference this evening at the office of Governor Crane.

## WILCOX ARRAIGNED.

The Grand Jury Finds a True Bill and He Stands For Trial.

### FOR THE MURDER OF MISS CROSEY

Prisoner Pleads Not Guilty—Venue of 250 Jurors Drawn—Another Chapter in Famous Case.

A Tuesday special to the Charlotte Observer from Elizabeth City; N. C., says:

"The grand jury has found a true bill against James Wilcox. The report was made at 12:15 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. The jurors came into the court room escorted by an officer and with all the dignity and solemnity due the occasion turned over the bill of indictment to Judge Jones, the foreman said: 'This is what we find.'"

The court ordered the prisoner brought into court after dinner at 2 o'clock, so that he might be arraigned. The order was obeyed and at the hour set James Wilcox, accompanied by his father and Deputy Sheriff Reed, marched into the bar. The court house was well filled with people and every eye turned to gaze upon the prisoner.

Wilcox is a very ordinary-looking, compactly-built man of about 28 years. His shoulders are broad for a man of his size, and his head is large and is the most striking part of his person. It is bulky, square and heavy. His hair was neatly trimmed and his face clean-shaven. His general appearance about the face is that of a courageous, determined, bull dog. He did not as much as allow the muscles of his face to relax while in the court house. In fact he appeared to be troubled and the least bit restless. He was carefully, but plainly dressed. His hair was parted in the middle and a flat, smooth curl lay on his forehead just beneath the "part."

The solicitor, George W. Ward, asked Wilcox to stand and lift his right hand. He obeyed promptly and the plea of "not guilty" was entered by his leading attorney, E. F. Adyett. The bill of indictment reads as follows:

"The State of North Carolina, Pasquotank County Superior Court, March Term, 1902. The jurors for the State upon their oaths present that James Wilcox, late of the said county and State, on the 20th day of November, 1901, with force and arms in the county of Pasquotank in said State, feloniously, wilfully and with malice aforethought, did kill and murder Ella M. Crosey, against the statute in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State."

After the plea of not guilty was made Mr. Adyett said that his client would be tried by his God and his country. The State asked that a special venire of 200 be drawn. The defense insisted on 250, which were drawn from the boxes by a boy, William Youngs, under ten years old.

This case promises a lively contest. The prosecution and the defense are alert and will fight every inch of ground. Adyett asked the judge to make a note to the effect that the defense objected to the box from which the jurors were drawn, claiming that it had not been revised within the last two years as the law provides. The venire was made returnable Thursday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, when the trial will begin. When the venire was drawn Wilcox was returned to jail.

### News in Paragraphs.

A Philadelphia dispatch says: "Rear Admiral W. S. Schley, accompanied by his wife, arrived here Monday afternoon from Washington and he was rendered a reception by the Pennsylvania Club."

The cancellation of King Edward's visit to Ireland is believed to mean that many arrests for political offenses are to be made.

A London dispatch says: "One hundred and fifty bales of cotton and 160 bales of cotton seed meal in the cargo of the British steamer Mora, Capt. Harris, which arrived from Savannah, at Bremen, for Hamburg, were badly damaged by fire and water."

### Prince Henry Sails Home.

New York, Special.—Prince Henry sailed for Germany on board the Hamburg-American liner Deutschland Tuesday afternoon. His last day in America was spent entirely on board the Deutschland, but it was well filled with pleasing incidents. The Prince's apartments on the Deutschland include the captain's cabinet and three adjoining rooms, especially prepared for the use of His Royal Highness. The social ball on the Deutschland was beautifully decorated with flowers and there was a profusion of them in the Prince's suit of rooms. The company had also tastefully decorated the pier.

## KILLED BY A BLOW.

Coroner Testifies in the Crosey Case.

Elizabeth City, Special to Charlotte Observer.—The Wilcox trial is well under way. The jurors have been selected and the witnesses are being heard. The defense has done well in choosing the jurymen. Nine of the twelve are intelligent-looking young men. Several of them seem to be of the same social position as the prisoner. The negroes, two of them, are of the ante-bellum type, each being between 50 and 60 years old. They are honest, good-looking, full-blooded Africans. Pendleton Bright, the twelfth juror, does not appear to be a man of much intelligence. He is young and intelligent-looking. The jury is in charge of Deputy Sheriff L. J. Pritchard.

The court house was well filled at an early hour Thursday. Many women were within the bar. The crowd was good humored. Dr. I. Fearing, coroner of the county, was the first witness called. He said: "I am a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore. Have been coroner three years and have held two post-mortem examinations. One was held on the body of Miss Nellie Crosey just after Christmas day, on the 23d of December."

"I found the body in Pasquotank river 50 yards from the Crosey residence, about 25 yards to the right of the house, looking to the river. The body had been tied down by Mr. Stillman, the fisherman who found it. It was carried to a little out-house near the river. Drs. J. E. Wood, O. McMullan and myself held the autopsy. It was begun after the body had been out of the water an hour. The two doctors, myself and six jurors were present. We first examined the clothing to see if there were any marks of violence. The skirt was of dark goods and the waist red. She wore a slipper on one foot, the right, and nothing but a socking on the other. I found the clothing in fair condition. There were no torn, marks. The fingers were partially drawn and the limbs were limp. I did not examine the finger nails. While in the water the legs hung loosely. They were not stiff at all. We removed all the clothing from the body except the stockings. We first cut the body from the pit of the stomach to below the naval. We examined the vaginal organs and found them to be those of a virgin. The womb was normal. The condition of the breasts and the womb indicated that she was a pure woman. We found the intestines and stomach normal. The heart was empty on both sides. We cut off a piece of the right lung and found that on being squeezed it emitted a small amount of frothy mucus. Nothing was found in the pleura.

"The neck was all right except a mark or depression caused by the collar. We examined the head and noticed that it was a little more swollen on the left than on the right side. We cut there, but after going up town and seeing the solicitor we went back and held an autopsy of the head. There we made an incision around the head, beginning on the right side, and removed the scalp. The skull was left bare. As we cut through the left temple we saw a swelling of contusion. We found in the swollen place, which was about 2 1/2 inches in size, a tablespoonful of clot, red blood. The membrane over the bone was colored dark blue. The condition there was brought about by a blow."

The defense objected to a question that brought out the last assertion and the court ruled that it was competent that the witness was a medical expert. The defense entered an exception but the court stood firm and the examination continued.

The witness continued: "The blow was given by some round, padded instrument. Such a blow would produce unconsciousness which would likely last half an hour."

"The absence of water in the stomach, lungs and the pleural cavity would indicate that death was not caused by drowning. If Miss Crosey had got in the water alive and conscious and drowned, the water would have been in these. Along with the water would have been digested or undigested food in the stomach and blood and froth in the lungs. If I had found these conditions I would have said she went in the water conscious."

### Death of General David Stanley.

Washington, Special.—Major General David S. Stanley, U. S. A., was a notable figure in many campaigns and a corps commander, died at his residence here, aged 73 years, of chronic Bright's disease. He was president of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland for four years was commander of the National Soldiers' Home, in this city.

### Census Report on Tobacco.

Washington, Special.—The Census Bureau has completed the preliminary tables showing the acreage, production and value of tobacco grown in 1899 in the North Atlantic and Western States. In the pine North Atlantic States there were 17,872 farms reporting tobacco. They cultivated in 1899 53,783 acres tobacco and realized a total of 179,377,234 pounds of a value of \$3,233,051. In the eleven Western States there were only 113 farms growing tobacco, with total acreage of 62, producing 31,300 pounds of a value of \$5,716.