

THE WORST IS OVER

Great Danger From Waters in Paris is Passed.

EXPLANATION OF THE FLOODS

Little Fear of Predicted Disaster to the Great City—Conditions Are Improving Everywhere.

Paris, By Cable.—Slowly, very slowly, the swollen waters of the Seine, which reached the high mark at 2 o'clock last Saturday morning, are subsiding and at midnight the fall measured about four and a half inches.

The danger of some great calamity, such as has been predicted now seems over, although the situation continues to be critical at many points within the city.

The effect of the removal of the water pressure has been to weaken foundations generally and this causes the greatest anxiety.

It is generally believed that the breaking of the dam at Gonnevilliers appreciably hastened the climax by releasing an immense amount of water, but the consequences below are appalling. Gonnevilliers and Colombes, having 30,000 inhabitants, are completely submerged, the water reached the tops of the houses in the lower sections while the flood is backing up into the very center of Asnières.

Certainly 40,000 have been driven from their homes by the flood in the valley of the Seine to the hospitals and other buildings which have been placed at the disposition of the refugees.

The local government authorities are displaying great devotion and zeal in the work of salvage and rescue. Nevertheless the conditions, especially in the country districts, are pitiful. The houses of farmers are submerged to their roofs, and in many cases the inhabitants have lost everything including their live stock.

A number of deplorable incidents have been reported. Several shopkeepers, who attempted to charge quadruple prices have been mobbed, while a grocery who was driven to the upper story of his house by an angry crowd fired a revolver, wounding a woman. Rowdies have attempted to pillage many of the houses and at several of the towns they have been driven off by the military.

The explanations of the floods given by French scientists are of especial interest. Etienne Stastis Mounier, the eminent geologist, considers the phenomenon to be more of a geological than a meteorological nature. After explaining the action and reaction of the water in the strata below the surface, he declares that the soil of the entire basin of the Seine had become imperceptibly filled to the point of complete saturation during the preceding three months of gentle rains with moderate temperatures which retarded evaporation. When the heavy rains came last week the ground was supersaturated and the water ran off as if from a cement floor.

Busy Week Anticipated.

Washington, Special.—Committees of both branches of Congress anticipate a busy week. Several important hearings will be continued in the House. They include that in relation to the postoffice deficit, interstate commerce bills, including the administration bill, which, by the way, will receive attention by the Senate committee as well; charges of extravagance made by Representative Hitchcock of Nebraska, against Secretary Ballinger, as well as the joint hearing in relation to the Ballinger-Pinehot controversy.

House to House Canvass.

Washington, Special.—Acting for some unknown person or persons a number of agents began a house to house canvass in this city seeking subscriptions to a monster petition to be presented to President Taft for the pardon of Banker Morse, who has begun to serve a 15-year sentence in the Atlanta penitentiary.

Investigating Pellagra.

Washington, Special.—J. D. Long, passed Assistant Surgeon in the public health service, has been directed to proceed to Columbia, S. C., and other places in that vicinity for the purpose of continuing the investigation into the cause, nature and method of transmission of pellagra.

Killed in Wreck.

London, By Cable.—As a result of two third-class cars and a Pullman crashing into the station at Stroal's Nest, eight were killed and 30 injured last Saturday. The train was running 40 miles an hour when the accident happened.

Killed About Suit of Clothes.

Columbia, S. C., Special.—C. C. Armstrong, an operative at the Olympia cotton mills, was killed by Aaron Howell in a quarrel over a debt on a suit of clothes. The deceased had once been tried for his life at Newberry, S. C., and acquitted.

A Bengal policeman who had unearthed a bomb conspiracy was shot dead in Calcutta court in revenge.

FLOODS IN EUROPE

In Past Centuries.

- 1161—Thousands drowned in Sicily.
- 1173—Zuyder Zee enlarged by floods.
- 1219—Norland, Norway, lake burst, 36,000 perished.
- 1228—Friesland, 100,000 drowned by sea.
- 1446—Holland, seventy-two villages inundated, 100,000 drowned.
- 1483—The "great waters" caused by the overflow of the Severn.
- 1521—Holland, 100,000 lives lost.
- 1530—Holland, dikes break, 400,000 drowned.
- 1570—Holland, 20,000 people perish in Friesland.
- 1616—Greatest flood ever recorded in Paris.
- 1646—Holland, 110,000 perish.
- 1802—Great floods in Paris.
- 1813—Austria-Hungary and Poland, 10,000 perish.
- 1825—Jutland made an island by inundation of sea.
- 1840—France, overflow of Saone and Rhone swept away many villages.
- 1846—Disastrous inundation in the centre, west and southwest of France.
- 1852—Floods in Europe from Belgium to Switzerland.
- 1856—South of France, damage \$25,000,000.
- 1866—Great floods in France.
- 1875—Large part of Toulouse destroyed by the rising of the Garonne, 1,000 lives lost.
- 1876—Great floods in France and Holland.
- 1910—Second greatest flood in Paris; other inundations in the south of Europe.

GEN. WM. F. DRAPER DEAD.

Former Ambassador to Italy and a War Veteran Passes Away.

Washington, D. C., Special.—Gen. Wm. F. Draper, former ambassador to Italy, died at his home here after a prolonged illness, aged 68 years.

Brig. Gen. Draper was born in Lowell, Mass., April 9, 1842, the son of George and Hannah Thwing Draper. He served in the Union army from 1861 to 1864, holding commissions from second lieutenant to lieutenant colonel, commanding, and also colonel and brigadier general by brevet. He was twice wounded.

In 188 he was a Presidential elector, and he served as a Republican member in the 53rd and 55th Congresses, declining a third nomination. In 1897 he was appointed ambassador to Italy, holding that post until 1900.

He served as commander of the Loyal Legion of Massachusetts, was a member of the Army and Navy Club of Washington, the Algonquin Club of Boston, the Cacia Club of Rome and others. Much of his life he lived in Massachusetts, of late years dividing his time between Washington and Hopedale, Mass.

"DRY" HEADQUARTERS.

Prohibitionists Will Put Out a Presidential Ticket.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—"We have decided to make Atlanta the headquarters for the prohibition movement in the Southern States.

"Every State but Mississippi is in line, and we mean to fight to win."

"We are going to put a ticket in the field in Georgia as well as the other States for the next election. We are going to direct the campaign from Atlanta and in 1912 we are going to bring the National Prohibition convention here."

The above statements were given out following a conference of national and State prohibition leaders. Among those present were: Eugene Chaffin, late prohibition presidential candidate, and Chairman R. Jones of Cibaec, national chairman.

Bishop Cyrus D. Foss Dead.

Philadelphia, Special.—Bishop Cyrus D. Foss, retired of the M. E. church, one of the best known clergymen, is dead.

Minimum Rate is Given.

Washington, Special.—The president has issued a proclamation declaring that inasmuch as Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Egypt, Persia and Portugal do not unduly discriminate in their tariff against goods imported from the United States, those countries are entitled to the minimum rate established by the Payne-Aldrich act.

Acquit Members of Court.

Managua, Nicaragua, By Cable.—The court at Mesaya has acquitted General Medina, Prosecuting Attorney Salomon Selva and other members of the court-martial, of responsibility for the illegal conviction and execution of the Americans, Groce and Cannon.

Cake Cause of a Killing.

Florence, S. C., Special.—In a quarrel over the price of a cake sold at auction at a school festival near here Lofton Poston was fatally stabbed by Moses Bazan and died five minutes later.

80,000 Armenians Facing Starvation.

New York, Special.—Eighty thousand Armenian Christians are facing starvation in Cilicia, according to an appeal just issued by Bishop David H. Greer, in behalf of the Armenian Relief association.

Killed While Praying.

Iowa City, La., Special.—While on his knees praying a lamp exploded setting fire to the clothing of Peter Rogers and burning him to death.

INSURANCE FRAUDS

Agents Arrested in Louisville, Ky., for Swindling.

LARGE NUMBER ARE INVOLVED

Physicians Said to Have Filled Out Certificates Without Seeing Persons Named in Them.

Louisville, Ky., Special.—John J. Keane, P. J. Needham and T. T. O'Leary, agents for a number of insurance companies in Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, and other States have been arrested on warrants charging them with conspiracy to defraud. The warrants were sworn out by S. C. Renecke, secretary and treasurer of the Indiana National Life Insurance company.

While the amount involved is not stated, it is said to reach \$200,000 in policies alleged to have been written on the lives of persons virtually certain to die within a few months. The fraud consisted in the impersonation of sick and incurable persons by healthy ones employed for the purpose.

It is said that the affair involves in one way or another more than 56 persons and relates to fraudulently obtaining life insurance policies to the value of \$100,000.

It is also said that many persons are involved in the affair. One physician has, it is said, admitted that he acted as a participant in a conspiracy by filling out medical certificates asserting that men and women he had never seen were in good health and constituted good insurance risks. In many cases, however, it is believed the physicians were imposed upon.

The case was taken up upon the life insurance companies of Indiana and Tennessee who are said to be large losers by reason of "graveyard" swindlers. These companies which it is alleged have already paid \$10,000 on policy issued in the Rider case are excluded from business in this State, yet it is said, have been doing business in Indiana.

The scheme is to a certain extent an old one. Merely choosing a man of athletic build for examination and substituting the medical report for that of a person of short life expectancy.

Rider it is learned, carried policies of his life aggregating \$16,000, but none of his relatives is named as beneficiary. Mrs. Mary Quill, a sister and Lewis Rider, a brother, made affidavits several days ago that they believed their brother came to his death by poisoning and that he was a victim of foul play. The family communicated with a life insurance company in Tennessee and the matter was taken up in Louisville, by a representative of that company and three Indiana companies. Upon these representations Acting Coroner Dasher ordered the body exhumed.

After discovering the lesion in the lung, the stomach was removed and turned over to chemists for analysis. When Keane, Needham and O'Leary were arraigned in police court their bail was reduced to \$5,000 each on motion of their attorneys. The case was then postponed until February 3.

Board of Trade Adjourns.

Washington, Special.—The national board of trade has ended its fortieth annual convention here. Resolutions were adopted endorsing radical amendments in the Sherman anti-trust law, opposing Federal inspection of grain, favoring eliminating the educational test from the immigration law and favoring an international court of arbitration.

Alleged Wreckers Held.

Lynchburg, Special.—Robert Mason and Albert Lindsay, both white, were arrested here last Wednesday, charged with placing iron rails on the Southern railway 40 miles below Lynchburg last Friday, when north-bound train No. 36 ran into them, the engine being damaged but not derailed. Two other white men have been implicated and are under arrest at Reidsville, N. C.

Sailor Heir to Fortune.

Norfolk, Special.—Falling heir to a fortune left by an uncle in Germany, Harry Otto Foster, second-class fireman aboard the United States cruiser Birmingham which was at the Norfolk Navy Yard last week, is thinking of the time he will be free from his obligations to Uncle Sam. With a brother and sister Harry will share the estate of his uncle, valued at \$71,000, each of them to receive an income of \$1,200 for 21 years before the principal is divided.

Working For North Carolina.

Washington, Special.—Senator Overman of North Carolina, has introduced bills providing \$60,000 for a public building at Oxford, and \$30,000 for improvements at Reidsville.

Black Damp Causes Death.

Chicago, Special.—Black damp caused two deaths in this city.

DON'T SHOOT! I'LL COME DOWN!



—Cartoon by Robert Garter, in the New York American.

MEAT YEARS OLD FOUND IN COLD STORAGE PLANT

New York City.—On condition that the name of the guide be withheld, entrance was gained by a World reporter to one of the largest cold storage plants in New York City, and methods employed to make the public pay fictitious prices for food were reported at first hand.

All that was revealed by the investigation holds true, an experienced employe said, in many cold storage plants in the greater city. Records sedulously guarded by the plants would disclose, it was said, staple foodstuffs in sufficient quantities to knock the bottom out of high prices in New York immediately, but which are kept out of the market in order to force the public to pay exorbitant prices.

These supplies are "canned in the cold" for from six months to three years or more and then released gradually during high-priced seasons, when they are sold as fresh products at gilt-edge figures.

Some of the articles viewed by the reporter were:

- 50,000 pounds of halibut placed in the plant three years ago.
- Barrels of turkey and geese (number not given), two years old or more.
- 300 cases of eggs, the remainder of 5000 cases placed in storage beginning last April, purchased at about eighteen cents per dozen, and released during the past two months to be sold at from forty-eight to fifty-two cents per dozen as "strictly fresh eggs."
- 10,000 cases of fish (of different varieties), from one year to three years old.
- 5000 barrels of apples.
- 200,000 pounds of meat held in storage for seven months.

"There has been a big call for eggs recently," the employe said, surveying the spacious room, which is kept at a temperature of thirty-one degrees throughout the year. "The cases in here reached to the ceiling until a short time ago. Most of the eggs came from the West last April and May and cost the buyer about eighteen cents a dozen. He's selling 'em now for fifty-two cents. You can't lose on eggs. If they get too old they are broken up and sold to the bakers. Come along and I'll show you how they do it."

He led the way to another room filled with four-gallon and two-gallon cans, and in which the temperature was only a few degrees above zero. The larger cans were filled with the egg yolks and the smaller with the "whites." He said that eggs in some of the cans were five years old and the contents came from China.

A man who participated in the tour of inspection and who formerly worked in a cold-storage plant told of the top of one of these cans being knocked off in handling. The stench, he said, was so overpowering that workmen refused to handle the can. Eggs in this form are known to the trade as "eggolite," and are used extensively in the making of pound cake and other pastries.

Two huge storerooms filled with meat which hung in a temperature of six degrees above zero were next visited. Beef, veal, mutton, lamb and other meats of a total weight of 200,000 pounds had been in storage for seven months. It costs a quarter of a cent a month for storage charges on this meat, which is purchased during the spring and summer at the lowest wholesale prices and distributed when the public is compelled to buy at famine figures.

The Meat Packers' Side Discussed by J. Ogden Armour.

Chicago.—"Beef is only about half a cent higher than it was a year ago," said J. Ogden Armour. "Like many other things, it has risen during the last few years, but this is because its production has not kept pace with the demand."

"More people are buying meat and are buying more meat than ever before, while stock raising has shown little if any change. Consequently higher meat prices. The packers do not dictate the prices."

Cattle Production Does Not Keep Pace With Population, Says Expert.

New York City.—Nothing alarming to the consumer is seen in the high price of meat by the American Agriculturist. In its annual review of live stock on the farms it says that the increase in value in the last twelve months, in spite of a decrease in the number of hogs and cattle other than milk cows amounts to \$560,000,000, or the largest annual increment ever recorded. The upward movement of values the last year is simply a part of the upward trend.

NORTH STATE NEWS

Items of State Interest Gathered and Told in Brief.

Handled Much Cattle.

Asheville, Special.—Since August 1st, 1909, the Southern railway has handled 380 cars of cattle from western North Carolina, a total of about 75 more than during 1908. Most of these cattle came from points along the Murphy division of the Southern, which is the greatest cattle raising section of North Carolina. Allowing 30 cattle to the car, it means a total of 11,400 cattle were shipped out. Estimating that they averaged \$35 per head—a very low estimate—it shows that these cattle brought \$399,000. Many of these cattle were shipped to southwest Virginia, where they will be "finished off" and sold in the spring months at fancy prices. This does not include the cattle that are driven to Asheville and sold to local dealers, which would probably amount to more than \$200,000; making a grand total yearly of over \$600,000. Advances from the cattle country is to the effect that more attention is being paid to cattle raising now, and that many farmers are carrying over large number for fall beef. Fancy cattle on hoof are bringing 6 cents per pound on the local market—a new high record.

To Prevent N. C. Bond Suit.

Washington, Special.—Contemplating the modification of the Eleventh amendment of the Constitution so as to prohibit one State from instituting suit against another except in the matter of boundary disputes, Senator Overman, of North Carolina, has introduced a resolution to amend the Constitution. Mr. Overman's resolution is aimed at individual holders of outlawed bonds of his State who have endeavored to make collection on them by transferring them to other States.

No Meat For 30 Days.

Asheville, Special.—Petitions are being freely signed by labor union men and others pledging themselves to abstain from eating meats for 30 days unless prices are materially reduced. Petitions are also being circulated asking the board of aldermen to remove the three-quarter of a mile limit against the sale of meats and vegetables in the city except in the city market, declaring that the law enables dealers to maintain a trust. They also ask for a reduction of the special taxes on dealers outside of the three-quarter mile limit and on farmers and peddlers.

Dodged Pasteur Treatment.

Durham, Special.—Bernice Mangum, descendant of a celebrated United States Senator, died here of hydrophobia. Young Mangum, with four other boys, was bitten two months ago by a dog. All of them took the Pasteur treatment. Mangum after one injection, running away. The other boys recovered. Mangum died on his eleventh birthday.

Dynamite Explodes in County Court House.

Asheville, Special.—By the accidental discharge of a stick of dynamite in the county court house at Bryson City, Omar Conley was instantly killed, Barret Banks lost both eyes and was otherwise seriously injured, and Lee Francis, registrar of deeds of Swain county, was fatally injured. Conley and Banks were thawing dynamite on the radiator of the registrar's office in preparation for a fishing trip.

For Reunion of the Blue and Gray.

Raleigh, Special.—State Auditor Dixon was at Southern Pines last week arranging for a great reunion there late in April of the National Association of the Blue and the Gray, of which he is the commander.

To Ask An Appropriation.

Raleigh, Special.—Over 100 delegates were in attendance upon the Good Roads Conference. Much interest was manifested. A resolution was adopted calling on the next legislature to provide an ample appropriation for aiding counties in constructing good roads in this State.

Exchange of Courts.

Raleigh, Special.—Governor Kitchin authorizes exchange of courts; Judge J. L. Webb to hold Rutherford court February 7, McDowell February 21, Henderson court, March 7, and Judge Council to hold Catawba court February 7, Alexander February 21, Caldwell February 28.

Stack Appointed Solicitor.

Raleigh, Special.—A. M. Stack, of Monroe, succeeds L. D. Robinson, of Wadesboro, as solicitor for the Eighth Judicial District. The commission was issued by Governor Kitchin.

Briefly Told.

At Waynesville Thad Browning shot and killed Allen Green, a constable.

To fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. W. A. Syme, Prof. Luther B. Lockhart, of Orange county, has been appointed State Oil Chemist of the Department of Agriculture.

This year will see enacted at Raleigh a municipal building and auditorium costing \$125,000.