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NO. 20.

## ANOTHER SOUTHERN STORM.

### Death List 37, With Possibilities of Increase-- Sweeps Southeast Through Tennessee, Alabama and South Carolina.

Memphis, Tenn., Special.—With the known death list already reaching a total of thirty-seven human lives and with thirteen others reported dead, with scores seriously injured and many others painfully bruised, and with the property damage running to a million or more dollars, the toll of the havoc and destruction of the storm which swept middle and West Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and portions of Arkansas, and South Carolina, late Thursday afternoon and Thursday night, grows hourly as reports are received from remote districts and as wire communication is gradually restored to a normal condition.

The storm was the worst that has visited this section of the South in years, being intense in its destroying fury and widespread in its area. Whole sections of counties were laid in waste, towns destroyed and plantations greatly damaged.

The list of dead reported is: Denmark, Tenn., Albert Barnes; Mulberry, Tenn., Thomas Helm; Stantonville, Tenn., Thirteen people reported killed (unconfirmed); Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., Mrs. West McDaniel, Otis Littlefield, Luther Littlefield, Marshall Jordan, Ruby Jordan, I. W. Lemons; Near Stantonville, Tenn., Charles, wife and infant, Terry Wilbank, Mrs. Wilbank and their two children, Mrs. Sissom; Near Cartersville, Ga., Miss Pritchard; Scottsboro, Ala., Miss Houston Skelton, Milas M. Suder, a child of Jim Gal; Wyeth Cove, Ala., Eight people killed; Near Scottsboro, Ala., Mrs. S. H. Skelton; Stanton, Tenn., Andy Johnson, a negro; Nixon, Tenn., five people killed; Near Marmaduke, Ark., Arthur Liggett.

Apparently the storm broke in all its fury over middle and West Tennessee and proceeded in a southeasterly direction across the State into Alabama and Georgia, assuming the proportions of a hurricane.

It came practically without warning and in some places the wind at-

tained a velocity of 90 miles an hour. While only one death occurred at Denmark, Tenn., the horrors of the storm were greatly heightened by the fire which followed the wrecking of that town. The fierce flames rapidly consumed what few dwellings and store houses were left standing and at night a scene of utter desolation is presented. Two hundred people were rendered homeless and have appealed to neighboring towns and cities for immediate aid.

Reports of five deaths and heavy damage come from McNairy county. Homes and stores were leveled to the ground and great trees uprooted.

Many handsome and imposing State monuments in the Shiloh national park were torn from their pedestals and the superintendent's lodge and other buildings were destroyed. The property damage in this section is estimated at \$100,000.

Wire communication with Stantonville, where thirteen lives are reported to have been lost, has not yet been re-established.

At Russellville, Ala., twenty-seven people were seriously, several fatally injured.

A property damage of at least \$10,000 is estimated at Cartersville, Ga., while that at Atlanta will run between \$30,000 and \$100,000. One life was lost at the former place.

Rome, Ga., Gadsden, Ala., Huntsville, Ala., Decatur, Ala., and other smaller towns in the path of the storm report heavy property damages. At Gadsden, Alabama, hail the size of hen's eggs did much damage, losses about \$25,000.

At Atlanta one woman was probably fatally hurt and two children were also injured.

At Cartersville, Ga., one woman is dead, another reported beneath the wreck of her home, and \$50,000 damage to property.

At Aiken, S. C., report say the path of the storm was several miles wide and probably 50 miles long. Great damage was done to the cotton crop.

## PRESIDENT TAFT ACCEPTS CRANE'S RESIGNATION

Washington, Special.—All doubts as to what action the President would take with respect to the resignation of Charles R. Crane, minister designate to China, was dispelled by the receipt of a dispatch from President Taft addressed to his secretary, Mr. Carpenter directing him to convey to Mr. Crane announcement of the fact that the resignation had been accepted.

The telegram was dated Prescott, Ariz., October 13, and reads as follows:

"Convey to Mr. Crane following communication: 'I concur in the letter under date of October 12, which the Secretary of State has addressed to you and I greatly regret that the circumstances found to exist by him make it necessary for me to accept your resignation.' "TAFT."

Later Mr. Crane issued this statement:

"I am greatly relieved by the President's decision. There has been no minute since I learned the attitude of the Department of State when I have

not contemplated the possibility of a continuance of my official relations with the deepest repugnance. Nevertheless, I have felt that my obligation to the President was to permit him to decide the issue.

"I accepted the Chinese mission at his request and solely because of assurance that I could be and would be permitted to be of service to the country in constructive work of the greatest importance to it and of the greatest interest to me. It has been made perfectly clear that conditions here were not and are not such as to make this possible. To demonstrate this has involved a personal humiliation such as no self-respecting man who is drafted into the public service should be called on to endure, but I am grateful indeed that I have had the test of official confidence and support here rather than in China and now rather than at some real crisis involving the honor of the interest of the nation."

Mr. Crane left here Wednesday at 3 o'clock for New York.

## KILLS FATHER-IN-LAW AND BURNS SELF AND HOUSE

Lincolnton, N. C., Special.—About 3 o'clock Thursday morning, near Bethpage church, 6 miles west of Lincolnton, Mr. W. S. Wise killed his father-in-law, Joe Hallman, with an axe, then ran in his own home, barred the door, undressed himself, fired his home and was incinerated. Mr. Hallman's head was entirely severed

by axe. Wise appeared rational up to a few moments before he enacted the shocking tragedy. He awakened at an early hour and his strange remarks caused his wife to become alarmed, so she sent one of her children to her father's home, a half-mile away, and asked for some of her people to come to her aid.

## FATHER IS KILLED TRYING TO KILL HIS OWN SON

Gastonia, N. C., Special.—Col. Robert L. Abernethy, owner of Open View farm in River Bend township, Gaston county, eccentric stockman, farmer and politician, was shot and almost instantly killed at his home near Mount Holly at 7 o'clock Thursday morning after having fired three wild shots at his son, Reuben, aged 18, and in the course of a fierce hand-to-hand struggle with the latter who was endeavoring to disarm him. One bullet entered the right temple and the other struck him full in the fore-

head. He never regained consciousness and died an hour later.

At the inquest held Thursday afternoon by jury empaneled by Magistrate W. B. Rutledge of Mount Holly a verdict was rendered at 5 o'clock to the effect that Abernethy came to his death from wounds inflicted by a pistol in his own hands. His son, who was placed under arrest soon after the tragedy by Deputy Sheriff J. S. Rogers pending an investigation, was released from custody and the matter is doubtless at an end so far as any legal proceedings are concerned.

## BLACK HAND AT CANTON

Mr. W. T. Sharp Receives Demand For \$1,000 to Be Placed at the Corner of Locust Field Church, Accompanied by the Usual Threats—A Trap is Set For the Hold-Up Man, But He Refuses to Put His Foot Into It.

Asheville, N. C., Special.—A daring attempt to blackmail W. T. Sharp of Canton, one of the wealthiest men of the town and a very prominent merchant, came to light Saturday night, and along with it an attempt to blackmail certain other citizens of the town and officials of the Champion Fiber Company, and although a trap was well laid to catch the perpetrators no one came to claim the money. Mailed at the Canton postoffice September 27, W. T. Sharp received a letter reading as follows:

"On October 15 before 11 p. m. you place under S. E. corner of Locust Field church \$1,000 in large bills. Failure to do so means certain death to yourself and perhaps to your family. Dynamite is cheap. Spies mean same thing.

(Signed) "BLACK HAND." When received it Mr. Sharp at once became frightened and laid the matter before certain of his friends and after a consultation it was agreed to place the letter in the hands of postoffice inspectors. It was arranged that Mr. Sharp should deposit the money there and a number of officers would watch the spot to see if any one appeared. No one appeared.

## After Dr. Cook's Scalp.

New York, Special.—Four more affidavits were made public here Saturday in connection with the investigation of Dr. Frederick A. Cook's expedition to Mount McKinley. Three of them are by members of the Cook party—Fred Printz, a guide; Walter P. Miller, photographer and Samuel Beecher. Their testimony relates in detail the movements of the party explaining that Cook and Barrill were alone together the period in which Dr. Cook claims to have reached the summit of Mount McKinley. All three say that Barrill assured them after that Dr. Cook's story was false.

The fourth affidavit is that of Dr. John E. Shore, a physician of Leavenworth, Washington, who tells of a conversation with Oscar F. Blankenship of the United States forestry service in which Blankenship said that Dr. Cook's claims to have climbed Mount McKinley were false inasmuch as the feat was impossible in the short time which Cook and Barrill were absent. Blankenship was located near Mount McKinley at the time Cook's expedition was there.

A New York dispatch of the 16th says, "Having failed in his effort to get Professor Herchel C. Parker and Anthony Fiala to conduct an expedition to ascend Mount McKinley, Dr. Frederick A. Cook announced here that he would abandon his lecture tour as soon as possible and himself head an expedition to ascend Mount McKinley and recover if possible the records which he says he left there in 1906.

## Former U. S. Minister Found Dying.

London, By Cable.—William I. Buchanan of Buffalo, N. Y., former American minister to the Argentine Republic and Panama, who had been closely identified with several important American diplomatic missions, met a tragic death Saturday night on a London street. He was discovered lying on a sidewalk in Park Lane, near the American embassy, in a dying condition, a few minutes before 12 o'clock and was carried to St. George's hospital, a short distance away. Life was extinct when the ambulance reached the hospital. The cause of death is not known positively, but physicians who examined the body state that it resulted apparently from heart disease or apoplexy and that there was no indication of foul play which was suggested.

## Western Express Wrecked.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Special.—One passenger was killed and 15 others were injured when the rear section of train No. 25, the Western Express on the New York Central Railroad, was wrecked at Rhotchuck early Sunday. President Brown of the New York Central was on board the train, but was not injured. President Brown himself directed the removal of the injured passengers.

## Greatest Balloon Flight Yet.

Charleston, S. C., Special.—Breaking all speed records for long distance flights, the balloon St. Louis No. 3 landed near Ridgeville, 31 miles west of Charleston, at 9 o'clock Saturday morning, after having left St. Louis, Mo., Friday at 5:30 o'clock. The balloon carried A. B. Lambert and S. Louis Von Puhl, who arrived here Saturday night, after a thrilling cross-country flight. They had exhausted their ballast and, seeing in the distance the waters of the Atlantic, which they were fast approaching, they were forced to descend.

## PEARY'S CHARGES

### Peary Arctic Club Gives Out Statement.

### ESKIMOS TRACE LINE ON MAP

#### Did Not Need Much Supplies—Stayed Within Game Region—Cook Smiles Undisturbed—Expected as Much.

The Peary Arctic Club has again published a statement accompanied with a map indicating the route traveled by Dr. Cook and the principal events of the explorations as Peary and his party got them from the Eskimos, especially the two young men Itookashoo and Ahpelah. He says that he questioned them separately and their statements and tracings on the map shown them harmonized. Most of the testimony, however, Commander Peary says was taken not in his presence, in order that the idea of his overruling them might not be claimed. He says the Eskimo laughed at Dr. Cook's story.

The story as published says Cook and his party did not cross the open water encountered but turned west and southwest for some distance and then retraced their way not going beyond the game regions.

The story credits the Eskimo with the ability to trace the entire route on a rude map and even with the skill to draw a map which produced some difference between the two but which was harmonized. It does not seem from the story, however that the young Eskimo had the instruments and the records that would be necessary to make an intelligible map.

The statement as to the testimony of the Eskimos is signed by Commander Peary, Capt. Bartlett, of the Roosevelt, D. B. McMillan, George Borup and Matthew A. Henson.

### Dr. Cook Not Disturbed.

Dr. Cook at Cleveland, Ohio, Tuesday evening was shown the statement. He said:

"I have replied to the points raised a dozen times," he continued. "The map published by Commander Peary in itself indicates that the Eskimos have respected their promise made to me that they would not give any information to Peary or his men.

"The Eskimos were instructed not to tell Mr. Peary or any of his party of our trip over the Polar sea. They were told to say that we had been far north. They have kept their word.

"Mr. Whitney has said that during the cross-examination conducted by Commander Peary and others of his expedition the Eskimos did not understand the questions put to them or the map which was laid before them. Their replies to the questions put have been twisted to suit a perverted interest.

"I will not enter into any argument about the matter, but I will bring the Eskimos to New York at my own expense, and they will prove as did Mr. Whitney, all that I have claimed."

Dr. Cook would not consent to go over the details contained in Mr. Peary's statement any further than this:

"The Eskimos," he said, "are only too willing to say something that they think will please their questioners."

The explorer was not at all perturbed by the accusations. A confident smile flickered over his bronzed face when they were shown to him.

"I fully expected to see something of the kind," he said. "The document looks formidable over so many signatures, and will probably appear so to the public. There is, however, nothing in it, as it is based upon the distorted and evasive replies of persons who were told not to give any details."

The doctor continued: "Rasmussen, who will be here shortly, has seen the Eskimos and knows the real story. They did not try to deceive him. He was with them for fourteen days. They know him and told him everything. He speaks the Eskimo language for he is a semi-Eskimo himself and the people have the most complete confidence in him."

He concluded: "That is all I have to say now."

He then proceeded to the lecture hall in the utmost good humor and confidence to deliver his lecture.

## WASHINGTON NOTES

A substantial increase is shown in the gross income of the Southern Railway Company during the year ending June 30 last, according to the fifteenth annual report of President W. W. Finley. The report says the return of business from the low level of panic conditions of 1907 was slow but substantial during the past year. The total gross income for the year was \$17,737,699, an increase over 1908 of \$3,890,733. While the operating expenses show a decrease of \$753,610, compared with the year 1908, it is stated that this is due to the fact that the Tennessee Central Railroad and the Southern Railway of Mississippi were operated separately this year. However, comparing like for like, this year shows an increase in the operating revenues of \$606,766.

At a meeting of the Southern Commercial congress Tuesday, plans for building to be erected in this city were accepted. The structure will be built from contributions made by the various commercial organizations throughout the South, and John M. Parker, President of the congress, will leave soon on a speaking tour in that section. He goes first to Greenville, S. C., then to Atlanta, Ga., and Birmingham, Ala. The complete itinerary has not been completed yet. The work of organizing and canvassing the 16 states which will be called upon to contribute to the congress will, it is figured, occupy more than a year.

Record target practice scores of the vessels of the American navy for 1909 made public at the Navy Department Thursday, show that the Washington is a trophy winner in the battleship class, the Charleston a trophy winner in the gunboat class, the Tingey the trophy winner in vessels competing for the torpedo trophy. The Pacific fleet, under Admiral Swinburne, leads the fleet in target practice with a record of 42.

A trip to various coast points on the Atlantic ocean to participate in local celebrations has been arranged for the torpedo boats Stringham, Dupont, Biddle and Shubrick of the Atlantic torpedo flotilla. From Charleston, S. C., they are to go to Savannah, from November 1 to 7, to take part in a carnival. The next day they go to Wilmington, N. C., to be there during the President's visit. Later in the month, from November 22 to 27, the boats are to be at Jacksonville, where a carnival is to be held. After these boats get back to Charleston, they will be placed in reserve. The other boats of the Atlantic flotilla, eight in all, are to be placed in reserve at Charleston upon their arrival there, which is expected to be early in November.

The Supreme Court Tuesday fixed December 13 for hearing arguments in the case of the government against the American Tobacco Company. The cases were instituted by the government to obtain the dissolution of the alleged trust. Their hearing was originally fixed for Tuesday, but the postponement was made to allow Attorney-General Wickersham to participate in the arguments.

Orders were issued at the Navy Department Monday for a division of the Atlantic torpedo flotilla to be present at Yorktown to participate in the celebration in commemoration of the anniversary of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. The vessels, which have been cruising up the Hudson river as far as Albany and Troy in connection with the recent Hudson-Fulton celebration, will sail from New York within the next two or three days for Hampton Roads and thence to Yorktown.

After a recess of more than four months, and with only Chief Justice Fuller and Justices Harlan, Brewer, White, Holmes, McKenna and Day present, the Supreme Court of the United States Monday began the regular term for the next twelve months. Justices Peckham and Moody were absent on account of illness, reducing the court to unusually small proportions.

The question whether the ordinary insurance policy insures a man against death by legal hanging is raised in the case of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, vs. J. William McCue and others, which was presented Monday to the Supreme Court of the United States. McCue is one of the children of the late J. Samuel McCue, who while serving a term as mayor of the city of Charlottesville, Va., was found guilty of murdering his wife and hanged for the offense in 1905. About a year previous to the crime McCue took out an insurance policy of \$15,000 in the Mutual Life.

## CRIMINALS FOUND

### Slayers of Mayor Newberry in Limbo.

### SHOT HIM IN HIS OWN DOOR

#### Little Daughter Stood Beside Him and His Sick Wife in Bed.

Beaufort, N. C., Special.—The grand jury Monday brought in a bill of murder against S. J. Sanders, who had been arrested for the death of H. Z. Newberry of Newport, who was shot to death Saturday night at the door of his home there. Judge Guion ordered the sheriff to summon 200 talesmen in order to get a jury. The case is set for Friday at 10 a. m.

Sanders is locked in the Carteret county jail here, while his brother, B. F. Sanders, also is under arrest, held as an accessory. The prisoners were brought here Sunday night by Sheriff Hancock, after a coroner's jury at Newport had returned a verdict that Mayor Newberry's death resulted from gunshot wounds inflicted by S. J. Sanders and that his brother also was implicated in the shooting.

The assassination of Mayor Newberry was the direct outcome, it is said, of the prosecution of "blind tiger" cases. The mayor recently had several persons arrested for illegally selling whiskey, and four of the men, including the two Sanders brothers, were bound over for court at Beaufort next Monday. It is alleged threats have been made against the mayor's life and after his assassination Saturday night, suspicion was directed to the Sanders brothers.

Great excitement prevailed in Newport after the tragedy occurred Saturday night. The dead man's wife was ill in bed at the time of the murder, and his little daughter stood by his side when he was shot.

Word of the shooting was sent to Beaufort and Sunday afternoon County Solicitor Abernethy, accompanied by Sheriff Hancock and a coroner's jury, went to Newport on the special train. Upon arrival of the train at Newport the Sanders brothers were arrested and later the coroner's jury ordered the hearing.

### S. A. L. Receivership Ends.

Asheville, N. C., Special.—Judge Pritchard Monday afternoon signed a decree to the effect that the Seaboard Air Line receivership will end November 4, when it will be turned over to the railway company in accordance with the plan of reorganization which has been approved by the stockholders. Leigh R. Watts, general counsel for the Seaboard Air Line, and James F. Wright, assistant general counsel of Portsmouth, Va., appeared before Judge Pritchard Monday afternoon for the railway company and Innes Brown of the firm of Burnett & Catehins, of New York, appeared for the Continental Trust Company, of New York.

It was upon the complaint of the Continental Trust Company that the Seaboard Air Line on January 3, 1908, was placed by Judge Pritchard in the hands of S. Davies Warfield, R. Lancaster Williams and E. C. Duncan as receivers. The receivership will have lasted 22 months when it ends. This action means much for the development of the property and that section of the country through which it operates.

It is said to be a fact that the Seaboard receivership was one of the most successful in the country. The debt was reduced, the bonds were reduced and also the road made money under the receivership.

### Whitney Dam Property Awaits to Be Sold.

Asheville, N. C., Special.—The Bankers' Trust Company of New York Monday in Federal States circuit court filed a bill against the Whitney Company, John S. Henderson and Charles W. Smith, receivers, and more than a dozen subsidiary companies to foreclose an issue of \$5,000,000 in first mortgage bonds, issued in November, 1904.

### President Taft on His Brother's Ranch.

Gregory, Tex., Special.—President Taft arrived here Monday night shortly after 9 o'clock to spend four days on the ranch of Charles P. Taft, his brother. Reports as to the size of this ranch vary from 100,000 to 200,000 acres. In either event, it approaches the proportions of principality and during the time here the President will be secluded from local committees, from the givers of banquets and from the onerous duties of constant speech-making. When asked how he intended to spend the time he said in doing as he pleased.