

## MANY ARE LOST

Nearly Four Hundred Perished in a Destructive, Raging Torrent

## TOWNS ARE SWEEPED AWAY

Great Dam Breaks, Releasing Mighty Volume of Water, Which Rushes on Doomed Towns of Austin and Costello Before Inhabitants Have Time to Gain Safety.

With a roar that could be heard for miles, the great dam of the Bayless Pulp and Paper Company, Austin, Pa., went out at half-past two o'clock Saturday afternoon.

The dam, which was five hundred and thirty feet long and forty-nine feet high, was thirty-two feet thick at the base and held back more than five hundred million gallons of water. For the first time since its construction, two years ago, the water was running over the top the night before, and many persons went out from Austin to see the unusual sight.

They were horrified when a section about twenty feet wide gave way on the west side. A great volume of water poured through the hole and the alarm was quickly sounded. People ran for their lives to the hills nearby, but some were caught in the flood and whirled down the valley. A moment later another break occurred, this time on the east side. It was much greater than the first, and permitted the bulk of the water behind it to rush in a mighty volume toward the lowlands.

Hundreds of women and children, the men were away at work, were caught in their homes and drowned or crushed before they knew what had happened. Houses went down before the mighty rush of water, and gas pipes bent and broken, released their dangerous fluid. Before the water had passed on its terrific course through the town, a dozen fires were burning in as many places, and the cries of injured and imprisoned persons joined in the terrific thunder of the flood.

So sudden was the onslaught of water that many persons had no time to flee to the hills, but others received the warning and hearing the fire bell, hastened to the center of the town, only to be caught in the flood and swept away. The flood passed quickly, leaving desolation in its wake. Houses had been crushed and tossed about like toys, while hundreds of bodies had been carried down on the crest of the surging torrent.

With the passing of the water, those who had fled to the hills hastened to return to their ruined homes in search of relatives and friends. Here and there bodies had been cast along the path of the torrent and about forty bodies were recovered in a short time. Many were caught by burning buildings, and it will be days before the real extent of the calamity will be known. It is believed that no less than 400 persons perished, and some estimates are run higher.

In ten minutes after the break a dozen gas pipes had burst, and were spreading the deadly inflammable fluid in the air. Men who had rushed forward in the hopes of doing some good were overcome and fell, while others were caught in the flames and incinerated. The street became a glowing hell, and there was no salvation for those who chanced to be near. Rapidly the flames swept from house to house, leaping streets and alleys and fed by the continual spray from gas mains, there was no staying their progress.

Many persons crushed and helpless in the wrecks of buildings only partly destroyed by the water, were consumed in the flames. Their shrieks could be heard by the helpless ones who endeavored to save a life where possible. They were driven back by the deadly fumes of the gas or the heat of the flames. Down at the shops of the Buffalo and Susquehanna Railroad, the buildings were below the banks of Freeman and were more substantial than most of the houses which had been swept away.

It is estimated that a thousand buildings have been torn from their foundations and crushed in the flood or have been destroyed by fire. The water made its way through the business sections of the town and left only four buildings standing. The valley of Freeman's Run is narrow and the town was built along its banks. All the buildings in the lower part of the valley were swept clear off their foundations by the torrent and many of those which remained quickly fell a prey to the flames.

The scene in the village Saturday night was appalling. Here and there could be seen the light of some torch lantern, as a distracted father searches along the bank for some evidence of his family and home. Scenes of indescribable sadness marked the village during the early hours of the night, many women, who had lost their children, wandering in the darkness crying their names in the vain hope they would answer. Many were burned in the fire and others ground to pieces by the masses of timber and stone swept down by the flood.

The curtain of night which was running down on the Austin flood before its victims had all been claimed,

and its surviving spectators fully realized how great a tragedy, the elements of water and fire had enacted in the natural amphitheatre of the Allegheny mountains, was lifted by dawn Sunday, recalling a ghastly scene of death and devastation.

Whole families have been wiped out, among them being some of the leading residents of the town. The number of dead is placed at between four and five hundred, the population of the town having been 3,200 before the disaster. Near the junction of Freeman Run with another small stream in the middle of the business section, the primary election was in progress and many men were in the vicinity. They did not hear the warning shout, and all of them are believed to have been carried away. Not a trace of the building in which the election was being held can be seen.

When the great mass of crushed and broken timbers came crashing down they lodged against the railway shops. Impact was so great that the buildings shivered, and the walls were crushed in, but the frame work stood and formed a barrier. Here, as elsewhere, the natural gas pipes burst and fire was quickly communicated to the heterogeneous mass. Men were caught before they could leave their machines. Scores of them were crushed to death without warning, but others were pinned down and met a most horrible death in the rapidly kindled flames.

Maddened by the sights about him one man, with tears streaming down his cheeks, cried for volunteers to save the lives of men whose cries for help were gradually growing fainter. Seizing a bucket this unknown hero dashed into the stream, filled it with water, and calling for help, ran towards a point where it appeared one man might be saved. Others followed his example but to no purpose. Gas and heat combined to drive them back and they eventually gave up the battle.

A little girl, about fifteen years old, was caught in the crush. The flames were approaching her with lightning rapidity. Pinned down under a heavy timber, one leg crushed, it was impossible for her to free herself. Hearing her cries for help, an unknown man chopped at the timber to rescue her but his strength gave out.

Meantime a crowd had gathered, when the volunteer showed signs of weakening another sprang forward, snatched the axe from his hands and attacked the timber with vigor. The heat drove him away as well as others, a doctor saw at a glance the fire would be upon them before the timber could be forced to yield. With calm precision he leveled the axe at the leg of the helpless victim, a stroke or two and it was all over. The leg was severed, willing hands caught up the little girl and carried her to the hospital on the hill. Her life may be saved.

Reports from Costello and points further down the Sinnamohaning grew more encouraging as Sunday advanced. At Costello while there was heavy financial loss, it was said that not more than three persons were dead. Beyond that point no fatalities had been reported.

The survivors will not suffer from hunger or lack of care as the supplies and medical assistance rushed to the scene seem ample. T. F. Becknell, national director of the National Red Cross, arrived Sunday, bringing with him \$15,000 in cash for immediate aid to the flood victims.

The homeless have all been provided with shelter. On the outskirts of Austin are a number of houses which were vacated by workers in the Goodyear mill when that plant was dismantled. These houses have been filled with homeless people. The residents of Keating Summit have taken in the others, several hundred in number. Provisions continue to arrive in large quantities and there will be no suffering for lack of food.

### KILLED HIS FATHER.

The Man Was Pursuing His Wife With Loaded Rifle.

Oscar Hall, aged 50, a well to do farmer, was shot and instantly killed by his son, Walter, aged 18 years, late Friday night at his home six miles west of Anderson. The elder Hall was in a drunken condition and tried to force the younger Hall to drink some whiskey. The younger Hall was in bed suffering with a severe attack of gastritis, and his mother objected.

Oscar Hall then hit the wife over the head with a broom, it is said. She fled from the house. Enraged, her husband secured his rifle and followed. Mrs. Hall reentered the house through the back door and secluded herself behind a door.

### Gold in Craws of Geese.

Thirty gold nuggets were taken Saturday from the craws of six geese raised by Mrs. Siraol Alshul at Santa Barbara, Cal. The news of the find started a small gold rush. Neighbors panned out several small nuggets in the sand, but were not so successful in mining as the geese.

### Women Assassin's Victims.

Miss Pearl Matlock was fatally shot and her mother killed by someone firing through their bedroom window, at their home, sixteen miles from Paducah, Ky., on Saturday morning. The divorced husband of the young woman is suspected of the crime.

## WAR BREAKS OUT

Italy Begins Hostilities Against Turkey Over Tripoli Affair.

## TURKEY WANTS PEACE

She Seeks to Have Other Powers Interfere in Her Behalf and Prevent Italy From Taking and Stripping Her Provinces and Seems Disposed to Non Restrictant Policy.

A dispatch from London says affairs developed Friday with extraordinary rapidity. A state of war exists between Italy and Turkey, and hostilities have begun.

No sooner had the time limit fixed in the ultimatum expired than, ignoring Turkey's contradictory request for a period of delay, Italy declared war. The Turkish representatives in Italy were handed their passports. The Turkish commander at Tripoli was asked to surrender the town but declined, and the Italian forces immediately occupied Tripoli and Benghazi.

Turkey continues her efforts to secure intervention by the powers. In the meantime Italy is actively pursuing hostilities. Italian battleships are reported to have appeared on Smyrna and Saloniki.

An Italian cruiser landed troops at Prevesa after destroying a Turkish torpedo boat destroyer, and the Italian fleet has blockaded the whole Tripolitan coast.

There are unconfirmed reports that Turkey intends to send an ultimatum to Greece to abandon her claim on Crete and is massing troops on the Thessalian frontier.

The greatest activity ensued in all the European chancelleries on the announcement that war had been declared and notification of a blockade. It is expected that the various governments will issue the customary neutrality diplomatic as far as possible to localizing hostilities to the combatant powers and especially to avoid complications in the Balkans.

### TWO BARGES WERE SUNK.

Turkish Cabinet Resigned When War Was Declared by Italy.

A Constantinople dispatch says the Turkish war ministry according to the reports current there Friday night, has received a dispatch from the late Turkish military attaché at Paris, who has assumed command of the forces at Tripoli, stating that the Italians began to disembark Friday afternoon, but the Turks succeeded in sinking the first two barges.

The Turkish cabinet has resigned, Said Pasha assuming the office of grand vizier and Kismil Pasha that of foreign minister. Mohmoud Shekret Pasha continues as minister of war.

The Italian charge, Signor Di Martino, Friday afternoon handed the port a communication intimating the intention of Italy to proceed with the measures foreshadowed in the ultimatum.

This is tantamount to a declaration of war, and as a state of war would give Italy greater freedom of action in Turkish waters, there is much apprehension regarding the Turkish war vessels at present steaming in the direction of the Dardanelles, lest they be captured by the Italian squadron, which is believed to be watching the movements of Turkish ships.

The British embassy at Constantinople is concerned for the British officers with the Turkish squadron and is instructing the government for their recall. The question of the protection of Italian subjects in Turkey is engaging the attention of the Italian authorities. It is thought that a request will be made to Germany to undertake the protection of the Italian esutechons.

The Italian emblems have been removed from the embassy, the consulate, the postoffice and the schools, with a view to preventing any untoward incidents.

### Was Caused by a Pin.

A boy at the Connie Maxwell Orphanage at Greenwood was operated on for appendicitis, and when the appendix had been removed a pin was found imbedded therein. The boy has no recollection of ever swallowing the pin so that no idea is had as to how long it had been in the appendix. The little fellow is getting on very nicely.

### Saved Lives by Jumping.

At Abbeville a two-story dwelling occupied by Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. McAlilly, was totally destroyed by fire Saturday night at 12 o'clock. The house was falling in when the fire was discovered. Mr. and Mrs. McAlilly, who occupied the upstairs, were forced to jump from the roof of the front porch to escape the flames.

### Forty Nine Booze Sellers.

At Wilmington, N. C., the grand jury returned true bills against 49 persons for selling whiskey in violation of the prohibition law, the largest number to be indicted there at one time since the law went into effect. One member of the grand jury, H. T. Duls, is among those indicted.

## ITALY AND TURKEY

THE RELATIVE FIGHTING CONDITION OF THE TWO.

Trouble Began Thirty Years Ago as Result of the Italians Longing for Tripoli.

Trouble between Italy and Turkey, which culminated Friday afternoon in a declaration of war at Rome, dates back to 1878, when, with the making of the treaty concluding the Russo-Turkish war, the powers are understood to have agreed to permit Italy a "pacific penetration of Tripoli."

Italy has colonized Tripoli until her interests in that African province are very great. She has asserted, however, that her subjects have been mistreated by the Ottoman authorities and constantly discriminated against. At the same time Turkey was warned not to send soldiers or munitions of war to Tripoli. A Turkish transport bearing a few men and arms and ammunition arriving at Tripoli from Constantinople was not molested on the ground that she sailed before the Italian warning had been received.

Italy, in the meantime, brought soldiers to the Italian coast, where they were placed on board ships, ready to proceed to Tripoli and other points. A second squadron is designed for Salonika.

Italy's declaration of war on Turkey grew out of unsatisfied demands that the Ottoman government, dominant in Tripoli for 300 years, shall surrender all economic and political rights to Italy.

Tripoli is capable of tremendous development. The soil along the coast is fertile. Not so much can be said of the interior.

The land fighting forces of Italy and Turkey compare favorably, although Italy appears to have the advantage for war on foreign soil, because the Italian government has plenty of transport ships and a competent navy to guard them en voyage, while Turkey has no transports and the fighting strength of her navy is nil.

Italy's standing arm in 1911 numbered approximately 225,000 and 14,000 officers, but a far greater number could be put in the field in case of necessity. The Italian navy consists in vessels commissioned, built or building, 15 warships five armored cruisers, 17 unarmored cruisers and gun vessels, 36 destroyers, an equal number of first-class torpedo boats and 20 submarines. In the naval force there approximately are 31,000 men. As a whole the Italian navy is generally ranked fifth among nations.

The Italians are skilled seamen. They have constructed some remarkable war vessels. The naval lists show that Turkey has a fighting strength of nine coast defense ironclads, five protected cruisers, six torpedo vessels, one gunboat, 21 torpedo boat destroyers, 27 torpedo boats and two submarines.

The nominal strength of the Turkish navy is 929 officers, 3,000 sailors, besides about 9,000 marines. The empire is divided into seven army corps districts and there are two independent divisions at Medina and Tripoli, respectively. The total fighting strength is close to 1,000,000 men and by the existing recruiting laws all Mussulmen are liable to military service.

### URGES AMERICA TO ACT.

Ex-Minister Strauss Thinks the Situation Very Grave.

Declaring that "the approaching clash of arms between Italy and Turkey far transcends the interests of the two powers involved," Oscar S. Strauss, former ambassador to Turkey, Friday wired from New York, P. C. Knox, secretary of state, urging that the United States should exercise its right under the convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes to prevent a possible state of war between Muhammadan and Christian nations of the world.

Mr. Strauss declares Italy's precipitate action can not but have the most serious results as a precedent for similar aggression by other powers. Mr. Strauss in his telegram continues:

"The United States took the lead in freeing the Mediterranean from pirates and likewise has contributed foremost among the nations in the conclusion of the convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes. Our country is not only justified, but it is its duty to exercise its right under that convention to preserve the precedents for peace and prevent a possible state of war between the Muhammadan and Christian nations of the world.

"We are fortunately free from alliances such as apparently tie the hands of European powers, who should and probably will welcome our exercising the right of mediation. I am sure I am voicing the peace-loving sentiments, not only of Americans but of all nations in calling upon our government to promptly offer its offices of mediation.

"Whatever rights politically or otherwise Italy may justly lay claim to in Tripoli, certainly can be secured without bloodshed and with justice by submitting them to The Hague tribunal."

## JURY HANG FIRE

Could Not Agree on a Verdict in the Famous Dispensary Case

## WERE OUT A LONG TIME

The Famous Label Case Ends in a Mistrial, the Jury Failing to Agree on a Verdict After Being Out About Forty Hours, and Were Discharged.

The case against L. W. Boykin, Jno. Bell Towill and W. O. Tatum, former dispensary officials, on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the State in the matter of the purchase of 21,000,000 labels for \$35,677 went to the jury at 11.15 Saturday night and after being out all Sunday, reported a mistrial on Monday.

Earley testified that he had advanced Boykins money while he was in Cincinnati buying the labels, for which he took no note, and that Boykin returned some of it when the committee was exposing the 'graft' in connection with the dispensary. Earley was asked by Mr. Lyon:

"While you represented Fleischmann & Co. as a salesman here, and while Mr. Towill was on the board of directors did you make a present to Mr. Towill?"

Answer: "Yes, sir, I gave him a diamond ring."

"What was the value of that ring?"

"Probably about four or five hundred dollars."

"Has Mr. Towill ever returned the ring to you?"

"No, sir."

"Did Mr. Towill ever express any admiration for this ring?"

"Yes, sir."

On cross-examination, the witness said that he would not believe Goodman on oath, and when asked by Attorney Nelson if Goodman was not looked upon as a low scoundrel, Earley answered: "In my opinion, he certainly is."

Earley stated in answer to questions that of the \$6,534 he had received on the label deal, Boykin nor Towill nor Tatum had gotten a cent. The figures which Goodman told him he had paid the defendants were gone over; \$3,000 was given to Boykin, according to Goodman; \$1,000 to Towill, \$200 to Tatum and \$900 to McCarrha.

"This \$6,534 was one-third? Who got another third, Goodman?"

"I suppose so," said the witness. "And who got the other?"

Answer: "Weiskopf."

"This agreement was made between you and Goodman and Weiskopf?"

"Well, we were the three that made the agreement."

Witness admitted that he had been under three indictments in this connection, and that cases would be not pressed against him, he understood, on condition of his testifying for the State in this and other cases.

Earley also testified of a general knowledge that Weiskopf had to "pay \$7,500 to get out," and that was placed in a trust company, and that when the case was concluded half was to go to the State and half to Felder. The witness also admitted to having been closely restricted in his movements during his trip here on the occasion of a former trial.

On redirect examination, by Solicitor Cobb, the witness was asked in connection with the agreement whereby he, Goodman and Weiskopf each got a third of certain funds from the deal; if Weiskopf had not told him that another \$7,500 "expense money" had to be paid to the State dispensary board, before the division among the three could be made.

### Weiskopf's Testimony.

After telling of his meeting in Cincinnati Messrs. Boykin and Tatum, he stated that these gentlemen visited his place of business and were shown over it. Weiskopf then gave the following testimony:

Q. Now, Mr. Weiskopf, when Mr. Boykin and Mr. Tatum and Mr. Goodman and Mr. Earley visited your place of business, state as nearly as you can recollect what happened on that occasion, and what was said and done?

A. I was introduced to the gentlemen and the question of labels came up. I took either all of the gentlemen or a part of them through the establishment, to show them our facilities for turning out the work, to show the way the lithograph work was handled. The proposition was drawn up and given to Mr. Boykin after some argument as to prices. Prices on a portion of the labels were reduced, and Mr. Boykin signed a contract subject to the approval of Mr. Towill.

Q. Mr. Weiskopf, after Mr. Goodman and Mr. Boykin and Mr. Tatum and Mr. Earley visited your place of business, state whether or not Mr. Goodman applied for any money?

A. Next day he did.

Q. How much money did you give him?

A. Forty-one hundred dollars.

Q. For what purpose did Mr. Goodman ask you to deliver him that money?

A. For expenses.

Mr. Lyon: For expense of what?

A. Of securing the order.

Q. Mr. Weiskopf, after that transaction, state whether or not you received any further communication from L. W. Boykin?

A. I did.

Q. Have you that communication in hand?

A. I have. (Letter of Mr. Boykin accepting bid for labels offered in evidence and read to jury by attorney general.)

Q. Mr. Weiskopf, after the payment of this \$4,100, or the letter written by Mr. Boykin, did you have any further communication with M. A. Goodman?

A. I received a letter from him.

Q. In consequence of receiving that letter, what did you do?

A. I sent him a draft for \$2,000.

Mr. Lyon: Did you receive pay for the labels set forth in this invoice?

A. I did.

Col. Nelson: We admit that he got the \$35,000.

Mr. Lyon: What did you do with the money or a part of it that you paid for?

A. I gave Mr. Earley a check for \$6,534 and Mr. Goodman a check for \$6,534, Mr. Earley's being one check, Mr. Goodman getting a check on October 8 for \$2,000 check and on Oct. 30 another check.

Q. Let me ask it again. You paid Mr. Goodman \$6,534?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You paid Earley \$6,534?

A. Yes.

Q. And you retained for yourself \$6,534?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was the \$6,100 which you testified was used as a expenses for getting the business in addition to these three items?

Mr. Nelson: He has not said the expense was \$6,100. He said it was \$4,100.

Mr. Lyon: Did you testify that it took \$6,100 to get this business?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You did?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And it was paid in two checks, wasn't it?

A. Yes, sir; the \$6,100 was additional to the other.

Q. What do you mean by the other?

A. The \$6,500 I gave Goodman and the \$6,500 I gave Earley.

Q. And the \$6,500 you gave yourself?

A. Yes, sir; for the firm.

Q. Mr. Weiskopf, so that would make something over \$25,000 all together, wouldn't it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. That accounts for over \$25,000 of this \$35,677 that you received?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. That leaves somewhere between \$9,000 and \$10,000, does it not?

A. It is over \$10,000, I think.

Q. Does it not leave less than \$10,000?

A. I figured it roughly, general; I think it was over \$10,000.

Q. Just figure it again and see what it is.

A. I make it \$9,975.

Q. Where did that money go, Mr. Weiskopf?

A. To our firm; it went to our firm.

Q. Mr. Weiskopf, state whether or not you have returned to the State of South Carolina \$7,500 on account of the overcharges on these labels?

A. I have returned \$7,500 to my attorney; I think he has made some arrangement for the return of the money paid. I gave it to him under his advice.

Weiskopf also gave Goodman a bad name. He stated that he had known Goodman seven years and that his reputation for truth and veracity and fair dealing is bad. Weiskopf would not believe Goodman on his oath.

### FALLS TO HIS DEATH.

The Tragic Ending of a Well Known Young Man.

The State says Mr. Heber S. Reynolds, a well-known young man of Columbia, was killed at a late hour Friday night when he fell from the ninth floor of the Loan and Exchange bank building to the alley way in the rear of the building.

He was employed by the South Carolina Cotton Oil company, which has offices on the ninth floor, and was waiting for H. E. Wells, the manager of the company, who was due to arrive from the North at 12 o'clock.

He had finished some work and it is supposed, was seated in the window when he fell. The body was found at midnight by R. E. North, an engineer, employed in the building, who was making his rounds as night watchman.

Mr. North said that he heard something fall about 11.30 o'clock. It is supposed that the accident occurred at that time. A careful investigation was made by Coroner Walker. He came to the conclusion that the boy's death was the result of an accident.

The body in falling struck an iron picket fence. One of the arms was torn from the body and left hanging on the fence. The head was mutilated and the lower limbs broken.

Heber Reynolds was a well known and beloved young man and had many friends in Columbia. He was 21 years of age, the son of the late John S. Reynolds, supreme court librarian, and a well known citizen of the State.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. John S. Reynolds, three sisters, Mrs. Henry L. Forbes, Miss Sarah E. Reynolds, and Miss Virginia V. Reynolds, and one brother, John S. Reynolds of The State.

## KILL ONE WIFE

The Awful Crime of a Young Chicago Physician to Hide a Crime.

## TELLS OF THE MURDER

Body of the Young Woman Found

Two Weeks After Fatal Quarrel.—

Motive for the Crime Probably to Hide from First Wife Fact of His Dual Life.

Dr. Harry Elgin Webster, a Rush Medical College graduate, student and interne at the Polyclinic Hospital at Chicago in a remarkable confession to the police Sunday, admitted that he had murdered one of his two young wives, Bessie Kent Webster, of Chicago, in the woods ten miles from Dixon, Ill., September 15.

The police say the motive for the crime was Webster's desire to hide from his first wife, Zoe Varney Webster, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the fact that he was a bigamist. He had married the two women within one week last January.

The accidental discovery of Bessie Kent's body Friday, almost two weeks after she had been killed, was followed by identification Saturday and the arrest Sunday morning of Webster.

With the arrival of wife No. 1 at the Chicago avenue police station, the structure of evasion and deceit that Webster had been erecting for months began to topple and two hours after the doctor's arrest the police had stripped from him the story of the murder.

Webster said he was married first to Zoe Varney at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, January 4. He said he was greatly in love with his bride and expected to return to Cedar Rapids to practice medicine.

"I married Bessie Kent under her promise that she would divorce me immediately after the wedding," said Webster. "She then refused to get a divorce and that was the beginning of all the trouble."

Following this unsuccessful attempt to divorce his second wife, Webster related he met her