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THE STORM SWEEP OVER THE STATE.

TWO YOUNG MEN WERE KILLED AT HONEA PATH ON MONDAY.

Four Children Killed, Three Crushed by
Trees and Chimneys in Aiken County—
The Details.

A severe wind storm, accompanied by one of the heaviest rains in years, prevailed throughout South Carolina Monday afternoon and night, being probably most severe in the north-western part.

Honea Path was the place most directly in the path of the storm, and two youths were killed at that place.

In Aiken two children were killed by falling trees and one by a falling chimney.

In other parts of the State, though no fatalities are reported much minor damage including the destruction of buildings, was done by the wind.

DETAILS OF HONEA PATH TRAGEDY.

The following is from The State: Honea Path, Feb. 17.—A severe storm, cyclonic in its character, swept this town yesterday afternoon at 3.30 o'clock.

The damages as near as can be ascertained are as follows:

The large two-story double brick store of Mr. W. A. Shirley was entirely destroyed and his stock of furnishing goods badly damaged.

Six young men on their way from school dashed into this store to escape the wind and rain. They had just reached one of the large double front doors when they saw the front wall was falling towards the street. They made an effort to escape from danger but four of them were buried beneath the wreck while two others rushed into the front door and took refuge in the inside of the store.

Earle McGee, son of Mr. W. J. McGee, and Bertie Austin, son of Mrs. Thomas Austin of Greenville county, were killed instantly and Edgar Donald, son of Mr. J. R. Donald, was seriously injured, both legs and arms being broken and his spine injured. A. C. Stone, son of Mr. J. T. Stone, had one leg broken and sustained other injuries about the head and body.

Immediately after the destruction of the building Mr. P. W. Sullivan, who was standing at one of the windows in the bank building only a short distance away, saw the hand of some one shaking. He promptly called for assistance and went to work to rescue the victims. In a few minutes the bodies of the unfortunate young men were extracted and carried to nearby buildings.

Medical assistance was summoned and every thing possible was done for the sufferers. The force of the storm was terrific and the building of Mr. Shirley was torn to atoms in almost a second. Large frames from the roof were blown hundreds of yards and brick were scattered in every direction.

In addition to the above named building, several stores were unroofed, chimneys blown down and trees uprooted. In a piece of woodland a short distance from here more than a hundred trees were felled.

Parties returning home from town were carried many yards by the force of the winds.

Telephone and telegraph wires are down and communication with other points was impossible.

The graded school had just closed its work for the day and it is a miracle that many of the children were not killed. Many of them rushed into the Baptist church, although two of them were carried across the field and hurled against a tree.

The damage to property here is considerable. Several firms suffered damage to their stocks of goods by water, their storerooms being unroofed.

The loss to property in the surrounding country is not very great, although many chimneys were blown down.

Stock was killed and out buildings damaged. The Chiquola mill suffered considerable damage, several of the tenant houses being demolished

Lights were broken out of the mill buildings and waste house blown down.

E. B. Colbornson, mail carrier on one of the free delivery routes, had a narrow escape from death. He had taken refuge in a covered bridge a few miles from here. He realized that the bridge would not stand the force of the storm and made an effort to get his team out, but before he could do so the structure gave way. His horse was killed and his buggy demolished. He saved himself by jumping into the open just as the bridge went down.

ASSISTANCE FROM BELTON.

The citizens of Belton, a nearby town, rendered valuable assistance, several coming down on the first train. Among them were two of the leading physicians, who very quickly offered their services to the families of the injured.

The work of removing the debris from the streets was at once undertaken by Mayor Milford and in a few days the stores will be ready for business again.

Many inquiries have been received as to the safety of friends.

It may be well to state that no one other than those mentioned above sustained any injuries. The condition of Edgar Donald is critical but his chances of recovery are good unless blood poison develops. One leg will doubtless have to be amputated.

AT ANDERSON

Report from Anderson states that Ligon & Ledbetter's large wholesale grocery store and the Anderson Cash Grocery Store were unroofed. Telephone and electric light wires were blown down and much other damage done. All communication by telegraph and telephone with the outside world was cut off.

The Episcopal church at Calhoun Falls was totally destroyed.

THREE KILLED IN AIKEN.

Loss of life followed in the wake of the storm which passed over Aiken county Monday night. Two children of Mr. Jas. Davis, who lives at Ergles Bridge about 12 miles from Aiken, were killed by a falling tree.

At Lake View the roof of a tenement house was blown off and the family ran out and escaped without injury, but the child of Moses Dorkins, about 6 years old, was struck by the falling chimney and killed.

While the wind was very hard in Aiken no material damage was done.

STORM IN SPARTANBURG.

At Spartanburg the car barn of the Spartanburg Railway, Gas and Electric Company was blown down. The electric companies, telephone, telegraph and street cars were shut down to protect the people from injury from trees falling on wires. No loss of life.

BUILDINGS AT ABBEVILLE DESTROYED.

At Abbeville the Methodist church at the cotton mill and the tan yard were blown down, both buildings being totally wrecked. Telephone poles, trees, shrubbery and chimneys fell with a velocity exceeded only by that of the rain.

NEGRO KILLED AT LAURENS

The wind and rain storm which passed over Laurens Monday afternoon, according to reports, was wide spread and considerable damage was done in various sections. It struck Laurens about 4.30 o'clock and for 10 minutes it was terrific. Trees were uprooted everywhere, the plastering loosened in residences and more or less damage done to light outbuildings, kitchens, etc. The telephone and electric light systems probably suffered the greatest damage. Poles were flattened right and left and the wires are down in every direction. For several hours the service of both was badly interrupted. On Wm. Brown's place, two miles south, a cabin was blown down and a negro child had its skull crushed and a negro woman was injured by falling timbers. The child will probably die. At Owings' Station, 12 miles northwest, Mr. Jno. Campbell's house was wrecked and a negro house on Will Powers' place nearby was blown down, two miles above there Mr. Robert Stockard's residence, a

new building, was demolished. No one is reported to have been injured. Last night the wind continued furious, and it was past midnight before many people slept comfortably. To day it is biting cold and extremely disagreeable for outdoor work or travel.

OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE.

Reports from other parts of the State indicate great wind and rain with damage to buildings and telephone and telegraph poles and wires. The great wonder seems to be that greater loss of life was not sustained.

A Journalistic Feat.

Newspapers are still talking of the journalistic achievements of the late Mr. De Blowitz for 35 years special correspondent of the London Times. His greatest feat was undoubtedly in securing for his paper the complete text of the Boer treaty in 1878 before it had left the conference room, or in fact had received the signature of the diplomats. Some ten years or more ago Mr. De Blowitz wrote the story of the Berlin treaty "scoop" for the Century Magazine. It was a fascinating narrative, and is worth recalling at this time.

Mr. De Blowitz had been commissioned by The Times to report the conference. He knew the difficulties he would have to encounter owing to the secrecy of the sessions and to Bismarck's well known antipathy to newspaper men. As a preliminary arrangement for the battle royal he proposed to wage with the wise men, Mr. De Blowitz secured as his aide a young, well connected Parisian, disinherited and looking for a job. The young man was told to apply for a secretaryship to a diplomat who it was understood would be an ambassador to the conference at Berlin. He was instructed by Mr. De Blowitz that while he was to indulge in no gross betrayal of confidences, nevertheless he would be expected at the close of each day to give a faithful report of the progress of the conference.

The plan, in the language of Mr. De Blowitz, succeeded a merveille. The young man secured the secretaryship, and presumably served both his masters well. He was not skilled in the art of newsgathering, however, and Mr. De Blowitz often had to exercise his ingenuity in patching together the meager scraps of information. For example, one evening the young fellow reported that a certain ambassador had made a speech which seemed to have created an awful row—he didn't know what the speech was or anything about it. Mr. D. Blowitz put on his good clothes and went to call on an intimate friend of the man who had made the speech. Without directly asking for information, he incidentally observed that the ambassador's speech was being severely criticized, etc., etc. The diplomat came to the defense of his friend, and before he was through had practically told the context of the speech.

The publication of the treaty, however, was Mr. De Blowitz' master stroke. He learned that the treaty had been given a certain ambassador for revision. He went to the ambassador and requested a copy, but of course was refused. Mr. De Blowitz persisted to the point that the ambassador finally consented to read the treaty aloud. It was long and complicated, and he did not count on Mr. De Blowitz being able to make any intelligent use of it. But he did not count on the newspaper man's trained memory. Mr. De Blowitz had what he wanted, and the next morning the readers of the London Times were able to read the treaty, which Mr. De Blowitz had taken the precaution to send from Belgium instead of Berlin.

This achievement of Mr. De Blowitz was noteworthy; but equally noteworthy would undoubtedly be those of many newspaper men now living, if they could be so told. To be a successful special correspondent in these days a man must be many minded—he must at the same time combine all the wisdom of the diplomat, the finesse of the practical politician, the strategy of the military commander, and the hustle of the newspaper man.

EXTRA SESSION OF SENATE PROBABLE

A CRITICAL SITUATION NEAR THE CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

The Blockade Caused by the Statehood Bill—How the Trusts Rule Congress. Other Matters

(News and Courier.)

Washington, Feb. 19.—Special: Because of the Statehood blockade the Republican leaders are now preparing for an extra session of the Senate and a proclamation by the President for such a session, is expected immediately at the close of the present session, unless the unexpected happens and the Cuban and Panama Canal treaties are ratified. However, an extra session of the Senate alone will create little interest outside of its action in ratifying the treaties, for no other legislation is probable. The Senate, it is true, might go on and pass bills, which the House could take up next December, when it meets again, but none of the measures considered by the Senate could become law for the present. But the disposition will be to consider the treaties solely and the meetings will be very largely executive.

These executive sessions of the Senate always attract much interest locally, because of the many peculiar practices connected with them. In open session the Senate is a part of the legislative branch. But when the silver electric balls in every committee room and corridor at the north end of the Capitol ring four times, following a motion of some Senator for an executive session, the Senate ceases to be part of the legislative branch of the Government and becomes a part of the executive branch. Spectators are hustled out of the galleries in droves, the doors are barred, that lead to the public chairs, down stairs the big white double doors swing to and uniformed Capitol policemen and other employees of the Senate guard against intrusion by way of the wide marble stairways.

The Senate preserves with great punctiliousness its forms of secrecy as to the executive session, but accounts of what transpired appear with accuracy in the morning papers of the next day. The accounts have to come from the Senators themselves, but it is rare indeed that the correspondents, who have friends among the Senators, do not get the substance of everything of public interest that transpires behind the doors. Stenographic reports are made of all the sayings in open session and printed the following morning verbatim, but official reports are not made of the executive session.

HOW THE TRUSTS RULE CONGRESS.

There has been a marked development this winter in the character of lobbying before Congress. Heretofore a great many big interests have sent their men to Washington to look after interests. These men are often politely called attorneys, but in reality are men trained in the ways of promoting legislation or preventing legislation, as the desires of the big corporations might be.

Some master mind has now organized these vast industries and corporations into a community of interests, and the railroads, mines, ship interests and the like are represented by one bureau, where books are kept and where the wires are touched from time to time, as may be necessary, to bring to Washington the particular men who can work along a desired line. Thus a railroad president, for example, may have particular influence with the delegation from some Western State. He comes to Washington on a hurry summons to help a steamship combine, perhaps to defeat a bill that hinders its interests, or it may be that the president of a steamship line comes to help out a big railroad that wants to defeat particular legislation or to pull a bill through a bad legislative situation. The big trusts are in the arrangement and all hands are working together. Heretofore the small lobbyist

thrived. He could make big money by representing different corporations, provided he had influence and possessed aptitude for the work. Furthermore the system of keeping books on the statesmen who have to receive help occasionally from the big railroads and other corporations is efficacious. A record is kept, for instance, of the tickets issued to carry workers to Bill Smith's Congressional convention in Squedunk County. In days gone by Bill Smith was apt to forget these favors after election time. Now he will find the figures about those favors staring him in the face in Washington when the big corporations want a favor from him.

MANY DROWNED IN CHOWAN RIVER.

Passenger Steamer Olive Wrecked by a
Cyclone and Lighted
Lives Lost.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 17.—A cyclone struck the passenger steamer Olive which lies between Franklin, Va., and Edenton, N. C. at 9:30 o'clock last night and sent her to the bottom of the river off Wooley's Pier, between Mount Pleasant and Oliver's wharf.

The whirlwind when it struck the Olive caused her to go over on her beams' end and when she righted it was only to sink on account of the water she had taken. A majority of the passengers and crew were below at the time and had no opportunity to reach the pilot house of the vessel. This point was the only portion left above water and in it standing waist deep from the time of the accident until 6 o'clock in the morning Capt. George H. Withy and five others were saved.

According to the statement of Capt. Withy to The Associated Press correspondent here tonight 17 persons are known to have been lost on the sinking steamer and a lifeboat loaded with Engineer C. L. Conway, Assistant Engineer J. P. Murphy, Purser J. N. Bell, one white and two colored deck hands, which left the steamer in hopes of reaching a vessel whose lights could be seen in the distance, is yet unheard from. If these have been drowned the death list will reach 25.

SKETCHES BY EX-CONFED.

He Writes of People of Antic-Bellum Times.

Maj. Frederick Boozer lived near Trinity church on lands now owned by some of the people in the "Nation." Maj. Boozer married a widow Stewart, who was the daughter of Aaron Burton. Maj. Boozer had no children, but his wife had two children by her first husband, Mr. Stewart. These girls were raised by Maj. Boozer and were treated in every respect as if they were his own children. He died some years ago at the home of his step daughter, Mrs. N. F. Wilson. He was a strict member of Smyrna (Presbyterian) church, and I think was an elder of the church.

Eq. George Boozer was a brother of Maj. Boozer. He was a ruling elder in Smyrna church and did a great deal to build up the interest of his church. He lived about one and a half miles from Smyrna church on the land now owned by his son, H. D. Boozer, who is also a ruling elder in the church of his father—a worthy son of a worthy father. Eq. Boozer was also the father of S. P. Boozer, Dr. Thomas Boozer, Dr. Job Boozer and G. B. Boozer, Sr., all worthy men and strict followers of John Knox. I want to pay a just tribute to these good people of Smyrna church. A kinder hearted people never lived than the members of Smyrna church. They bring up their children under the teaching of the short catechism, and if any one is sick they have good attention and nursing. I am a member of a different church and I would that my church would remember the widow and orphan and nurse the sick as the good people of Smyrna do. A few years ago I was a widower; my daughter had a protracted case of typhoid fever and during the time of her sickness there was but one hour but what there was a lady in the house and nearly all of those who were so kind to us were Presbyterians. May old Smyrna grow strong again and flourish under the ministrations of her present worthy pastor is the wish of X. Confed.

SKIRMISHING FOR PRESIDENCY.

Republicans Uncertain Though Roosevelt Has the Advantage—Democrats Talk Mostly of Parker.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Party managers are giving thought nowadays to question of President making. The nominating conventions are only a little more than a year distant, and long before that time sentiment will have shaped itself somewhat definitely as to the identity of candidates and the outline of the platforms.

Mr. Bryan's latest announcement, that he intended to stay out of next year's race for the Democratic nomination, while it was entirely unnecessary came at a time when the Democratic leaders are scanning the horizon and when a general feeling of hopefulness prevails beyond anything the Democratic party has known since 1896.

The Republican situation is anomalous. There are prominent party men here in Washington offering to wager that the name of President Roosevelt will not even be presented to the next Republican national convention. There are others declaring a willingness to wager that no other name will be presented to the convention. In the private conversations of men who feel the public pulse there is almost a universal admission that Mr. Roosevelt is strong with the people, and that if he wins the nomination triumphantly, or even after a struggle, it will be by reason of his general popularity.

The grumbling comes in large part from the politician class, including, of course, a large contingent of Senators and members of the House. The politicians do not, as a rule, like Mr. Roosevelt and his methods. Things not altogether kind and commendatory about his administration are very frequently heard among Republican Congressmen. Most of them maintain very friendly relations at the White House, but not with the kind of political fellowship that makes men turn out and work with might and main for the success of a ticket.

At present there is no rallying point for opponents of Mr. Roosevelt's nomination, however few or numerous they may really be. It may be that this will prove eventually a source of weakness to the President, for he will have no reason, if things go on as they are now to send his lieutenants out into the States to make a vigorous fight, with the assurance that if they should win the men elected as delegates would steadfastly support Mr. Roosevelt in the convention from first to last. The prospects seem to grow that delegates will be in order now before many months have gone by—with little or no controversy as to whom they shall support, and possibly with no very definite instructions in many instances.

If the party managers have their way in such a program there will be more opportunities for them to manipulate conditions in the convention, for delegates can be swayed more readily when they have been named without a struggle and when the country is not awaked to a lively interest in the outcome.

Whatever the party opposition to Mr. Roosevelt be, there is no doubt that much of it would rally around Senator Hanna, were he willing to declare any Presidential aspirations. He would have a big following immediately in some sections, if the word were simply passed along that his friends intended to make a fight for him. The old guard among the Republicans, men who have followed the national committee, would not set upon a sign from the Ohioan, but he has set his face steadily against any such project. There are Republicans in Congress who are anxiously scanning conditions, and are loth to commit themselves, whose influence in their own localities will decide one way or the other. If no rival boom makes headway against Mr. Roosevelt, they will be inclined to fall in behind with the probable winner.

Disatisfaction with the conditions in which the Republican party finds itself is in marked contrast with the

coming together of the Democrats, who have made a more satisfactory record, from their own point of view, than at any other session of Congress in the last six years. There has been a rapid disappearance of the old factional differences. Contentions within the party and dissensions in voting have been practically unknown since Congress met last December. There has been almost no agitation of issues on which the party split in 1896, but there has been enthusiasm such as generally characterizes the reunion of old time workers. The unanimity with which the Democrats have supported administration measures for restriction of trusts is regarded as putting them in a most favorable attitude for making the next Presidential campaign. While asserting that the legislation could accomplish little they have supported it because of unwillingness to go on record against any effort, however mild, to curb trust evils.

The Democratic talk is nearly toward the nomination of Judge Parker. In fact, the democratic hope is built on the carrying of New York State, and the Southerners reason that no candidate has been suggested more likely to accomplish the political overturning of the Empire State than the present chief judge of the court of appeals. Were the convention to be held today, there would apparently be no doubt of Judge Parker's nomination.

Unless conditions change materially within the coming year, the Presidential campaign of 1904 will be very vigorously fought. The Democrats will go in with a conservative platform to command the support of a conservative man. That is the trend of all the talk heard from Southern Democrats, who will be allowed, in large measure, to dictate the plans for the contest. New York State will be the chief battleground, with strenuous efforts to wrest New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland and a few States of the far West, including California, from Republican control.

NOT BECAUSE OF THEIR MONEY.

Why the Palm Limited Ran Back for Mrs. Vanderbilt and Party.

Columbia, S. C.—A great deal of comment has been made in the newspapers over the fact that so important a train as the Southern Palm Limited should have been turned back twenty two miles in order to take aboard Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt and a party of friends. They were at the station ready to take the train at Pineland, but it went on, being finally stopped at Hardeeville and brought back for the party.

The circumstance has been telegraphed all over the country and the impression seems to have gotten out that the Southern turned its train back simply because these people are millionaires and persons of influence. This is not the case, as has been learned here. It seems that Pineland has been "bulletined," as they say in railroad circles, as a flag station to stop this train. The engineer had overlooked that fact, it being one of no great importance in view of the fact that Pineland is a side track out in the woods.

However, being such a station, passengers had a perfect right to board the train at that place. When the Palm Limited hove in sight it was flagged, but the engineer, not having noticed that it had been made a stop station, went on by. An attempt was made to stop the train at the next station, known as Tillman, but the operator for some reason failed to do so.

When the train got to Hardeeville the club car was detached and was run back for the party. It was ruled by one familiar with railroad rules and laws that this had to be done or the company would have been liable for damages. It was further stated that if a negro had dared to go on the train under similar circumstances that it would have been necessary to go back for him if a suit of damages was to be avoided. The railroad, therefore, holds that it did not send back the train because the would-be passengers were millionaires, but that it was done for the protection of the road.

As people all over the country have been wondering at the cause of the train going back, these facts are stated as matters of interest.