

The Manning Times.

MANNING, S. C., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1903.

NO. 45.

VOL. XVII.

A YAWNING CHASM.

Into Which an Excursion Train Loaded With Negro Plunged.

OCCURRED NEAR WEDGEFIELD.

Five People Killed and Many Others Wounded. Efforts to Warn the Engineer of Danger Failed.

An excursion train from Nichols to Columbia on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad was wrecked between Wedgefield and Cane Savannah, about eight miles from Sumter, Wednesday morning. The train was taking a large crowd of colored people to Columbia. When eight miles from Sumter, going at full speed, it plunged into a deep washout. The engine, the baggage car and three coaches were thrown in a heap, and the crew and passengers crushed in the wreck.

The water which had been lying placidly beside the embankment had become a torrent unleashed, and the pent up force tore a gaping hole in the path of the train. Into this fissure the train plunged—and the Atlantic Coast Line service has lost one of its best passenger conductors: four excursionists are reported dead, and others are suffering from severe injuries. There were 32 of the passenger list of less than a hundred, who suffered injuries of more or less importance.

The ill-fated train was an excursion from Nichols, Marion county, and was running just ahead of the regular morning train from Sumter to Columbia. The excursionists were negro preachers and their friends going to the commencement of one of the colored colleges in Columbia.

DEAD AND WOUNDED.

J. J. Clements of Florence, conductor, killed instantly by blow on head. Frank Ross and Minnie Ross, his wife, colored.

Joe Davis, colored, Marion. Ned Weston, colored, Marion. Died on relief train while being taken to Sumter.

In addition thirty-five passengers were hurt. The engineer, George W. son, was also badly hurt. All the killed and wounded were colored except Conductor Clements and Engineer Wilson.

The worst cloudburst which has been known in that section of Sumter county in a quarter of a century swept over Wedgefield country Tuesday night and for hours the water fell in sheets. The very clouds seemed to have been drawn from under a suspended lake. But the section foreman and track inspectors of the Coast Line went over the line and could find nothing which forebode the terrible disaster which blotted a train out of existence. The morning passenger train had passed over the same stretch of track on its way from Columbia to Sumter, and a freight train had also passed along this very place and had noted no weakening in the embankment.

TRIED TO STOP THE TRAIN.

The ominous booming of the breaking of the bank was heard by a negro farm hand, Alexander Robinson, who lives near by, and terror-stricken he rushed from his cabin to warn the approaching train—for he knew that the morning passenger to Columbia was due in less than half an hour. Desperate with anxiety to convey the warning, he ran down the track toward Cane Savannah, a station two miles east of the place where the waters made the breach, and six miles out of Sumter. Had he not reached the station his signal of warning and of distress might have been heeded, or had the regular passenger train been running ahead of the excursion it would have stopped. But if Engineer George Wilson saw the improvised flag which Alexander Robinson flaunted in the face of the invisible institute which was lurking in the loom of fate, no notice was taken, for excursion trains are not expected to stop at such stations as Cane Savannah unless they have had orders, and the regular passenger train was running but ten minutes behind. Practically the negro waved in the face of the engine a long strip of red paper which he had taken from his hat, and eagerly he pointed down the track to the hole of horror beyond. But his well meant efforts were misunderstood and the train dashed by at the rate of 35 to 40 miles an hour. There was nothing in this humble messenger to do but to wait for the inevitable and his heart sank with fear as he saw the train dashing on to its destruction.

DEATH STARED HIM IN THE FACE.

The train was within 50 feet of the abyss when the engineer saw fate beckoning to him out of the terrible chasm. With great presence of mind he applied the emergency brakes and threw the reverse lever back to its furthest notch. Had he not done so the weight and impetus of the engine would have carried it across, the coaches would have been piled in even greater confusion than they were and the loss of life would have been far greater. But with his feet tied by the brakes, the locomotive settled serenely into the chasm, its nose buried far into the sand of the side toward which the wheels sank to their top rims in the bed of sand and the fires were immediately extinguished. The escaping steam crowned a sad requiem through the whistle, which had been the chronicler of the life and activity of the engine now useless but not a ruin, for it can be rehabilitated.

And what of the men who rode in the cab? The bottom of the crevasse was the width of the engine, without the tender, and the latter was standing almost perpendicularly. Its front end having entirely demolished the cab and its rear end being held upright by a tangled confusion of trucks and running gear, upon which three coaches had been mounted. From this vortex of death-dealing iron it would seem that the engine men would

THE GREAT FLOODS.

The Situation in the Overflowed Sections Improving.

GREAT MENTAL SUFFERING.

Many Rescues Effected, but Forty-Eight are Known to be Dead at Topeka. Great Loss of Property.

A dispatch from Kansas City says blue sky was visible above Kansas City Tuesday afternoon. The rains have disappeared and the sun was visible for the first time this week. The waters of the Kaw river have fallen eight inches and are steadily declining at the rate of about one-half an inch an hour. In the Missouri the high stage of 35 feet is still maintained, but this is due to the rise which has been coming down the Missouri proper and has been able to offset the fall in the Kaw. It is the water of the latter stream, however, that has caused all the damage in this city and in Kansas City, Kas., and with it at a normal stage, business in Kansas City soon will resume usual conditions. This city, by a narrow margin has escaped a serious shortage in food, but the fact that it is practically helpless to avert its consequences, has suffered millions of dollars of damage to property and sustained a loss in life that in all probability never will be accurately measured, and now it is commencing to believe promises of better things.

The situation shows improvement on almost every side: the waters are falling; the gas has been turned into the mains once more and there is no immediate danger of a serious shortage of food. The city has cared for the Adams house in Union street and Edward Brooks lost his life in Liberty street, where his skiff was overturned by an eddy while he was endeavoring to get another man out of a building. A number of bodies were seen floating down the stream, but are believed to be those of people drowned further up the Kaw, probably at North Topeka.

Two men lost their lives Tuesday in the attempt to save others. Just Keenan was drowned while endeavoring to rescue some people from the Adams house in Union street and Edward Brooks lost his life in Liberty street, where his skiff was overturned by an eddy while he was endeavoring to get another man out of a building. A number of bodies were seen floating down the stream, but are believed to be those of people drowned further up the Kaw, probably at North Topeka.

Without water, save for urgent needs, without beds, the upper part of the town being unable to house in any comfort the horde of refugees Tuesday night bids fair to be a repetition of other since the coming of the flood. The wretchedness, however, is more mental than physical, through the discomfords due to herding large bodies of people in buildings not built for the purpose and trying to feed an army without a commissary department. Leavenworth, to the north, the only way by which the suburb can be entered with supplies, is the place to which all turn with hope. Rations sufficient to last several days if carefully economized, were brought in during the day and additional bedding, clothing, medicine and other supplies are expected within the next 24 hours.

Much mental discomfort exists because of the separation of members of the flood who had little time to escape from the flood. Since Sunday fathers, mothers, wives, husbands, brothers and sisters have visited every part of town, particularly the places of refuge, looking for missing members of their families. Something like order was brought out of the confusion Tuesday in the distribution of such food as was at hand. With the supply running short it became apparent that the distribution must be made systematic and a central station for that purpose was opened.

DISTRIBUTING FOOD.

From there the food is sent in proper proportions to the various schools, churches and other camps of refugees. A temporary hospital with medical attendants has been established. Farmers sold garden truck in the streets during the day and 90 sides of beef were carried from Swift's packing house. This is the entire number of beefs saved at that place.

Merchants of Kansas City, Kas., have brought up large quantities of supplies which will be shipped into the suburbs as fast as possible over the only line of road open—the electric road from Leavenworth, Kas. Street cars in the suburbs began to run after a fashion Tuesday with power furnished by the dynamo at Leavenworth. The lack of gas is severely felt and oil is scarce.

Flags of distress from partly inundated buildings in Armourdale could be seen from Kansas City, Kas., during the day and many rescues were effected. Possibly 10 bodies have been seen floating since Sunday, but estimates made from this are useless, as some of the bodies may have floated down the Kaw from Topeka, the same bodies drifting in the ever-changing eddies of the flood may have been counted several times.

A WARNING.

R. W. McDaniel, a young white man of Lexington, Okla., will serve the balance of his natural life in the state prison for having taken the life of a fellow man. The supreme court decided that he should not have a new trial. The court was divided, two and two, and the motion failed.

JACKED HIM UP.

John Dennis, a negro, was lynched at Greenville, Miss., Thursday afternoon by a mob of two hundred men. The negro had attempted a criminal assault upon a well-known young lady who was returning home from the telephone exchange, where she worked, on Tuesday night week. He was immediately arrested and placed in the local jail.

A WARNING.

The infant child of Col. W. G. Stephenson of the King's Mountain academy, Yorkville, died on Monday from swallowing broken glass.

WAR STATISTICS.

Further Statement of Forces and Losses on Each Side IN THE GREAT CIVIL WAR.

The Southern Soldiers Had to Fight Against Great Odds and Take More Risks Than the Northern.

Some days ago the New Orleans Picayune printed statistics showing that in the Civil war the losses of the Confederates in killed were in proportion greater than were those of the federals.

This statement was questioned on the ground that the federal armies were made up in the aggregate of nearly five times the number of men possessed by the Confederates, and that, therefore, the largest army should naturally have suffered the greatest loss in battle. It was contended, on the other hand, that the smaller army, in order to stand against the greater, was compelled to fight with more desperation and daring, and that, therefore, its men subject to greater loss. Moreover, any force fighting at large odds would have to endure the fire of a greater number of missiles, and this would expose it to greater losses.

Unfortunately, many of the Confederate war records were lost or destroyed in the evacuation of and retreat from Richmond, and therefore the Confederate returns are not complete and no accurate account is available. The war department at Washington, which has charge of all the Confederate war records, has recently begun the work of completing, as far as possible, the Confederate records as to numbers and losses of men, and a call has been made which should be promptly responded to, asking Confederate survivors and State authorities possessing muster rolls and other data of the sort, to send them, either as a loan or gift, to the war department at Washington, so that they may be copied and used to supply the lost records. So far as the figures are available today, the Picayune repeats with additions the figures printed by it last Wednesday.

WOSE THAN THE RUSSIANS

The Unspeakable Turk and His Cruel Deeds in Roumania.

Horrible details are arriving here of the slaughter of the inhabitants of the village of Smergh, south of Lake Teshon, on May 21, by Haski-Bazouks. It appears that on the arrival of the Haski-Bazouks, Chakaloroff's band of insurgents withdrew to the mountains without sustaining any loss. As no retails were left in the village the inhabitants experienced no anxiety, until suddenly, at sunset, the Turks, who had completely surrounded the place, commenced a regular bombardment, whereupon all the villagers assembled in the streets. Though the artillery ceased firing during part of the night, the Turkish infantry fired all night long. The artillery bombardment was recommenced at daybreak, but as it was ineffective the Turks set fire to the village on all sides and commenced a general massacre, slaughtering women, children and the aged. About three hundred houses were burned and upwards of two hundred persons, mostly women and children, were killed. The women and girls were murdered while resisting outrage. Whole households were slain. One family of seven were slain and their bodies thrown on the hearth. Not a living soul was left in the village. The survivors, many of them half-burned or otherwise injured, fled. Some of the fleeing villagers were captured and had their ears and noses cut off before they were butchered. The report adds that 1,500 villagers were in the mountains without clothing or food. One band of these, consisting of forty women and children, were caught by soldiers in a ravine and were killed after horrible treatment.

Freed as Last.

The Columbia correspondent of The News and Courier says the happiest man in South Carolina today, perhaps, is Cato Gadsden, formerly a colored citizen of Newfour County, but who since 1880 has been a convict in the Penitentiary. He was sentenced for life for stealing \$35 or \$40 worth of cotton seed. He stole them at a time when the law was different from what it now is, and as the crime was not in the class of burglary, and the house where the cotton seed was stored adjoined a dwelling, Cato got the extreme penalty. It turns out that generally he had been a quiet, law-abiding negro, but somehow yielded to temptation. His conduct in the Penitentiary has been good. Thursday a delegation came to see the Governor in his behalf. They gave him a good character as a rule, and as he had served four or five times the term he would have served had the crime been committed later, the Governor decided to pardon him.

Forest Fires.

The entire state of New Hampshire is darkened with a pall of smoke from the forest fires in the North, so dense that the sun is entirely obscured and it is with difficulty that one can work or read without artificial light. At Groveton the people packed their belongings Thursday to move away. The town is surrounded by a ring of flames which swept up the Ammonoosuc valley. In Carroll county vast quantities of timber and cut lumber are being burned. In Groveton, 80 miles away, ashes are falling in the streets.

Killed by Lightning.

During a severe rain and thunder storm at Anderson George Hammock, a young white man who lives at the Orr Cotton Mills, was killed by lightning. He was employed in building some of the new operatives' cottages that the company is erecting. When the storm came up he left his work and started for his home in company with his father. In a few seconds a bolt of lightning struck the house and he was instantly killed. His body was badly torn by the bolt and the house was badly demolished.

School Children Rescued.

The rescuing party sent from St. Joseph, Mo., to Topeka composed of 75 men with steam launches and row boats have returned and their places will be taken by other volunteers. The St. Joseph men rescued 200 school children from the Grant school, imprisoned there since last Friday. The children were in a half starved condition. The rescuers shot and killed a negro caught in the act of looting deserted houses.

Jacked Him Up.

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LOSSES ALL HIS MONEY.

Ex-Senator McLaurin Seems to Have Bought a Gold Brick.

A Colored Picnic from Charleston Broken Up by

BAD TEN MILE HILL NIGGERS

Who Attacked the City Folks With Guns and Clubs. Six Carried Back to the City Wounded.

The Charleston Post says a fierce battle with guns, pistols and knives was fought at Ladson, a station on the Southern railway, seventeen miles from Charleston, on Monday, June 1, between Charleston negroes, who had gone to Ladson to take part in a picnic given by the Jenkins Orphanage, and several hundred country negroes. Shooting irons were used freely and about twenty Charleston negroes were mangled, though not seriously. A man, woman and child, whose identity are unknown, are said to have been killed, though the report is discredited. The excursionists returned to the city with the wounded Charleston negroes. Six were sent to the city hospital, and others went to their homes. The country negroes who were shot did not come into the city. The negroes sent to the hospital were picked up on the streets by the police. They were: William Grant, shot in side and leg, found on America street; William Fryer, George Kenzie, Henry Langston, James Allen and William Perrin, found on Line street, suffering from gun shot wounds.

Monday the annual picnic of the Jenkins Orphanage was given at the grounds of the Jenkins Reformatory at Ladson. The Rev. D. J. Jenkins, who is at the head of both the orphanage and the reformatory carried about 1,700 negroes on a special train. When the reformatory grounds were reached, fifty Charleston negroes were met by a large number of negroes from Ten Mile and the country adjacent to Ladson. The latter were armed with guns, rifles, pistols and knives. They told the city negroes that they had come to have a good time and that they must not interfere.

The morning hour passed off without trouble, but about about 2 o'clock in the afternoon the Ten Mile Hill negroes wanted to dance in the reformatory building, and the Rev. Jenkins, who is at the head of both the orphanage and the reformatory carried about 1,700 negroes on a special train. When the reformatory grounds were reached, fifty Charleston negroes were met by a large number of negroes from Ten Mile and the country adjacent to Ladson. The latter were armed with guns, rifles, pistols and knives. They told the city negroes that they had come to have a good time and that they must not interfere.

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