

THE MISSISSIPPI FLOOD.

LEVEES MAY GO DOWN, IF WATER CONTINUES TO RISE.

Thousands are homeless; Driven From Their Homes by Rapid Inroads of Muddy Torrents. Situation — is Grave.

With a mighty volume of water moving southward at a rapid rate, the man-raised banks of the Mississippi river are subjected to a heavy strain. So far they have held their own. The crest of the rise is not yet in sight, but the speed of the flood must bring the highest point before long. Fully 7,000 people are homeless, having been driven from their homes by the encroachment of the waters on the inhabited portion of the banks of the great river. It is predicted that the water at Memphis will reach 45 feet, ten feet above the flood stage.

If the water rises much higher, it is predicted, the levees must give way under the terrible strain to which they have been subjected during the past few days.

At Hickman, Ky., there are 3,500 refugees, including the 2,000 made homeless when the factory district was submerged. Their distress was partially relieved when food and tents were ported out yesterday.

At Columbus, Ky., 800 to 1,200 people have been driven from homes and are encamped on hills overlooking the town.

At New Madrid, Mo., 800 are homeless. The business and residence sections are flooded with three to five feet of water.

In the Dorena, Mo., community, 900 to 1,000, driven from their homes, have been rescued by Hickman, Ky., residents. Many head of live stock have been lost.

In Memphis, Tenn., 1,200 people have fled their homes in the low part of north section. The gas plant out of commission. The authorities are warning residents of the district to boil water before using.

At Craig's Landing, Mo., 11 employees of the Mengel Box company of Hickman, Ky., are endangered by remaining in camp when 39 others were rescued.

Hundreds of steamboat landings between Hickman, Ky., and Arkansas City are submerged.

Main Levees Are Standing Up, But Constant Strain Is Telling on Banks of Mississippi.

Memphis, Tenn., April 4.—While all main levees are holding, the flood is telling on the banks of the Mississippi river, and tonight the situation is not so hopeful. Several weak spots have developed, especially at Mound City, Ark., and in the Reelfoot levee, west of Hickman, Ky. Large forces of laborers and volunteers are at work bolstering up the sloughing embankments and piling sand bags where the water is lapping the crest.

Another day of sunshine favored those fighting back the waters, and a bulletin tonight from the headquarters of the government's engineers, who are directing the fight, express confidence that the battle will be won. At Memphis the water is within two-tenths of the 44-foot "dead line" set by S. C. Emery, government forecaster. Mr. Emery is of the opinion that the levees can not stand up under the strain of more than 44 feet.

Unfounded reports today were that the Reelfoot levee had gone out, and that the flood was pouring over populous farming lands.

Late tonight reports are that the levee is still holding, although the situation is grave.

South of Memphis the levees are reported strong and while thousands of acres of low lands are under water, there have been no breaks nor reports of serious danger.

A telephone message from Hulbert, Ark., at 11:30 tonight reported a break in the main levee a mile south of that town. A later report, however, was that the levee is still holding out, but is dangerously near the breaking point. The weak stretch is 300 yards in length. Several hundred men are at work in an effort to save the embankment.

According to refugees who made their way towards Charleston, Mo., from the inundated town of Birds Mill and Wyatt, several persons have been drowned and others are clinging to house tops and trees awaiting rescue. Charleston is without craft to go to their assistance but gasoline launches are en route from Poplar Bluff and Morehouse and should arrive early tomorrow. All communication with the two villages is cut off.

Dyersburg, Tenn., reports the town of Ridgley in that vicinity under two feet of water. Every saw mill, the principal industry in the county, is out of commission.

Refugees from the flooded territory are flocking into the cities and towns on the high lands by the thousands. Conditions in the flooded cities of Hickman and Columbus, Ky., were relieved today when foodstuffs and tents were brought in.

WHITE MURDERER CONVICTED.

Verdict of Jury As to John W. Pendarvis, Who Killed Charles G. Wimberly.

St. George, April 4.—John W. Pendarvis, charged with the killing of Charles G. Wimberly at an egg hunt picnic at the Knight school house several miles from St. George March 25, 1910, was yesterday found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced by Judge Shipp to serve nine years on the chalingang of Dorchester county or in the State penitentiary. The case is an interesting one. It was first tried at the October term of court in 1910, when Pendarvis was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to serve 12 years in the penitentiary. An appeal was taken to the supreme court and a new trial was ordered.

The case came up last October when a continuance was granted until the present term. The case began Tuesday afternoon and many witnesses were examined. The plea of the defendant was self-defense. The verdict of the jury was returned after an hour's deliberation.

CHARLES B. AYCOCK DROPS DEAD.

Stricken While Speaking in Birmingham, Alabama.

Birmingham, Ala., April 4.—Former Gov. Charles B. Aycock of North Carolina dropped dead at the Jefferson theatre tonight while addressing the Alabama Educational association. Mr. Aycock was speaking on "Universal Education, Its Necessity and Benefit." He was about one-fourth through his address when he suddenly staggered back a step and fell to the floor so suddenly that those on the stage were unable to reach him in time to support him.

Water was hastily thrown in his face and he was taken to the wings of the theatre, but expired at once. Death was pronounced to be the result of heart failure.

Gov. Aycock followed Gov. O'Neal of Alabama, who had just delivered an address to the association on "Some Educational Problems." Gov. O'Neal and other men prominent in educational circles in the South were seated on the stage during Gov. Aycock's address.

The remains of the deceased were taken to a local undertaking establishment, where they will be held until advice can be received from North Carolina as to their disposition.

WILL OPPOSE TILLMAN.

N. B. Dial Announces Candidacy for United States Senate.

Laurens, April 4.—N. B. Dial of Laurens today announced his candidacy for the United States senate and will at once enter upon an active and aggressive campaign for the nomination in the primary this summer. Mr. Dial has had the matter under consideration for several weeks and has definitely decided to enter the race. Mr. Dial is a lawyer, a speaker and debater of ability and a man of striking personality. He has been mayor of the city of Laurens, and in many other ways he has been honored politically by the people of the county and State, having been a delegate to the national Democratic convention when Cleveland was nominated the last time. As a business man and enterprising promoter of the material county, he is recognized as one of the leaders of the State.

Mr. Dial will announce his platform in a formal card to the public within the next few days.

Mr. V. M. Moses Goes to London.

Mr. and Mrs. Vivian M. Moses sail from New York for London Saturday 13th. Mr. Moses goes to become assistant to Periton Maxwell, manager of Nash's Magazine. Mr. Maxwell is himself an American, and the magazine is owned by American interests. For some time Mr. Moses has been assistant editor of Good House-keeping.

Mr. Moses is a Sumter man; he graduated from Carolina in 1899, and in law 1901. He went to New York in January 1901, and has been in newspaper or magazine work ever since.

His mother, Mrs. Altamont Moses left Thursday afternoon to pay him a short visit before he sails.

Valuable Main street dirt going fast; free for the hauling from excavation on lot of J. K. Crosswell, next to Sumter Hotel.

It seems that Sumter is spreading its business section, something that has been badly needed for some time. Preparations are now under way for the erection of four two-story brick stores on the lot just north of the Hotel Sumter. Two of them will be built by Mr. J. K. Crosswell and two by the Sumter Real Estate Holding Company.

COTTON MARKET ACTIVE.

SHARP ADVANCE BROUGHT OUT NEW HIGH RECORD.

Closed Firm at Net Gain—Last Prices Were From 15 to 26 Points Higher for the Day.

New York, April 4.—The cotton market was active today and there was a sharp advance in prices which made new high records for the movement, with December contracts selling above 11 cents on urgent covering and fresh buying inspired by apprehensions of serious floods in the central belt. The close was firm at an advance of from 15 to 26 points. The market opened steady at an advance of 2 to 4 points in sympathy with steady Liverpool cables. There was enough selling to cause some irregularity right after the call, particularly as the weather map was favorable, but the flood situation in the Mississippi valley, private estimates of a 20 per cent. reduction in acreage, and the Western belt forecast for increasingly cloudy or unsettled conditions soon inspired active covering. The advance was checked around 10.80 for July or about 16 to 17 points above the closing figures of yesterday by realizing, but shorts evidently continued very nervous, and following reports from New Orleans, that levees had broke below Memphis, prices firmed up again.

Trading was particularly active in the last hour, when the advance uncovered stop orders and the highest point was reached on the late trading when July sold at 10.88 and December at 11.02. The close was only a point or two off from the best under realizing. While trading was very active fresh business was undoubtedly restricted by the holidays, as all the contract markets will be closed from today until Monday morning and Liverpool will remain closed until Tuesday, and the buying was supposed to be chiefly in the way of covering. Reports of a continued firm spot situation in the South and rumors that the British coal mines might resume operations after the holidays probably added to the strength of the market. The talk around the ring, however, attributed the advance chiefly to a scare of shorts over the reports of serious floods in the South. Memphis was a large buyer here during the day and it was reported that large Wall street and up-town shorts were covering.

DOMINICK TAKES WITNESS STAND.

Tells of Work Done by Blease Dispensary Commission.

Columbia, April 4.—Mr. F. H. Dominick, of Newberry, former law partner of Governor Blease and a member of the Blease winding-up commission, was the principal witness before the committee investigating into the acts and doings of everyone connected with the late State dispensary today. Mr. Dominick detailed at length the work which the Blease commission did during its tenure of office and went into many matters minutely. He was questioned by Chairman Carlisle and almost every member of the committee and was on the stand almost three hours. The only other witness was Mr. Thos. F. Brantley, of Orangeburg, likewise a member of the Blease commission, and he corroborated the testimony of Mr. Dominick. This completes the examination of the Blease commission with the exception of Mr. E. M. Thompson, the secretary, who is in a hospital in the North under treatment. He is expected to return next week, and will be examined at another meeting.

Assessors Raise Values.

During the past week the board of assessors for Sumter County have met several times in the auditor's office and gone over the returns made out by the auditor from those filed by property owners. In a number of cases property has been entered on the books which was not returned and in some cases the return at which personal property was made was increased. Several automobile owners, who had not made return of their cars, were among those who received the attention of the board.

Most of the files made out for the various townships have been sent out to the boards of assessors in those townships to which they belong and have been gone over and returned to the auditor, who will make up his tax book for 1912 from these returned sheets.

Since the resignation of Mrs. Jones as city nurse there has been no city nurse, the position being filled by the local nurses until a selection of a nurse is made by the committee who have a number of applications from which to select. In the meantime applications which would ordinarily go to the city nurse should be sent in to Mrs. R. S. Hood, the chairman of the committee.

OBJECT TO PAPERS IN YARD.

People Complain of Persons Throwing Advertising Sheets on Their Premises.

The attention of The Item has been called by various parties to the fact that they are continually troubled by persons coming around and throwing hand bills on their premises. These parties have complained that they have no remedy except to stop the distributors whenever they see them from throwing their papers in their yards, but this is an ineffective method.

There is a law against the throwing of hand bills and circulars on the street and on private premises and those persons who do distribute their advertising matter in this way are liable to arrest and fine, should the property owner choose to prosecute. However, there are very few property owners who do care to have the parties prosecuted, but who do suffer considerable annoyance from the hand bill distributors.

The last persons mentioning the matter simply asked that the Item call attention to the fact that there is an ordinance against the indiscriminate throwing of advertising circulars on the streets and on private property and the police were requested through the Item to see that this ordinance is enforced.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NOTES.

Appointments of Committees in Department of Publicity and Education.

Department of Education, G. A. Lemmon, Director.

Committee on Advertising. This committee has charge of all advertising matter published by the Chamber of Commerce, securing of statistics concerning the city and county and any advertising that may be undertaken in outside publications; H. G. Osteen, chairman, J. R. Sumter, Claude Hurst, George W. Hutchison, W. T. Rowland, E. I. Reardon, J. H. Winburn, D. R. McCallum, Jr., and J. F. Glenn.

Committee on Press: This committee has charge of general press work for the city and county. It will see that Sumter secures proper space in the local and State press and that news items relative to Sumter's growth and industrial and agricultural welfare are published not only in these papers but in the national trade journals; H. A. Moses, Chairman; H. H. Covington, L. C. Bryan, W. M. Scott, and C. H. Wilson.

Committee on Industrial Excursions: Has charge of city industrial and advertising excursions. It is planned to take one of these trips each year; Bartow Walsh, chairman; C. L. Cuttino, M. B. Randle, L. I. Parrott, C. H. Wilson, H. C. Parrott, Julius Wescoat, John Claek, John McKnight, E. S. Booth, W. B. Upshur.

Committee on Education: Has charge of the improvement and encouragement of all educational matters for both city and county; S. H. Edmunds chairman; H. H. Covington, David Klein, J. H. Haynsworth, E. F. Miller, G. L. Warren, H. C. Haynsworth, R. O. Purdy and W. M. Scott.

BISHOPVILLE GINNEY BURNED

Palmetto Oil Company Lost Part of Plant in Destructive Flames—Loss is About \$6,000.

Bishopville, April 5.—The ginney of the Palmetto Oil company of Bishopville was completely destroyed by fire this afternoon. The first alarm was given at 5 o'clock, while the ginney was in full operation and within 30 minutes despite the heroic efforts of the town's excellent fire department, the building with the plant was totally destroyed. But for the aid of daylight, prompt response to the alarm, and favorable winds the entire plant of the cotton oil company including thousands of tons of meal and seed would have gone up in smoke. The loss was considerably anyway, consisting of nine 70-saw gins, condensers and feeders, two modern power presses and several bales of cotton in process of ginning. Origin unknown, but believed to be from friction of machinery, or the striking of a match in the cotton. The loss is estimated to be about \$6,000, but probably fully covered by insurance.

The oil mill ginney will be immediately rebuilt, certainly in time for next fall's cotton crop.

Getting to Know Water in Anderson, Anderson Mail.

We have got so here of late, that we can almost tell rain a soon as we see it.

The fact that twenty automobile drivers were arrested in Charleston for exceeding the speed limit, does not indicate necessarily that they were going fast, nor that Charleston is a fast town, but only that they were going some for Charleston—Florence Times.

We Want You

to open an account with us by reason of the individuality of a service all our own given every customer. A service that cannot be described, yet is plainly evident. This service rests largely upon the almost silent "little things" which have come to mean greater things to those who transact their affairs with this institution.

The Peoples' Bank.

Figures Tell.

The recent statement of this bank proves its healthy condition. Its line of deposits shows the confidence the community has in it. AN ACCOUNT WITH THIS BANK PLACES IT UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT YOUR INTEREST.

It is the oldest bank in the city, and while its policy is conservative, it will be found sufficiently progressive to keep pace with the growing mercantile and agricultural conditions of the community.

It invites YOUR deposit.

The First National Bank.

In every Department of Banking

THE FARMERS' BANK & TRUST CO.

IS PREPARED TO SERVE YOU IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER.

The Road to Success. Save Your Money

The 2nd quarter starts on April 1st. Money deposited on that date or up to the 10th of April starts drawing interest from date.

Come in and see us.

The Bank of Sumter.

For Sale: Farms and City Property.

Now is the time to buy real estate, while you can get it at a reasonable price. The skyscraper is going up, cotton has reached ten cents, and is steadily advancing. Real estate is sure to be much higher. Let us know what you want, or better still, call and let us show you some of the nice farms and city homes we have for sale.

R. B. Belser Co. REAL ESTATE LOANS MORTGAGES AND INVESTMENTS
REAL ESTATE DEALERS.
26 1-2 N. Main Street. Sumter, South Carolina
R. B. BELSER. ERNEST FIELD.

Mr. Buyer.

See our New Moline Improved Gearless and Chainless Cotton and Corn Planter, equipped with Runner Sweeps, Covering Blades and Rear Press Wheel. The Runner opens the furrow; the Sweep levels the surface, the Blades cover the seed and the Press Wheel completes the operation.

This wheel is controlled by a lever, which lowers and raises the frame and thus governs the depth of planting. Also a full line of Moline 1-horse and two sizes of 2-horse steel turn plows, Middle Busters, 1, 2, 3 and 4 horse Wagons, Buggies, Surries and Harness. Also some nice Horses and Mules.

For Automobiles, See us. Some good second-hand Automobiles at Bargain Prices.

D. C. Shaw Co.

10, 12 and 14 SUMTER ST.
Phone 553. :: :: Sumter, S. C.