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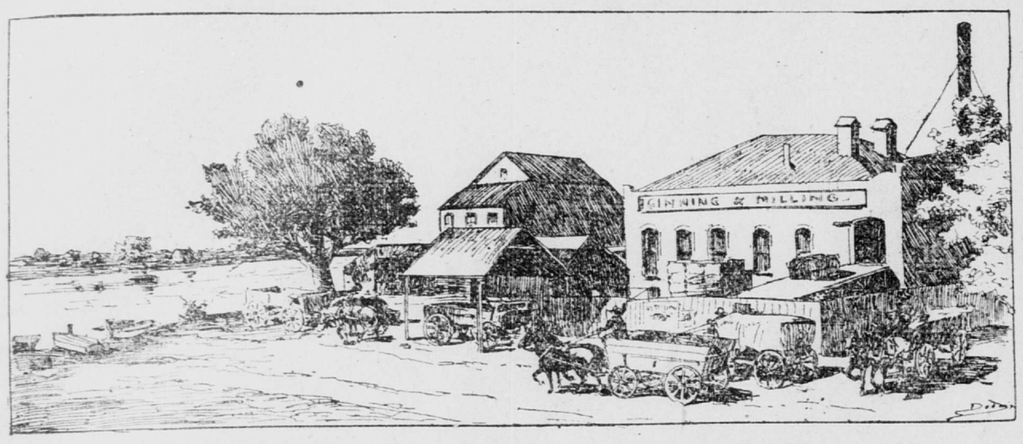
MOVING TO THE RELIEF OF FLOOD SUFFERERS

NEGROES STUNNED BY THE CALAMITY



IN THE TEXAS FLOODED DISTRICT.

On the Brazos River, a Short Distance Below Sealey

MANY WILL DIE BEFORE HELP CAN COME

There Are 10,000 Starving People to Be Cared For.

AUSTIN, Tex., July 7.—Further evidence of the terrible distress and destitution of the many thousands of refugees in the inundated region was brought to light to-day. It is reported by reliable persons, who have visited the scene of devastation, that a large number of negroes have already succumbed to the pangs of hunger. In Washington, Austin, Waller, Fort Bend and Brazoria counties the work of rescuing the water-bound inhabitants was continued all last night and to-day. Scores of men, women and children were saved with barely sufficient life left in their bodies to enable them to hold on to the branches of trees to which they had been clinging for the past three days.

Relief boats were to-day able to reach the Sand Knoll, in Austin County, and word was received from there this evening that the 500 people, who had been huddled together on the little plat of ground for the past four days had been rescued. The experience of this colony of refugees was terrible in the extreme. When the flood came they were driven from their comfortable homes and sought to make their way to higher ground. They found that the waters had made a wide detour, and that they were already on an island. This island decreased in area rapidly, and for the past four days embraced only about three acres. On this little space, the refugees gathered with a large number of cattle and horses, and to add to the horror of the situation, it was made a place of refuge by thousands of venomous snakes, with deer and other wild animals. The snakes writhed in and out among the terrified and suffering people, and a number were bitten and are still in a critical condition.

It will take the people of the inundated region several years to recover from the effects of the calamity. There are many instances of wealthy planters having had all their crops and movable property destroyed by the flood, leaving them practically penniless and dependent upon charity for food and clothing for themselves and families. This condition of affairs is particularly true in Fort Bend, Brazoria and Austin counties, which were largely devoted to sugar cane culture. These rich and highly improved plantations have built up within the past twenty-five years, and on each of them there was from $50,000 to $200,000 worth of improvements in the way of sugar mills, refineries, fine stables and residences. All these are gone.

Advices were received here to-day that although no definite information had been received from the convicts who were working on plantations in the flooded regions, it is believed that they were removed to higher ground when the waters began to rise and that there are no cases of drowning among them. This applies only to the leased convicts. No information was received from the inundated State penitentiary plantation in Fort Bend County, where several hundred convicts were employed.

The taking care of 30,000 or more destitute negroes is going to be a big job. They seem to be absolutely indifferent as to their conditions and fate. Many of them were prosperous planters before the flood came. They had been ever since the late war accumulating their modest fortunes, and to have all swept away in a few hours is such a shock that they are stunned.

It is now the accepted belief that there will be but little replanting of cotton. It will be too late in the season before the ground is in condition to work, even should the flood subside rapidly. The refugees will have no opportunity of making a crop, and the planters whose places have suffered such destruction will have no work to give them until next season. In the meantime the unfortunates must not be allowed to starve. It will take a large amount of money to tide them through the next several months.

The general stagnation of railroad traffic is being gradually removed. Hundreds of workmen are doing quick work in making repairs to roadbed, track and bridges, and the former regular service on several of the affected lines was restored to-day. The first direct and through mails from St. Louis and the North and East reached here to-day.

Governor Sayers received the following message this evening from Mayor John Phillips of San Felipe, Austin County.

We have a thousand sufferers from the Brazos flood. Five hundred are in need of food and clothing. They are starving. Help us. We have done and are doing all we can, but our resources have all been swept away.

The Governor replied by sending $2000 to Mayor Phillips to be used in buying food supplies. The shipment of 20,000 Government rations reached Richmond this evening and the work of distribution among the needy was immediately begun. A number of United States Government boats are plying the waters, rescuing the refugees and taking food supplies to the starving ones.

Telegrams were received by Governor Sayers to-day from charitable people of Texas and distant parts of the country, tendering financial aid to the flood sufferers of the State. Frank Gould of New York City wired the Governor to draw on him for $5000 and to apply the sum where it was most needed. President Richard A. McCurdy of the Mutual Life Insurance Company and Collis P. Huntington of New York each contributed $5000. H. P. Hollins & Co. of New York contributed $1000. A St. Louis firm contributed $100. The total cash contributions from all parts was about $30,000.

The attention of the War Department has been called to a peculiar effect of the recent flood in the Rio Grande River. The former channel of the erratic stream passed within a few rods of Fort Ringgold, Tex., and the pumping station was so located as to afford an adequate water supply for the army post. During the recent big rampage the river cut a new channel, slicing off a large section of Mexico, and placing about a mile between the post and its present channel. The pumping station was not prepared for such an emergency as this, and the water supply at the post is now cut off until some other means of obtaining it can be devised.

The International Water Boundary Commission will be called upon to investigate the question of the rightful boundary between the two countries at that point.

PENNED ON ISLAND WITH VENOMOUS SNAKES

Hunger-Stricken Refugees Are Bitten and May Die.

RELIEF COMMITTEES ARE WELL ORGANIZED

GALVESTON, Tex., July 7.—The situation in the Brazos Valley is rapidly improving. The river is falling. There is an unconfirmed rumor that five lives were lost near Sartartia in Fort Bend County. The report sent out Wednesday from Brookshire, Walter County, that two lives were lost there now appears to be an error. Those who were supposed to have been drowned persist in making their reappearance.

Relief committees are now well organized. At Brookshire the relief committee has opened a commissary and issues a half ration per capita. Precautions have been taken so that only the deserving shall get these rations, and therefore the committee issues to the planter for all the tenants he had when the flood came.

D. S. Cagent, a prominent citizen of Brookshire, has ordered a carload of cotton seed which he proposes to give to all who will plant and undertake to cultivate the crop. He says, moreover, that crops of cotton, sorghum, Kaffir corn, June corn and potatoes can be raised now if the people had the seed, but they have neither seed nor money, and he suggests that contributions of seed would help them. These crops would enable them to live until the beginning of next year, when they would be able to draw supplies from the merchants from the prospective crops. There are rations enough at Brookshire to last for a week or more. Along the Brazos alone it is estimated more than 10,000 negroes have lost everything. The loss by drowned horses, mules and cattle is something enormous.

MINERS REPORTED TO HAVE DIED OF SCURVY

News Reaches Dawson That a Score of Men Perished at Wind River.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 7.—An unconfirmed story comes from Dawson City that several prospectors who have arrived there over the Edmonton route report that a score of miners died from scurvy at Wind River, a branch of the Peel River, and that a number of others are suffering from its effects. They had no list of those who died, but they report the following among the sick:

DR. J. B. MASON, Chicago.
W. C. CUCH.
BROM BROTHERS.
DR. MARTIN, dentist, Chicago.
EDWARD HARRISON.
—— MITCHELL.

Dr. Martin was camped with two other Chicago men. Both took scurvy. Martin loaded them on a sled and tried to pull them to Wind City, a distance of seventy-five miles, where he expected to find medicines and fresh supplies. One man died soon after the journey began. Martin took the other man on his back and completed the journey.

MAN AND WIFE FOR SIXTY-FOUR YEARS

SAN DIEGO, July 7.—Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Smith of this city celebrated the sixty-fourth anniversary of their marriage to-day by giving a banquet to their children and their children's children. Those present included Colonel John R. Berry and wife, Mrs. Berry being a daughter of the host and hostess. J. Russell Smith of this city and Mrs. Rosa Eigemann of Bloomington, Ill., were the other children present, though there are two sons of the aged couple living in Illinois.

C. K. Smith and Lucretia Gray were married at Woodstock, Vt., on July 7, 1835. Mr. Smith at that time was publisher of the Vermont Courier. Two years later the young couple removed to Grafton, Ill., where Mr. Smith published the Backwoodsman. In 1839 he moved to Rock Island, Ill., and in 1847 to Monmouth, Ill., where he published the Monmouth Atlas until 1857. In 1875 Mr. and Mrs. Smith came to California, spending the following winter in San Francisco. In 1876 they came to Southern California and have lived a retired life since.

Fourteen years ago to-day Mr. and Mrs. Smith celebrated their golden wedding with a party at the seashore, and they were then considered very old; but now, although the husband is 88 and the wife 82, both are sprightly and their minds are bright. They enjoy outdoor life and are thoroughly happy, looking ahead to the celebration of their diamond wedding anniversary.

HAS NO COMBINATION WITH GOVERNOR PINGREE

Alger Denies a Story Concerning His Candidacy for the Senate.

NEW YORK, July 7.—General Alger, Secretary of War, who was at the Fifth Avenue Hotel to-day, emphatically denies that there is any political combination between him and Governor Pingree of Michigan with reference to his candidacy for the office of United States Senator. When asked about the recent conference between himself and Governor Pingree, accounts of which were published recently, he said:

"There was just enough truth in the reports of the so-called conference between Governor Pingree and myself to start a lively political story. No combination exists between Governor Pingree and myself. I was opposed to the election of Pingree as Governor and he and I do not agree upon some very important points."

ANNUAL MEETING OF VALLEY ROAD DIRECTORS

E. P. Ripley to Succeed Claus Spreckels as President Ten Days Hence.

LOS ANGELES, July 7.—Manager W. G. Nevin of the Santa Fe has been advised that the annual meeting of the stockholders in the San Joaquin Valley Railway will be held at San Francisco on July 17, at which time E. P. Ripley will be chosen to succeed Claus Spreckels as president of the new line. Other changes in keeping with the Santa Fe's absorption of the Valley lines will then be made.

J. A. Barr, the new third vice president of the Santa Fe system, whose election at New York was reported yesterday, is a stranger to Los Angeles railroad people. Mr. Barr is, however, known to local railroad men by reputation. He will be in charge of the operating department of the system, which has never before had a distinctive vice president at its head.

Mr. Barr is at present vice president and general manager of the Norfolk and Western and has been an operating man on one of the North Pacific Coast lines. He is expected in this vicinity some time in August on a tour of inspection when President Ripley visits the Pacific Coast.

ORDER IS RE-ESTABLISHED.

Barcelona Has Resumed Its Normal Aspect.

Special Cable to The Call and the New York Herald. Copyrighted, 1899, by James Gordon Bennett.

BARCELONA, July 7.—Order is completely re-established, tramways are running, theaters are open and the city has resumed its normal aspect. Those wounded during the disturbances are doing well.

TORTURED BY NEGRO SOLDIERS

An Innocent Miner Prodded With Bayonets in the Bull Pen.

TOLD IN AFFIDAVITS

Story of Indignities Heaped Upon Men Who Would Not Consent to Give False Testimony.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

As the trials proceed at Wallace of the men accused of complicity in the dynamiting of the Bunker Hill and Sullivan mining properties, more of the methods employed under so-called martial law to hold the citizens in subjection are revealed. One miner, for instance, makes affidavit that he was prodded with bayonets by negro soldiers to compel him to bear false witness, and upon his reiterated refusal was threatened with death. Freedom, in the Coeur d'Alenes, seems to consist in the freedom of those in power to do as they like, regardless of the rights of others.

WALLACE, Idaho, July 7.—The methods employed by the State authorities, aided by the military, to obtain testimony against those accused of participating in the riots of April 29 were brought to the attention of the court to-day in the trial of Paul Corcoran.

The defense filed several affidavits in support of a motion for continuance, on the ground that the defendant could not have a fair and impartial trial at this time because of the intimidation practiced by the military authorities upon witnesses in his behalf. The affidavit of a miner named Simpkins, recently released from the bull pen, was among those filed, which set forth that affiant shortly after his incarceration had been taken by four negro soldiers to a remote corner of the pen and made to stand against a fence facing the soldiers, who then prodded him several times with their bayonets, after which they cocked and aimed their rifles at the prisoner and assumed a firing attitude. Simpkins was then told by Burch, the superintendent of the Bunker Hill mine, that it was well known that he (Simpkins) could identify many of the rioters, and that if he did not tell all he knew regarding the occurrences of the 29th he would have to suffer the consequences.

Simpkins says he expected to be shot, but refused to perjure himself, and maintained that he knew nothing of the riot or of those who participated in it. After unsuccessfully attempting in this way to extort testimony from him, Burch ordered the soldiers to escort Simpkins back to his quarters.

Attorneys for the defendant also filed the affidavits of William Mitchell and John Chidester, who stated that they met Paul Corcoran, the defendant, on the road near his home a short distance from the town of Burke between the hours of 12 and 1 on the day of riot, and that it would have been impossible for him to have been at Wardner on that day.

Chidester and Mitchell state that they were employed at the Standard mine on the day of the riot and shortly afterward were arrested by United

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MYSTERY FADES INTO A DOMESTIC SCANDAL

Miss Florence Campbell's Melodramatic Plot to Capture Rathom From His Wife.

Divorce and Not Murder Was the Purpose of the Clumsy Scheme—Renewed Rivalry for the Husband's Smiles.

THE melodramic mystery in which John R. Rathom and Miss Florence M. Campbell figure as principals has practically been solved.

The affair possesses no more interest now than attaches to the disagreeable recital of an illicit association between a man and a woman. The case has developed simply into the expose of the woman's shame and the man's dishonor, coupled with the woman's clumsy scheme to retain her lover's affections and force him to sacrifice his wife. The police have investigated the matter thoroughly and have found nothing to warrant even a suspicion that an attempt to commit murder was made.

There is nothing to indicate that poisoned candy was sent through the mails nor is there a single fact to show that either Miss Campbell or Mrs. Elsie Scheib was poisoned. That they were ill there is no question, but that their illness was the result of their own efforts there appears to be ample proof. The facts in the case indicate that the absurd plot was conceived in the Scheib household with the purpose of assisting Miss Florence M. Campbell to secure a monopoly of the volatile affections of Rathom.

Miss Campbell knew that Rathom was becoming very weary of her. He wished to be reconciled to his wife—a wish that did not meet with the approbation of Miss Campbell. Rathom had tried time and again to rid himself of his mistress. He had given her money to leave the city and go to her home. He had promised his wife that his liaison with the woman would cease. Miss Campbell knew all of this and determined to prevent, if possible, the loss of her lover.

While the police have not established the identity of the person who sent the candy through the mails, they have a moral conviction that it was sent by Miss Campbell to herself and was not poisoned. There is everything to indicate that the Scheibs were parties to the plot and were animated by a desire to clear the way for an unimpeded play of Miss Campbell's affections upon Rathom.

The clumsy schemers believed that Rathom would fall into the net, accuse his wife of attempted murder and sink gratefully into the expectant arms of Miss Campbell. When the melodrama was at its height the male Scheib, ignorant of the possibility of publicity or exposure, informed Rathom that the crime of poisoning the female Scheib and Miss Campbell would be condoned if Mrs. Rathom would leave the State and sign a document admitting that she had deserted her husband and was willing that he should accept the law's redress in divorce. Meanwhile Mrs. Scheib and Miss Campbell were rapidly recovering from a dose of mustard, which is disagreeable but not dangerous when taken internally. Rathom refused the bait and an unenviable notoriety followed for all concerned. Miss Campbell has lost her lover, Mrs. Scheib is more than ever convinced that a dose of mustard is not a love talisman even by proxy, Mr. Scheib is spluttering in a sea of his own contradictions and Mr. and Mrs. Rathom are debating the propriety of kissing and making up. As far as public interest is concerned the last curtain has been rung on a domestic drama that has enough of seriousness in it to make it comic.

The life threads of Mr. Rathom and Miss Campbell crossed at Santa Cruz. Rathom is a newspaper man and at the time of the meeting Miss Campbell was an ambitious novice in the field of newspaper work. She sought encouragement and Rathom gave it. She asked instruction and Rathom supplied it. The association reached a climax that appears to be not unusual. Mrs. Rathom learned of the affair and tried in a woman's way to win back her husband.

She went to Miss Campbell and begged her to be decent. Miss Campbell pleaded that she had been deceived, claiming that Rathom had represented himself to her as an unmarried man. In this assertion Miss Campbell said what she knew to be untrue. She received many letters from Mrs. Rathom during the negotiations for the purchase of a husband. Several of these letters were sent by messenger and not through the mails, a fact which is of great significance in connection with subsequent events. Up to this time neither Rathom nor Miss Campbell had met the Scheibs.

The newspaper man and his mistress were living at 610 Ellis street for a while and then moved. In December they returned and again sought lodgings. They found a new landlady in charge—Mrs. Elsie Scheib. Mrs. Scheib had lived at Turk and Hyde streets, renting three rooms from Mrs. Ella Parker. In December Mrs. Parker received a stroke of what she believed to be good fortune. A very dear friend of hers, who has served with distinction upon legislative committees of public morals, had been elected to the State Senate. Mrs. Parker believed that an era of prosperity had dawned and she asked Mrs. Scheib to give up her rooms. Whether or not Mrs. Parker was justified in her hopes by the realization is another story, but perhaps Senator Sig Bettman can tell. At all events, Mrs. Scheib moved. She went to 610 Ellis street and shortly after received Rathom and Miss Campbell as lodgers.

Mrs. Scheib and Miss Campbell became great friends. They were very thick in the company of each other and Miss Campbell assures the public that Mrs. Scheib is not only her friend but her benefactor. In April Rathom and Miss Campbell left the Scheib household. The Scheibs understood thoroughly the relationship existing between Miss Campbell and Rathom. The dressmaker knew that Rathom had deserted his wife and that Miss Campbell wished to make the desertion permanent. After leaving 610 Ellis street Miss Campbell called there periodically for her mail.

On Thursday afternoon a week ago a package and a letter for Miss Campbell were delivered by a postman. On Friday afternoon Miss Campbell called and received them. The letter was one which Miss Campbell had written to Mrs. Rathom and which was returned unopened. Mrs. Rathom had written upon the letter the name and address of Miss Campbell. The package was an oblong wicker basket of unusual make and filled with perhaps seventy-five preserved cherries. The basket had been bought at one place and the cherries at another and neither had been purchased at a candy store. The most rigid inquiry has failed thus far to reveal where the purchases were made.

Miss Campbell opened the basket and saw its contents. There was neither address nor message in the basket, but this created no curiosity in the mind of Miss Campbell. She saw the handwriting on the cover and recognized it as that of Mrs. Rathom. The address was written on an envelope which had been cut. It will be remembered that Miss Campbell had several of these addressed envelopes. She declared in answer to an inquiry that she knew the person who had sent the box. She said it was a lady friend living in Oakland. When she said this she knew that the address was in the handwriting of Mrs. Rathom, who did not live in Oakland.

Miss Campbell offered some of the cherries to Mrs. Scheib and to the young dressmaker in the establishment. Somebody said that it was dangerous to eat candy so sent and particularly by an unknown person. Miss Campbell laughed away a reference to the Botkin case and ate a cherry, although she was absolutely sure that her own unopened letter had just been returned by a woman who has every natural right to hate her and the box of cherries had been addressed by the same woman and enemy. Miss Campbell appears to be an intrepid woman.

Mrs. Scheib also ate some of the cherries and then Miss Campbell left the house. She went immediately to a drugstore on the corner of Ellis and Larkin streets, and complained that she had been poisoned with arsenic.

CHARACTERS AND INCIDENTS IN THE MYSTERY WHICH DEVELOPED INTO A DOMESTIC COMEDY.

She described the drug as green and bitter. It happens to be neither, a fact which Miss Campbell possibly forgot. Nothing more was heard of her until midnight. She bore her sufferings until then, when she sent for her paramour.

When he arrived Miss Campbell was sorely distressed from some internal disturbance. Rathom gave her some mustard, which she drank in liquid form. She said she had been poisoned by arsenic hidden in some cherries. She declared that Rathom's wife had sent the poison through the mails. The lady from Oakland had disappeared. Miss Campbell then had a vivifying spasm of recollection and told Rathom that Mrs. Scheib had also partaken of the cherries and it would be wise to warn her to take an antidote. The cherries had then been in process of digestion for over five hours. Rathom did as he was directed, and was politely recommended over the telephone to mind his own business.

The next afternoon Mrs. Scheib received the attention of a physician, but was not ill enough to require a second visit. Rathom had the cherries analyzed, and the chemist said that there was enough arsenic in each cherry to kill a person in a very few hours. The

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