

Tuesday, August 15, 1916.

DAMAGE IS SURVEYED BY WEATHER BUREAU

Farm Losses by Freshets Last Month Estimated at Two Million Dollars.

The State.

Damage Estimated.

"The damage by floods in the Santee and Pee Dee systems, comprising bridges, roads, crops, etc., at this writing, is conservatively estimated at about \$4,500,000, while movable property estimated at a value of about \$400,000 was saved by timely warnings of the weather bureau. In the aggregate, about \$2,000,000 represents the damage in South Carolina, and approximately 350,000 acres of crops were affected."

Extraordinary rains, winds and freshets made last month in South Carolina most unusual and the current monthly summary by Richard H. Sullivan of Columbia, section director of the United States weather bureau, is particularly interesting. The summary presents in compact and official form a general survey which nobody could have compiled at the time, with mails interrupted and wires down in many districts.

Following is the summary in part: "July was a remarkably stormy month, with rainfall far in excess of any previous record in the history of South Carolina. Temperatures ranged considerably below the seasonal average, and the mean for the section was close to the lowest July average. Persistent showery weather culminated in the enormous rainfall that attended the South Atlantic hurricane that passed over the section between the 13th and 15th, and, as a result the Santee river system experienced the most extended and disastrous floods in its history.

Damage to Crops. "While the winds accompanying the disturbance were not extraordinarily high, the force was such that crops in immense areas were beaten flat into soggy ground, resulting in extensive losses. General crop deterioration set in after the first decade, due to continuous wet, cloudy weather, rapid accumulation of grass, and inability of planters to cultivate the soil.

"The situation was considerably better in the western portion, where the rainfall was neither so heavy nor so prolonged. However, the early corn crop was practically made during the month and forage peas, cane, sweet potatoes and pastures grew luxuriantly. At the close of the month, cotton was not fruiting well and had begun to shed, and in some parts chopping had not been completed.

The monthly mean temperature for the section, determined from reports of 42 stations, was 77.8 degrees, or 2.1 degrees below the established normal, 4.2 degrees cooler than the hot Julys of 1887 and 1893, and but 0.1 degree above the mean of the cool July of 1894. The highest temperature was 99 degrees at Newberry on the 3d. All previous Julys, except one, during the last 30 years have had maximum temperatures of 99 or above. The warmest period was generally between the 1st and 4th over the western portion, and local maximum temperatures occurred on various dates in the remainder of the section. The lowest temperature was 60 degrees at Cheraw on the 6th and at Whitthrop college on the 27th. Twenty-eight previous Julys have had minimum temperatures of 60 degrees or lower. The coolest period of the month was generally during the first decade.

Rainfall Extraordinary. "The average precipitation for the section, 56 stations reporting, was 14.68 inches, or 8.86 inches above the established normal and 2.23 inches above the previous highest average since Statewide observations were begun, namely: that of August, 1893. Copious showers to excessive rains occurred in some parts of the western portion every day, while there were but two short dry periods in the eastern portion during the month. Veritable cloudburst occurred over the eastern and extreme northern counties, where the monthly amounts ranged from 15 to over 31 inches; over the western part of the section toward the Savannah watershed the amounts ranged from 10 to below 6 inches.

"A very large proportion of this enormous rainfall was developed during the passage of the South Atlantic hurricane that approached the Carolina coast on the 13th, passed northward over the State on the 14th and disappeared over the lower Appalachians by the 16th. Unprecedentedly heavy rains fell in the region from Berkeley, east Charleston and Georgetown counties, where 10 to

over 13 inches were measured on the 14th and 15th. During the period 14th to 18th, the entire eastern portion of the section was drenched with rainfall ranging from 5 to nearly 17 inches.

"The greatest local monthly amount was 31.13 inches at Kingstree, Williamsburg county, breaking the previous highest record of August, 1885, by 11.95 inches; least monthly amount, 5.73 inches at Edgefield. The greatest amount during any 24 hours was 13.25 inches at Effingham, Florence county, on the 14th and 15th or 1.60 inches above the previous record of August, 1908, at Anderson. The average number of rainy days was 55 per cent. above the normal.

"The highest wind velocity for any 5-minute period was 64 miles per hour from the north at Charleston on the 14th, the highest recorded velocity during the South Atlantic hurricane that passed inland on that date.

"The average monthly sunshine, determined from seven automatic records, was 194.6 hours, or 44 per cent. of the possible amount and much below the seasonal average. The amount of cloudiness exceeds all previous records for July, except that of 1906. The number of clear days was five; partly cloudy, 12, and cloudy, 14, as against normals of 12, 12 and seven days, respectively.

River Conditions. "Heavy rains over the upper reaches of the Santee System on the 9th and 10th were followed by moderate floods in the Saluda, lower Catawba, Wateree and upper Santee rivers between the 11th and 15th.

"The enormous downpours of rain attending the South Atlantic hurricane during its passage over the State between the 13th and 15th, together with extraordinary rainfall over the drain-areas of the Saluda, Broad and Catawba rivers in North Carolina up to the 18th, created a situation favorable for the most extensive and destructive floods in the history of the Santee system, authentic records being available as far back as 1840.

"During the period, 14th to 18th, the rainfall in the Broad and Catawba watershed along the immediate Appalachian slope ranged from 10 to over 24 inches, and near the northern edge of McDowell county, N. C., an enormous downpour of over 19 inches was recorded on the 16th. The runoff was consequently attended by a stage at Mt. Holly, N. C., that was nearly twice the height of the 1901 record, over 12 feet above the Catawba record for 1908, over three feet above the Wateree record at Camden for 1908, over two feet above the Santee record of 1908 at Rimini and one foot above the 1908 record at Ferguson.

"Compared with the flood of 1908, when all the rivers were in high flood, the July flood was maintained by runoff through the Broad and Catawba-Wateree rivers, while the Saluda was in moderate flood only. Under pressure of the enormous volume of water pushing into the Santee, heavy steel railroad and highway bridges were washed away, and crops were damaged to such an extent that the loss will probably never be fully known. The Pee Dee system was also in flood, due to a part of the same series of rains, and the damage was particularly severe in the Lynchies and Black basins, which were overflowed by the heavy up-State rains, in addition to the damage by storm.

"Following are the dates of flood stages and crests: "Blairs, Broad river, flood stage 14 feet, 15th to 19th, with a crest of 36.5 feet on the 16th, or 5.4 feet above the 1908 record.

"Camden, Wateree river, flood stage 24 feet, 16th to 21st and 23d to 27th, with a crest of 43 feet on the 18th, or 3.3 feet above the 1908 record.

"Catawba, Catawba river in South Carolina, flood stage 11 feet, 11th, 12th, 16th to 19th, 24th and 25th, with a crest of 40.4 feet on the 17th, or 12 feet above the 1908 record.

"Chappells, Saluda river, flood stage 14 feet, 13th, 14th, 17th to 21st and 23d to 26th with a crest of 18.8 feet on the 19th.

"Cheraw, Great Pee Dee river, flood stage of 27 feet; 16th to 21st and 23rd to 27th, with a crest of 36.4 feet on the 19th.

"Columbia, Congaree river, flood stage 15 feet, 16th to 19th and 24th and 25th, with a crest of 31.5 feet on the 17th.

"Conway Waccamaw river, flood stage 7 feet; 16th and 24th to close of month, reaching 9.2 feet on 29th, 30th and 31st.

"Edisto (Embree), Edisto river, flood stage 6 feet, 30th and 31st; crest, 6.8 feet.

"Effingham, Lynchies river, flood stage 12 feet, 15th to 24th, 27th, 29th

to close of month, with a crest of 14.7 feet on the 20th.

"Ferguson, Santee river, flood stage 12 feet, 14th to close of month, with a crest of 21.7 feet on the 22nd, or 1.00 above the 1908 record.

"Kingsree, Black river, flood stage 12 feet, 13th to 14th and 27th, to close of month, with a crest of 15.5 on the 15th.

"Mt. Holly, N. C., Catawba river, flood stage 15 feet, 16th to 18th, with a crest of 45.5 feet on the 17th, or 22.4 above the crest of the 1901 flood.

"Pelzer, Saluda river, flood stage 7 feet, 10th to 12th, 16th to 20th and 22nd and 23rd, with a crest of 14 feet on the 17th.

"Rimini, Santee river, flood stage 12 feet, 12th to the close of month, with a crest of 35 feet on the 20th, or 2.2 feet above the 1908 record.

"In the Santee system the flood area ranged from about 5,000 feet in width in the lower Catawba to a width of 3 to 5 miles in the Santee basin."

PRICES OF FLOUR ARE GOING HIGHER

New York, Aug. 11.—Flour sold in the New York markets today at \$5 to \$9 a barrel, an advance of 70 to 80 cents a barrel, as a result of an increase in the price of wheat. One miller said there was considerable old flour in the hands of jobbers, which still was selling at prices prevailing before the advance. The average flour for domestic use, it was stated, now costs \$8 a barrel and householders will have to pay from 10 to 20 cents more for a sack than before the advance in wheat. The price of bread here has not yet been increased.

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Fashion Repeating Herself in Colonial Slippers.

In the August Woman's Home Companion Grace Margaret Gould says that slippers in Colonial style with buckles bigger than ever are worn by the summer girl when she fox-trots, waltzes and one-steps. Sometimes they are jeweled, sometimes cut steel, but the novelty buckles pictured are nickel polished to give the effect of silver.

Hammond Torpedo, Bought by U. S. May Alter War.

Among the stories of "Interesting People" in the July American Magazine is an account of John Hays Hammond, Jr., whose remarkable device for steering torpedoes by wireless has been bought by the United States for \$750,000.

"As soon as he got out of college he put up the laboratory at Gloucester and got down to the business of perfecting his system of wireless control of torpedoes. That he had to take out one hundred and thirty patents, and that he worked on the proposition almost seven years, is proof enough that this young fellow had tackled a big job.

"This torpedo of Hammond's is really a surface craft of which can carry one thousand pounds of the highest explosive and travel at about fifty miles an hour. When several army officers—dubbing Thomases' all of them—at last were prevailed upon to visit Gloucester, Hammond, leading them to his wireless station, said: "If you take these glasses, you will see a bamboo pole which I have set upright in the water three miles out at sea. It is upright because one end of it is weighted. I propose to hit that pole with this torpedo nine times out of ten."

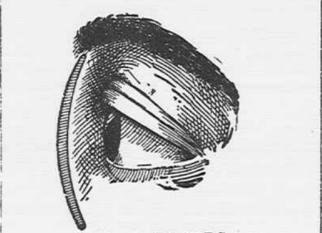
"The officers took the glasses and saw the feat accomplished. "Now," pursued the inventor, "if you gentlemen will get on the craft and wigwag to me, while you are on it, in what direction you want to go, when you want to stop, and where you want to strike, I'll carry out the directions."

"They consented rather reluctantly. Hammond, by manipulating wireless waves against the delicate machinery of the torpedo, steered them as they directed through the sailing vessels and other craft. "After that, the War Department began to sit up and take notice."

Greatest Telescope on Earth Now Building.

In the July American Magazine Merle Crowell says: "Several years ago, the Canadian Government decided that it wanted the largest telescope in the world, to be set up in the clear air of Vancouver for photographing thousands of stars that had never been photographed before—stars almost inconceivably distant. Light travels at the rate of about 186,000 miles a second; yet some of the star light to be snared by the Vancouver instrument has been speeding through space for perhaps a million years since it left home.

"Of course the job was given to Brashear. A gigantic parabolic mirror—the largest ever made in one piece—was cast in France. It weighed in the rough 4,968 pounds and was seventy-three inches in diameter. Nearly four hundred pounds of glass had been taken from that lens when I saw it in Doctor Brashear's shop, where it is kept in an underground chamber, protected from all air currents. When it is completed and mounted, the telescope will weigh more than five hundred tons."



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HUGHES' SPEECH FULL OF ERRORS

Smoot and Louisiana Man Pass Compliments of Day on Candidate.

Washington, Aug. 11.—Senator Ransdell in the senate today denounced Charles E. Hughes' speech at Fargo, N. D., last night as containing the "greatest sum of misstatements" he had ever seen compressed into so short a space. The Louisiana senator took exception particularly to Mr. Hughes' references to the rivers and harbors appropriation measure as money wasted.

Senator Smoot defended the Hughes speech as accurate.

Senator Ransdell denied the nominee's assertion that there was no expert examination to determine what expenditures were needed, but that the money was apportioned to the districts having the most influential representatives in congress.

"Mr. Hughes must know the facts when he makes a statement of that kind," said Senator Ransdell, "and any one who knows the facts must know that no kind of an appropriation is considered until it is first passed upon by a board of competent army engineers."

Senator Smoot in reply called attention to numerous appropriations which, he said, had been made without the approval of the army engineers.

Referring to a defense of Secretary Redfield made by Senator Smith yesterday

Senator Smoot said: "This display in the senate is most refreshing. It must show the American people that these charges by Mr. Hughes are hurting someone."

MAN WHO NOMINATED TEDDY NOW SUPPORTER OF WILSON

Bainbridge, Colby, Finds Hughes Unsuitable For His Ideas—Sees "Unregenerate Republicanism."

New York, Aug. 10.—Bainbridge Colby, who nominated Theodore Roosevelt for the Presidency at the Progressive national convention in Chicago, tonight declared himself in favor of the reelection of President Wilson. In a letter to Vance McCormick, chairman of the Democratic national committee, Mr. Colby accepted an invitation to act on a progressive committee which is to have a cooperative relation with the Democratic campaign committee.

Mr. Colby asserted that the opposition to the President's reelection "proceeds from an unregenerate Republicanism," of which Chas. E. Hughes is a "decoy and retriever." If Mr. Hughes were elected, Mr. Colby added, "the old guard would rope him and tie him, as they did when he was governor in Albany, reducing him to plaintive futility."

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