

# The Columbus Weekly Dispatch.

TWENTY-NINTH YEAR.

COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1908

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## CONTRACTORS ARE HERE FOR WORK

F. M. PETERS AND OTHER CONTRACTORS ARE HERE TO START WORK ON ABERDEEN AND TOMBIGBEE R. R.

It is Given Out that Work Will Begin Soon, and Will Be Pushed Rapidly Forward to Completion.

Several railroad contractors from different cities have arrived in Columbus during the past few days, and it is given out that work on the Aberdeen and Tombigbee Valley Railroad will begin at an early date. The party is headed by Mr. F. M. Peters, president of the Peters Construction Company, of St. Louis, and if the work is undertaken it will be under the direction and control of Mr. Peters.

From the best information obtainable, it seems that when Mr. H. E. Reynolds, the president of the Aberdeen and Tombigbee Valley Railroad Company, recently visited Chicago he induced capitalists of that city to take hold of the enterprise and put up the money necessary to build the road, provided that local conditions were as represented. Mr. Peters is a practical railroad man, and was selected by the Windy City capitalists to decide upon the feasibility of the project. He arrived in the city last Tuesday night, and that the road will be built if conditions are found to be satisfactory is evinced by the fact that he was accompanied by several contractors, who are prepared to take sub-contracts and to begin work as soon as he says the word.

The two gentlemen who accompanied Mr. Peters to the city are Mr. Fred Burke, of St. Louis, who makes a specialty of grading, and Mr. T. H. Lineburger, of Kansas City, who is a bridge contractor. Mr. W. T. McKell, chief engineer of the Aberdeen and Tombigbee Valley Railroad, met the contractors here, and the entire party left for Pickensville at an early hour Wednesday morning. The object of the trip was to examine into local conditions, and Mr. Peters and his party will inspect the entire route of the contemplated road before any steps toward actual construction are taken.

The present plan of the company is to build from Pickensville, Ala., to Okolona, Miss., via Columbus and Aberdeen, connecting at the latter point with the Frisco System. It is learned from an authoritative source that the Frisco and Illinois Central look with favor upon the scheme, as the new road would prove a valuable feeder for both lines. The officials of the above named lines have agreed to do all in their power to facilitate the construction of the new road, the Frisco people having granted permission for trains to cross the Tombigbee river over their bridge at Aberdeen.

### Plans to Be Modified.

The directors of the First State Bank have decided not to erect a building according to the plans which were accepted several weeks ago. These plans call for a four story structure, and the bids for its construction were much higher than the directors anticipated. It has not yet been definitely decided whether the erection of a building will be undertaken this summer, but in the event that the bank decides to undertake the venture the plans will be considerably modified and the building will not be as large as at first contemplated.

### Clean Up.

Notice is hereby given that beginning on May 1st, an officer will visit and inspect the premises of all householders in the city, and all premises reported in an unsanitary condition will subject the occupant to a fine, which will be collected, if proven true. You owe it to your family, your neighbor and the public at large to see that your premises are free from all disease breeding germs so far as possible. Cleanliness and this to a great extent insures health and happiness, is far preferable to seeing doctors and footing drug bills, so clean up and save trouble, your health and money as well. Remember this applies to all alike.

E. S. Donnell,  
Mayor.

Columbus, Miss., April 23, 1908.

## DAY WAS ENJOYED IN SPITE OF RAIN

UNFAVORABLE WEATHER DID NOT MAR THE PLEASURE OF FIELD DAY AT TUPELO LAST FRIDAY.

Large Crowd Was in Attendance, and the Occasion Was Successful From every Standpoint.

Unpropitious weather failed to mar the pleasure of the field day exercises which were held at Tupelo last Friday under the auspices of the Northeast Mississippi Schoolmaster's Association. A special train left Columbus over the Mobile and Ohio Railroad at 6:30 o'clock Friday morning, and this train carried more than eight hundred people, who went to witness the exercises.

When the train arrived at Tupelo a heavy rain was falling, but as it had been arranged to hold the morning exercises in the public school building they were not interfered with by the weather. A basket dinner was to have been served in a grove near the scene of the athletic contests, but the inclement weather rendered this impossible, and the meal was served in a vacant store. The ladies had prepared a bounteous repast, and the good people of Tupelo did everything in their power to add to the pleasure of the occasion and make things pleasant for the strangers within their midst.

The sun came out early in the afternoon, and all the athletic stunts announced on the program took place except the baseball contest between high school teams representing Columbus and Tupelo, which was transferred to Columbus, an which took place yesterday. In the basketball game between two female teams representing Columbus and Tupelo the Columbus team won by a score of 26 to 7, and Miss Mary Ita Beard, of this city, won the prize for the best individual player.

The following were the winners in the various literary and athletic contests:

Elocution—Miss Kate Cunningham, Booneville.

Music—Miss Hoyt Raymond, Tupelo.

100-yard race—Chester Steinburger, Tupelo, 1st; time, 10 3-5 seconds; Charles Brown, Tupelo, 2nd.

Hammer throwing—A. B. Lawrence, Columbus, 1st, distance 79 feet 5 inches; Perry Beckwith, Columbus, 2nd.

Running high jump—Roger Mabry, Tupelo, 1st; Cornell Franklin, Columbus, 2nd.

Shot put—Chester Steinburger, Tupelo, 1st; Charles Brown, Tupelo, 2nd.

Running broad jump—Chester Steinburger, Tupelo, 1st; Charles Brown, Tupelo, 2nd.

Tupelo won the game of baseball which was played here yesterday by a score of 2 to 1. Batteries: Rhett and Suddoth, Dabbs and Savery.

Extra skirt values at Kaufman's this week.

### Grand Masquerade Carnival.

The management of the Galey Rollaway rink announces the last grand masquerade carnival of the season to take place on the evening of Monday, May 4th. The occasion promises to be the most picturesque event of the season and already devotees of the rink are at work on their costumes for the occasion.

It is the intention of the management to offer attractive prizes for the best costumes in several lines and the good music and a confetti battle, which are features of the program, will add to the pleasure of the occasion. The rink will be handsomely decorated, extra cars will be run and the carnival will be the event of the season.

### A Small Blaze.

The fire department was called out about ten o'clock Friday morning by a blaze at the residence of Mr. DeWitt Morton, corner Military road and North Sixth avenue. The flames, which resulted from a defective flue, were quickly extinguished, the damage caused by the fire having been very slight.

Buy a storm glass and thermometer and tell six hours ahead the coming storm. Only 50c.  
Mayo & Weaver.

## WORKERS WANTED FOR THE DISPATCH

We want several young ladies, or as many as care to enter for that matter, to work for semi-weekly subscriptions to The Dispatch. We are going to make each of them an exceedingly attractive proposition and to the young lady securing the greatest number of subscribers we are going to give a handsome Werlein Piano free, a four hundred dollar instrument, and we are going to give her a free trip to New Orleans to select the particular instrument she wants of several different styles offered. Now if this proposition interests you send in your name and address to The Dispatch at once and get enrolled and we will then make you the offer. Nothing like it has ever been offered here before and it will pay you to go into the contest. It is not limited to Columbus but is intended primarily for the city and surrounding section as we are anxious to increase our semi-weekly list several hundred subscribers. Every dollar paid on the Weekly or Semi-Weekly paper will be credited and the highest number of dollars turned in gets the Piano and the free trip. Send in your name at once.

## LIGHTNING KILLS AN OCTOGENARIAN

G. W. JOHNSON, A MAN OF RIPE AGE, MEETS SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED DEATH IN ELECTRICAL STORM.

Was Sitting Near Glowing Incandescent Lamp, and Deadly Current Passed Through Wire to His Body.

It is seldom indeed that a man who has lived a decade beyond the allotted three score and ten years comes to his death in an unnatural manner, but such was the fate of Mr. G. W. Johnson, an octogenarian, who received a fatal shock in the electrical storm which visited Columbus Friday afternoon.

The electrical disturbance closely followed the rain and wind storm which swept over the city about noon, and Mr. Johnson's death was the only fatality resulting therefrom. Mr. Johnson was seated in a room at the house of his son, Mr. S. C. Johnson, corner Bell avenue and Nineteenth street, and immediately over his head was a glowing electric lamp. The deadly current generated by the wiring elements outside passed through the electric light wire into the house, and, coming in contact with the body of the aged man, extinguished the flame of life, leaving only the cold and lifeless clay.

Mr. Johnson, as stated above, was eighty years of age, and was the father of Mr. S. C. Johnson, who conducts a small jewelry shop in the Gilmer Hotel building. He had lived with his son here for several years, but his advanced age naturally compelled him to spend most of the time at home, and he was practically unknown about the city. He was a native of the Caledonia neighborhood, and the body will be taken there for interment, the funeral taking place at the Egger cemetery at eleven o'clock this morning, and being conducted by Rev. John Egger.

### Appropriation to Be Allowed.

From the Congressional proceedings of the past few days we note that in the public building bill, which was reported to the lower house of Congress by the committee on last Friday, that provision is made for the construction of a large number of public buildings in the South, in this State, Corinth, Greenwood, Brookhaven, Laurel, Hattiesburg, West Point, Columbus, Yazoo City, Vicksburg and Greenville being provided for. The amounts which the bill carries vary, and the appropriation for the building in Columbus is supplemental to that made for the purchase of the location in the last general appropriation bill, twelve thousand dollars having been appropriated for that purpose. The bill has been reported favorably by the committee and its passage is assured, \$20,000 having been allowed.

## ATTENTION, DEAR LITTLE FOLKS

Watch for next Sunday's DISPATCH. It will have something interesting in it for you.

To be sure it will interest you. It's just exactly what you want for the summer time and the spring time too for that matter. It will give you lots of fun and pleasure and will also give your little friends pleasure also.

It's valuable, too. You can get it, however, if you will watch the papers and do as you are told to do.

Now what is it? Well, I wonder. But you musn't know exactly what it is yet. That would spoil the charm. Just keep on reading The Dispatch and some fine morning you will go running to Mamma exclaiming, "Mamma, here it is." Then remember, be sure and read all of the papers and read next Sunday's paper sure. Maybe it will be right here in this place and then maybe it won't. You may have to hunt for it, but it will pay you to look.  
Now remember, next Sunday sure.

## PRINCIPLES OF THE CONFEDERACY

WAS THEME OF ORATION DELIVERED BY PROF. DUBNEY LIPSCOMB AT MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES.

Showed that Subsequent Events Have Proven the South Right in Her Contentions—Address Highly Complimented.

After having engaged in protracted and disastrous warfare Friday, the elements quickly calmed down, and on Saturday a brilliant sun shed its rays from tranquil skies, making the day in every way propitious for paying tribute to the gallant soldiers who fought and died in defense of their beloved Southland.

The A. and M. College cadets, who for years past have been accustomed to participate in local Decoration Day celebrations, were not present Saturday, and as the Columbus Rifemen were unable to turn out the celebration was not as elaborate as usual. The parade formed in front of the city hall at 10:30 a. m., Capt. W. E. Pope having served as marshal and having had as his aids Capt. W. D. Prowell and Mr. W. A. Campbell. The parade marched to Friendship cemetery at the appointed time, Inham Harrison Camp No. 37, United Confederate Veterans, the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and a number of students from the Industrial Institute and College having been in line.

Upon arrival at the cemetery the exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. J. W. Shuff, D. D., pastor of the First Methodist church, after which the burial ceremony prescribed in the ritual was gone through with by the veterans. Then followed the memorial address, which was delivered by Prof. Dubney Lipscomb, head of the department of mathematics at the Industrial Institute and College. Prof. Lipscomb selected as his theme "The Principles of the Confederacy," and demonstrated clearly the fact that there were sound and logical reasons for the secession of the Southern states and the formation of the Confederacy. The fact that the Union sought to abridge and curtail the rights of the different states was largely responsible for the Civil War, and the same fact which the states at that time made to retain their rights is being waged anew.

The oration delivered by Prof. Lipscomb not only established the legal and moral right of the South to secede from the Union but presented many obscure historical facts which greatly interested those who heard it. The oration should be read by those who love the South and rejoice in her achievements both in war and in peace, and that the people of Columbus and surrounding country may be able to enjoy this privilege The Dispatch will print it in its entirety next Sunday.

Building to Be Improved.

The Knights of Pythias have vacated their old quarters in the third story of the building on Main street which is owned by Mr. E. C. Chapman, and the City Furniture Company, which now occupies the two lower floors, has leased the entire building. A number of improvements are to be made in the structure. A new front will be put in, and there will be two large modern show windows which will afford ample space to display furniture in a most attractive manner. The elevator service, which now extends only to the second floor, will be extended so as to include the entire building, and the stairways will be taken out. The street entrance will be by means of a single doorway in the center of the building, the space on either side being occupied by the large show windows described above.

Mr. F. O. Harris has begun the erection of a handsome cottage just north of the residence of his grandfather, Judge J. A. Orr, on the Highlands. The house is being constructed on the plan of a bungalow, and when completed will be one of the prettiest and most unique homes in the city.

Dispatch Day at "Dreamland." Through the kindness and liberality of the managers of the popular "Dreamland" Theatre in Merchant's Block, The Dispatch has arranged to give all of its subscribers a free admission to the afternoon performance at this popular amusement palace.

With that end in view in next Sunday's Dispatch will be presented a free coupon entitling the holder thereof to one admission to the afternoon performance at Dreamland. This ticket for the subscribers to the semi-weekly paper will be good for only the week of the 4th to the 24th of May inclusive.

The subscribers to the Weekly Dispatch will be given a free ticket also which will be good in the following week, or the week beginning on the 11th and ending on the sixteenth.

Remember you have to get out the coupon and present it at the theatre at an afternoon performance only, and those who get the coupons out of the semi-weekly paper will be admitted during the week of May 4th to 11th; while the coupons out of the Weekly will admit their owners the week following.

Messrs. Byrne and Smith have what is conceded to be one of the handsomest little theatres to be found anywhere in the South, the character of their performances is the very highest, and the pictures, the songs and the vaudeville turns are the very best.

It will pay you to get this coupon. It is worth bringing to this city to use. You will be amply repaid for the trouble as the shows for these weeks will be the very best obtainable. Look out for the coupon.

## DISASTROUS STORM VISITS COLUMBUS

MANUFACTURING DISTRICT ADJACENT TO MOBILE AND OHIO DEPOT WAS SWEEPED BY SEVERE STORM FRIDAY.

John Pierce, a Negro Carpenter, Was Killed, and a Number of Buildings Swept From Their Foundations.

Traveling with terrific velocity, a severe wind storm swept over the manufacturing district of the city adjacent to the Mobile and Ohio depot about noon last Friday, leaving one dead negro and several wrecked buildings to mark its destructive passage. The dead negro is John Pierce, a carpenter who was employed by Mr. J. W. Stinson, a well known contractor, and among the buildings most seriously damaged were the Columbus Comfort Factory, the plants of the Mississippi and Refuse Cotton Oil Companies, the cotton warehouse owned by Mr. C. F. Sherrod and occupied by Mr. J. A. Guree, the colored Methodist church on South Tenth street, two cottages on South Eighth avenue, owned by Mrs. J. O. Banks, and a cottage at No. 122 South Fourth street occupied by Mr. Percy Beardon.

The wind, which was accompanied by a heavy fall of rain, came from the southwest, and accomplished its first disastrous work on the river bluff, a few feet south of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad bridge. After having torn several trees up by their roots, the wind seemed to take a circular course, traveling down either side of the railroad track, and setting its forces again at the corner of Sixth street and South Seventh avenue, where it struck John's warehouse with sufficient force to practically demolish the building and kill John Pierce, the negro carpenter who was at work in Stinson's shop, the shop having been located in the warehouse building.

The first building struck by the cyclone was the plant of the Refuse Cotton Oil Company, which is located right on the river bank, only a few feet northeast of the railroad bridge. Here the wind blew down two chimneys and completely demolished the boiler room. The damage to the plant is estimated by Capt. McClure, the local manager, at \$175. When asked about tornado insurance, Capt. McClure said that the matter of insurance was handled by the general office in Vicksburg, and he was unable to state whether the policy carried by the company covered the loss sustained as a result of Friday's storm.

From the Refuse Cotton Oil Mill the wind moved northwest, demolishing various other plants of the Columbus Comfort Company and the Columbus Machine and Foundry Company, both of which are on the same square. The east wall of the machine shop was blown down, while the comfort factory is almost a total wreck. The roofs were blown from both the factory and the warehouse, and the buildings are so badly damaged that it would be very costly to reconstruct them. The comfort factory has not been in operation during the past few years, so it is hardly likely that any help will be taken to restore the building. The damage sustained by the Columbus Machine and Foundry Company is estimated at \$100, while the loss on the comfort factory, which, as stated above, is a total wreck, is between \$1,000 and \$1,500. Neither owners desired to make insurance, and the loss sustained is therefore unestimated.

Proceeding from the comfort factory in an easterly course the wind struck several buildings on the east side of the railroad track and demolished a number of bright iron in the Mobile and Ohio yards. Within the plant of the Mississippi Cotton Oil Company, on the west side of the track, the wind tore off the roofs of the seed sheds and under rooms and blew down a portion of the under-room wall. Capt. Davis, the local manager for the company, stated that the damage amounted to between \$2,000 and \$2,500, and that the loss was covered by insurance. Traveling along the north side of the track, the storm struck two cottages recently erected by Mrs. J. O. Banks at Nos. 218 and 216 South Tenth avenue. These cottages had just been completed, and No. 218 was the only one occupied. Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Hamel were the occupants of this building. (Continued on Page 2.)