

The Lower Coast Gazette.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE LOWER COAST: AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, FISHERIES AND COMMERCE.

VOLUME I.

POINTE-A-LA-HACHE, I.A., SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1909.

NUMBER 12.

DEATH LIST INCREASES

Work of Terrible Cyclone at Brinkley, Ark.

Mayor Appeals for Aid—Stoves, Building Material, Food and Bedding Badly Needed.

Brinkley, Ark.—Brinkley is wiped out. The proud and prosperous little city of 4,000 people is a tangled mass of wreckage. Not a building in the business section of the city has been left intact, not a residence but that has suffered in a fearful cyclone which swept the place Monday night, leaving death and desolation in its wake.

Damage Enormous.

The property damage is enormous. Conservative business men estimate the damage at more than \$1,000,000. More than 2,000 houses were wrecked, or partially wrecked, by the great wind. Every business house is in ruins, every church, save one, is destroyed, and there is hardly a home that has not at least suffered the loss of roof or wing.

First Work One of Mercy.

The first work was one of mercy. Mayor Harry Jackson took command of the relief committee, Dr. E. D. McKnight was assigned to the position of chairman of the doctors' committee. Before it was hardly day, relief committees were coming from all directions. Each brought physicians and nurses, armed with medicines and supplies, eager to help in the work.

In the few houses still standing it is well nigh impossible to start a fire, because chimneys were among the first things to go and the situation is terrible in the extreme.

The Catholic Church and the Greenlee building, the latter minus a roof in parts and otherwise damaged, have been converted into hospitals, and here the doctors are working with the injured. Many of the citizens are badly hurt, but determined to help those worse off than themselves, have refused to go to the temporary hospital.

Most of the dead were caught in the wrecked buildings, and crushed almost beyond recognition. The family of Isaac Reed was almost completely wiped out. Reed, his wife and their two sons, Russell, aged 16, and Raymond, aged 12, were instantly killed. Miss Muriel Reed, a daughter, alone escaped death, but she is seriously injured.

Did Cyclone Stunts.

Straight across the city from the southeast to the northwest swept the warring elements, leaving death and destruction in their wake. The tornado jumped, turned, writhed and twisted like a thing endowed with life, judging from the wreckage which marks its flight. It left no path, as is usual with cyclones, but spread itself out over a wide area and embraced the entire town within its deadly grasp.

It first struck the residence portion of the city. Cottages, two-story frame and brick dwellings crumbled beneath the mighty rush of the winds. Trees were uprooted and carried hurtling through the air for hundreds of feet, crashing through flimsy wooden walls as if they had been so much cardboard. Telephone poles were snapped short off at the ground and tossed about the streets like pipe stems.

It struck the business section with ever-increasing violence. Solid brick and concrete storehouses fell crashing to the ground before its fury. Heavy awnings, doors and even the front walls of many stores, tin roofs and flying debris of all kinds filled the air, while the elements raged and the rain fell in torrents.

People Panic-Stricken.

Men, women and children ran screaming and terror-stricken into the streets. The city was in total darkness. The Brinkley Light and Power Company was one of the first plants struck by the storm. It was demolished and its wires, along with the telephone and telegraph wires, spread over the ground in a veritable network of steel, iron and copper meshes.

Husbands sought for wives and wives sought for children. Brothers cried aloud to mothers and sisters, and as the full fury of the wind died away to a steady and ominous roar, their screams, combined with those of the injured, rang out piercingly in the almost Stygian darkness. Strong men paused, shuddered and knew not what to do or where to go. Women sank down in the streets, which had become veritable torrents, gathering their children to them, and offered up their prayers for the deliverance of their lives.

The reaction came in another moment. Lanterns and torches were secured. The Ungainly Woman Golfer. The men, seated before the fire in a hall of the country club, looked very smart in the soft greens and grays and browns of their golf suits. The shapely coats lent to their waists an added suppleness and to their chests a greater girth. The knickers, cut like riding breeches, gave their owners prosaic of legs, bank clerks and stenographers, the dashing elegance of the legs of the cavaliers. But the women!

"We women," said a young lady

Searching parties were organized, and at 1:30 o'clock a myriad of flickering, flaring, fitful lights danced about over the scene of unspeakable desolation and ruin which unfolded itself to the eye for brief moments as the brilliant and vivid flashes of lightning pierced the sombre heavens.

The rain was pouring in torrents, lashing the face and hands with stinging force.

Daylight Exposed the Horror. Not until long after daylight had come to add horror to the desolate picture of woe and ruin, showing in startling relief the terrible havoc wrought by the tornado, was the body of Charles Frenz, the fifth victim of the business district, found. Frenz was purchasing a pair of shoes in the Foote & Gazola store when it was struck. His body was found about 10 o'clock, lying crumpled into a heap about midway of the ruins.

There were thirty funerals in Brinkley Thursday. Coffins are arriving on every train, and undertakers and their helpers kept busy preparing for the burials.

Two Hundred Convicts.

A special train loaded with one hundred convicts arrived from Little Rock, making two hundred prisoners now here. They will be put to work cleaning up the debris, and the work of rebuilding the town will begin at once, as soon as materials arrive.

The Cotton Belt railroad has 300 of its carpenters and brickmasons from different points on the system rushing here to assist in the work of rebuilding the town.

The Rock Island sent out a call for a similar number of workmen from along its lines, and they will be rushed here.

Stoves Are Needed.

Aside from food and bedding, the people most urgently need a car load of stoves on which to cook, tarpaulins to cover up the front of their stores and to hide the leaks in the roofs of the houses yet standing, and tin roofing.

Martial law prevails with all its rigor. The soldiers will not let any one through the lines who does not possess a pass signed by the provost marshal.

Food Now Available.

The soldiers have established a large cook tent in the middle of the town, and all those who have no means of subsisting are being fed at the expense of the State and the relief committee.

Mayor Jackson Calls for Aid.

Mayor T. H. Jackson has issued the following appeal:

"To the Public—In response to many inquiries concerning the terrible calamity which has befallen our city, I would like to say that the list of dead, so far recovered from the wreckage, numbers 35, and wounded over 200. There is not a house in the city, either business or residence, that has not been damaged by the cyclone. The entire business portion is lost, and only three buildings are left standing.

"In response to many offers of assistance, I would suggest for immediate temporary relief, that furniture, some bedding, blankets, tarpaulins, shingles and other roofing material be sent us. The latter is in urgent demand because there is not a dry roof in the city to protect the wounded and homeless.

"In the way of permanent relief, I would say the greatest benefit could be done our unfortunate people by shipments of building materials, such as lumber, shingles, roofings, brick, sand, etc. Many of our people will be able in this way to assist themselves, and start living, with the prospect of regaining lost fortunes or, at least, preparing places to shelter themselves. Both the Rock Island and Cotton Belt railroads have agreed to bring to our relief all consignments of this, or any other nature, free of charge. It will possibly require several hundred carloads of building material to repair our city, as there is not a mill or factory that is not completely destroyed.

"T. H. JACKSON, Mayor."

DONAGHEY'S MESSAGE.

Arkansas Governor Quickly Acts After Visit.

Little Rock, Ark.—Little Rock parties returning from Brinkley say they never witnessed a more desolate scene in their lives than what they beheld there. It is impossible to describe the havoc caused by the storm. At the request of Gov. Donaghey the legislature will at once appropriate \$10,000 for the relief of the sufferers. Gov. Donaghey's message asking for the appropriation follows:

"To the Thirty-seventh General Assembly: "I have just returned from Brinkley, where the recent cyclone has caused so much loss of life and property, and I find there is urgent need for immediate relief to those who were maimed and crippled, together with the remaining inhabitants, who are suffering for lack of food and shelter.

"I therefore recommend that you make an appropriation to be immediately available to those entitled to the same of the sum of \$10,000."

Popular There.

"Is he a man of any great consequence?" "Well, yes—to himself."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

WHITE SNUBBED TAFTS

AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE WILL BE LET OUT.

Story of Taft Honeymoon—White Refused Honeymooners Ticket to Court Function.

Washington.—Ambassador White is to step down and out diplomatically, and another is to have his place at the French capital. There is a moral in this passing of Mr. White, and the story thereof should teach the reader to be careful of the stranger within his gates, lest in that stranger he entertain all unware an angel or one who is sprouting subsequent wings to become an angel.

It was in 1886, Mr. and Mrs. Taft had just been married and were traveling through Europe, wrapped in those rainbow folds of sentiment folk call a "honeymoon."

The Tafts in the course of their enthralling rambles came to Vienna. There they found Mr. White. The latter gentleman was secretary of the legation for the United States.

There was some function, whereof royalty would be the center, coming off upon a near afternoon. Mr. Taft asked Mr. White to see about an invitation. To procure such invitations was not among things impossible. Mr. White could have had them at a mere hint.

Upon the morning of the royal function Mr. White sent a note to Mr. Taft. It ran in practically these words:

"I am sorry to inform you that I was unable to accomplish what you asked. The affair is very exclusive. The number of invitations is limited and they have been ordered sent only to persons of importance and distinction. I enclose, however, tickets to the museum and trust that Mrs. Taft and yourself will spend a pleasant afternoon."

Mr. Taft still has that White letter. It has become, although not filed, the big document in what might be called "the case of Ambassador White."

BISHOP HOSS HAS RELAPSE

Wound From Operation Gives Him Trouble.

Baltimore, Md.—It will be likely several days, and it may be a week or two before Bishop E. E. Hoss, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is able to leave the Johns Hopkins Hospital. The bishop underwent an operation for an internal trouble a month ago and it was said that he would leave the hospital at least ten days ago, but new complications set in last Saturday and since that day he has had a high temperature and considerable pain from the wound which was made at the time of the operation. The bishop takes his relapse very much to heart and it grieves him quite a bit to know that he has received this sudden setback.

WAR CLOUD IS LOWERING.

Nicaragua and Salvador Assume Belligerent Attitude.

Washington.—Four hundred marines from Panama and 200 from Guantanamo are held in readiness to be rushed to Honduras and Nicaragua borders in case, as is threatened, Nicaragua should attack Costa Rica or use the Honduran territory, which is neutral, for the transport of troops. The state department holds that the treaties existing between Mexico and the United States and the Central American republics demand that there "shall always be peace between these republics," therefore it is the function of Mexico and the United States and it is their right to forcibly prevent Nicaragua from making war.

SCHOOL CHILDREN WORK.

Prizes Offered Result in Cleaning Streets.

Charlotte, N. C.—Over 2,000 school children worked like Trojans gathering up every stray bit of trash, broken glass, pottery and brick bats that could be found high and low, in a contest for prizes offered by the Woman's Club to the child raising the largest heap of rubbish. As a result many of the streets of the city have trash piled waist and head high along the gutters ready for the city wagons to convey to the crematory.

The chief of the sanitary department states that it may require a week for his department, working with the full street force, to get rid of the accumulated rubbish.

DEATH CLAIMS GEN. PALMER.

Founder of Colorado Springs. His Estate is Worth \$15,000,000.

Colorado Springs.—Gen. Wm. J. Palmer, founder of Colorado Springs, died at his country seat, Glen Eyrie, west of the city, late Sunday. Death came as a result of a fall from a horse in October, 1906, which resulted in breaking his back. Gen. Palmer often has been called the foremost citizen of Colorado. He leaves an estate valued at \$15,000,000.

Misunderstood.

The Hobo—"Scuze me, ma'am, but I'm off hungry, an' if you'll gimme a chanst 't work—"

The Lady—"Certainly. There's the woodpile and an ax."

The Hobo—"Scuze me ergin, ma'am, but I was erbout 't say if you'll gimme a chanst 't work youse fer me orakfast, I'd be much erbliged."

Go at Task Cheerfully.

There is nothing so easy but it becomes difficult when you do it with reluctance.—Terence.

THE MARATHON HABIT

