

# THE PICKENS SENTINEL

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## Great Loss of Property Caused By Breaking of Toxaway Dam

### Loss in Upper Keowee Valley Especially Heavy—People in Need of Help

Those people living in the northwestern part of Pickens county near Keowee river suffered heavily from the damage done by the water which came from Lake Toxaway when the Toxaway dam broke. The greatest damage, according to reports, did not extend far below Chapman's bridge, but the bridge still stands. John Chapman estimates that the water was thirty-five feet deep straight, which is about nine feet higher than ever known before.

News that the Toxaway dam had broken reached Pickens about 8 o'clock Sunday night. Immediately two automobiles carrying Messrs. Larry Thornley, Walt Langston Furman Holder and a Sentinel reporter left town bound for Whitewater Inn, which was in the path of the water and where were the families of Messrs. Thornley and Langston besides several other Pickens people. It was about ten o'clock when the first automobile got as far as John Chapman's about twenty miles above Pickens and they could get no farther for the water was then at its highest. Keowee river looked like an ocean in the moonlight. As it was impossible to go any farther Messrs. Thornley and Langston returned home and the others waited until daylight to see what damage was done.

Chapman's steel bridge was washed four or five hundred feet down the river. Gus Robinson's house was washed away and his wife barely succeeded in escaping in scanty clothing. They lost all they had. R. B. Bryant and family barely escaped with their lives and everything in the first story of their house is ruined. John Chapman, who notified this family of the rising water, was caught before he could get back home and was forced to swim for his life. The water moved Bob Moseley's barn and left it in the middle of the road. Several other small buildings were moved and damaged. The house of Mrs. Alice Mathis several miles above was overflowed and everything in it ruined. Some of the people along the river are without anything to eat, the water ruining their groceries. The Sentinel reporter succeeded in walking through mud up the river side to Elias Hamilton's, near where Toxaway and Whitewater come together making Keowee river and being nearly famished when we got there the people at this house divided their last meal with us.

Whitewater Inn, Pickens county's famous mountain hotel, suffered heavily. The water backed up into the building six feet, practically ruining everything on the first floor, and leaving mud several inches deep. There were a good many guests there at the time. Among the guests from Pickens who were there were Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Hendricks, Mrs. L. C. Thornley and daughter, Mrs. J. W. Langston and children, Miss Frances Bruce, Bertran Porter and Edwin Earle. They have all returned home, coming by way of Seneca. Mr. Hendricks' automobile at the hotel was covered with water.

Tom Cantrell, who lives on Toxaway about two miles above Whitewater Inn, lost his house, cattle, hogs, chickens and everything he had. He barely succeeded in saving his wife and children. In the excitement his wife fainted and it was necessary for Mr. Cantrell to carry her and the children in relays to the top of the mountain. At one time Mrs. Cantrell was nearly covered by water when her husband got back to her.

Just above and below Chapman's bridge was the hardest hit section so far heard from. All crops along the river are absolutely ruined and the people know not which way to turn. The only way to travel along the river side is thru mud from ankle to more than knee deep. The odor of the mud is sickening. Thousands of cat fish and white suckers of all sizes were washed out of the river and left in holes in the mud. Many people were picking up the fish Monday morning, some having fine strings while others had sacks full. Without seeing it would be difficult for one to realize the great number of fish washed out. In some places a person could hardly walk without stepping upon them.

All along the river sides may be seen great numbers of trees which have been washed away. Some have been uprooted while others have been twist-

ed from their stumps by the force of the onrushing waters and the ends resemble a large tooth brush or snuff stick. At some places the pile of debris is as large as a house. Packs of shingles and lumber may be seen along the way.

It is feared that still greater damage has been done the people living in the big Cane Break section, but no word can be gotten from there.

It is impossible to estimate the damage done, but it is enormous considering the circumstances of the people. Many have lost their year's work while others have lost everything they had.

The people need aid and some steps should be taken by the county authority to render immediate and substantial relief.

The people in this section were not expecting the high water. In speaking of hearing the water coming Mayor Hendricks of Pickens, who was at Whitewater Inn at the time, tells an interesting story.

Bertran Porter also tells an interesting story of the rapidly rising waters and the escape from the hotel.

Mrs. John Chapman says the noise was fearful and the report of trees being broken sounded like rifle shots. Wade Chastain says he was at his home more than thirty miles from Toxaway, and he heard the dam break. He and W. T. Edens Monday were making their way up the river and expected to walk to where the lake was.

So far as is now known no lives were lost in the flood of water turned loose when Toxaway dam broke.

### A Correction

Editor Pickens Sentinel: Dear Sir: In your paper of date August 10 appears an advertisement "Solicitor's Race". Near the bottom of the reading matter you have this "Lanford, Smoak and Harris are outspoken, the first two anti-Blease and the latter Blease." This copy went to you reading "Lanford, Harris and Smoak are outspoken, the first two anti-Blease and the latter Blease." Mr. Harris is anti-Blease and Mr. Smoak is Blease and they have both so stated on every stump in Greenville county.

This advertisement was written in behalf of my candidacy and I do not wish to have it appear, although the error is clearly typographical, that I would mis-state one single fact.

Please be so kind as to publish this that the matter may be corrected. Very truly yours,

J. D. LANFORD.

The speaking campaign of the Pickens county candidates began at Central last Thursday. All the scheduled meetings have been held and several others besides, where the communities invited the candidates. The campaign is getting very warm. The candidates for solicitor are also speaking with the county candidates and all make fiery speeches and with the exception of Lanford and Daniel indulge in many personalities.

### Nearly 28,000 Voters

According to figures the total vote in this Congressional District will be nearly 28,000. The exact figures are:

Anderson county	9,000
Pickens county	4,211
Oconee county	4,112
Abbeville county	2,371
Newberry county	3,478
Greenwood county	3,238
McCormick county	1,247

### Card From Hon. Wyatt Aiken

To the Voters of the Third District: For several weeks I have been wanting to leave Washington and go home to take part in the campaign, but so far it has been impossible for me to get away. This session of Congress is nearing its close. The House has about completed its program, but the Senate is far behind with its work. A number of important bills are in conference between the two Houses, and other important bills are yet to pass the Senate. They will be amended and come to conference. The Democrats have a majority of only some 23 in the House, and if very many of them go away some of the important bills may be emasculated or defeated entirely. The leaders

of Congress are constantly urging the Democratic members to remain here until the work is finished. Only a couple of days ago I received a note from Senator Tillman urging me to stay here until his Naval appropriation bill has passed through conference. The revenue bill, the shipping bill, the child labor bill and others of importance are yet to be passed, so that really much of the most important work of session remains to be done.

I could arrange to be paired, of course; but much of the work of the conferences between the two houses on important legislation is being done now. Members of the conference committees have their friends helping them to feel out the sentiment of the two houses, so that the bills may be so shaped that they will be acceptable when the conference reports are finally presented. All the Democratic members, and especially the older ones, those who have been here a long time and know what to do, and when and how to do it, have a share in this work, and it is important, though not so spectacular as some other kinds of work.

I am as anxious as anybody could be to get home and into the campaign, but my colleagues say my presence is needed here, and I think they are right. I feel that I should remain here and try to do the work that the people have entrusted to me, rather than neglect the work and go home to look after my own political fortunes. Aside from my sense of duty, my feeling of gratitude and obligation to the people, who have repeatedly honored me with the position I now hold impels me to this course. The people of the Third District know full well that I have never shirked or dodged a fight. Just as soon as I can feel that I can safely leave here, I will take the first train for home. It may be that I can get away within a week, or it may be that I will have to remain here until the end of the session of Congress, and that may be the middle or last of September. But it is my plain duty to stay here now, and I am going to stay.

Aside from my legislative duties, it

has seemed that the calls for individual service for individuals in the District, in matters pertaining to the government, have been greater and more numerous this summer than ever before. For instance, the mobilization of the national guard has entailed a great deal of extra work on the part of every member of Congress. Only a few days ago I was able to secure the release of a member of the guard. After he had enlisted and gone into camp at Columbia, his father died very suddenly, leaving a widow and several small children. The young man is now needed at home to support the family, but if I had not been here on the ground I would not have been able to secure his release so quickly, and probably not at all. The comfort that I have been able to give this bereaved family will always be worth more to me than any possible number of votes that I may lose by not being at home in the campaign.

I have no unkind word to say as to a single one of my opponents. They have a right to run for Congress, of course; though if they are doing anything at all in their professions—three are lawyers and one is a banker—they would be better off at home than here in Washington with a Congressman's salary after paying the heavy expenses of a member of Congress. Any man who is doing anything at all as a lawyer or a banker is better off than a Congressman, and I take it for granted that the people of the Third District do not want a man who has been a failure in his chosen profession to represent them in Congress.

I understand that some of my opponents have been criticizing my record in Congress. I have not heard any of their speeches, and none of them have appeared in print, so I do not know just what they have been saying. If they have stated my record correctly I have no complaint to make. My record here is made, and I am willing to be judged by it. Even if I were not willing to be so judged, I could not help myself, for the record is public and the facts can be ascertained by anyone who wants to know the facts. I am sure

that not one of my opponents would intentionally misrepresent me, but it may be that they have been doing this unintentionally through misinformation.

It has been my good fortune to incur the enmity of one or two men, whose names I need not call here. These men have been fighting me in season and out of season, as the people of the Third District well know. I know that in a previous campaign they wrote speeches and furnished campaign material for some of my opponents, and I have reason to believe that they have been doing the same thing this year. And it may be that my opponents have been using statements furnished them by these unscrupulous enemies of mine, without taking the trouble to verify them, and that in this way they have been misrepresenting me. If any man in the Third District is in doubt as to my record, my faithfulness, or my standing as a member of Congress, I suggest that he write to Speaker Champ Clark, Hon. Claude Kitchen, of North Carolina, chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. Hon. J. J. Fitzgerald, of New York, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations; Hon. Carter Glass, of Virginia, chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency; Hon. W. C. Adamson, of Georgia, chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce; Hon. James Hay, of Virginia, chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs; Hon. L. F. Padgett, Tennessee, chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs—any of these chairmen or any members of these great committees—men who have served with me for a long time and know me. I have not asked any member of Congress to write a letter in my behalf, of course, and would not do so, but I will be willing to be judged by what they may say about me.

I would like to be at home in the campaign, so I might tell the people of the beneficial legislation that has been enacted by the Democratic Congress. I would like to tell of the new tariff law, the new currency law, the new anti-trust law, the income tax law, the act providing for Federal aid for good roads, the rural credits law, the New South Carolina Federal District, and other laws that have been enacted for the benefit of the people. I voted for all these good laws which have been placed on the statute books. Some of my opponents do not seem to know that these laws have been enacted, judging by the way they are advocating them.

There are other laws that are needed and they will be placed on the statute books if the Democrats are returned to power in November as now seems likely. The outlook for Democratic success this fall is bright, and this makes it all the more imperative for Democratic members of Congress to remain here now and close up the work of this session in good shape. And with the Democrats continued in charge of the government, it is a reasonable, common-sense proposition that members of Congress who have been tried and found true, men who know the needs of the people and are experienced in legislation and know how to accomplish results, may be trusted to continue their good work.

An old farmer told me once that he did not think it was a good idea to trade off a safe horse during a crop season. I respectfully commend this thought to the voters of the Third District.

In conclusion, I must thank the people for the confidence they have reposed in me in the past. If they think me worthy to continue to represent them, I shall be under increased indebtedness to them, and will try to serve them with the same faithfulness and singleness of purpose with which I have tried to serve them in the past. I can promise no more than this, and I doubt if my opponents can promise any more.

And let me repeat, that if I can get into the campaign before it closes I shall certainly do so. I want to be there now, but my duty is to stay here for the present, and I shall stay here until the way is open for me to go home. It is for the people to say whether I am doing the right thing or not.

Respectfully,  
WYATT AIKEN.  
Washington, August 8, 1916.  
(Advertisement)

### Two Good Planks

Over in the Third Congressional District, Henry Tillman is a candidate for Representative Aiken's seat. He is standing on a sound platform which contains some excellent timber. All this is by way of parenthesis, for The News is taking no part in the five-cornered race between Aiken, Dagnall, Dominick, Horton and Tillman, the purpose of this article being merely to direct attention to two specific planks which every candidate for Congress who believes in real popular govern-

ment ought to incorporate in his map of purposes to be fulfilled if he gets a chance to stand at Armageddon and battle for the people.

"The Pork Barrel is the curse of Congress. It is the system whereby Congressmen swap their votes and oftentimes stultify their consciences in order that things may be obtained for their district and they may thereby make a showing at home. The people pay the freight. While I would strive earnestly to bring the Third District everything that it is honestly entitled to, I would not make it a matter of barter or trade. The Southern Congressman who does is a fool. We have always paid our part of the taxes but we will never get our part of the swag. And I would not relinquish one single privilege to get a public building in every village in district. If you want a 'pork barrel' Congressman, vote for some one else. Tillman is not the man you are looking for."

That's pretty bold talk, but it's true. The present pork barrel grab by Southern Congressmen is well-nigh a national scandal. A great many of them are acting like hogs. Federal appropriations for local buildings and waterways are proper when they are necessary, but this thing of building a \$100,000 post office in a town of 2,000 is an outrageous waste of the people's money. The Congressman who indulges in this sort of steal is, as Candidate Tillman says, a fool—and we go him one better and say that such a Congressman is an unfit public servant. Things have come to such a pass in this country that we are very apt to judge a Congressman by the quantity of loot and swag and plunder he can land for his district. We do not inquire whether he is a man of statesmanlike principles, we merely ask, "Can he bring the bacon home?" We do not ask whether he ought, as a matter of right, to bring it home. Calhoun and McDuffie didn't care a rap about postoffices and other Federal buildings. They were not elected on the basis of material benefit for the State they obtained from Congress, for they got precious little, and the people were satisfied. The average Congressman reminds us of the woman who takes an empty basket to a picnic and tries to see how much of the good things she can jam into it to carry back home. We should measure a Congressman by his legislative record as to principles and not by his capacity for gormandizing in the pork barrel.

The Greenwood aspirant, in the second place, declares that the government spends \$10 per capita each year, that we howl about State taxes and county taxes, but never pause to consider that our national taxes stamp us as the most extravagant government on earth; that "we have many useless offices and wasteful officeholders." He avows that if elected, "I shall fight to stamp them out and bring this government back to a business basis. One billion dollars per annum is our record. I want one billion dollars worth of service or I want less than a billion spent. I pledge myself to strict economy and will fight that which is wasteful and extravagant."

If Mr. Tillman could do that, he would have to tackle the Augean stables, but even if he tried and failed, he would deserve better of his country than a thousand M. C.'s distributing seed, misusing the free postage privilege, and doing nothing more energetic than drawing their pay. The Congressman who sets his face against extravagance by the Federal government is up against a problem, but the support of the people is his. If Mr. Tillman should go to Washington, there will be plenty of opportunity for the redemption of his campaign pledges. The pension steal and the public building graft are enormous. The time has come when something ought to be done to check this wanton waste of the people's money. The Nation is hard put to find enough revenue to meet its expenditures. It is looking about for new sources, and, if the present drift toward public bankruptcy is not stemmed, the day will soon be here when the \$10 a week clerk in homespun will have to pay his income tax just as the millionaire in purple pays his.

The News unhesitatingly and gladly commends these two planks in Mr. Tillman's platform and voices the hope that, if he shall be chosen, he will hammer on them day in and day out. If he does, he will have little competition in the matter and his spear will know few brothers. At any rate it is encouraging to perceive that a candidate for congress in South Carolina stands on such unusual, but excellent planks.—Greenville Daily News.  
(Advertisement)

We want you to read this paper over and see if you think you can afford to do without it for two cents a week.

## Hon. Cole L. Blease



Will deliver a political address at  
Pickens  
Monday, August 21,  
All Candidates for Congress are invited to be present. Speaking will begin at 11 o'clock.  
Music by the Easley Brass Band.