

Pennsylvanic Mill Town Wiped Out By Flood and Fire; 300 Dead

ITALIAN FLAG IS NOT FLYING OVER TRIPOLI; NO TROOPS LANDED YET

Invasion of European Turkey Denied -- Prevesa Bombarded but No Landing Effected -- Germany and Austria may Intervene to Stop Fighting.

London, Oct. 1.—Out of a perfect maze of conflicting reports and rumors it is utterly impossible at the present stage to sift the grains of truth concerning the opening days of the Tripoli-Italian war. It appears even doubtful whether there has been any actual occupation of Tripoli and it is practically certain that there has been no bombardment by the Italian warships. It seems almost certain that the reported destruction of the Turkish flag is untrue. In fact the only result of the first three-days' hostilities which can be ascertained is the destruction of the Turkish destroyer by the Duke of the Abruzzi's ship off Prevesa. The Tripoli cable is closed so that it is impossible for the outside world to know what is going on there. The Italian government clearly is not in a hurry and the most significant news of the day is the decision of the Turkish council again to appeal to the powers and in the meantime suspended offensive measures. Late tonight this new appeal was announced. The Italian government, and there is nothing to indicate that the attitude of the powers has undergone any change.

May Stop War. According to the Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent, however, Germany and Austria have already made official representations to Italy of their displeasure at her procedure and that if these representations are ignored, they will be followed in another shape by "humiliation to Italy." According to the information of Roman diplomatic sources, the landing of the Italians at Prevesa is greatly resented by Austria and Germany and had much to do with their reported change of attitude towards Italy. Turkey's internal politics probably account in a large measure for her hesitation in taking the offensive. Said Pasha, the new grand vizier, continues to form a coalition ministry, but finds the task one of almost insuperable difficulties.

LAURIER TO STEP OUT ON WEDNESDAY NATIONALISTS WILL ABIDE BY DEFERENDUM

Latest Date Set for His Resignation and Announcement of Borden Cabinet — More Strong Men at Capital.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Oct. 1.—Wednesday is now agreed upon as the most likely day for the resignation of the Laurier government, and the announcement of the Borden ministry. Mr. Borden is still at his home working on the formation of his cabinet. He is making good progress and is expected to have the slate completed before he is summoned by the governor. Mr. Robert Rogers is still here and will probably remain until after the swearing in. Hon. Frank Cochrane has gone north. Henri Bourassa has been here and had a long consultation with F. D. Monk. Today's arrivals gave the cabinet messengers a new and undeveloped field. They included Sir William Van Home, H. C. McLeod, solicitor general of New Brunswick, Premier Hazen of N. B., O. S. Crockett, M. P.; T. Chase Casgrain and F. B. McCurdy, of Halifax, the man who defeated Hon. W. S. Fielding.

REV. WM. SMITH NEW RECTOR OF GAGETOWN Gagetown, Sept. 30.—The induction of Rev. William Smith into the cure of the Parish of Gagetown took place on Friday evening, before a large congregation. His Lordship Bishop Richardson conducted the service and in

AUSTIN DAM BROKE AND TOWN WAS DELUGED BY A DEATH DEALING TORRENT

Main Street Was Thronged With Saturday Afternoon Crowds When Wall of Water Swept Them Into Eternity

Telephone Girl Hero of Heart Rending Catastrophe -- Warned Hundreds of Approaching Danger Before Fleeing to Safety -- Fire in Wreckage Adds to Horrors -- Property Damage Estimated at \$6,000,000

Austin Penn., Oct. 1.—Three hundred or more persons met their death through the bursting of a dam above this town yesterday. Fire followed and completed the work of destruction. The curtains of night which were rung down on the flood scarcely before its victims had all been claimed and its surviving spectators fully realized how great a tragedy the elements of water and fire had enacted in the natural amphitheatre of the Alleghany mountains here, was lit up by scene of death and devastation. Austin itself, yesterday a busy mill town of 3,000 people, many of whom were enjoying a fine autumn afternoon as a Saturday half holiday is only a ghost of a town today. The ruins of 300 or more persons, were strewn along the valley edge, piled in windows where the Main street business section was, or swept in scattered masses far down the ravine. Spectators, many of whom barely escaped being victims of the disaster and hundreds of people, were rounding towns, looked down from the steep hillsides on Austin and Costello through a veil of fog this morning. The wreckage here of some four hundred houses, a score of business blocks, three churches and several large lumber mills, and three miles further down the river at Costello, the ruins of more than fifty buildings. The flood did not spare what but is practically intact. The loss of life at Costello, where the residents had more warning is believed to be but three. Property loss in the valley is estimated at upwards of \$6,000,000.

WRECKAGE WAS AWFUL, COMPLETE, AND SUDDEN.

The wreckage of the dam had been complete as it was sudden. Two immense sections from top to bottom a 150 feet wide were thrown out, and picked up a huge-bastion of heavy timbers in the mill yards at the foot of the dam and with these thousands of planks and beams rained down with terrible havoc. At the hospital today there were but six injured, for the care of the small army of physicians in the care of the few who remained. The state constabulary arrived this afternoon and took charge of the situation, which seemed too appalling for the local committees which had worked all night. Immediately orders were issued to the railroads to bring no more sightseers to Austin and sentinels were placed on the chief roadways. During the night searching parties with engine headlights, automobile lamps, pine torches and improvised lanterns of every sort poked their way into every pile of wreckage that was accessible seeking any who might be alive, but scarcely a body was found in which life was not extinct. The night had been one of hardship and horror filled with experiences which had severely tested the mettle of the men whom circumstances had impressed into first aid rescuers of the flood devastated village. Men who shuddered at the touch of a corpse at the outset indifferently searched mangled bodies for papers of identification. They had been long at work in the debris. One corpse among so many did not seem ghastly, the sensation was appalling.

ZONE OF DEATH WAS FULL MILE SQUARE.

The immediate scene of the obliteration of Austin covers an area three-eighths of a mile wide and one and three-quarters miles long. This comprised the business section and the valley residence portion. Nearly a mile above stood the mammoth concrete dam of the Bayless Paper and Pulp Company, six hundred feet long, 35 feet high and 25 feet thick at the bottom tapering to a thickness of 3 feet at the top. Back of this dam yesterday lay a reservoir of water a mile and a half long and an average of 35 feet deep. Directly in front of the dam stood the plant of the Bayless Company with four main buildings. Stacked high nearby was 700,000 cords of 50 inch wood and slabs and also a portion of the company's immense timber stock, totaling in the Austin Valley 16,000,000 feet of hardwood and 35,000,000 of hemlock. This was a five year supply, practically the last large lot of the region, valued at \$2,000,000. A milk stream, Popeman run, flowed through the town of Sinnemahoning Creek leading to the Susquehanna River. The town proper was a smart little place, with a few respectable houses and more substantial business buildings along the Main street which ran from side to side across the ravine. The principal business buildings included the brick structure occupied jointly by the Austin Bank and the post office, the department store of E. H. Buck, the Goodyear Hotel and the Imperial House and numerous general stores. Five minutes after the dam burst this stage had been swept of its scenery and setting. Along the foot hills were thrown telescoped houses, windows both sides and fragments piled and catapulted together. At either end of main street, brick buildings acted as buffers at the 25 foot wall of water rushed downward with its mass of debris. Almost hill-high, the wood, steel and bricks were hurled and homes and of varied length timbers and sticks shot into the mass.

TELEPHONE GIRL WAS HEROINE OF THE DAY.

Credit for the quick spreading of the alarm was given to Lena Binckey, a telephone operator. Upon receiving the message from the Cliff Hotel that the dam had broken she pushed the alarm button connecting with the fire department and the engineer's office of the Goodyear Lumber mill. The engineer tied his whistle down and the fire bell in the town was sounded continuously. She then rushed to the street screaming the warning cry "The dam has broken." Then she fled for her life toward the steep hillside at the north end of Main street. Turning towards the valley she saw the great

LAURIER GOVERNMENT WILL AWARDS CONTRACTS FOR IMPORTANT WORKS

St. John Harbor Improvements Will, it is Said, be Awarded via the Patronage List of the Beaten Ministers--Will Involve \$12,000,000 Worth of Work--Big Quebec Contract Already Let.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Oct. 1.—The Laurier government is marking its relinquishment of office by the letting of contracts involving enormous sums of public money. There is likely to be a big row about it, more especially as the contracts are declared to be open to grave criticism, and are being let by a government of whose members seven are not even responsible to the people. The first of these contracts is for the erection of the Champlain market terminal for the National Transcontinental Railway in Quebec and goes to a contractor named Gosselin. This contract which involves an expenditure of \$800,000 is let under the statute by the National Transcontinental Railway commission whose chairman S. N. Parent is so much of a political appointee that he is resigning with the fall of the Laurier ministry. While let in that place by the commission the contract must be confirmed and has been confirmed by order in council on the recommendation of the departmental head who in this case is a beaten minister, Hon. Geo. P. Graham. This cabinet action was taken it is said no later than Thursday. Another contract for 2000 tons of steel rails has also been let. The cabinet sat again on Friday and Saturday with a late sitting Saturday night. Other contracts involving many millions are pending, notably one for the harbor improvements at St. John which alone accounts for some twelve millions. The known intention of the government is to let all contracts for which tenders have been received and money voted. There are a number of them. The ordinary desire of an outgoing government would be to leave the responsibility for these large expenditures to its successors. In this case there is said to be a special political reason for directing the expenditure of these millions of public money via the patronage list of beaten ministers.

MR. RUSSELL AGAIN IN THE WITNESS BOX CONNOR HAS "GOLD FEET," WON'T RUN

Plaintiff Re-called on Saturday Morning—Witnesses Swear that Mr. Russell was Perfectly Rational in Business.

Montreal, Sept. 30.—The Russell conspiracy case against the Pinkerton detective agency continued this morning the feature being the reappearance of David Russell himself upon the witness stand. Prominent names were again introduced, the prosecution in their examination, bringing forth evidence to show that Mr. Russell believed J. N. Greenfields to have been the man behind the succession of alleged plots against him, and also indicate that Mr. McNamara, Montreal manager of the Pinkertons had promised Mr. Russell that if he would drop his search for the instigators of the alleged badger game against him, he would have Mr. Russell's \$1,000,000 land suit settled for him, "by the same man who settled previous suit." This, referred, said Donald MacMaster, one of the lawyers for the prosecution, to Sir Donald Mann, who was interested in the suit and who had settled with Mr. Russell in a previous suit by a check on the Chase National Bank for \$225,000.

The first witness was R. C. Smith, who stated that last October Mr. Russell had asked him to act for him in connection with the alleged badger game conspiracy, but that he had referred him to his New York lawyers. He considered that the details which Mr. Russell had given him warranted a searching investigation. James R. Robinson of Newcastle, N. B., an associate of Mr. Russell's, in several financial enterprises then took the stand. He said that last October he had seen Mr. Russell several times and had talked business with him and he was apparently perfectly rational. On the 19th they had met and conversed with Governor Tweedie and Hon. Dr. Fuglesley and Mr. Russell was entirely rational. John Knight a porter at the Windsor, told of the facts concerning the alleged badger game, saying that he had taken to meet Dr. Roddick, formerly of McGill, that had been prescribed last fall and also said that he secured a bottle of the stuff as evidence.

Mr. Russell also testified to having had several people whom he believed to have been conspiring against him shadowed. One of these were a Miss Reynold who applied for work as a typist. He had been in the employ of Mr. Forget previously and he said this made him suspicious as Mr. Forget and Mr. Greenfields were in his opinion, very close together. He testified that Mr. McNamara had been one of the first to make him suspicious suggesting that connection between the typist and the conspirators.

James of Thunder Bay Decides He Will Not Run—Means Conservative Election By Acclamation.

Special to The Standard. Fort William, Ont., Oct. 1.—James Conmee, Liberal, has declared that he will not be a candidate for the House of Commons at the deferred election to be held on Oct. 12, and as there is no other candidate to face J. J. Currier, Conservative, he will be declared elected by acclamation on Thursday, 6th. In a letter to the press Mr. Conmee says: "Owing to the change of government at Ottawa, and having regard to my condition of health, I do not feel disposed to accept nomination. The districts of Rainy River and Thunder Bay will thus swell the Conservative majority." New York after his visit there, when he alleges, the conspiracy to have him incarcerated in an insane asylum was hatched, in company with Mr. Light-hall and J. C. Walsh, a journalist. He told Mr. Walsh of the conspiracy but had him promise not to publish it at the time. He then testified that quite a number of people knew about the conspiracy against him before it appeared in the papers, this being evidently intended to show that his opponents had discussed his supposed insanity among his friends, and had attempted to turn them against him. Among those who could not have got the information any other way was mentioned Dr. Fuglesley, Governor Tweedie, E. M. Macdonald, M. P., Mr. Hunt, of the Bank of Nova Scotia and several others. He also gave evidence of the "four bottles of dope" that had been prescribed for him as part of the conspiracy against him. He had a prescription signed "T. G. R." which he had taken to meet Dr. Roddick, formerly of McGill, that had been prescribed last fall and also said that he secured a bottle of the stuff as evidence.

Mr. Russell told of returning from Austin came in a beautiful autumn afternoon. The fine weather had attracted many of the younger element to a ball game in a nearby town and luckily they escaped the fate of their many friends and relatives. Women were about the streets for their Saturday afternoon shopping and these and the merchants, who were selling their goods were caught by the onrush of water also before they had time to think of escape. There were small crowds ambling themselves, also at moving picture theatres which