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DAM BURSTS, LIVES ARE LOST WATER AND FIRE SWEEP AUSTIN, PA.

Millions of Gallons of Water Released, Swept Thru Narrow Valley and Overwhelmed Town, Giving Women and Children no Chance for Flight—Bodies of Living and Dead Consumed by Fierce Flames—Disaster Recalls Johnstown Flood Horror of 1889.

A flood following the bursting of a dam at Austin, Pa., caused the death of 300 persons on Saturday. The dam belonged to the Emporium Lumber Co. and held back millions of gallons of water. It stood at the head of a little valley, in which the town of Austin with 2500 people nestled. The dam was about seven miles above the town. The flood of water did not spend its force until it had gone ten miles. It bore a huge mass of timber on the crest of its wave, which served to batter down all obstacles. The little town of Austin was wiped out of existence. The dam was a large concrete structure, recently built. Relief was sent from surrounding cities. Tales from eye-witnesses of the loss of life are of a heartrending nature.

DEATH AND DEVASTATION.

AUSTIN, Pa., Oct. 1.—Three hundred or more persons met their death thru the bursting of a dam above this town yesterday. Fire followed and completed the work of destruction. The curtain of night which was 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 Allegheny Mountains here, was lit by dawn to-day, revealing a ghastly scene of death and devastation.

Austin itself, yesterday a busy mill town of 2000 people, many of whom were enjoying a fine autumn afternoon as a Saturday half-holiday is only a ghost of a town to-day.

Torn to pieces by water and eaten by fire, the wet and charred remains of its buildings, believed to hold the remains of three hundred 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 View Wreckage. Spectators, many of whom barely escaped being victims of the disaster, and hundreds of people from surrounding towns, looked down from the steep hillsides on Austin and Costello thru a veil of fog this morning to see 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 spend its force until it raced for more than ten miles from the reservoir.

Wharton, still further on, suffered somewhat, but is practically intact. The loss of life at Costello, where the residents had more warning, is believed to be but three.

The property loss in the valley is estimated at upwards of \$5,000,000. Only a Dozen Survive.

In Austin, out of the hundred directly enveloped in the deluge, hardly a dozen survive. The furious flood let loose when the Bayless Paper and Pulp Company's dam crumbled yesterday, picked up a heavy battery of big timbers in the mill yards at the dam and with thousands of planks and logs, rained its path with terrible havoc.

At the hospital to-day there were but six injured for the care of the small army of physicians and nurses who poured into the devastated town all night and day. The medical supplies remained unused in the cars rushed here by the Buffalo and Susquehanna and the Pennsylvania Railroads, and the use found for blankets and bedding was for the care of the few recovered dead, which up to a late hour this afternoon numbered but fifteen.

The state constabulary this afternoon took charge of the situation, which seemed too appalling for the local committee, which had worked all night. Immediately orders were issued to the railroad to bring no more sightseers to Austin, and sentinels were placed on the chief roadways with instructions to pass none but workmen. Hundreds of automobiles and carriages were turned back.

Searched Thru the Night. During the night searching parties with engine headlights, automobile lamps, pine torches and improvised lanterns of every sort probed 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 pressed into first-aid rescuers in the flood-devastated village.

Men who shuddered at the touch of a corpse at the outset indifferently searched manied bodies for papers of identification ere they had been long

at work in the debris. One corpse among so many did not seem ghastly; the sensation was appalling. 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 Co., 600 feet long, 32 feet high, and 30 feet thick at the bottom, tapering to a thickness of three 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 16-inch wood and slabs, and also a portion of the company's immense timber stock, totalling in the Austin Valley 15,000,000 feet of hardwood and 25,000,000 of hemlock. This was a five-year supply, practically the last large cut of the region, valued at \$2,000,000.

A mill stream, Freeman Run, flowed thru the town into Sinnemahoning Creek, leading to the Susquehanna River. The town proper was a smart little place of comfortable frame 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 postoffice, the department store of A. R. Buck, the Goodyear Hotel and the Commercial House, and numerous general stores.

The notice received by Robinson stated the office would be classed as a rural office with one per cent. commission on stamp sales thrown in with \$150 yearly.

SIR JAMES STILL SILENT. Cabinet Hasn't Considered Appeal to Electors, He Says.

While a strong impression prevails that the Ontario Government will make an appeal to the electors next month, Sir James Wilguy, on his return from Ottawa, declared last night that the Ontario cabinet had not even considered the matter.

The West Victoria seat rendered vacant by the death of S. J. Fox on July 3 last, will for to-morrow have been occupied for three months, which means the expiration of the time limit in which the date of a by-election must be announced. It is, therefore, expected that the cabinet will to-day decide whether to order by-elections for this and the remaining eight constituencies in which there are vacancies or on a general election for the province.

FRANCE AND GERMANY Finding Amicable Settlement Over Morocco Dispute.

PARIS, Sept. 30.—A semi-official note issued this afternoon says that the cabinet council, in a great spirit of conciliation, accepted certain modifications proposed by Germany and upon other propositions maintained the French point of view.

The divergencies relate principally to the questions of consular jurisdiction, an accord regarding which, however, appears to be imminent.

WILL NOT OPPOSE CARRICK. PORT WILLIAM, Oct. 1.—James Connex has declared that he will not be a candidate for the house of commons at the deferred election to be held on October 12, and as there is no other candidate to face J. J. Carrick, he will be declared elected by acclamation on Thursday, the 12th. In a letter to the press, Mr. Connex says: "Owing to the change of government at Ottawa, and having regard to my condition of health, I do not feel disposed to accept the nomination."

Mr. Connex will at once leave for the south, where he hopes to regain his wonted strength. He has been very feeble since an attack of typhoid, and his physician has ordered a long rest. The district of Rainy River and Thunder Bay will thus be represented by J. J. Carrick.

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Food Scarce in Grande Prairie. OTTAWA, Oct. 1.—In a report received at the Northwest Mounted Police department from Corp. Clay, who is in charge of the Grande Prairie district in the Peace River country, a warning is given that for the present the food supply on hand is insufficient to properly sustain the rapidly increasing population.

The report says that the food is practically exhausted, and that it cannot be replenished before December or January. Corp. Clay suggests that travelers en route for Grande Prairie district should be warned not to go into the country without ample supplies.

Government agents at Peace River Crossing and at Edson will be notified to give the necessary warning to all parties heading for Grande Prairie.

Salary Cut—P. M. Quits. Niagara Postoffice Feels Effect of Free Delivery.

NIAGARA FALLS, Oct. 1.—(Special)—V. H. Robinson said to-day he had sent in his resignation as postmaster at Niagara Falls South postoffice, because he had been notified yesterday that his salary would be cut down to \$150 per annum, beginning Oct. 1. Robinson has held office several years, his salary being \$1800.

A year ago the Laurier government began promising free mail delivery. After the police census had been taken, delegations went to Ottawa and the promise was finally fulfilled last spring. At the time the promise of free delivery was made the Liberals at the south end of the city began pulling wires to stop the movement, because they believed their postoffice would be abolished. The postoffice department promised to continue it with those at the north end, Niagara Falls Centre, under the same conditions then in operation. This promise appeared those who objected and not until the recent election was any mention made of changing the local postal arrangements.

The notice received by Robinson stated the office would be classed as a rural office with one per cent. commission on stamp sales thrown in with \$150 yearly.

Reports That Clash. LONDON, Oct. 1.—Reports regarding the Turkish fleet are conflicting. A Constantinople despatch to the Reuters Telegraph Company, timed 5.55 p.m., says that an official telegram has been received stating that the Turkish squadron reached the Dardanelles safely at noon to-day after a peaceful voyage thither.

An earlier despatch from Rome says that the minister of marine announces that the Italian squadron encountered the Turkish fleet, composed of three battleships and several torpedo boats, near the entrance to the Dardanelles; that an engagement ensued and the Turkish battleships were sunk and the torpedo boats damaged.

Who's In Cabinet? Oct. 4 Will Tell. Borden Administration Expected to Go Into Power on Wednesday—Guessers Are Busy.

OTTAWA, Oct. 1.—(Special)—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.

Hon. 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.

To-day's arrivals gave the cabinet guessers a new and undeveloped field. They included Sir William Van Horne, H. C. J. McLeod, solicitor-general of New Brunswick; Premier Hazen of Prince Edward Island; and F. B. McCurdy of Halifax, the man who defeated Hon. W. S. Fielding.

Troops Via Egypt. PORT SAID, Egypt, Sept. 30.—The Turkish transport Kaiser with 400 troops arrived here to-day.

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A FROST-BITTEN "PLANT"



MR. PUGSLEY (who has had his umbrella over it overnight): It never should have been taken out of the house.

TURKISH FLEET DESTROYED

PARIS, Oct. 1.—The Agence Fournier at midnight sent out the following Rome despatch, dated Oct. 1: "A telegram from Constantinople to The Tribune says that all the consuls at the Dardanelles have telegraphed that a naval battle is going on in the straits. Reports of guns are heard as far as the Bosphorus." At 10.30 the same agency sent out a Rome despatch, dated Oct. 2, saying: "News of the destruction of the Turkish fleet seems to be confirmed."

WAR POWERS ARE CAUTIOUS HOSTILITIES MAY BE BRIEF

Germany and Austria Reported to Have Warned Italy That Invasion of European Territory Was Step Too Far—Operations to be Confined to Africa—Diplomatists Likely to Have Heaviest Task.

LONDON, Oct. 1.—According to The Daily Telegraph's correspondent in Rome, Germany and Austria have already made unofficial 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 information from 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 said hesitation in taking the offensive. Pasha, the new grand vizier, continues his efforts to form a coalition ministry, but finds the task one of almost insuperable difficulty.

Italy Explaining. BERLIN, Sept. 30.—Italy to-day sent a circular note to the powers explaining her reasons for the action against Turkey, expressing the hope that the steps taken will be confined to the occupation of Tripoli; that the hostilities will be of short duration and that negotiations to fix the status of Tripoli will be begun soon. Italy, it is stated, will endeavor to localize the hostilities. The note closes with the assurance that the steps taken are in the interests of humanity and civilization, and that no effort will be spared to protect the subjects of other nations in Tripoli.

Italians Impetuous. BERLIN, Sept. 30.—It is reported from Turkish sources that the Italian attack at Prevesa upon the Turkish torpedo boat destroyers was made 30 other ultimatums.

Specials from Athens state that the Turks were trying to join four other destroyers at Gumenitza near Prevesa. Cannonading was heard off Gumenitza last night, when it was concluded that the Italians had attacked the other torpedo boat destroyers there and blockaded that port. The damaged destroyer at Prevesa was stripped of her guns.

A Religious War. CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 30.—The newspapers announce to-night that the minister of war, Mahmoud Scheket Pasha, has telegraphed to the Turkish commandant at Tripoli to defend that territory with the utmost

Continued on Page 7, Column 3.

DESCENDING ON OTTAWA TO BACK UP MIDDLEBRO

Deputation Considers North Grey Member Should Have Place in Borden Cabinet.

To place the claims of W. S. Middlebro, M.P. for North Grey, to a position in the Borden cabinet, a party of 18 prominent Conservatives from the riding of North Grey journeyed last week to see H. L. Borden at Ottawa.

Last night a World reporter interviewed a number of the delegates who were staying at the Walker House here, the party having stopped over on their return journey to Owen Sound, where most of the delegates reside.

The delegates said that they voiced the sentiment of the constituents of North Grey in suggesting the name of their member for a place in the new Dominion cabinet. Mr. Middlebro would be a splendid acquisition to the cabinet, not only because of his ability, but because the northwest portion of Ontario, which was chiefly under his charge, had sent down a solid phalanx against reciprocity.

The delegates were J. T. Thompson, ex-M.L.A.; G. M. Boyd, ex-M.P.; James McLaughlin, president of the Conservative Association of North Grey; Matthew Kennedy, ex-mayor of Owen Sound; C. S. Cameron, R. J. Bell, M.P. for South Grey; W. A. Clarke, M.P. for North Wellington; John L. Simpson, Milton; Lewis Chas. Gordon, town clerk of Owen Sound; Chas. Sutherland, president of the Conservative Association for the eastern section of North Grey; George Carnahan, Dr. A. E. Little, ex-president of the Conservative Association; James H. Rutherford, editor of The Owen Sound Times.

Industries Were Saved. The party were unanimous in the opinion that the sentiment of their constituency was never in doubt as far as the reciprocity issue was concerned. If the pact had carried, they said, most of the industries of the constituency would have been severely hurt, if not ruined. The Town of Owen Sound had a large shipping trade, and the farm products were conveyed up to the head of the great lakes and sold at Port Arthur and Port William. Under reciprocity this trade would have been entirely lost, and the people realized the fact. They claimed that the two cement works in Owen Sound would have been severely handicapped, and the business men of the entire riding were strong against reciprocity.

They had nothing but praise for the splendid fight made by the World in the elections. The World, they said, had been a strong influence in the riding, and its sound argument had borne fruit at the polls. The victory had not been won by Conservatives, as many persons had realized the crisis and voted for a Canadian Canada.

Catchy Songs—Pretty Dances. The features of the musical sensation, "The Beauty Spot," which opens a short engagement to-night at the Princess, are catchy songs and pretty dances. "Creole Days," "The Princess of Borneo," "In a Hammock" and "Cute, Dear," are some of the song hits.

A GOOD WORD FOR A GOOD MAN. At the Jockey Club luncheon on Saturday at the Woodbine Earl Grey paid a neat and well-deserved tribute to Mr. W. P. Fraser. As secretary of the club he had, said his lordship, done much for riding as a high-class sport, and been increasing in his efforts to oblige and accommodate everyone. Earl Grey said he and his family had always enjoyed their visits to Woodbine and they would never forget the many attentions of Mr. and Mrs. Fraser. The card for the day had these lines of farewell to their Excellencies:

"AULD LANG SYNE." An' here's a han', our trusty friend, An' gies a hand o' thine; An' we'll loon the stowp to friend's ship's growth, An' the days o' auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne Earl Grey, For auld lang syne, Aye welcome back to Canada, For the days o' auld lang syne.

DYING GOVT. IS GENEROUS TO FRIENDS

Big Contracts Are Being Handled Out By Powers at Ottawa Before Quitting Office—More Are Pending.

OTTAWA, Oct. 1.—(Special)—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 moribund government of whose numbers 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 administration. While let in the first 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 beaumont minister, Hon. Geo. F. 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 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 the beaumont ministry.

KILLED BY STREET CAR. James Barlow Was Able to Go Home, But Later Succumbed.

While crossing King-street, near the Woodbine, on Saturday afternoon, behind a street car, James Barlow, 67 Logan-avenue, was struck by a street car coming in the opposite direction and huried to the pavement. At first his injuries were not considered of a very serious nature, and he was taken in a private ambulance to his home. Later it was discovered that he had received internal injuries, from which he died late in the evening.

The body will be removed to the morgue this morning, and an inquest opened this evening at 8 o'clock by Coroner Elliott.

C.N.R. TRENTON LINE APPROVED. The C.N.R. Toronto to Trenton line which was inspected on Saturday by Assistant Chief Engineer Simmons of the board of railway commissioners has been granted the customary certificate of approval, and the line will be opened for business one week from to-day.

EMERY WHEEL KILLED ITALIAN. Julius Honbons, an Italian, was killed at the Canada Foundry Works Saturday afternoon by the bursting of an emery wheel. His body was removed to the morgue later in the evening, where an inquest will be opened at 8 o'clock to-night.

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