20,000 Are Suffering in Alabama Floods

3,500 Residents Evacuated From Inundated Geneva —State's Death Toll 13

THRILLING TALES

Montgomery, Ala.,—Unprecedented torrents which raged seaward between Alabana's two watersheds recently were a handicap to the relief agencies which concentrated their efforts on aiding about 20,000 persons affected by flood waters. Clear weather, however, was an aid to the rescue workers, who had helped thousands to safe ground during the last few hours.

While only thirteen bodies had been recovered, estimates here were that the fatalities would run into scores.

Property loss in the form of buildings, livestock, household goods, farm implements and other materials was so great that no effort was made to give an acurate estimate of the amount.

Returning aviators and news correspondents told of desperate situations at Elba and Geneva, particularly They said 100 automobiles were moving toward the Elba region to take some 2,000 refugees from Cemetery Hill on order of the Governor. Sanitary conditions were rapidly becoming dangerous there and an outbreak of measles among the refugee children threatened to spread.

Many Thrilling Rescues

Stories of thrilling rescues and pitiful refugee conditions were plentiful as correspondents begin to return to Montgomery and Birmingham. Apparently most of the refugees escaped the rising waters without anything but the clothing they wore. Wire communications were so disrupted that reports were lacking from many communities known to be endangered by the high water.

The first train from Flomaton, one of the flooded towns, reached Mobile. J. S. Martin, of Mobile, conductor of the train; S. J. Brown, the flagman, and R. M. Nelson Jr., baggage master, told of two days and nights of rescue work, taking scores of refugees into the coaches.

"Our cars were packed and jammed with people, and many of them had not eaten for hours," said Martin. "We turned on the steam heat, and some of the people, although they had to sit upright all night, said they were comfortable for the first time in many hours."

Nelson, who lives at Flomaton, said twenty persons had sought refuge in his home, which was situated a bit higher than some of the other houses. Water kept rising slowly and as it crept higher and higher they retreated to the attic, thinking momentarily the rise would cease. Finally they were compelled to chop a hole in the roof through which they escaped to be rescued from their perch by a motorboat.

A motorcade of 100 automobiles began moving toward Elba from Troy over an improvised road at noon to bring out the first contingent of refugees.

Swirl With Tree Through Night

Elba, Ala.—Lieut. Col. Ulric N. James of the National Guard and Walter Rosser, a staff photographer for the Birmingham News and Age Herald, were rescued after having been in the water since 3 p.m. the day before when their boat capsized.

Colonel James said they were plunged into the flood as they were aiding in the rescue work. They clung to the limbs of a tree with water swirling about them throughout the night.

A graphic description of the flood in and about Elba was given by telephone by Kenneth A. Miller, Associated Press correspondent, on assignment within the stricken area. The correspondent was thrown from a boat and hung in a treetop until rescued. He waded four miles in water waist deep and aided in the rescue of many persons. The correspondent accompanied a detachment of Alabama National Guardsmen into the flooded area.

"I shall never forget my experience of the past three days," Miller said. "The assignment was one of adventure, fraught with danger, yet the tasks had to be accomplished. People were crying for food and water from the housetops and the urge to raceh them cost many of members of rescue parties a wetting from boats capsizing.

"We left Montgomery Wednesday night about midnight and drove steadily in big army motor trucks for eight hours before we reached Troy, fifty-two miles to the south.

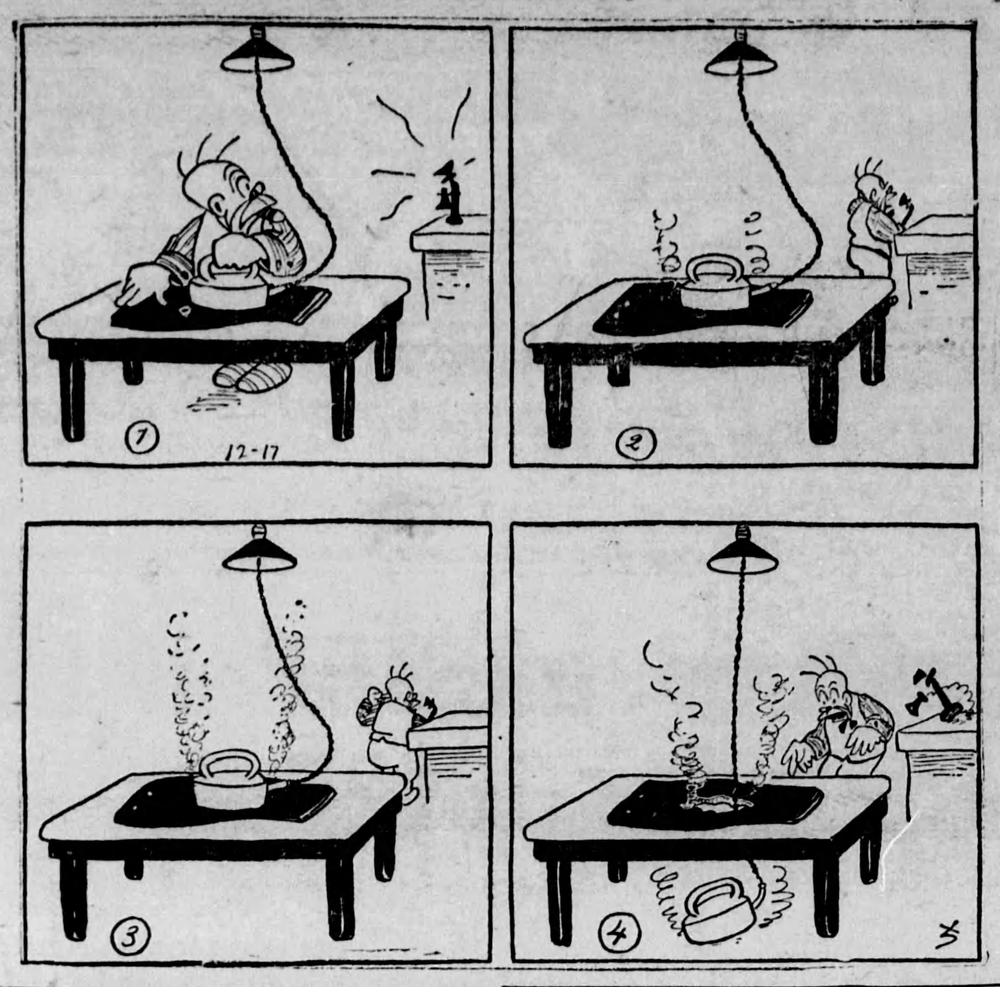
Tells Dangers of Rescue Work

"We lost four boats in attempting to cross Big Creek after abandoning our trucks. Our first rescue work was among our own number, although we were successful in each instance.

"We reached Elba at noon Friday after rescuing approximately a score of marooned persons along the way. Arriving in the city proper, we found from fifteen to twenty feet of water coursing through the principal streets. During the four hours ending at 4 p.m., approximately 250 per sons were picked from house and tree tops or were removed from attics and upper floors. In many places we found from [illegible] to sixty persons huddled in quarters that ordinarily would have held ten.

"Our first attempt at rescue brought disaster upon us. Our party was composed of four civilians, including myself. We had taken five negroes from a tree and were just about to land them when our motor failed. At the mercy of the current, the overloaded craft spun around like a top and we were steadily swept down stream. We crashed into a submerged tree trunk and our boat sank. My companions swam to safety, including the negroes, while I grabbed a branch of the tree and hung on for an hour and a half until a passing boat picked me up."

ADAMSON'S ADVENTURES—By O. Jacobsson.



Insulated Cabin Cuts Noise of Plane Motor

Government Scientists Find They Can Reduce the Roar to Allow Talking

Washington.—The roar of the New York subways is mild compared to the thunderous noise of an airplane motor as heard by a passenger in a cabin airplane, scientists of the Bureau of Standards contend after studying the development of sound-proof cabins for airplanes.

The tests showed that sound intensity in such cabins can be reduced by a compartively moderate increase in weight to a degree where conversation can easily be maintained.

The structures developed as a result of the tests were also found to be excellent heat insulators, which should make airplane cabins comfortable even in the coldest weather or at high altitudes.

The scientists set up a scale of noises running from zero to 108, the greatest volume of noise the protective devices of the human ear will permit to register. In comparison to this, his limit of audibility, the noise of an airplane motor was rated at 100, or almost the limit. The New York subway roar was rated at 80, while the noise in a room full of stenographers ranged just below the subway roar at 70.

The report of the tests, prepared by V. L. Chrysler and W. F. Snyder, declared that the best means of reducing airplane noises in an airplane cabin seemed to be the sound-proofing of the cabin, although they pointed out that development of more efficient exhaust mufflers and a method of reducing the noise raised by the whirling propeller would contribute to this end.

They found that airplane noises are complex being of both high and low frequencies, the exhaus noises being found in the lower frequencies around 200 beats per second, while in multicolored planes even lower pitched beat notes are sometimes produced by two engines running at slightly different speeds.

They also found that cabin walls built up of layers of a two-inch blanket of sound-absorbent material, fibre board and perforated aluminum so deadened the various noises that conversation could be carried on in an ordinary tone. The tests were conducted in a Ford tri-motored transport plane loaned for the purpose by the Navy Department.

The man of science has a God far bigger than the God that can be contained within the four walls of any creed.—Sir Berkeley Moynihan.

There are only two men in the world who know what Calvin Coolidge is going to do now he has quit the Presidency, and he's both of them.—Ralph Wilbur Hemenway of Northampton, Mass.

King Gains in Vigor Despite Bad Weather

Doctors Announce Definite and Steady Improvement in British Ruler's Strength

London—One of the best bulletins since the King fell ill was issued on Monday at Craigwell House, Bangor, Sussex, where Lord Dawson of Penn visited the royal patient during the day.

"His Majesty, the King, is steadily though slowly regaining his health," says the bulletin. "In strength, vigor and appearance his improvement is definite. The weather is restricting his opportunities for going outside the house. Ray therapy is being continued.

"STANLEY HEWETT,
"DAWSON OF PENN."

The bulletin confirms what millions of King George's subjects noticed last week when the first photographs of the King since his illness were published. The pictures revealed astonishing improvements in the King's appearance since the day when he waved weakly from the ambulance on his way to the channel coast.

Monday's bulletin was taken to indicate that the change in his appearance is the result of steadily increasing strength and approaching convalescence. His extreme exhaustion, which caused the royal physicians so much anxiety, has apparently been conquered.

Lord Dawson and Sir Stanley Hewett were with the King four hours. During that time little Princess Elizabeth played on the beach in front of Craigwell House. She made sand cakes with fruit-shaped moulds her grandmother, Queen Mary, gave her recently.

Blinks: "The under crust to that chicken pie you brought me was terribly tough." Waiter. "There wasn't any undercrust to that pie, sir." It was served on a cardboard plate."

He: "Do you love me well enough to be my wife?" She: "More than that, I love you well enough to be your mother. Haven't you heard that I'm going to marry your father?"

National Chinese Congress Opened

Simple But Impressive Ceremony Marks Inauguration

COMMITTEES NAMED

Dr. Sun's Principles Stressed By Temporary Chairman

Shanghai.—The Third National Kuamintang Congress was inaugurated recently in Nanking with a simple but impressive ceremony attended by more than the 200 delegates necessary for a quarum to insure procedure of the Congress. Hu Han Ming, a prominent member of the Kuomintang and a high official in the Sino Government, convened the Congress as temporary chairman with a brief welcoming speech in which he outlined the purpose and serious character of the work before the Congress. He said that the future of Dr. Sun Yat Sen's principles within the Chinese Government depended entirely upon the action of the delegates.

The assemblage made the usual three bows before Dr. Sun Yat Sen's portrait which was hung above the chairman's rostrum. Then the new national song was sung ,followed by three minutes of silence.

The only business was the appointment of committees on credentials and rules, following which the session adjourned, subject to the coll of the chairman.

The rules committee will recommend that the public be admitted to the sessions, but the number will be limited to 150 daily because of limited quarters.

There is some criticism among the members of the press because, although they are to be admitted to the sessions, the publication of any proceedings will be forbidden until given the approval of the secretariat of the Congress. This rule will probably be strongly opposed when the Congress acts on the committee's report.

The fact that a quorum attended the opening session, which was harmonious, refutes the advance predictions that the Congress would never meet.

Grace and Poise on Skates

RADCLIFFE'S AMATEUR FANCY SKATING CHAMPION

Maribel Vinson, freshman Radcliffe College, who, though only 17, is the holder of the U.S. national amateur fancy skating championship.

Nobile Proves Amundsen's Story

Italy Herself Proves Their One Time Hero a Quitter and to Blame for Italia Crash

One of Italy's heroes is toppled from his pedestal by the recent findings of the board of inquiry, appointed by Premier Mussolini, to learn the cause of the wreck of the dirigible Italia, and to fix the responsibility for the loss of the airship. In the report of the board, made public on March 3, Gen. Umberto Nobile, commander of the Italia on her voyage from Spitsbergen to the North Pole, is adjudged responsible for the crash of the dirigible and the disastrous ending of the expedition, which cost the lives of eight of the Italia's crew and nine voluntary rescuers. In a resume of their findings, the board reached this conclusion:

"The loss of Italia's was caused by a false manoeuvre, the result partly of the composition of the crew and of the way the craft was handled. The responsibility for this faulty manoeuvre rests on the Italia's commander."

General Nobile, one of the heroes of the Amundsen-Ellsworth flight over the North Pole, also is sharply censured for having allowed himself to be taken off the ice-pack before the others were rescued. In the board's opinin, this was "without justification." Furthermore, points out the Brooklyn Citizen:

"It cannot be said that this crushing condemnation was adopted by a committee capable of judging the events considered, or without due investigation. The committee was presided over by Admiral Cagni, and had as members four Generals, one Admiral, and one Senator. It held sixty sittings, examining hundreds of documents and questioning all survivors of the wreck."

In the opinion of the New York Times "the report reflects an honest effort to bring out the facts, whether they hurt reputations or not.." It must have been difficult for the Italian commission to reach these conclusions, observes the Baltimore Sun, "and it must have been equally difficult for Premier Mussolini to consent to their publication." As the Brooklyn Eagle explains:

"The official condemnation of Gen. Nobile carries, in itself, no explicit penalty. But it fixes definitely the blame that has been informally and pretty widely bestowed. If the commander of the Italia expedition failed in fortitude, as the unanimous opinion of the committee holds that he did, he must endure the severe penalty of a public disgrace. By all accounts, he is a man of honorable intentions, of worthy ambition, on whom such a penalty must fall with crushing force. But he seems to have lacked something that no man can definitely know he has until the test comes. For a weakness, he endures a punishment more severe than that of many a deliberate wrongdoer."

On the other hand, the board of inquiry completely exonerates Capt. Filipo Zappi and Capt. Alberto Mariano, of the Italia crew, who are said to have continued their retreat toward the nearets land after their companion, Prof. Finn Malmgren, Sweedish meteorologist, fell behind. So General Nobile is left to bear the brunt of world-wide criticism. "It is a hard blow," remarks the Philadelphia Inquirer. But adds the Troy Record:

"Italy will gain instead of losing the regard of the world because of its determination to hew to the line. The commission undoubtedly was instructed by Premier Mussolini to render a decision in accordance with its findings. General Nobile, not Italy, has been weighed in the balances and found wanting."

Censorship

New Statesman (London): (The police confiscated a MS. sent by D. H. Lawrence by post to his publisher.) The interference of the police with Mr. D. H. Lawrence's private correspondence . . . is utterly indefensible and abominable. We suppose there is some law or regulation . . . which gives the police power to do such things. Or perhaps there are provisions in the old Post Office Act which were made for an utterly different purpose. But the point which concerns the public is whether this means that the mails are no longer safe, to the supervision of some more or less stupid policeman, that our letters may be steamed open and reclosed by any curious censor. Must we resort once more to sealing-wax to be sure of privacy, and can we be sure even with that? It is nothing less than an outrage upon all modern ideas of individual liberty that policemen should possess such powers.

Handles of Hickory

The making of hickory handles, an activity of the wood-turning industry, is carried on mostly in the Southern Appalachians and the lower Mississippi basin. Hickory is a native of the United States and Canada and the wood is more suitable than others for the handles of tools. Approximately 8,000,000 wood shafts will be used this year, requiring a total of 27,000,000 board feet of lumber. The Canadian Hickory is only a local interest and of minor importance which once it was of real size.

Garden Paths and Summer Bloom

Holiday Season Can Be Accounted for by Proper Planning of Flower Selection

SOIL NOTES

Holidays and the Garden

If at all possible the urban gardener should take into considration the time of his summer holiday when he is planting his flowers and vegetables. Of course, in the perfect garden there will always be a good show of bloom and a steady supply of salad material from the first of June on, but in the amateur's layout there is usually a time when the garden is at its best. This should not come when the owner is away at some summer resort or on a distant motor tour. One can quite easily arrange to have things come on at the full either in July, August or September. If the gardener is going away, for instance, in July, it is best to delay planting of gladiolus, dahlias and the main annual flowers grown from seed until a week or two later than usual. The same rule should be practiced with beets, carrots, corn, tomatoes and melons. When this is done, the main crop, of both flowers and vegetables will come on in August. If one is not taking holidays until August, however, it is well to get some flowers and vegetables in as early as possible, and the balance in very late, so that there will be a show before going away and a second one after arrival home. In any case, it is well before leaving the garden for a few weeks in the summer to cut everything well back, particularly buds and flowers, to mulch well with grass clippings or straw to conserve the moisture when it is not possible to have a neighbor turn his hose over the fence once in a while, so that top growth will be checked while one is absent.

An Ideal Soil

If it were always possible for a gardener to pick his soil, he would pick one composed of an equal mixture of organic and inorganic matter, a light, deep sandy loam with plenty of humus in it. This is the ideal toward which to work in bringing the soil to condition. Gardeners have to take the soil as they find it and bring it into condition, not a difficult work at all if undertaken intelligently, but one requiring patience and perhaps several seasons to secure the proper tilth. A soil of the composition mentioned is particularly valuable for its ability to absorb fertilizer. Heavy soils absorb it too slowly and sand too rapidly, so the admixture with humus as the carrier is the proper mixture. Every time a crop with the luxuriant growth of a favoring climate is taken off the soil, a portion of the soil fertility goes with it and it is necessary to replace it. The plowing under of green manures, the spading in of stable manure and the adding of vegetable compots and commercial fertilizers is a continuous process.

Garden Paths

Paths add much to the attractiveness of any flower garden or lawn. If a supply of limestone is plentiful and cheap, a pleasing effect may be produced by paving crazy style or in ergular fashion. Simply dig out sod or soil the same size and exact depth of you stone and plant irregularly. If this is done carefully, the lawn mower will run right over and no trimming will be necessary. The central path of the garden should be in line with the centre of the back porch or with a window commanding the view if the porch is so placed that it is impracticable as an axis. To round off, have the path lead up to a rose-covered garden seat or archway through the flower garden into the vegetable patch. If there is room, the main path may circle a garden pool in which water plants are growing, or if this is too elaborate, a bird-bath or sun dial may be used for similar effect.

Spinach Is a Standard Vegetable

Spinach will be one of the first vegetables harvested in the vegetable garden, and, if planted at intervals of a couple of weeks, from the time the soil is fit to work until June, will furnish delightful greens for the table until midsummer. This vegetable delights in a warm, rich soil, and must be heavily manured and, like all other vegetables, should be pushed quickly with regular applications of nitrate of soda. The rows should be at least twelve inches apart, and, where horse cultivation is practiced, two feet or a yard. If preferred, and the soil is clean, it may be broadcast, but in this case it is harder to keep down the weeds. After the plants are up well, thin well to at least eight inches apart, and keep the soil cultivated and fertilized. Bloomsdale Savoy Leaved is one of the hardiest and is an early variety as well. This, like the Victoria, is wrinkled like Savoy cabbage, succulent and curled. King of Denmark is one of the most valuable of the recent introductions, an dwill keep in condition for cutting for a week or two after other varieties have gone to seed, although it is not as early as the first-named. Some of the spinaches after cutting will grow up again an dfurnish a second crop, but the quality of these is not equal to the others.

It is a mistake to think that a man has to camp on the doorstep of his business to make it succeed.—Vincent Astor.