

# THE HATTIESBURG NEWS

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HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 17, 1912.

Member of Associated Press

## Commission Government Overwhelmingly Endorsed

### CARPATHIA EXPECTED TO REACH PORT FRIDAY NIGHT

ATTEMPTS MADE ALL MORNING TO GET IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE SHIP.

#### CONGRESS WILL INVESTIGATE FAILURE TO SAVE LIVES

Hallifax Reports Being in Communication With Carpathia And Announces Two Thousand Went Down.

—“All Well” on Board is Message.

(By Associated Press.) The Cunarder, Carpathia, bearing 858 survivors of the Titanic, was less than sixteen hundred miles from New York today and word was eagerly awaited that would shed further light on the catastrophe of Sunday night, which cost 1312 lives.

No additional names were secured when Sabie Island was in brief communication this morning.

Wireless stations along the New England coast are straining to get in communication this afternoon and the scout cruiser Salem is somewhere off Nantucket to relay a message, through her sister cruiser Chester, some account of the disaster.

Congress Will Investigate Disaster.

Washington, April 17.—Survivors of the Titanic will be summoned to Washington to tell a committee of Congress the facts concerning the inability of the steamship officials to save life of passengers. Representative Alexander, of Mississippi, chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine, today announced the investigation.

Hallifax In Communication With Carpathia.

New York, April 17.—The Associated Press received the following from the Canardier wireless, at Halifax, this morning: “We’re in communication with Carpathia and in position to announce officially that the Titanic struck an enormous ice berg and sank. Over two thousand lost. Seven hundred survivors, mostly women, on Carpathia.”

Carpathia to Arrive at New York Friday.

New York, April 17.—Following is an unsigned message from the steamship Carpathia, coming here with survivors of the Titanic, “Carpathia is off Ambrose Channel 159 miles, 11 p. m. Tuesday. All well.” Officials think the Carpathia will arrive Friday night.

Graphic Story of Catastrophe.

St. John, N. F., April 17.—From the steamship Bruce, bound for Sydney, come the first detailed reports of the sinking of the Titanic and the appalling scenes attending her end.

The Bruce obtained her story of the

disaster from wireless messages picked up from several of the ships which had been in closest touch with the last hours of the mammoth White Star steamship, and which were afterward in the zone of communication with the Bruce's apparatus.

When the Titanic struck the mountain of ice that sent her to the bottom within four hours after the impact, she was steaming at the rate of eighteen knots an hour. The shock almost demolished the proud vessel, which her builders and her captain had believed nothing could master.

Hitting the impenetrable ice mass fairly with her towering bows, the ship was almost rent asunder at the first blow. Her decks were ripped and torn, her sides and bulkheads were split and shattered as with the hammer of some Titan, from the bow to a point amidships.

Her upper works and some of her boats were splintered, while a shower of debris from her spars fell upon the decks like giant hail. Though the ship had struck the monster obstruction head on, as her bow rose clear of the water, smashed to an unrecognizable mass of bent and shivered steel, the vessel listed heavily to port and threatened to turn turtle before the recoil slide of what was left of her proud form back to an even keel.

The Titanic had forced her giant bulk up on a submerged spur of the iceberg, a phenomenon which is not infrequent in the most disastrous collisions with these ghostlike sentinels of the banks. In mounting upon the jagged ice spur and in sliding back from her position the ship had torn out many of her bulk plates from the midships section forward to the bow.

Compartments Speedily Flooded. As a result her compartments from amidships forward were speedily flooded. She took in water at a rate that defied the efforts of the pumps, and soon began to settle by the head, listing heavily to port and rolling in the trough of the sea as she became gradually disengaged from the ice, many tons of which had fallen upon her decks, contributing to the demolition and intricate confusion.

The force of the blow had been so tremendous that the vast ship was started in her every joint, and everything movable throughout her superb equipment of luxurious cabins and saloons was tossed into heaps like discarded junk.

But British seamanship and discipline prevailed, and it did what little might be done as well as countless men could do it.

Every Officer and Man Leaps to Post.

Every officer and man leaped to his post, while Captain Smith, megaphone in hand, bellowed his orders over the rolling hulk that an hour before had been the proudest ship in Christendom. Sufficient order was maintained to launch safely most of the boats, the greater number of which had remained seaworthy, despite the ordeal through which they had passed.

(Continued on Page Three.)

### LAYNE & BOWLER SUE THE CITY

Ask For \$9,450 For Sinking the Big Well Recently—City Claims Amount Due \$5,015.

Layne & Bowler, of Houston, Texas, has filed in the Chancery Clerk's office at this place a bill of complaint against the City of Hattiesburg, asking for the recovery of \$9,450, alleged to be due them for drilling a well for the city.

Plaintiffs aver that they entered into a contract with the City of Hattiesburg to drill a well, the depth of which was to be 450 feet if necessary to secure an output of 500,000 gallons daily. For this they were to receive the sum of \$1,575, and an additional amount for every other 100,000 gallons produced. They claim now that the city will not allow them to have the well tested by disinterested parties to prove that it will produce with an 80 lb air pressure, 300,000,000 gallons of water daily. They ask for \$9,450 and state that this amount is due them under the contract. The papers filed in the case take up nearly 10 pages of typewritten matter, with the copy of the contract.

The city states that they offered to pay the plaintiff the amount that is actually due them. Arriving at the amount from the report of a thoroughly competent engineer and air man who tested out the well under the present arrangement. This would amount to \$5,015. The well-drilling company refused this amount, but offered to compromise for \$7,250, which the city refused to do on advice of their attorney.

The plaintiffs in the case pray that an injunction be issued against the city to restrain them from using the well.

The case presents some very intricate technicalities and the outcome of the interesting suit will be watched with interest.

### PROFANITY CASE TAKES UP MORNING SESSION

The morning session of the City Court was taken up almost entirely with the trial of Engineer Donaldson of the Mississippi Central railroad on a charge of profanity. After all evidence had been submitted in the case Commissioner Fuller discharged him. Mr. Donaldson was tried on the same charge by Justice Fairley Monday and was discharged by that court.

Officer Doherty hauled two negroes before the court on charges of gambling. They were caught in the 16th Section, and answered to the names Henry Woods and Richard Jackson. They were fined \$5 and costs.

C. S. Easterling was fined \$1 and costs for profanity. Two small negro boys charged with stealing peanuts, were discharged.

HON. A. SHIRLEY BENN ON BOARD THE TITANIC.

Pascagoula, Miss., April 17.—Reports in this city are to the effect that Hon. A. Shirley Benn, member of parliament, first vice president of the Southern Paper company, and E. F. Senger on the ill-fated steamer Titanic, which sank after striking an iceberg off the Newfoundland coast.

Mr. Benn, according to local statement, was hurrying to New York where a conference of officials of the Southern Paper company was scheduled for yesterday. J. L. Dantzier, president of the L. N. Dantzier Lumber company, who is also president of the Southern Paper company, and B. F. Reist, general manager for the same company, with headquarters in this city, left several days ago for New York. It is stated, to attend this conference. Mr. Reist left the city at noon on Saturday.

GEORGIA BANKERS MEET.

Elberta, Ga., April 17.—Bankers of this section of Georgia convened their annual meeting here today. An old fashioned barbecue will be held this afternoon and a banquet this evening.

### MANY TOWNS ARE IN PERIL

FORT ST. PHILLIPS BELOW NEW ORLEANS IS SURROUNDED—OTHERS THREATENED.

#### NO RELIEF IN SIGHT FOR MANY WEEKS TO COME

Yellow Waters Continue To Pour Through Panther Forest And Dog Tail Crevasses—Rains Add To Harried Condition of Sufferers.

(By Associated Press.)

New Orleans, La., April 17.—The heavy rain fall and storm last night added to the misery of the flood harried refugees, homeless and destitute in northeastern Louisiana. Two boats loaded with tents, clothing, food and medicines left New Orleans last night and today for the upper stretches.

The yellow floods are still pouring through the Panther Forest and Dog-tail levees and the continued rise of the river indicates no relief for many weeks.

Conditions reported are the worst in the history of floods in the Mississippi valley.

Engineers are working hard to save the water soaked levees. Hundreds of laborers worked all night at the Kemp Bend levee, five miles south of St. Joseph and believe they will save it. Fort St. Phillips below here is surrounded by water and other towns are in perilous conditions.

Improvement Above Vicksburg.

Vicksburg, Miss., April 17.—Rain fell in volume along the southern stretches of the Mississippi river yesterday, adding to the discomfort and peril of those marooned in the overflowed sections of southeastern Arkansas and northern Louisiana, but without materially affecting the dykes in this district. Reports from as far south as Natchez tell of levees holding and generally of an improvement in the situation. At Greenville and Natchez the river is stationary; at Vicksburg a slight fall is noted.

Rescue parties returning to Greenville last night from the territory inundated by the water coming through the Panther Forest, Ark., crevasse report the drowning of seven negroes in the vicinity of Lake Village, Ark. The protection levee along Lake Chicot has broken and practically all of Chicot county, Ark., is flooded to a depth of ten to fifteen feet. The water is flowing inland at a swift pace, sweeping the more frail plantation buildings before it. A number were rescued from the roofs of floating buildings.

### ANTI-FUTURES BILL FAVORABLY REPORTED

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, April 17.—Despite the opposition of various boards of trade the House Committee on Agriculture today voted to make favorable reports on the bills designed to end gambling in futures on cotton and grain. The measures reported are one by Congressman Beall, of Texas, dealing with cotton and the other by Representative Lever, of South Carolina, relating to corn, wheat and oats.

THE MARKETS.

(By Associated Press.)

Chicago, April 17.—Wheat steady; eight to one-half up. Provisions steady, five lower to fifteen up.

New Orleans, La., April 17.—Cotton eighteen to nineteen points up.

THE WEATHER.

Fair and colder tonight. Thursday fair.

## Election Resulted in 487 Votes For Present Form to 177 Against

ALA. DEMOCRATS MEET TO ENDORSE UNDERWOOD.

(By Associated Press.)

Montgomery, Ala., April 17.—The Democratic State Convention met today to elect twenty-four delegates to the National Convention. The delegation will be instructed for Underwood.

### CARS OF AMMUNITION REMAIN IN MERIDIAN

Meridian, Miss., April 17.—That Mobile and Ohio railroad car No. 8814, believed to contain arms and ammunition, is again in the limelight, through efforts to move the material in the car. An attempt was made to ship the heavy boxes, with all marking erased, the boxes plainly showing where the planes had done their work.

An unknown man secured a dray from a local transfer company, had the car opened and hauled a load to the New Orleans and Northeastern freight depot last Friday. Receiving Clerk O'Keefe, when approached by the man, refused to accept the boxes unless they were marked, showing the contents.

The man would not mark the boxes and hauled them back to the car standing near the Mobile and Ohio freight depot, put the boxes back into the car, sealed it and has not been seen since.

It is said the man stated he wanted to ship the boxes to San Antonio (Texas) and officers who have kept watch of the transaction believe that it is a part shipment of contraband arms destined to the Mexican revolutionists.

All efforts to secure information from the railroads has failed, they refusing to have anything to say about the car.

Both cars of ammunition found in the local railroad yards are still here. Atlantic Coast Line car 28329, which contains boxes similar to those in M. and O. 8814, the erasures on the boxes being made on the contents of the first named car at Bonita last Friday, when the shipments were first discovered.

RAILROADS LAYING TRACKS TO WOOD REDUCTION PLANT.

The Mississippi Central and the Gulf & Ship Island railroads are laying a spur track from their main lines to the site of the Hattiesburg Wood Reduction Co.'s plant. The location of the new industry is about midway between these two railroads, besides being within easy access to the N. O. M. & C. tracks that run in front of the new plant. A spur track will also be constructed from this line at an early date.

Work on the plant is progressing as well as could be expected. Concrete foundations have been laid for the buildings and a large force of workmen are on the scene. Mr. Castana is superintending the work.

GERMAN LABOR CHIEF SPEAKS.

New York, April 17.—Carl Legien, president of the Federation of Trades Unions of the German Empire, begins a lecture of America with an address here tonight under the auspices of the New York Central Federation.

### COTTON SEASON IS BEHIND EVERYWHERE

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, April 17.—In the cotton region the season is everywhere backward and in portions of the middle section the heavy rains the past week have still further delayed progress. This statement is made in the weather Bureau crop bulletin just issued. It says further that Texas and Oklahoma soil appears in excellent condition as the Eastern

People by their Ballots, Unhampered and with no Favorites to Play, Spoke in No Uncertain Terms.

### MAGNITUDE OF VICTORY SURPRISED FRIENDS OF COMMISSION GOV'T

THE VOTE CAST IS CONSIDERED LARGT, WHEN IT WAS A QUESTION OF MEASURES AND NOT MEN TO BE DECIDED—STRENGTH OF OPPOSITION WANTED SINCE BEGINNING OF MOVEMENT.

Hattiesburg keeps in the line of progress.

By a vote of 487 to 177 the movement to restore the city's affairs to ward politicians was repudiated at the polls yesterday. It was a stinging rebuke to the coterie who would make a political football of Hattiesburg's business interests.

The city stands forth today a bigger and better Hattiesburg for having come through the crisis, and the splendid victory for commission government here will disarm the politicians in other communities where they have been using as an argument against good government distorted statements that this city was tired of the experiment and clamoring for the old order of things. The victory for municipal government run on business principles will encourage the friends of good government throughout the country and make the fight for representative government easier of attainment.

The victory was even greater than the friends of commission government expected and showed conclusively that the fatherless movement to overthrow successful government was resented by a large majority of the voters. It showed further that the wage-earners, laboring men and small tax-payers know what is best for them and that they could not be led astray by appeals to class prejudice and the hum-combe arguments that commission government is not representative.

Ring and ward politics was given its death blow by the avalanche of votes, voicing the indignation of the voters against the attempts to again get hold of the reins of city government. The protest was so strong and the victory so complete that it may be safely taken that the day is far distant when another movement will be inaugurated to change the form of municipal government, and when that day does come it will be to try something that is an improvement on Commission Government, and not to take a backward step.

Many of those citizens who voted to abandon commission government did so conscientiously and because they did not have a true understanding of conditions, or were misled by arguments that no longer appeal to the majority. From the ranks of that part of the opposition will come some of the strongest friends of commission government when the system has had time to demonstrate its great superiority over all other forms of municipal government. There are others who will never be satisfied, for government without politics loses all its attractiveness for them.

The friends of commission government never felt uneasy as to the outcome of the special election provided the voters could be sufficiently aroused to exercise their ballots, and the result shows that the confidence in the people was not misplaced. Active work to bring out the vote was not begun until a few days ago and the big vote cast in favor of a continuance of good government shows the result of that work. Acquainting the voters with the real facts about the city's affairs also had splendid effect, as the opposition started off stronger than it finished—the vote against commission government falling far short of the number of original signers of the petition asking for the election. Many of the signers of that petition either

changed their minds after signing or placed their names on it never intending to vote against commission government.

Be all this as it may the fight is over and won, without the real instigators of the discredited movement coming out in the open, but the people are wise and it is generally understood the whos and wherefore of the movement.

The vote polled is considered unusually large for an election of the kind, when no man had a friend to help into office, and the issue was not one of men but one of measures. The rain did not keep many from voting as a large per cent of the votes cast in the afternoon were by men living in the edges of town, a preponderance of the votes being cast by laboring men.

The vote was counted by seven o'clock and was a very tame affair after the first few votes were counted at either place, as the trend of the voting was early seen.

Thus Hattiesburg again takes its place among progressive cities to be pointed out as an example for others to follow.

N. B.—Meridian Dispatch please copy.

### "INTIMIDATION IF NOT DIRECT BRIBERY"

Washington, April 17.—The Taft National Bureau issued a statement yesterday in part as follows:

"In the Far West many instances have been called to President Taft's managers where Gifford Pinchot has demanded of his own personal appointees in the forest service a discharge of obligation in the form of support of Roosevelt in his campaign."

"Furthermore, it is a matter of official record, and the Taft National Bureau has the document to prove it, that Senator Dixon, Mr. Roosevelt's campaign manager, is personally preparing to oppose for renomination in the Senate of the United States Federal office-holders who have openly stated they favored the renomination of President Taft. In other words, intimidation, if not direct bribery, is being practiced by Mr. Roosevelt's own personal representative in his national headquarters."

ALABAMA FOR UNDERWOOD.

Montgomery, Ala., April 17.—Alabama will send a solid delegation pledged to Congressman Oscar W. Underwood as the Democratic nominee for the presidency to the Baltimore convention, as the result of action taken at today's Democratic state convention, held in this city. Both Clark and Wilson supporters claim the delegation in case it is found that Underwood's cause is hopeless.

LIQUOR TO BE TAXED TO MAINTAIN ARMY.

(By Associated Press.)

Laredo, April 17.—Mexico's army will be increased to sixty thousand and maintained by a bond issue of ten millions gold, according to a cousin of Madero here today. The issue will be financed through an additional tax on spirituous liquors.

## High Water Delays Traffic; Rivers Are on Rampage

From reports at the G. & S. I. office, this morning officials believe that the crest of the high water has been reached on points effected on this line.

The Laurel branch, however, is still under about three feet of water and is receding very slowly. No traffic will be handled on this line for several days yet.

No. 6 from Gulfport reaching this city last night did not attempt to go further north, but backed up as far as possible today and went south this morning as No. 5.

If no more rain falls today in the territory north of here on this line the regular schedule will be resumed tomorrow. There are two pretty serious washouts north, but the extent of the damage cannot be ascertained until the water recedes.

A large crew from this city are on the scene and working strenuously to

place the track in condition for moving the heavy freight traffic that has accumulated within the last few days.

From reports received at noon today the river is still rising and the highest point will hardly be reached until tomorrow morning. One of the city sewers is throwing up a volume of back water near the Kamp Machine Works, and several older citizens predict that the river will again reach the high water stage that prevailed here in 1900.

Many fields lying along both Leaf and Bouie are entirely under water. A great deal of corn has been planted, and will doubtless have to be replanted by reason of the overflow. Other crops immediately in this vicinity are not thought to be seriously affected and if Old Sol will show his face for a few days everything will be greatly benefited in the trucking line.