

TORNADO KILLS 12; TOWN IS WRECKED

Bank Reported Only Business
House Left Standing.

CITY OF 600 ISOLATED

Braxton, Miss., Is Devastated by
Storm Which Strikes Down-
town Section.

JACKSON, Miss., April 26.—More than a dozen persons were reported to have been killed and a score injured in a tornado this afternoon at Braxton, 15 miles from here.

HATTIESBURG, Miss., April 26.—A tornado hit the town of Braxton this afternoon and demolished every business house except the bank.

There was no communication between here and Braxton tonight, but reports from Hattiesburg, in Simpson county, in which Braxton is situated, said eight persons had been killed and a number injured.

Braxton is a town of about 600 inhabitants on the Gulf & Ship Island railroad, and 20 miles from Jackson.

PINE BLUFF, Ark., April 26.—Heavy damage was done by a tornado 50 miles southeast of here today. Several farm houses near Dumas were destroyed and a church at Gould was demolished. The storm started near Dumas and swept a path several hundred yards wide for 15 miles in a northwesterly direction. Several reports of deaths and injuries could not be verified.

TEXARKANA, Ark., April 26.—Torrential rains last night and early today flooded 3000 acres of land around Texarkana and did property damage estimated at \$100,000.

Two negroes were reported to have drowned, and many families in the eastern section of Texarkana were marooned in the upper stories of their homes. Rescue parties have been working in boats to bring those marooned to safety.

Several houses were carried away, and the Missouri Pacific bridge, six wagon bridges and 30 feet of Kansas City Southern track were washed out. Streets in the city were covered with water from several inches to several feet.

DALLAS, Tex., April 26.—Floods following heavy rains were reported today in sections of east Texas, suspending some railway traffic and possibly damaging farms, truck and fruit lands.

Texas & Pacific locomotives, marooned in the roundhouse at Marshall, were dragged out with cables.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., April 26.—Floods threatened several parts of Milwaukee today and residents of the south shore faced the loss of their homes through continued crumbling of the shore as the result of rains the last 24 hours.

Weather forecasters predicted continued downpours today and tonight. At midday, however, the rain had ceased.

MUSCATINE, Ia., April 26.—The tornado which struck southern Iowa yesterday extended over a wide range of territory, according to reports today. Several towns reported damage to buildings.

FLIER OUTWITS RUSSIANS

MERION C. COOPER, AMERICAN, ESCAPES TO RIGA.

Captain in Polish Squadron, After
Being Shot Down and Cap-
tured, Reaches Freedom.

RIGA, April 26.—(By the Associated Press.)—Captain Merion C. Cooper of Jacksonville, Fla., the Koshutsky squadron flier who was shot down on the Polish front and captured by the Russians last July, escaped from a prison camp near Moscow April 12 and arrived in Riga today.

Captain Cooper was accompanied here by two Polish officers.

The American aviator, while serving with the Poles in their operations last summer against the Bolsheviks, disappeared behind the Soviet lines in Galicia July 13.

Captain Cooper had made an earlier attempt at escape and after being free for several days was recaptured. He was considered not a Polish, but an American prisoner. He was in several prison camps and worked last winter shoveling snow on the railways. He passed himself off as a corporal under an assumed name.

Captain Cooper finally learned that his identity was about to be revealed through the efforts of some outsiders to obtain his release and he decided to take a chance to escape, together with some Polish friends, with whom he was scarcely able to make himself understood because of language difficulties.

The railway bridges on the way to the frontier were heavily guarded and the little party had to make long detours at every stream. Near the frontier they hid for 36 hours above a brick stove in a peasant's hut. They parted with their guides and overcoats to speculators who aided in smuggling them into Latvia.

They had no compass or money to buy a couple pounds of bread.

"We adapted the American hobo methods to our circumstances," said Captain Cooper. "We jumped freight trains at night when we could and walked through the woods when we couldn't get a ride, sleeping mostly in the daytime. Everywhere the peasants were kind to us."

"BOLOGNA" BULL IS GOING

Extinction of Useless Animals by
1925 Is Predicted.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 26.—The scrub bull of the variety "bologna" has been placed among the bankrupts of nature by the department of agriculture. In an announcement today it said the species will be extinct in the United States by 1925.

"Useless animals in time will be extinct. Have you any on your farm?" the department inquired.

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Department of Public Welfare
Yet Uncertain.

LABOR VOICES OBJECTION

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The matter was up today, both at the cabinet meeting and at a conference between Samuel Gompers and other officials of the American Federation of Labor and Secretary Davis and Brigadier-General Sawyer. Mr. Harding's personal representative in the welfare department preliminary studies. The labor men voiced objection to transfer of the children's and women's bureau of the department of labor to the proposed new department, and the cabinet meeting was said to have developed a difference of opinion as to what should be done with federal educational agencies.

It was indicated that no conclusion was reached by Mr. Harding and his advisers and that the president planned to confer with educational agencies like the bureau of education in the interior department with the projected welfare department. On the contrary, it was held, they believe that a department of education should be created separately, leaving public health and related subjects to the welfare department.

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Organized labor's objections, as voiced by Mathew Woll, vice-president of the labor federation, to reorganizing the women's and children's bureau from the labor department rested on the contention that with them would go supervision over women and children in industry, matters in which labor is held to have a vital interest.

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SENATE PASSES ON NOMINA-
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Promotions of 11 Other Brigadiers

Also Approved—Opposition
Is Carried Onto Floor.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 26.—The nominations of Brigadier-General Clarence R. Edwards and 11 other brigadier-generals to be major-generals were confirmed late today by the senate.

The nominations of 14 colonels to be brigadier-generals also were confirmed.

Opposition to General Edwards, which had developed in the military committee, was carried to the senate floor. Senator McKellar (democrat, Tennessee), it was reported, led the fight against him and forced a roll-call upon which there were only five negative votes against confirmation.

All of these were democrats. It was said that the opponents were Senators McKellar, Harrison of Mississippi, King of Florida, and Trammell and Fletcher of Florida.

The vote for Edwards was said to be 55, including several democratic senators. A large number of senators were absent. It was said that Senator McKellar took the position that General Edwards' military record did not justify the promotion.

The senate also confirmed a number of army officers to be brigadier-generals in charge of war department posts. Among these were Charles T. Menoher, to be chief of the air service; George O. Squire, to be chief signal officer, and John L. Chamberlain, to be inspector-general.

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