The Headlight.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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SATURDAY, DEC. 13, 1913.

OVERFLOW EXCEEDS 1869

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ter damaging everything in the house.

Hundreds View Flood Water.

Hundreds of people visited the colored portion of town all day Saturday, and also the McCarty pasture, just beyond the Sap depot, where the back waters from the lake had reached. In 1869 the back water from the lake is said to have reached through the ditch that crosses Main Street to beyond the Southern Pacific track. That it did not get quite that high this time is due to the fact that the ditch referred to has filled up considerably and the San Antonio & Aransas Pass railroad grade was not built at that time. At the Southern Pacific where the waters came in '69, it is not as deep there now as it was then. Even [illegible] wagons and buggies drove under this bridge, but one can scarcely walk under it now, showing that the slough at this point is not as low as it was in 1869. Some people say the flood exceeded the '69 flood by four feet, that it reached points in the bottoms that the '69 flood did not reach, but this can be accounted for by the improvements, in railroads, levees etc., which have been made through that section of the flood. Mr. E. P. Newsom, who remembers well the '69 flood, says in his opinion the present overflow did not reach the '69 flood by about six inches.

Santa Fe Loses Much Track.

At the Colorado river bridge, when at its highest, the water was fully four miles wide, and further down the river it was even wider, reaching at some places a width of eight miles. From Camp No. 2, to the river proper was a solid sheet of water flowing over the Cane Belt railroad through that section to a depth of fifteen or more feet. Only the cross pieces and the telegraph wires could be seen. At this point several miles of track and grade were washed away. Waves on this body of water rolled in during the strong wind last Sunday evening three and four feet high. The current at this point was swift, washing out the railroad track and breaking down the telegraph poles as though they were not stronger than matches.

Both Slutter and King Places.

The entire Slutter place and the King place were covered with water from two to ten feet deep, and the current there was so swift that it was next to impossible to cross in a row boat.

Galveston News Report Untrue.

The report on glaring headlines that Eagle Lake had spent a night of terror was greatly magnified. There was no terror here in Eagle Lake, and the water did not flow through the main streets of Eagle Lake as stated in the News. The people in the Eagle Lake bottoms who had not gotten out before the flood waters reached them, did have a night of terror, but here in town there was no alarm felt. The back water through the lake reached the negro section, but that reached in the day time giving sufficient warning for all to vacate their homes without endangering their lives. Much fun was felt here of the water backing into town, for every one knew on last Saturday evening that the back waters from the lake had reached the limit, and that the town was never in any danger. The head line artist on the News merely wanted to make it interesting reading to the outside world.

In a Boat From River to Town.

Mr. D. C. Austin, who lives on the river near the the Lakeside Irrigation Company's pumping plant, made a boat trip through the waters from his front porch straight across and landed near the Lakeside Rice Mill. Mr. Vick Engelhard came from his place straight through the McCarty farm in a boat, landing out on the prairie above the negro church near that point. He says about the shallowest water he passed over was when he crossed over the railroad dump, the water about two feet high over the dump. The depth, he said, ranged all the way from that to thirty feet, and coming through the McCarty place he says he could just see the gable end of the roofs projecting above the water.

Roaring Waters Like a Cyclone.

Mr. C. M. Womack, who was at his place, though he had already moved out everything and made preparations for the flood in advance, says when the waters burst through the Slutter place and came through that section about half past two o'clock Friday night, sterling the timber, sounded like a roaring cyclone. He says it came with a terrible force, and in rolling sheets of water four feet high.

Jack Battle Drowned at Bonus.

Several people have been reported drowned in the bottoms, but later many who were reported missing have since been heard from. The only known death at this time is that of Jack Battle, colored, who was drowned near Bonus. Battle was a well-to-do negro. He owned his own farm and conducted a general merchandise store near Bonus. His death occurred Saturday morning. Several negroes are reported drowned near Spanish Camp and several more farther down the river bottoms.

County Bridge Still Standing.

The county bridge between Eagle Lake and Altair was reported gotten as close as possible to that point, report that the bridge is still standing, though the approaches on both sides are out. The Garwood bridge was reported out, but later reports are that this bridge also is still standing, with the approaches gone.

River 45 Feet at Columbus.

At Columbus the river reached a maximum of 45 feet at 4 o'clock Saturday morning, and has fallen but slowly since. Manager Ed. Ragland was in telephone communication with Columbus Tuesday morning and was told that the river at that point had fallen only four feet, having fallen only two inches the night previous. One span of the north bridge at Columbus is reported out. At Columbus the water was reported fifteen feet deep in the negro section of town and five feet deep in the residence section of the town lying north of the Southern Pacific tracks. The water reached as high as the Southern Pacific depot in that town. The Southern Pacific bridge at that place is safe. No trains were run into Columbus for nearly a week owing to fears that the abuttment of the east side of the bridge may give way. It was under water for a time and softened by the wash of the flood waters.

Alleyton Under Water.

The river at Columbus at its highest stage was between 44 and 45 feet above normal, the water reaching a depth of nine feet over the rails between Alleyton and Eagle Lake, and at one point between Columbus and Alleyton water reached to a heighth of seven feet over a twenty-five foot telephone pole. The highest portion of Alleyton, it is reported, was three feet under water and in the major portion of the town water came up to the roofs of the houses. In Alleyton no deaths have been reported.

Many Refugees in Eagle Lake.

The town of Eagle Lake has been filled with refugees the entire week, people having come to town from the bottoms below, and many people having come in on the Cane Belt train from below. The overflow section in the bottoms is thickly settled, and it will be sometime before the extent of damage to life and property can be estimated, though the loss will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. There is scarcely a fence left in the bottoms and practically every house will have to undergo repairs. The river through the bottoms was several miles wide and could be seen from the house tops in town showing a solid sea of water. Practically every acre of potatoes in the bottom section was covered with water, though some of the farmers there believe the potatoes will still be in the ground and they will yet be able to dig when the water recedes and the ground dries off again. Where the current was very swift it is believed that the potatoes will be washed out of the ground. The waters are falling so slowly it will be some time next week before people can get around in the bottoms to determine just what damage will be the result.

Began to Recede Saturday Night

The back waters of the lake here, which extended through the flat or negro section of town and almost as high up as the caboose, began to recede here some time during Saturday night and late Sunday evening had fallen about two feet. There was no telephone or telegraph connection between here and Columbus from Friday at noon until Monday, a cable having been laid Alleyton section, which established connections with Columbus. That town was cut off from the outside world for a number of days and the people there had no knowledge of what was transpiring in other sections.

All Train Service Annulled.

There has been no trains into Eagle Lake from the west since last Thursday. The Sap ran one passenger train a day out of Houston here, doubling back until Saturday, when the high waters of the Brazos cut off traffic on that road. The Southern Pacific operated one train a day out of Houston, the train doubling back same afternoon, until Monday. No trains were received here Tuesday, the lower Brazos flood having cut off all service from the east on both the Sap and Southern Pacific. It is believed the first train service that will be resumed here will be on the Southern Pacific from the west. The Santa Fe track between Eagle Lake and Garwood has been washed out in several places and was covered with water for miles. Many washouts have occurred on the main line of the Santa Fe lower down in the bottoms. The Sunday morning passenger train on that road, bound for Matagorda, got only within sight of Egypt as the track was covered with water and about three hundred feet of the track washed out this side of Glen Flora. The loss that will be caused by the floods throughout the Eagle Lake section can only be estimated as there are hundreds of acres of potatoes that are covered with water, and when the lower bottom sections are heard from it is believed the damage to property and loss of live stock will be great.

Bottom Negroes Suffer Most.

The negroes through the bottoms will be the heaviest sufferers. Many of them barely escaped with their lives, leaving everything they possessed behind. The exact extent of their suffering can not be told for several days. The people of Eagle Lake are endeavoring to care for all of these sufferers without outside aid, this work being conducted under the United Charities of this city. All in need of assistance should be directed to apply to the investigating committee, E. L. Mooney, M. C. Yates and M. D. Flowers, who will provide for all necessary relief. The finance committee, E. W. Hanly, E. L. Mooney and W. E. Lenhart, are using every effort to get in touch with those who are disposed to render assistance and it is hoped they will meet with a liberal response. All funds or supplies contributed for relief of sufferers should be handed to one of the finance committee or deposited with either bank for that purpose.

Reached Where '69 Did Not.

Mr. F. P. Herbert says the flood reached spots on his plantation that the old negroes of that section say were not reached by the flood of 1869. Mr. J. A. Dromgoole last Saturday made a trip to the Herbert plantation in a boat. He started in the boat near Matthews, rowed to the Herbert place, rowed into the house, around from room to room, getting out what articles

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