

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

San Juan, P. R. Sept. 12th.—Damage reported from island so far Schooner "India" sank at Naguabo at anchor and the cook was drowned. At Humacao eleven barges valued at fifteen thousand dollars sank and four large sail boats were lost. Between Naguabo and Humacao a lot of wreckage has come ashore in Ceiba, two people were drowned. At Yabucoa a large launch sank and one of the crew was drowned. At Arroya the sea was high and moved 7 small houses into the middle of the principal street. At Ponce three barges sank. The wind did some damage to houses on the sea shore and blew down the electric light wires, telephone and telegraph wires. The coffee district has suffered some damage and many trees were blown down.

London, Sept. 10th.—Mr. Lloyd George's invitation to Mr. De Valera and his colleagues to confer as to the basis for a settlement of the Irish controversy awaits action by the Irish republican parliament. That body will meet in secret session next Wednesday, at which time it is assumed that the Premier's latest note to Dublin will be submitted and a decision reached regarding the acceptance or rejection of the invitation.

Grand Turk, Turk and Caicos Islands, Sept. 12th.—The tropical storm which originated near Trinidad is now raging over these Islands. The barometer which fell during the night to 29.40, is now beginning to rise, but the wind is still strong and torrential rains are falling. The beach presents a picture of wreckage and debris. All vessels in the roadstead have been piled upon the main street of the town, and vessels in the hawksnest have become total wrecks, while in the riding ground a two-masted schooner has been driven high and dry on the beach.

San Antonio, Texas, Sept. 10th.—Six persons are known to be dead and property in the central portion of the city has been damaged to the extent of several millions of dollars by floods which swept through San Antonio last night.

Sasantonio Texas, Sept. 11th.—The list issued of the known dead from the flood early on Saturday totalled forty seven, but late today the dead and missing were estimated at approximately two hundred and fifty by the officials engaged in recovering the bodies, while the police commissioner estimated that the number might reach three hundred. Many of the residents, however, consider these figures high. The property loss is placed at over five million dollars by some business men and those in charge of the reclamation works.

Halifax, Novascotia, Sept. 12th.—Greater Halifax and its surroundings were rocked this morning shortly after three o'clock by several distinct explosions at intervals, which threw gigantic sheets of flame high into the air, lighting the heavens with lurid effect. It was later

ascertained that at the oil works six pressure stills, of a battery of twelve, had blown up one after the other. The loss is estimated at one million dollars one man is missing and two were injured.

HAND WORK DROPS OFF WITH
WAIST OVERSUPPLY

Thousands of Women and Girls Idle
While Drawn-Work Blouses Sell in
New York Below Cost

FIRST OVER-PRODUCTION

Until a few Months ago the Demand
was Always Greater Than the Supply;
Spring Models Ready

Although model waists for next spring's styles are now in the hands of manufacturers and agents here there is little recovery expected in the blouse industry in the island until October or November.

For practically the first time since Porto Rico hand-made waists commenced to gain popularity in the United States there has been during the past two months or so an oversupply of the cheaper grades of those garments which have been selling at retail in the United States at less than the cost of production.

As a result of this oversupply thousands of girls and women throughout the island who in the past three or four years have turned to handwork at present are idle and payrolls that ran into many thousands of dollars monthly have largely been shut off.

There is still a demand for the more elaborate and more expensive handwork waist but even the demand for these more expensive garments has been checked because of the over supply of the cheaper grade and a general slump in buying. Up to three months ago it is said that the island was producing at least 50,000 blouses a week of which 40,000 or more were of the less expensive grade. The demand for this type was of waists temporarily is stopped and as a result workers normally earning a total of \$25,000 to \$30,000 a week are idle.

Until comparatively recently the demand for Porto Rican hand-made waists has exceeded the supply and this has resulted in many agents and manufacturers starting in the business in the last year or two, some of them on a very large scale. One company alone, it is estimated, was shipping 20,000 waists a week to New York. In all more than a dozen companies or agents have helped the spreading of waists-making throughout the island and so active was the demand for skilled needle workers that some of the companies had instructors to teach women and girls the fundamental of handwork. In Barranquitas and other interior towns where there was practically no other employment it was

found that even men and boys were turning to needle work as a means of earning a livelihood.

While the waist business is dull there is still a demand for hand-made handkerchiefs. This is keeping a good many hundred handworkers busy during what would otherwise be a very dull period of the year.

Until the large stocks of waists which have accumulated in the United States have been disposed of, it is not expected that there will be a renewed activity here for the making of the cheaper grade of waists. Preparations for the business of next spring and summer normally will commence the latter part of October or November.

Recently hand-made waists were reported as selling in New York at \$1.50 and \$2.00. The minimum pay to the worker for making even a simple waist is said to be in the neighbourhood of 70 cents. To make this type of waist requires about a day. For some of the more elaborate waist the worker is paid \$5.00 or \$6.00 each. Not more than two of these garments a week can be turned out by a single worker.—*Porto Rico Progress, Sept. 2nd.*

CHINESE BRIDES.

The Chinese have many superstitions with regard to weddings. A girl who is partaking of the last meal in her father's house previous to her marriage sits at the table with her parents and the members of the family, but she must eat no more than half the bowl of rice set before her, else departure will be followed by continual scarcity in the house she is leaving. If the bride breaks the heel of her shoe in going from her father's house to her husband's house it is a sign of unhappiness. A bride while putting on her wedding garments stands in a round, shallow, basket. This conduces her to lead a placid well-rounded life in her future home. A piece of beacon and a parcel of sugar are hung on the back of the bride's sedan chair as a sop to the demons who might molest her while on her journey. After the departure from the parental roof her mother puts the basket in which the bride stood while dressing over the mouth of the oxen to stop the mouths of all who would make adverse comment on her daughter, and then goes in the house and sits down before the kitchen fire, that her leisure may be duplicated in her daughter's life. A bride may be brought home while a coffin is in her husband's house but not within one hundred days after a coffin is carried out. A bride must not for four months after her marriage enter any house in which there has been a death or a birth, for if she does there will surely be a quarrel between her and the groom. If a young mother goes to see a bride the visitor is looked upon as the cause of the calamity that may follow the newly weds.—*Everyday Life.*