

would have put them in before six o'clock.

Q If you can throw any more light on why those trucks weren't used, that's what I want you to do.

A Only just as I said before, that I don't believe they could have rounded up that many drivers in that vicinity at the time.

Q In other words, you agree with his judgment on that?

A I surely do.

Q Did you go back on the keys after that was over?

A Yes, sir; I went back down and got all the records of all the Veterans; in other words, the face sheets, of who he was and where he lived, and who to notify, and so forth.

Q What did you do with them?

A I brought them in and gave them to Mr. Brown.

MR. WILLIAMS: All right; that's all.

(Witness excused).

The next person to be examined was:  
EXAMINATION OF:

E. B. DUNN.

BY MR. AUBREY WILLIAMS:

Q Give this gentleman your name. You don't mind us taking a record of what you say?

A No; you can make a record of everything I say. My name is E. B. Dunn. I am better known over the country with the newspapers under the title of "Farmer" Dunn, because when the

Weather bureau was transferred in 1891 from the War Department to the Agricultural Department, the newspapers gave me the title of "Farmer" Dunn; but I was never very much of a farmer.

Q Well, now, what is your interest in this particular investigation and situation?

A I have no interest in it, no personal interest at all, except that I live here, and I know a great deal about what has taken place in meteorological conditions. I was in the weather bureau at New York for fourteen years, both under the Signal Corps of the War Department, and that was afterwards transferred to the Agricultural Department. I made the forecasts of everything there on the Atlantic Coast, cyclones, tornadoes and everything that came along.

Q Well, now, what do you want to say to us about this?

A I don't know just what to say to you. I don't want to express an opinion until I make an examination of what took place; I would want all the records before me; I would want to sum them up; I would want to see where the mistakes occurred; whether they were efficient or inefficient; do every man justice if I can possibly do it, and lay the blame where it belongs, and no partiality to be shown.

Q Well, have you any facts at the present time that you wish to bring out for my enlightenment?

A I have only the facts of what I know of forecasting hurricane conditions.

Q Which are what?

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A To establish that fact I made an investigation, and I have brought this here (exhibiting paper); and Mr. Axleroad wanted me to bring some data along, and I have. There is a summary of the hurricane of 1926, the record I made on this, and it was published in various papers throughout the country. That paragraph (indicating on report) refers to the storm; that one paragraph (indicating) will cover the whole thing.

Q Well, that doesn't mean very much to me. Now let me ask you some questions. I am just a poor, ignorant layman in matters of this character. It appears in this weather report that on August 31st, from Saturday, August 31st, at 9:00 P. M., that they continued to locate the storm or the hurricane within a range of a very small area.

A Yes.

Q Off of the coast of Cuba, headed westwardly. Now, they kept saying that all through Sunday, and about the same location all the way through Sunday, and then on down until one o'clock on Monday; even at 1:20 on Monday it was located very nearly in that same place. Then at 4:30 P. M. they suddenly discover it right out here, coming right up on them. Now how do you explain that?

A Well, I would want to look at those weather maps first to tell you that. Now, on Saturday -- I only have the Saturday's weather maps and the Tuesday's. There is none published on Sunday and none on the holiday, Monday; those two are missing out of my calculations; those keep me from telling you whether they were right or wrong. If I investigated, I would want that record

right through. They don't publish those maps but they make one in the weather bureau that they draw for their information. I would like to see the ones from Sunday and Monday of the same character, and then I could explain my opinion.

Q Is this an ordinary thing?

A No; that don't seem right to me, and from what I can see from weather bureau maps and weather bureau drawings, they are very amateurish, very amateurish indeed. A weather map should be made just as scientific as the plans drawn by a man for a building, and not put the building one inch over the ground unless it is supposed to go there. If you are drawing a weather map, you have got to be exact in your outlines of a storm's area, and if you go wrong on putting it down, and you don't know just exactly what has occurred, you get that map wrong, and your forecast is going to be wrong, because you are making it by that data.

Q Is it a fact that hurricanes are very frequently lost?

A Very frequently wrong?

Q Lost.

A Occasionally they are lost; occasionally they don't know where they are.

Q What happens? Do they go up off of the earth?

A Sometimes we have a storm high in the atmosphere and it won't touch the earth at all, and sometimes we have it on the earth and it won't touch the upper atmospheres, and sometimes they dissipate.

Q They dissipate?

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A Yes; and as a general rule, in a storm of that character, if I can go back to give you the initial movement of a hurricane, 99 out of 100 hurricanes that are in the Atlantic Ocean start to the north of the belt of the Doldrums, and that is about from latitude 7 to 15, during the months of July, August and September; and the doldrums follow the sun as the sun recedes to the south, and these form in that warm belt of air to the west of Africa. There is a warm equatorial current in there, and there is heat from the desert, and there is an enormous amount of heat and an abundance of hot water; and a storm can't form without great heat and an abundance of water to evaporate, and the amount of moisture they take up is enormous. Now, when they get started there, they draw the air in from all sides until they get a whirling motion, and in that whirling motion they begin to move to the westward. Now, there are four paths for these storms, and you will see right here (indicating on map); and I have right here something I have written, and I have furnished these reports; and I have written books.

Q Well, in other words, as I get it from you, you think that this thing was, to say the least, faultily handled?

A I should say from just a cursory report that I could make, from looking over the bare reports and the barometer and the maps I have, it was very inefficiently handled.

Q What advice have you to give me --- first, isn't the Weather Bureau perfectly competent to say whether it did a good job or not?

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A I wouldn't say so, because in that 1926 storm, one illustration would throw it all out of estimate of being efficient, because that shows that they didn't know where the storm was. Eight hours after the storm had done its damage down here and passed over this section of the country, it was found the next morning at Pensacola, and the weather maps showed that that storm was to the southeast of Florida, and it had already done its damage eight hours before. Now, do you call that competency?

MR. WILLIAMS: You will have to take that up with the experts. We will let you testify when the experts come.

A All right, sir.

MR. WILLIAMS: That's all.

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