

## **SILENT AT FLOOD INQUEST.**

**Supt. Hamlin of the Bayless Company  
Refuses to Testify.**

**AUSTIN, Penn., Oct. 6.--Three bodies  
and the charred bones of two others were  
recovered to-day from the ruins left by  
the flood last Saturday, following the**

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**The New York Times**

Published: October 7, 1911

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# DAMS BURST; FLOOD WISCONSIN TOWNS

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breaking of the Bayless Pulp and Paper Company dam. This makes the total list of dead fifty-five.

The bodies found to-day are those of Gilbert Sykes, 7 years old; Mrs. Frank Sykes, 25, and E. A. Wilbur, 69. The bones were those of a child 2 or 3 years old, and another about 5 years.

Frederick Hamlin, Superintendent of the paper company, refused to testify this afternoon upon the advice of counsel, and the Coroner's inquest was adjourned to an indefinite date at Coudersport. After the adjournment District Attorney H. W. Nelson said the inquest would not be resumed for at least two weeks.

Mr. Hamlin was the last witness called, and almost the first question brought his refusal to answer, and Walter K. Sweatland, his counsel, himself a flood sufferer, announced that, inasmuch as it was common report that the inquest was being held for the purpose of bringing a criminal prosecution, he had advised his client in his course.

"Do you mean that in answering he might incriminate himself?" asked the District Attorney.

"He might incriminate himself or the testimony might be used against him at any subsequent prosecution," replied Mr. Sweatland, "and we stand on our constitutional rights."

An effort to have the witness state whether he was a member of the Town Council of 1910 was blocked, but another witness testified that the Town Council had never notified the Bayless Pulp and Paper Company that the dam was unsafe, although this was a matter of common report.

The inquest was based on the deaths of Mrs. Jacob Hess, 43 years old, and Herbert Reese, aged 6. L. B. Seibert, an at-

torney of Coudersport, described the buckling and breaking of the dam, and several persons who were at the dam on Sept. 19 and 20 told of large fissures through which the water was leaking. The Coroner's jury was drawn from the towns of Costello and Coudersport.

The situation has settled down to the routine of removing the debris, burying bodies, receiving and distributing supplies, and rehabilitating Austin. The activity of the day was disturbed by a strike of 200 wreck laborers at Costello because of long hours. They were paid off and ordered to leave. Construction of an electric lighting plant will begin tomorrow.

The Children's Home Society of Pennsylvania, which has a representative here, is seeking homes for 100 children between the ages of 3 and 10. Scores of letters have been received, offering to adopt the little ones.

As an instance of the wide sympathy for sufferers from last week's catastrophe Dr. S. G. Dixon, State Commissioner of Health, shows a little package of paper dolls, cut from the supplement of a Sunday newspaper. Written on the envelope in a childish scrawl were the words: "From a little girl to any little girl who has lost her dolls."