

PHELPS, MERIWETHER
AND "INSURGENTS."

Further Facts About Their Meeting at the Southern Hotel.

KERENS ALSO HAD A TALK.

Said That Dave Ball May Be Pushed for Convention Chairman—Partial Programme Made.

Further facts which came to light yesterday concerning the conference which Colonel William H. Phelps had with the so-called insurgent Democrats indicate that the union of forces under his direction is taking shape. Whether it will have sufficient strength to cause any serious breach in the St. Joseph convention is a question which many politicians discussed yesterday.

Prearranged Meeting. Colonel Phelps came to St. Louis on the Kansas City train Friday morning with Frank P. Walsh. They went from the Union Station to the Southern Hotel, where they registered, Phelps being assigned to room No. 284 and Walsh to room No. 285, the next adjoining and being connected by double doors. Both Phelps and Walsh left Friday evening.

Lon V. Stephens spent Friday at the Planter Hotel, much of the time with former Insurance Commissioner Ed O'Grady. Marshall, his personal friend. Emmet Newton arrived from Springfield Thursday night and registered at the Laclede. Virgil Conkling of Carrollton did not register, nor did Doctor E. H. Chinn of Keosauqua.

Those Who Attended Conference. In the afternoon a conference was held which embraced the entire group of interest in the movement of which Phelps has charge. Colonel Phelps invited the conferees to his own room at the Southern. Lee Meriwether, who has been trying to organize a Public Ownership party out in the State, was present. Frank P. Walsh of Kansas City, who has been issuing pronouncements through the Republican press, was also on hand. Emmet Newton of Springfield, recognized as a friend of Phelps, was there during a part of the time. Virgil Conkling of Carrollton attended. Former Insurance Commissioner Ed O'Grady helped with his counsel. Doctor E. H. Chinn of Carrollton was present. Attorney General E. C. Crow of St. Louis attended.

The conference was held between 4 and 6 o'clock. According to one report, Meriwether was particularly anxious to have his claims to political fellowship recognized, something which Phelps had done while he will not be a delegate to the convention next Tuesday, he expects to have his plans dovetail with those of Phelps and his followers, partly through his association with Dave Ball of Pike County.

Working Both Ends. One politician who is usually well informed explained some of the probabilities which were discussed at the conference. "Unless present plans change through force of circumstances," he said, "Dave Ball will be pushed for chairman of the convention. His determination to inject party questions into the Judicial Convention and his apparent success in making himself the spokesman for the Kansas City platform have led Phelps and the 'insurgents' to believe that he can be railroaded through as the chairman of Tuesday's gathering.

"Phelps intended to work both the reorganizers and the disorganizers. While the 'insurgents' are making such a great play over their devotion to a platform which is accepted by every regular Democrat in the State, Phelps is trying to gain strength in another direction by asking extreme gold Democrats to put their own friends on the Resolutions Committee. By getting both ends working against the middle he hopes to stir up enough trouble to make ill-feeling in the party."

Kerens Was Interested. Shortly after the conference with Meriwether and the disorganizers, Republican National Committeeman Kerens called at the Southern and had an extended conversation with Phelps. It will be remembered that Phelps attended a conference in the office of the Missouri Pacific Railroad May 25, when the warring factions of the Republican party were in the midst of a conference whereby Kerens would receive the Republican nomination for United States Senator. Colonel Kerens is now running his headquarters in full blast and receiving Republicans from every part of the State. With the help of Phelps and his followers, attempts are being made to secure the nomination of Kerens for the General Assembly. Kerens did not attend the conference held in Phelps's room in the afternoon, but afterwards conferred with Phelps singly.

Other Conferences. In connection with the conference participated in by Phelps, Meriwether and the "insurgents" is the story of another conference which was held only two or three days before the "harmony agreement" was made. It, too, was held in the Missouri Pacific office and was presided over by Phelps.

Meriwether was in attendance, as were six or seven men who have been working with the Democrats. According to the testimony of one of the Democrats who was there, Meriwether demanded \$30,000 for organizing a Public Ownership party throughout the State. This sum was deemed too high by Kerens. It is said, and it was not until much time had been spent in going over the situation that another sum was agreed upon.

Phelps as a Delegate. An advice from Carthage, it appears that Phelps will not attend the convention. It is reported that should he do so, all the delegates from the Fifteenth Congressional District, excepting those from the Carthage legislative district, will unite in asking that Phelps be declared vacant. Phelps has control of only one legislative district in the entire congressional district, and, since his conference with the Republican leaders, the Democrats in Southwest Missouri have practically eliminated him from the running.

It is said that Phelps has made an effort to secure a denial from Frank Roberts of Phelps's presence in the "harmony" conference. Roberts was the representative of the Kansas State Chairman Alton and

REBEL GUNBOATS APPROACH
PANAMA; NAVAL FIGHT BEGUN.

Heavy Cannonading, Which Lasts Nearly All Day, Arouses Intense Alarm in the City, Where Colombian Soldiers Man the Intrenchments—United States Steamer Ranger, After Being in the Line of Firing, Leaves Harbor Abruptly to Follow Contending Vessels.

GREAT BATTLE BELIEVED TO BE IN PROGRESS AT AGUA DULCE.

Panama, Colombia, July 19.—The insurgent gunboats Padilla and Darien appeared last night between Flamenco and Oritique islands.

Governor Salazar thereupon ordered the Government gunboats Chucuito and Claret to put to sea and meet them. Heavy cannonading began this morning.

Great alarm prevailed in this city. The intrenchments are full of soldiers. The cannonading continued until 4 o'clock this afternoon. It was heaviest at 10 o'clock this morning.

At 2 o'clock the Darien was seen in tow of the Padilla, and it is believed she had been hit.

The Government fleet was handicapped by the absence of the gunboat Boyaca, the keel of which was being repaired, and it is thought probable that this fact was known by the insurgent General Herrera, who decided to attack Panama in order to prevent the Government from helping General Bertr's troops at Agua Dulce.

The United States steamer Ranger, which returned here at 10 o'clock from Chiriqui, came within the line of fire. During a part of the heavy firing she was back of Flamenco island.

A representative of The Associated Press was informed by United States Consul Guder, that American interests at Panama have not been materially interfered with.

The Government gunboat Boyaca, which was at La Boca, hurriedly completed repairs and went out at 5 o'clock. The Padilla started, taking the same course as the revolutionary gunboat. No explanation is offered of the movement.

It is thought probable that a great battle is being fought at Agua Dulce. Whatever the result of this shall be to General Herrera's army, General Salazar, the Governor of Panama, said to the representative of The Associated Press, that the revolutionary forces will suffer terribly, and an attack by them upon Panama will be rendered impossible, even if they are not defeated. General Salazar has implicit confidence in his troops.

He spoke for him in arranging the "agreement" whereby Kerens was to be unopposed for the senatorial nomination.

Robert is said, refused to make a statement to that effect. The week following the conference he told about twenty leading members of the St. Louis Republican League Club who were gathered in Charles Nagel's office that Phelps was present.

To a number of other Republicans he told the same thing. Other men who were in the conference have also confirmed the statement of Roberts, who cannot now come to the aid of Phelps for the purpose of entering a denial.

Instructed Delegations. William J. Chambliss, clerk in the office of the Secretary of State, has prepared a list of the instructions which have been given for candidates for railroad commissioner nominations. According to his list, John A. Knott of Hannibal has 173 delegates instructed, Joe Rice of Moberly 45, Tom Parks of Platte City 52, W. C. Brown of Clinton 70 and Tom Maguire of St. Louis 21.

PHELPS RETURNS TO COLORADO
Gives His Proxy to State Convention to M. E. Benton.

Carthage, Mo., July 19.—The Jasper County Democrat will publish the following tomorrow.

W. H. Phelps returned to Colorado to-day. Before leaving he gave M. E. Benton his proxy as a delegate to the State Convention. When asked why he did not attend in person, in view of the threat which had been made that he would not be allowed to take a seat in the convention, he said:

"I am obliged to go back to Colorado at once. I do not attach any importance or significance to the threat you speak of. If any one desires to distract me from the 2,000 Bryan Democrats who elected me, it can be done by moving to oust my proxy, for if I have no right to a seat in the convention I could not authorize any one to represent me."

"I am sorry I cannot arrange to be at the convention in person, but I have felt all the time that it would be impossible for me to go."

In regard to the report that he would be a candidate for the Legislature, he said: "That is a joke."

"I could not be a candidate for the Legislature without resigning my position with the Missouri Pacific. I would not embarrass my party by being a candidate for office while in the services of a corporation largely interested in legislative matters. I could not serve my client with fidelity and the people with honor at the same time. I have never taken both sides of the same case. I leave to others better gifted in the art of deception that difficult task."

PHELPS TO LEAVE CARTHAGE
It is Reported That He Is Coming to St. Louis.

HUNT FOR TRACY IS
FINALLY ABANDONED.

Chase Has Cost \$10,000 and the Lives of Several Men—Reward Withheld.

Tacoma, Wash., July 19.—After forty days of continual pursuit by men and bloodhounds, all organized effort to capture Harry Tracy, the escaped Oregon convict, has ended.

No further hopes will start after him. The pursuit of Tracy through Clark County, Lewis, Thurston, Pierce, Kitsap, Snohomish and King counties has cost these counties \$50,000.

The fact that Oregon declines to pay Mrs. Wagner of Chehalis the reward offered for Merrill's body has done much toward the flat drop of the Tracy hunt.

Tracy was serving a term of imprisonment for robbery when he and a companion, Merrill, escaped. They killed three men and later Tracy killed Merrill and three others, besides wounding several persons in various fights. Previous to his conviction in Oregon Tracy had killed a woman and a child in Colorado, and while awaiting trial bound and gagged the Sheriff and escaped.

SALE OF ART CURIOS IN LONDON
Sixteenth Century Pendant Brings Top Price, \$26,250.

London, July 19.—Two interesting sales have just been held at Christie, one consisting of porcelain, sculpture, furniture and old French tapestry, and the other of jewels and lace.

A rare sixteenth century pendant, containing the miniature of Queen Elizabeth, fetched the top price of the sale, \$26,250.

FLOODS THREATEN MISSOURI AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEYS
HEAVY RAINS CONTINUE IN TRIBUTARY TERRITORY.

Mississippi River Is Rising Rapidly and Approaching Danger Line—It Is Ten Miles Wide Near Keokuk and Thousands of Acres Are Submerged—Crops in Many Places Are a Total Loss—Farmers Have Abandoned Their Homes in Several Districts.

IOWA LEVEE GIVES WAY—OTHERS ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW.

Telegraphic reports from over the country indicate that the flood will be even worse than was at first anticipated. Tremendous downpours over Iowa and the Northern States have caused all of the rivers and creeks, which were already swollen, to leave their banks, and they are rushing a mighty volume of water down on the Mississippi, threatening alarming results.

Thousands of acres of land are already under water and advices indicate that it will take but a little more rise to submerge twice as much more land.

Conditions are most alarming around Keokuk, Ia. Below there and on down toward Hannibal the Mississippi is from two to ten miles in width. Near Quincy, Ill., the river is eight miles wide and is still rising.

In Iowa the Skunk River, which is the most destructive in time of a flood, is higher than it has been since the terrible flood of 1841, and it is rapidly approaching that mark, with indications that it will soon go above it.

One levee in Iowa has given way, causing great damage, and others are expected to follow, though all of them are being closely watched. Several washouts in Iowa stopped traffic, and in many sections the railroad tracks are being patrolled for miles and miles.

There is apparently no abatement in the storm, rains still being general over the Northern country, and old rivermen predict one of the most devastating floods in the history of the Upper Mississippi Valley.

The estimate of damage already done is still held to be in the neighborhood of \$4,000,000, though, of course, this will be vastly increased if the floods continue.

High-Water Mark for Last 10 Years.

The heavy rains continue to fall along the Upper Mississippi and tributaries and heavy damage is reported from points all along the river. A heavy rainfall in Western Missouri is reported, but as it will take this water several days to reach the Mississippi the effect will not be felt along the river front until to-morrow.

The United States Weather Bureau reports that the river at St. Louis will continue to rise, and that it will be accompanied by the danger line during the next week.

Keokuk reports a rainfall of 1.25 in the last twenty-four hours. The heaviest rainfall along the river affecting the Mississippi was at Hannibal, where a downpour of 3 inches is reported. Kansas City reports 1.75 inches rainfall in the last twenty-four hours. Hermann, Mo., is experiencing a heavy rain, where 1.25 inches of rain fell in the last twenty-four hours.

If the rains along the Missouri Valley, Des Moines River and Illinois River keep on falling for twenty-four hours more at the same rate, they have been falling for the last twenty-four hours, the danger line will have been reached, and the outlets along the river front will be flooded with water.

Up to this time there is no report of the river having overflowed its banks at any place, but at all points where the Missouri River empties into the Mississippi the water is within a few inches of the danger line, and if the rains continue to fall in that section much damage will result from the inevitable overflow.

No damage has been reported along the river front at the present time, and the wharves along the river are rushing all their freight to places of safety. The large lumber piles that are usually stacked close to the water edge were moved back several feet yesterday.

As the water has passed 200 feet and has to add but three or four feet more to its volume until the danger line is reached, old rivermen are watching the gauge and studying the conditions carefully.

If the expected rise takes place within the next twenty-four hours great damage will be done up along the lumber districts in North St. Louis, where vast piles of lumber are stacked along the river front.

WATER IS NEARING THE RAILROAD TRACKS.

Thirty-one feet will put the water on the railroad tracks, and 31-2-3 feet will put the water over the levee.

The present high water is not occasioned by floods from the mountains, but from the heavy rains that are falling in Missouri, Iowa and Illinois. The rains along the Illinois River have been largely responsible for the high water, and the water at St. Louis. The Illinois empties into the Mississippi about thirty-five miles above St. Louis, and has been one of the chief offending rivers in all floods that have troubled the Mississippi.

Late reports show that the Missouri River is falling at Hannibal and a fall of 1-1/2 feet has been reported. At Hannibal, notwithstanding the heavy rains, a fall of 11-1/2 feet is reported.

At Kansas City Thursday a report of a fall of 2-1/2 feet gave the rivermen hope that the highest point had been reached, and that the river would begin to fall, but yesterday their hopes were shattered by a report of a rise of 2 feet.

Down below St. Louis, at the Harrisonville Bottoms, the inhabitants of that section are much wrought up over the rise, and many are moving farther into the country, as they fear their lands will be submerged in less than twenty-four hours.

A peculiar phase of the high water this year is the lateness of its arrival. Only once before in the past ten years has the high-water mark for the year been made in July. It usually occurs in May, and is generally caused by the floods in the tributaries of the Missouri. The highest water mark for the last ten years was made in 1892, when almost the entire eastern shore of the Mississippi fringing Illinois was submerged, and heavy crops were ruined.

The lowest high-water mark for the last ten years was reached in May, 1894, when the gauge registered but 23.3 for the high mark for that year.

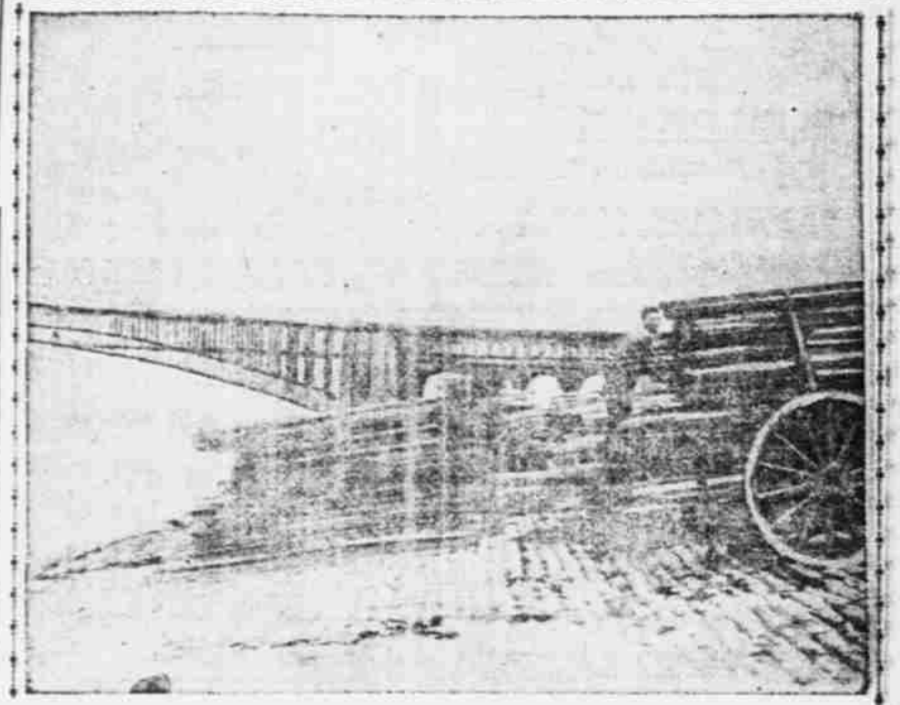
If the Missouri registers another fall within the next twenty-four hours the Mississippi and Illinois rivers will hardly be able to maintain the present high-water mark longer than Monday, and the crest will not reach twenty-seven feet.

River men believe that the river will commence to fall Monday, and all are confident that the railroad tracks will not be reached by the water, but if the river gains three-quarters of a foot more in volume, all the cellars along the levee will be flooded by the seepage.

Pleasure-seeking parties are not allowing the high water to affect their plans and the excursion boats are doing a thriving business. The Illinois City is the only launch on the river that is at all affected by the high condition of the river and the boat cannot pass under the Esds bridge.

Dresser Island, above Alton, and Mobile Island, just below Alton, are reported completely submerged.

Island Hunter Ben Jenkins of the Co-



LUMBER ON THE LEVEE IS BEING HAULED AWAY FROM THE ADVANCING LINE.

PASSENGER TRAIN SWITCHED ITSELF.

Unusual Accident That Befell a Crowd of Field Club Members.

RESULTS WERE NOT SERIOUS.

One Train Struck Another With Odd Results—A Switch Thrown by a Misplaced Iron Bar.

An upbound passenger train on the Burlington, well filled with passengers for the Field Club and the Chautauqua grounds above Alton, was strangely wrecked at a point not far from the northern city limits about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

In order to understand the details of the accident, one must know that the double-track roadway of the Burlington is intersected by two switches near the point of the upset. On one of the switches, to the east of the main track, there was a slow-moving freight train that was expected to follow out on the main track as soon as the passenger train had passed.

For a reason that is not entirely clear the freight train got to the switch before the passenger train had cleared, with the result that the freight engine bumped into the passenger coaches so sharply that some of the iron braces were torn from the under portions of the passenger coaches. Up to this time none of the cars was thrown from the track. Further up, as shown in the diagram, there is a second switch, this one running to the main track on the left. One of the iron bars that had been wrenched loose caught the switch bar at the side of the track, throwing it after the first track of the coach had passed on up the main track.

The second or rear tracks then ran up the switch to the left, with the rest of the train following along in a most orderly manner. The third coach, that is to say, the car that switched itself, was filled with Field Club members, who were much frightened, but not at all hurt. When the train finally came to a stand the fright of the passengers was increased by the discovery that the Mississippi River

CONDITIONS ARE ALARMING.

Mississippi Rises Eighteen Inches Higher at Hannibal.

Hannibal, Mo., July 19.—The river is still rising at this place and there seems to be no relief from the region waters in sight.

Every foot of rain on any island, 2000 acres in extent, will raise the water a few inches. The tenants have been compelled to abandon their homes and all of them are left in destitute circumstances.

Out of the great number of acres that have been submerged since the beginning of the crop on sixty acres is all that was saved.

Some cattle, hogs and other live stock are still on the island, but they will be taken off in barges to-morrow. Captain Board of the steamer Ida Mae has volunteered his boat and crew to remove all the live stock from the island, and by this means it is hoped that the cattle could be saved.

There is one vast sea of water from the mouth of the bay to West Quincy, and the water is rising. The river to-night is still rising and a rise of 18 inches more is expected.

BOTTOM LANDS FLOODED.

Situation Grows Rapidly Worse Near Burlington, Ia.

Burlington, Ia., July 19.—The flood situation is rapidly growing worse, and the high water has been reached, and the Mississippi will overflow.

Heavy rain struck Burlington about 7:30 last night, and all the smaller streams being bank full of back water, the rise from last night's rain will doubtless cause the water to overflow all the bottom lands, which is estimated over one inch high.

The bottom lands are so soft that anything outside cannot get into them, nor can even waves get in to haul the crop away.

The spy levee is still safe, but the river is now at the danger point on the Elsieberg levee, which protects 15,000 acres of very fine crops and on the levee opposite Wainwright, which protects several thousand more acres.

Cuivre River at Old Monroe is high, but it is believed danger is over on that stream. The farmer on the stream was gathering roasting ears in a sack to-day.

RIVER EIGHT MILES WIDE.

Great Damage in and About Quincy, Illinois.

STREET STREWN WITH BLOOD FROM FIGHT

Harry Minor, Traveling Man, Sustains Scalp Wound and a Broken Collarbone.

RESULTS WERE NOT SERIOUS.

CROWD OF THOUSAND GATHERS

Charles Minor, Scenic Painter, Brother of Wounded Man, and J. D. Jones Released on Bond.



HARRY MINOR.

Traveling man of Chicago, who was seriously wounded in street fight on Washington avenue last night.

A fight between Harry Minor, a traveling man of Chicago, his brother, Charles Minor, who says he is a scenic painter and lives on Olive street, and a man giving his name as James D. Jones occurred in Washington avenue, opposite the Lindell Hotel, shortly after 6 o'clock last night. Harry Minor sustained serious scalp wounds and a broken collar bone, and the other men suffered slight bruises.

The difficulty arose at the time the street is filled with crowds going home from work, and probably a thousand persons gathered before officers could arrest the men and get them off the avenue.

It appears that Harry Minor, who travels for a Chicago scenic painting concern, met the man who gives his name as Jones yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock.

At 5:30 Charles Minor came to the Lindell Hotel to see his brother, who stopped there, and learned that he was across the street in Dickman's saloon, on Washington, just west of Sixth street. He went over to bring him out, and the trouble started.

The three men talked together and finally got into a dispute. Jones took exception to some remark of Charles Minor, and Harry sided with his brother.

Jones claims that Harry struck him twice over the head with an umbrella, before he offered resistance. Minor denies this, and says it was an accident caused by his struggle in trying to get his brother out of the place.

When the three men reached the sidewalk they were engaged in a fierce fist fight, the two brothers against the other man.

Jones is a large, well-built man. He gave Harry Minor a blow which sent him to the ground.

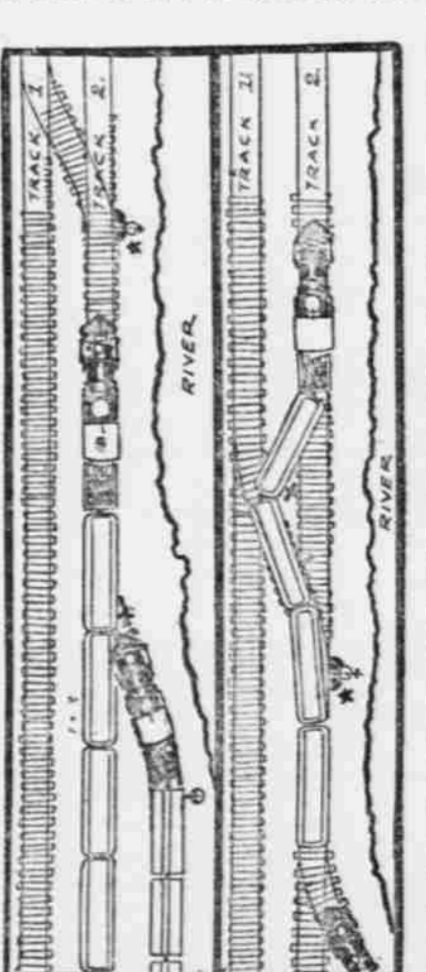
Minor's head struck the corner of a paving stone, which cut a gash in his scalp about three inches long. This wound bled copiously and caused great excitement of the crowd, most persons thinking the man had been killed.

Blood was spattered about on the pavement across the street car tracks.

Officer Thomas McGrath placed the men under arrest and sent in a call for an ambulance and police.

Officer Appleby of the Fourth District and Officer John McCormick of the Central District responded, and all three men, along with Owen Collins of No. 221 Ellendale avenue, a witness, were taken to the City Hospital. Here Harry Minor's wounds were dressed. He was held a prisoner at the hospital. Charles Minor and Jones were taken to the Four Courts and later released on bonds by Senator John P. Collins.

At 10:20 o'clock a well-dressed man called at the Central District Station and asked to see the man arrested on the charge of having assaulted Minor. When questioned by Sergeant Noite, he stated that the man's right name was William Edwards, and that he had been stopping for several months at the Planter Hotel. He said Edwards represented an Eastern shutter company, and had contracts for equipping some of the new buildings in course of construction with shutters.



Star indicates the switch which was thrown by accident.

was but a few feet distant on the left. Had the train taken the other side of the road the story might have been different.

Among those on the train were: Osborn Van Brunt, chief clerk Burlington route; Judge and Mrs. Everett Patton, D. O. Ives, general freight agent of the Burlington; J. H. Hoskins of the Hoskins-Ross Manufacturing Company; Edmund A. Galentine, manager of the Prudential Life Insurance Company; Major Alfred Q. Kenner, United States Army; Harry Hayward and Doctor Mark Ewing.

Continued on Page Two.