

## AWFUL PANIC

### Brought Death to Nearly 100 Baptists.

### Door and Aisles of a Big Church Strewn With the Dead.

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 20.—Of those killed in last night's stampede of people at the Shiloh Negro Baptist church, while Booker T. Washington was addressing the National Baptist convention, only about 40 bodies have been identified. Almost all the identified dead are local residents, while those not yet claimed are strangers and came here from various parts of the United States as delegates to the convention.

Immense crowds surrounded the undertaking shops in an endeavor to identify the unknown dead. Intense indignation is shown by delegates to the convention against the negro who started the fight in the gallery, which led to the excitement afterward, resulting in a panic, and steps may be taken to prosecute him.

Reports from hospitals this morning say that about a dozen of the injured will die. It is impossible to ascertain just how many were injured, as many were taken to private homes because of a lack of accommodations at the hospitals. This morning the death list stands at 80.

The catastrophe occurred at 9 o'clock just as Booker T. Washington had concluded his address to the national convention of Baptists, and for three hours the scenes around the church were indescribable. Dead bodies were strewn in every direction, and the ambulance service of the city was utterly unable to move them until after midnight. Dozens of dead bodies were arranged in rows on the ground outside the church, while more than a score were laid out on the benches inside.

The church is the largest church for negroes in Birmingham and the pastor says that at least 2,000 persons were in the building when the stampede began. Instructions had been issued to allow no more to enter, but the negroes forced their way inside the building and were standing in every aisle; even the entrance to the church being literally packed.

Just as Booker T. Washington concluded his address, Judge Billou, a negro lawyer from Baltimore, engaged in an altercation with the choir leader concerning an unoccupied seat, and it is said, a blow was struck. Some one in the choir cried "They're fighting." Mistaking the word "fighting" for "fire," the congregation rose en masse and started for the doors. One of the ministers quickly mounted the rostrum and urged the people to keep quiet.

He repeated the word "quiet" several times and motioned his hearers to be seated. The excited congregation mistook the word "quiet" for "fire" and renewed the struggle to reach the doors. Men and women crawled over benches, fought their way into the aisles, and those who had fallen were trampled upon. The ministers tried again and again to stop the stampede, but no power on earth could stay the struggling, fighting mass of humanity. The screams of women and children added to the horror of the scene and through mere fright many persons fainted, and as they fell to the floor, were crushed to death.

The level of the floor is about 15 feet from the ground and long steps lead to the sidewalk from the lobby just outside the main auditorium. Brick walls extend on each side of

these steps for six or seven feet, and this place proved a veritable death-trap. Negroes who had reached the top of the steps were pushed violently forward and many fell. Before they could move others fell upon them and in 15 minutes persons were piled upon each other to a height of ten feet. This mass of struggling humanity blocked the entrance and the weight of 1,500 persons was pushed against the steps underneath the heap of bodies died from suffocation.

Two white men who were in the rear of the church when the rush began, escaped and realizing the seriousness of the situation, rushed to a corner near by and turned in a fire alarm. The department came quickly and the arrival of the wagons served to scatter the crowd which had gathered around the front of the church. A squad of policemen also hastened to the church and, with the firemen, finally succeeded in releasing the negroes from their pinioned positions in the entrance. The dead bodies were quickly removed and the crowd inside, finding an outlet, came pouring out. Scores of them lost their footing and rolled down the long steps to the pavement, sustaining broken limbs and internal injuries.

In an hour the church had been practically cleared and the sight which greeted the eyes of those who came to aid the injured was sickening. Down the aisles and along the outside of the pews the dead bodies of men and women were strewn and the cries of the maimed and crippled were heartrending. In a few minutes the work of removing the bodies was begun.

The Shiloh church is located just on the edge of the fashionable residence section of the city, and all the physicians living in that part of town went to the assistance of the injured. As many of the suffering negroes as could be moved by the ambulances were taken to hospitals and the rest were laid out on the ground and there the physicians attended them. At least 15 of the injured died before they could be moved from the ground.

During the stampede Booker T. Washington and several prominent negroes were on the stage and were unwilling witnesses to the frightful catastrophe. None of those in the choir or in the pulpit was injured in the least. For a few minutes they attempted to restore order, but seeing their efforts were futile, they waited until the struggling crowd had advanced far enough for them to pick up the dead and injured.

Most of the dead are women, and the physicians say that in many cases they fainted and died from suffocation. A remarkable feature of the calamity is that no blood was seen on any of the victims. They were either crushed or died from suffocation.

At 10:30 o'clock reports from hospitals showed that ten persons injured in last night's panic had died during the night and early morning. Bodies of several dead have also been found at homes in the neighborhood of the scene of the disaster. This runs the total number of dead close to 100, as 75 bodies were taken to undertaking shops during the night. Investigation shows that no white persons were killed, but several who had gone out to hear Booker Washington were injured.

### The Y. M. C. A. Secretary to Begin Work Here October 15

Mr. R. G. Hooper, of Montclair, N. J., has been chosen secretary for the Y. M. C. A. Mr. Hooper will arrive in Akron about Oct. 15, and will begin work at once. Plans will be received from different Y. M. C. A. associations for

a building. Mr. Hooper will solicit more funds and a \$65,000 building will be erected instead of a \$40,000 one as was first proposed. A site will soon be elected and South Main st. is said to have a bright chance of winning it.

### "YOU NEEDN'T COME HOME."

Max Weeks' Parents Tell Local Police They Don't Want Him.

Max Weeks, aged 15, who, when arrested for eluding to a moving train Friday, told the officers his home was in Union City, Pa., and said that he was on his way out west to make his fortune, is evidently not very badly wanted by his parents. Max was held by the Akron police while his parents were notified of his whereabouts. Saturday morning, a telegram from the boy's father came to Chief Durkin, instructing him to release the boy and let him go where he wishes.

This ended the responsibility of the Akron police in the matter and Weeks was released.

### NOW IN AKRON. Headquarters For All the French Lines Established Here.

Headquarters for all the C. W. French railway companies are now located in Akron. The offices of Mr. French and Secretary V. A. Dehnel have been removed here during the past week, and hereafter all the office business of the company will be conducted in this city. The headquarters were formerly in Mansfield, the home of Mr. French.

By October 1, it has been announced that cars will be running on the N. O. T. line over the Johnston section of the Boulevard by Oct. 1.



He's Glad to Get His Book Back, If There Is Nothing In It.

### HOME From European Trip.

President O. C. Barber, of the Diamond Match Co., arrived at his home in this city Saturday, at noon, after a nine-weeks' trip of inspection through Europe. He inspected all the European plants of the Diamond Match Co., and reports them in flourishing condition.

He arrived in New York Wednesday, and on Thursday and Friday presided at meetings of directors of the Diamond Match Co., which had been called to discuss matters pertaining to his European trip.

Mr. Barber said Saturday that he was feeling tired, as he had had very little opportunity for rest during his trip and was obliged to work very hard while in New York. "I expect to spend several days here resting up," he said Saturday. "For the time being, I am too tired to discuss the details of my trip, but will have something to say within a few days."

### Devery Objects to the Elevation Of Murphy as Tammany's Leader

New York, Sept. 20.—There is a pretty pickle growing in the political pot of Tammany hall. At a meeting of the Tammany Hall Executive committee yesterday afternoon Chas. F. Murphy was elevated to the leadership and Bill Devery's claim was referred to the Committee on Credentials, it having been charged that the ex-chief had been elected by means of bribery and fraud. The inner circles say Devery is as good as turned down. When the "best chief" heard that his claim had been tabled, he delivered himself volubly.

"When three of 'em couldn't run the machine, how can one of the lobsterheads do it now? And the one that has the least brains. Why, Murphy ain't but a figurehead for Croker in England. I'd like to get the names and addresses of every delegate to the state convention. When I get all of the names and addresses, I'll invite 'em all to hear me speak. I'll go up to Saratoga and I'll hire the biggest hall there, and then they can ask me any questions they want to about the local situation here or about me and I'll answer 'em. And when I get through they will believe me and not the other fellows."

### COAL FROM WALES

To Heat the Schools of a New York Town.

Yonkers, N. Y., Sept. 20.—The Board of Education of this city, through its president, Chas. Phillip Easton, a New York lawyer, has decided to import enough coal from Wales to heat the schools in the winter. The local coal dealers refused to put in bids for supplying the schools. It is said that there is not enough coal in the city to heat the schools one month.

### HE SAID HE WAS GOING HOME

And the Mayor Sent Him to the Workhouse.

"Ah'm goin' back whah Ah wuz raised at," explained William Quinn, colored, to the Mayor, in Police court Saturday morning. Quinn was arrested and charged with intoxication, and when he was arraigned and his name was called, it was hard for the Mayor to believe that his name could be Quinn, for he was the blackest man who has been in Police court for months. When he was arrested he was wandering about North Howard st., intoxicated, and complaints were made that he was insulting and frightening women. The Mayor imposed a sentence of \$2 and costs and 30 days.

### Leased Youngstown Theatre.

Messrs. Frank Burt, of Toledo, and T. K. Albaugh, of the Grand Opera House, Akron, have secured a 5-year lease on the Youngstown Opera House and took possession Friday. The house will be in the Toledo-Akron circuit.

### WELCH Will be Chief at the Fair.

Officer Harry Welch will have charge of the special police at the County fair this year. About 40 specials will be appointed and placed under his direction, and for two or three days they will be drilled in the work that they are to do. Officer Welch has a partial list of the names of those who will serve under him, and he will complete the list soon. Many of those who served last year will be reappointed.

The special police work at the fair is paid for by the Summit County Agricultural society. One officer from the regular force is hired and the rest are made up of citizens appointed by the Commissioners and sworn in by the Mayor for the occasion. The fences will be watched closely this year and an effort made to keep the best of order.

### CHEMICAL Laboratory In the College.

Expected to Erect It Next Year.

Plans Have Been Drawn by Herbert Briggs.

It is expected that before the opening of another college year Buchtel college will have a chemical laboratory building that will be second to that of no other college in the state. Plans for the building have been drawn by Architect Herbert Briggs, of Cleveland. The structure will be located at the east end of the campus just south of the observatory building. It will be 45,000 feet, two stories high and will be constructed of brick. Special attention will be given to the interior furnishing.

A considerable sum of money has been pledged for the building and it is very probable that President Church of the college will devote a considerable portion of his time this winter to securing additional funds for the building. A number of the friends of the college have stated that they would rather give money for the erection of a chemical laboratory than for the general fund. The erection of a chemical laboratory building is considered very timely as special stress is laid upon the scientific course at Buchtel, which is second to that of no college in the state.

The new building will add to the group of buildings that will ultimately be erected on the campus at Buchtel. It will have a large laboratory for first year students in chemistry, lecture rooms, a chemistry library and reading room, and a number of other rooms that are required for work in chemistry. It could not be learned what the proposed building will cost as Architect Briggs has not yet submitted his figures.

### WESLEY Remembered at M. E. Conference.

A Good Report Made For the Akron District.

Cambridge, O., Sept. 20.—Friday was the anniversary of the ordination of John Wesley, and Bishop Warren, presiding at the East Ohio M. E. conference, held a solemn and impressive service in honor of the event. A picture of Wesley, draped in the American flag occupied a conspicuous place on the rostrum.

The following were ordained as deacons: T. C. Strahl, Plainfield; W. B. West, Armstrong's Mills; W. A. Kimbly, Berlin Center; C. M. Porter, Kimbly; R. M. Ball, Negley; M. J. Neuta, Cleveland; W. H. Stewart, Gilmore; E. S. Baker, West Virginia, O. All of these, with the exception of Messrs. Ball, Neuta, and Baker, were ordained by N. W. Stroup, of Cleveland; M. F. Ramsberger, Centenary; A. L. Nixon, Collinwood, and A. E. Yeager, of Berne, were received into full membership of the conference.

Presiding Elder J. W. Robbins reported for the Akron district, with over 500 conversions as part of the results. More than the apportionments for benevolences were reported in many charges.

### IN PUEBLO

### Death Came to Dr. H. A. Armstrong.

Word was received in Akron, Friday, telling of the death of Dr. H. A. Armstrong, formerly of this city, who died at Pueblo, Col., Friday night, of typhoid fever. Dr. Armstrong had a host of Akron friends. He was the son of Dr. and Mrs. A. M. Armstrong, of this city. He was born Oct. 27, 1861, at Medina, O., and came to Akron with his parents at the age of six.

He was graduated from the Akron High school and from Ann Arbor college. After that he practiced in different parts of the West for several years as surgeon for the Santa Fe railway, and returned to Akron in 1894, where he remained for four years and then, because of ill health, he was forced to seek a milder climate. He removed to La Junta, Col., which was his home up until the time of his death.

He was married to Miss May Foote, of Pueblo, Col., in 1880, and leaves one child. During his residence in Akron, Dr. Armstrong resided on North Hill.

THE WEATHER: UNSETTLED WEATHER TONIGHT AND SUNDAY; POSSIBLY SHOWERS.

### RESPECTED And Aged Lady Died Saturday Morning.

Mrs. Mary J. Simpson, aged 88 years, died Saturday morning at the home of her son, Mr. Edward G. Simpson, 126 Bowery. The cause of death was exhausted, and Mrs. Simpson's last illness was of six weeks' duration. She had been a resident of Akron for 29 years and was widely respected. The funeral services will be held at the residence of E. G. Simpson, 126 Bowery st., Monday at 2:30 p.m. The remains will then be taken to Berea, O., for interment.

### PASSED

### Calmly to the Great Beyond.

Andrew J. McNeil, aged 78 years, one of the best known and most popular citizens of Akron, died at his home, 122 South Broadway, at 11:30 Saturday morning, of a complication of diseases. He had been ill six months, and though he rallied slightly at times, it was realized some time ago by his relatives that he was near the end.

At midnight Friday night he began to grow worse and his death was expected almost momentarily until the end came at noon.

Andrew J. McNeil was born at Black Rock, N. Y., and came to Akron when 21 years of age. He had made his home here ever since, working first in a grocery, then as a cooper and later for James and John Christy, with whom he remained for 14 years.

Under the administration of W. B. Gamble as Sheriff, Mr. McNeil was made court bailiff, in which capacity he served efficiently nearly ten years. In 1856 he was married to Miss Martha Boardman, of this city, who died some years later.

Mr. McNeil was a member of Buckley Post, which will have charge of the funeral to take place from the residence, at 2:30 p.m., Tuesday. For the past ten years Mr. McNeil, who had no immediate relatives in Akron, resided with Mr. W. B. Gamble and family. Mrs. Gamble was his sister-in-law.

### Erie Time Card Changed.

A slight change has been made in the time of Erie passenger trains. The changes: Eastbound—No. 14 left 2:55 a.m., now 2:30 a.m.; No. 8 left 8:54 a.m., now 8:50 a.m.; No. 4 left 8:55 p.m., now 8:45 p.m. Westbound—No. 7 left 6:50 p.m., now 7 p.m.; No. 107 left 8:38 p.m., now 8:23 p.m. The changes take effect tomorrow.

### HARD COAL MEANS "MONEY TO BURN."

It is almost certain that there will be a marked scarcity of coal in Akron and in fact throughout the country this winter, though local coal dealers are somewhat unwilling to admit that such will be the condition. All the Akron dealers maintain that they have had no difficulty thus far in filling orders for soft coal, though they admit that it is scarcer now than is usual at this time of the year. Anthracite coal is not in the market at any price in Akron now, and though some of the dealers have a limited quantity on hand, orders have been placed for all of it. Inquiry at a number of places Friday failed to discover any anthracite, and dealers seemed to be unwilling to state the market price of this very valuable commodity.

"It is impossible to set an accurate price," was the general answer of dealers. "Coal fluctuates a great deal according to the size of the supply on hand, and if we were to set a price now, it might be far from accurate by the time we have some to sell."

Another reason for reticence among coal dealers was well expressed when, in response to a question from a reporter about the supply, this answer came: "What are you trying to do? Do you want to make a scare, so the people will be putting in gas?" It has only been very recently that coal dealers have regarded the competition of the gas companies in Akron as of sufficient seriousness to warrant attention.

There has been no especial trouble in the soft coal fields of late, and any special scarcity of soft coal is attributed by Akron dealers generally to a congestion of railway traffic and a consequent shortage of cars. The last two years have been the biggest and busiest in railway history, and railway officials admit that they can not hope to keep up with the industrial growth of the country with their present facilities. Experts in railway matters everywhere are puzzling their heads to find methods of increasing the carrying powers of the different roads, and until they succeed in this, cars will continue to become scarcer and scarcer, coal will be short and the prices demanded for it will be greater.

### Clarence Seese Put a Bad Highwayman to Flight

Clarence Seese, agent of the Adams Express company, at Hudson, was the victim late Thursday night of a bold attempt at highway robbery. The young man's bravery, however, baffled his assailants, and to this fact he owes his life.

At 9:30 o'clock Mr. Seese closed his office and started for his home a short distance from the town, the journey requiring him to pass along a rather lonely road. Several nights of late he had suspected that he was being followed, and had armed himself for whatever emergency might arise. As he was walking along the road a man stepped from behind a tree and commanded that he hold up his hands, at the same time pointing a gun at his head and beginning to fire. The young agent threw one hand into the air and with the other drew forth a revolver and

### COLONIAL Sign Co. Has Been Organized.

H. B. Camp Is at the Head.

Invention of Two Akron Young Men To Be Exploited.

The Colonial Sign Co., capitalized at \$25,000, has been organized in Akron with the following officers: H. B. Camp, president; George P. Good, vice president; C. R. Quine, secretary; J. Ed. Good, treasurer, and G. D. Chapman, general manager. The company will engage in the manufacture of porcelain letter electric signs, of which Messrs. Quine and Chapman are the inventors and patentees. The porcelain letters, which are the distinctive feature of the work to be done by this company, have been subjected to all sorts of tests and the following claims are made for them:

They retain a permanent color. They are perfectly waterproof, the cost of operating is said to be reduced, and the letters are said to be practically indestructible.

The general offices of the company will be located in Akron, and the factory is now in course of construction at Barborton. The letters and signs will be on the market in a short time.

### WARM WELCOME

Given President Roosevelt in the Queen City.

Cincinnati, Sept. 20.—President Roosevelt was received here today by vast crowds and the whole city gave itself up to the holiday. At the 8, Nicholas the President spent a couple of hours in welcoming old friends and making new ones. After lunch, he was taken to the Fall festival, where after a visit to the midway and other attractions, he addressed the Business Men's association at Music Hall. A formal dinner with 400 covers, will be given at 6 o'clock. The President will speak at Music Hall this evening.

Cigars For Sawyer.

The great fight of Councilman Sawyer at the special meeting of Council Wednesday evening won him many admirers. Among them are Messrs. M. S. Long, W. L. Curtis and W. W. McIntosh, and these gentlemen to show their admiration sent Mr. Sawyer a box of fine cigars.



CHAR. E. MURPHY