

CONDITION OF FIREMEN GRAVE

Men Injured Friday Are Reported "About the Same."

Department Is Slowly Recovering From Wreck When Truck Crashed Into Street Car.

George Spittle, W. F. Simpson and James Morris, the three members of the Fifth street fire station most seriously injured shortly after noon Friday when a fire truck crashed into a street car at the corner of Park avenue and South Boulevard, were all reported "about the same" Saturday night, when inquiries as to their condition were made.

Spittle and Simpson are at the Presbyterian Hospital, and although their condition has remained practically unchanged since they were rushed there following the accident, attending physicians and hospital attendants say that their condition is grave.

Fireman James Morris, who was severely bruised about the head and body, was said to be resting easy at the home of his mother on East Fourth street, although his condition is also serious.

The seven other members of the department who were on the big truck at the time the collision took place, were all able to be out Saturday, although it will be several days before they can report for duty.

What was left of the truck, following the accident, was towed to central headquarters Saturday morning. From the opinion of expert mechanics, it will be impossible to repair the truck, and would cost approximately as much as a new one.

Expert Coming.
An expert from the American-Le-France agency in Atlanta, Ga., will arrive in the city Monday and make a thorough examination of the wreck, and then report to Chief J. H. Wentz on whether it will be possible for it to be repaired. His word will be taken as final in the matter and if the truck can be repaired, it will be immediately placed in the shop. If it cannot, the city will take steps at once to fill its place.

Although no announcement has been made of the action to be taken by the city authorities on the wreck, it is thought that there will be a meeting of the executive board either Monday or Tuesday to take some action in the matter.

Chief J. H. Wentz and every other member of the department has taken occasion to praise Fireman Robert Barnes, who was driving the truck at the time of the accident for the cool headness and nerve which he displayed.

Endangered Own Life.
Instead of losing his head and attempting to sidewise the car, which might have killed every man on the left side and rear, Barnes endangered his own life in his hands and hit the street car head-on.

Under the direction of Chief Wentz, the department has assumed its routine work, and although slightly the worse for wear and tear, it is thought to be able to cope with the situation of protecting Charlotte until the men can get back on duty and the broken apparatus replaced.

Although it may be several days before the outcome of the worst injuries can be known, everything possible is being done for the men and friends and relatives are hopeful that the efforts of physicians and hospital attendants will not fail.

Simpson holds the rank of captain in the department, having been moved from the command of the Dilworth station several months ago. Spittle, who is chief mechanic for the department, also holds the rank of captain, and is one of the most valued members of the department.

Morris is one of the youngest members of the department, but is efficient and popular. He has been in the service of the city for several years and has earned quite a reputation as a fire fighter.

CITY IS BEGINNING TO TALK MUSIC FESTIVAL
President Charles A. Bland, of Musical Festival Association, Promises Definite Announcements in Near Future.

Dr. Charles A. Bland, director of the Grand Opera Music Festival Association, of Charlotte, is preparing to announce during the early part of the week plans to be inaugurated at once to start the campaign to assure the success of the big Spring Festival in May.

Managers for the work will be secured and a publicity campaign immediately inaugurated for the purpose of acquainting music lovers of the surrounding towns and communities of the big feature and what it is to mean to the Piedmont section of the Carolinas.

When residents of this section of the State realize they are going to see such artists as Martinielli, Anna Case and Schumann-Heink in concert here, Doctor Bland predicts a rush for tickets which will more than pack the Academy of Music for each of the performances to be given.

Enough guarantors have already been secured for the big venture to insure the positive success and the possibility of making the festival an annual event on a larger scale each year that it is held.

HALF NEGRO POPULATION CAN PLAY HARMONICAS
Manager Asheville Auditorium Wanted Negro Troupe and He Got It.

Special to The Observer.
Asheville, Feb. 17.—Dan Michalove, manager of the Auditorium, had the time of his young life here this morning trying to convince about half the male colored population of Asheville that he was not seeking a whole company of "midnight blondes."

Mr. Michalove's trouble came about through a request of a theatrical man who passed through here recently and heard a group of negroes playing "Memphis Blues" on harmonicas. The theatrical man wrote back to Mr. Michalove, asking him to obtain the names of the six negroes that rendered the "Blues" so effectively, stating that he wished to use them in a revue he is planning.

Mr. Michalove confided his troubles to a reporter, the reporter wrote a story regarding the desire to interview the negroes, and Mr. Michalove found out this morning that over 50 per cent of the negro male population of Asheville can play a harmonica. He is waiting for the theatrical man to return and make his own selections.

PROMINENT CITIZEN DIES AFTER PROLONGED ILLNESS
E. S. Steele Passed Away Saturday Afternoon—Funeral to Be Held Today.

Ell Springs Steele, a well-known resident of this city, died Saturday at his home on Tenth avenue at 5:30 o'clock, following an extensive illness. He had been in poor health for the past four years and had been falling gradually since November. His condition had been critical since Tuesday. Death was due to Bright's disease, with complications.

Mr. Steele was a native of Charlotte and spent practically his entire life here. He was born February 23, 1851, and would have been 66 years of age on Friday of this week. His father, Dr. Abram C. Steele, was a prominent physician of this city. His mother, prior to her marriage, was Miss Catherine Virginia Springs.

For a number of years, Mr. Steele was local agent for the Charlotte and Lincolnville Railway, and was afterwards with the Southern Railway freight department as chief clerk. Later he was cashier for the old Charlotte Gas Lighting Company, and with the purchase of this concern by the Charlotte Consolidated Construction Company, went with the new corporation in a similar capacity. With the sale of the 4 C's plant to the Duke interests, he continued his cashiership. Some four years ago, falling vision caused his resignation and permanent retirement from active business.

Mr. Steele was married February 5, 1875, to Miss Bettie W. Adams, of Charlotte, who survives, in addition to three sons and one daughter. These are E. S. Steele, Jr., of San Juan, Porto Rico; Leroy A. Steele, of Cavala, Macedonia; Abram C. Steele, of Spartanburg, S. C.; and Mrs. Armada de Rossett Myers of Charlotte. Mrs. David Parks Hutchison, of Charlotte, a sister, also survives, as do six grandchildren: Armand de Rossett Myers, J. R., of Raleigh and Abram C. Steele, J. R., Agnes, Betty, and L. C. Steele, Jr., the children of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Steele, of Spartanburg.

The funeral services will be held this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock from the First Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Steele had been a deacon for many years, and will be conducted by the pastor, Rev. D. H. Rolston. The pallbearers will be: George Rose, John M. Scott, George Brockenbrough, J. L. Chambers, J. O. Thomas and W. R. Burwell. The interment will be in Elmwood.

STOP CATARRH! OPEN NOSTRILS AND HEAD
Says Cream Applied in Nostrils Relieves Head-Colds at Once.

If your nostrils are clogged and your head is stuffed and you can't breathe freely because of a cold or catarrh, just get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Balm at any drug store. Apply a little of this fragrant anti-septic cream into your nostrils and let it penetrate through every air passage of your head, soothing and heal the inflamed, swollen mucous membrane and you get instant relief.

Ah! how good it feels. Your nostrils are open and your head is clear, no more hawking, sniffing, blowing, no more headache, dizziness or struggling for breath. Ely's Cream Balm is just what sufferers from head colds and catarrh need. It's a delight.

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HITS THE SPOT SAFE ABSOLUTELY 5c AT FOUNTAINS 10c, 20c AND 50c BOTTLES

Some folks' ideas of doing things is like taking the cork out of a bottle by pushing it in. Well?

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A young couple to the altar one of the most important things needed is the wedding ring. It is the symbol of union and happiness. Our seamless wedding rings will meet every requirement. They are especially made for us and the makers as well as ourselves guarantee their quality.

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TEMPORARY SALESROOM:
208 South Tryon Street.

WEATHER IS ANYTHING BUT HEALTH PROMOTER
"Now You See It and Now You Don't," Is Way Mercury of Official Thermometers Has Behaved of Late.

Those who are authorities on weather conditions and the way in which they relate to health, admit that the siege of varying weather, which Charlotte has experienced in the last several days, is anything but conducive to the best physical condition of a community.

Following several severe cold waves has come a season of warmth, accompanied by showers and actions on the part of official thermometers much the same as the "now you see it and now you don't" tricks on the part of circus performers.

Saturday the thermometer started off in the region of the forties, rose during the day to 50 degrees and then started receding until the 40-degree level had again been reached. The forecast for today is "fair and warmer," and according to that forecast Charlotte should enjoy a pretty Sunday, although rains are on their way here for the forepart of next week, according to the meteorologist.

Wise buys get a lot of free instructions from books. You said sumpin'.

Since 1868 the Home of Good Shoes
Remarkable Price Reductions
On High Grade Footwear
Monday Morning, February 19th, Doors Open at 9 O'clock.

When we consider the unusual situation that prevails in the leather market today and the abnormally high prices of good shoes, this clearance assumes an importance to those who wish to save—that is without a parallel. It includes all our discontinued lines and surplus stock and presents an opportunity for you to profit on your footwear that may never again be possible.

Lot 1—200 pairs that sold regularly at \$3.50 to \$5 For **\$1.85** complete disposal



Lot 3—100 pairs that sold regularly at \$7.00 and \$10, two tone greys, two-tone tans, grey tops with black vamps, dark tan button. For complete disposal **\$4.85**

Lot 2—450 pairs that sold regularly at \$5.00 to \$7.00, including patent button, dull and cloth tops. Patent lace in grey and brown cloth tops. Dull button, black kid lace and bronze lace. For complete disposal **\$2.85**

Lot 4—One lot of 200 pairs Men's Fine Shoes in tan, black calf and patent, regular \$5.00 to \$7.00 Shoes. Sale price per pair **\$4.00**



Not all sizes in all styles, but all sizes in all lots.
NOTE—Kindly exercise care in selections as during sale no goods are returnable or sent on approval. "ALL SALE GOODS STRICTLY CASH."

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