

## 70 CHILDREN DIE IN A FIRE School Building Burns and Children Die By Scores in Utter Helplessness

### DEATH AT SCHOOL HOUSE

Firemen Cut Off by the Fiery  
Flames That Raged Below Them,  
The Little Ones Are Incinerated  
Almost Within Reach of Safety.

Cleveland, O., Special.—Panned in narrow hallways, jammed up against the walls, the children of the school building at North Collinswood Wednesday morning were killed by fire, by smoke and by the grinding heels of their panicked playmates.

The awful tragedy occurred Wednesday morning in the public school at North Collinswood, 10 miles east of Cleveland. At 10 o'clock Wednesday 165 corpses were in the morgue at Collinswood, six children were still accounted for and all the hospitals were full of children, some comatose and many less seriously injured.

All of the victims were between the ages of 6 and 15 years. The school contained between 310 and 325 pupils, and of this entire number only eight are known to have left the building unhurt. It will be several days before the exact number killed is known as the ruins may still contain other bodies and the list of fatalities may be increased by a number of deaths among the children as they are now lying in the hospitals waiting between life and death.

### Only One Fire Escape.

The schoolhouse was of brick, two stories and an attic in height. The number of pupils was more than a normal large, and the smaller children had been placed in the upper part of the building. There was but one fire escape and that was in the rear of the building. There were two stairways, one leading to a door in front, and the other to a door in the rear. Both of these doors opened inward, and it is claimed the rear door was locked as well.

When the flames were discovered the teachers with their pupils seemed to have acted with courage and self-possession and to have struggled heroically for the safety of their pupils, marshaling the little ones into "fire drills," which they had practiced.

Fortunately the line of march in the exercise had always led to the rear door and the children had not been trained to seek any other exit. The fire came from a furnace situated directly under this part of the building. When the children reached the foot of the stairs they found the flames close upon them, and so swift was the fire that for the most part it was made for the door that in an instant a tightly packed mass of children was piled up against it. From that second none of those who were on any portion of the first flight of stairs had a chance for their lives. The children at the front of the stairs attempted to fight their way back to the floor above, while those who were coming down shoved them mercilessly back into the flames below. In an instant there was a frightful panic with hundreds of the pupils fighting for their lives. Most of those who were killed died here. The greater part of those who escaped managed to run back and reached the fire escape and the windows in the rear.

Approximately 300 children attended the school, which had nine rooms.

### Scores of Freight Conductors Laid Off by Southern.

Asheville, Special.—On account of decrease in business on the Asheville division of the Southern it is learned here that within a week 50 freight conductors have been laid off. It is said that not for years has business in the division been as slack as at present.

### Serious Labor Troubles Threatened in England.

London, By Cable.—Serious labor troubles still are threatened in the Lancashire cotton trade and among the engineers on the northeast coast. Cottons were posed threatening a lockout of 30,000 cotton operatives in the Colne and Nelson districts, while the engineers who have been involved in the recent ship building strike along the Tyne rejected by a large majority the compromise effected with the employers by David Lloyd-George president of the board of trade.

### Locomotive Explodes.

Roberta, Ga., Special.—Engine No. 28 on train No. 61, Southern railway exploded at Champton, two miles below here at 8 o'clock Wednesday morning. Engineer Charles O'Neill, of Fort Valley, was scalded and internally injured and will die. Two negro brakemen were scalded, one fatally. The engine and four freights were a complete wreck. The truck is now for a hundred yards.

## BURIAL OF FIRE VICTIMS

Mutterings Against the Janitor Could Be Heard on Every Side, The Grief-Crazed Parents Forgetting That the Janitor Himself Walked Behind a Hearse Containing Three of His Loved Ones.

Cleveland, O., Special.—Collinswood Friday came to a full realization of her woe. Slowly and solemnly the processions of death began to wend their way toward the cemeteries, bearing the battered and charred remains of some of the hundred and sixty-seven children whose lives were snuffed out in Wednesday morning's catastrophe in the Lakeview school. From 9 o'clock in the morning until dusk there was no cessation in the funeral corteges. Those who had no dead to mourn as a personal loss stood in the streets with bare heads as the grim processions passed. There was scarcely a dry eye in Collinswood. One of the sad funerals was that of the three children of Janitor Hirter, held jointly with the services for three other little ones.

### Talk Against Janitor.

Mutterings against the janitor could be heard about the village as grief-crazed parents sought vengeance upon which to wreak vengeance, forgetting as they did that Hirter himself was walking with bowed head and broken-hearted behind the biers of three of his loved ones. A detail of police was placed about the Hirter home when the hour of the funeral came. Fully five hundred people had gathered, but when the coffin was carried to the doorway the crowd spread and opened the way for them without protest or expression of hostility.

Altogether there were 50 burials Friday and Saturday the grewsome task was repeated. Sunday will witness the last of the individual burials and on Monday the remains of all those who are yet unidentified will be laid to rest with one funeral. There are 28 of these bundles of flesh that await claimants.

### Stories of Heroisms.

Testimony describing the mad rush to death of the school children was given Friday at the continued session of the coroner's inquest. Stories of heroism on the part of the women teachers were recited. F. P. Whitney, superintendent of the Collinswood schools, stated his belief to be that no fire department could have done any effective work after the fire had started. Two of the teachers told of their unavailing attempts to open one of the double doors at the rear which they said was locked. The inquest also developed the fact that, after the first crush at the door, it was beyond human possibility to aid or save those whom the tongues of fire were devouring in the charnel house. The inquest will be resumed Monday.

In a statement Chief Wallace, of the Cleveland fire department, after an examination of the ruins, of the Collinswood school, said it was his opinion that the loss of life would not have been so great had there been no partitions at the sides of the storm doors at the rear entrance. Two feet eight inches had been taken off either side of the hall for the partitions. His examination developed that the doors opened outward. Chief Wallace doubtless will be a witness before the coroner.

### Cleveland Learns Lesson.

Drastic steps were taken by the Cleveland school board to place all the Cleveland educational buildings in a condition that will preclude any loss of life from fires. Basements will be fireproof, wooden stairways replaced by iron and spiral fire escapes enclosed in towers installed. Inner doors in vestibules also will be removed.

### Another Priest Threatened.

Providence, R. I., Special.—The fate that overtook Father Leo Heinrichs, of Denver, threatens Rev. J. H. Beland, pastor of Notre Dame French Catholic church of Central Falls. Letters have come to him containing a notification that he will be killed at the altar. His friends appealed to the authorities when they learned of his danger.

### Big Horse Show in Texas.

Fort Worth, Tex., Special.—Entries have closed for the horse show exhibits at the National Feeders' and Breeders' Show, which will open next Wednesday in the great coliseum erected at a cost of \$250,000. There are fifty-four different classes in the horse show lists and \$3,000 will be awarded in premiums. A prize list aggregating \$20,000 is offered on the live stock which will be on exhibit. Governor Campbell will preside at the opening of the show on Wednesday morning and will deliver an address.

### The Suit Over Virginia's Debt.

Washington, Special.—The big suit between the States of Virginia and West Virginia over the claim of the former that the latter should share the latter's \$33,000,000 debt advanced one stage when attorneys for West Virginia presented to the Supreme Court arguments for limitation of the powers of the master whom the court proposes to appoint to take testimony in the suit. Virginia wants the master given a wide field.

## Late News In Brief

MINOR MATTERS OF INTEREST

Seven of the Russian terrorists sentenced to death for plotting against a grand duke and other personages were hanged at St. Petersburg.

The air pressure caused by an avalanche wrecked a temporary hotel in Switzerland, 13 persons being killed and 15 others hurt.

The British campaign against the Zakhkels, a tribe of Afridis in Northern India, has ended with the complete submission of the tribesmen.

Eleven men of a French column were killed and 36 wounded in an all-day fight with Madakra tribesmen in Morocco.

While railroads must employ thousands and more telegraph operators to enforce the nine-hour law, they intend to close hundreds of small stations.

The progress of the fleet gives impetus to the movement to create the rank of Vice Admiral in the Navy.

A. B. Butt, cashier of the wrecked People's Bank of Portsmouth, took a special train on his journey to serve five years in the Richmond penitentiary.

Norfolk police found a baby in a satchel and are looking for Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Davis, said to be its parents.

Dr. Eli Marsh Turner, former president of West Virginia University, died a few hours after consenting to run for mayor of Morgantown.

A hot fight is to be made over the New Jersey Local Option bill at Trenton.

Friends of Rear-Admiral Evans hope to greet him with a vice-admiral's commission when he reaches San Francisco.

More than 300 buildings were burned, with a loss of \$600,000, at Tampa, Fla.

One boy was killed and another badly injured in a collision of ice-boats on the St. Lawrence river.

Among the clergymen mentioned as possible successors to the late Bishop Satterlee, of Washington, is Rev. Dr. Randolph H. McKim, who was for a time at a Baltimore church.

W. B. Wood, an American magician and his daughter Bertha were drowned by the sinking of a tug off Yucatan recently.

Andrew Hamilton, in charge of the legislative fund of the Equitable Life Assurance Society and other companies, was found dead at his home in Albany.

Anonymous pamphlets scattered in the streets of Teheran notified the Shah that there was no intention to kill him at the time the bombs were thrown.

Thomas B. Wannamaker, son of John Wannamaker and proprietor of the Philadelphia North American, died in Paris.

Mexican Ambassador Creel's bank was robbed of \$500,000.

Commander Sims, testifying before the Senate Naval Committee, declared the marksmanship at Santiago to have been "disgraceful."

The Supreme Court will hear Virginia rate test cases October 13.

President Roosevelt praised Judge Willey, of Shanghai, but the House investigators will probe the charges against him.

Six Taft delegates were selected in Kansas.

Senator Smith of Michigan, accused Senator Aldrich of bolstering up prices of railroad bonds in his financial bill.

The Interstate Commerce Commission decided to disregard petitions to delay enforcing the nine hour law.

Mr. Hepburn introduced a bill providing a tax of 50 cents a hundred shares for stock sales.

A bill making October 12 the anniversary of Columbus' discovery a holiday was offered in the House.

The House defeated a bill for expatriating alien felons.

Luther Combs was shot in the thigh by Clifton Sawyer, his 17-year-old stepson, near Norfolk.

The Senate will ask the President to withdraw the name of G. A. Porter, a cousin of Mrs. Roosevelt, as United States marshal in Oklahoma.

Ex-Judge F. M. Whitehurst died in Norfolk.

The Potomac River Oyster bill agreed on by Maryland and Virginia legislators, was passed by the Assembly.

Chief of Police Shipley, of Chicago, killed an anarchist who had stabbed him and shot his son and driver.

Father Leo Heinrichs, assassinated at the altar of St. Elizabeth's Catholic church in Denver, was buried at Patterson, N. J.

## TWO LYNCHED IN GEORGIA

Georgians Avenge the Murder of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hart—Lynching Party, Wearing Masks, Takes Prisoners From County Jail and After Hanging Them to a Tree, Burns Their Bodies.

Hawkinsville, Ga., Special.—Two negroes, Curry Robertson and John Henry, were lynched Thursday night here and their bodies burned. They were charged with the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hart.

One of the negroes confessed to the crime and said the motive was robbery. Robertson and Henry were arrested Wednesday following the discovery of the body of Warren Hart. His wife was lying nearby in a dying condition. The murders took place near Frazier, the home of the Harts.

Mr. Hart had been killed as the result of a blow on the head, apparently made by an axe. Mrs. Hart was seriously beaten and was found unconscious. She died Wednesday night without having recovered consciousness.

Thursday the negroes were quietly taken from the county jail and carried some distance from the town, where they were hanged to a tree.

The lynching party consisted of a number of men who conceal their identity with masks. After the hanging the bodies were cut down and incinerated. After this the posse quietly dispersed. There is no announcement in the district as a result of the lynching.

The crime of which the negroes were accused was committed just at daylight Wednesday, when some one attacked Hart as he went from his house to feed his stock. His head was crushed. The murderers then went to the kitchen of the Hart home where Mrs. Hart was preparing breakfast and attacked her with an axe, leaving her for dead.

Mrs. Hart was found on the floor with a fork in her hand and one of the breakfast which she had cooked burned to a crisp. She died late that night.

The purpose of the assault is believed to have been robbery, as the Harts were known to have about \$1,000 in the house. The murderers did not get the money. News of the murder spread quickly through the section, and in the vicinity of Empire, a village near the scene of the murder, there was the most intense excitement.

Over a thousand persons gathered, among them the friends of the aged couple, who immediately formed a posse, secured dogs and began a search. Within a short time two negroes were arrested and brought here for safe keeping. During the night men gathered near the county jail, demanded Robertson and Henry and then took them to an isolated place near the scene of the double murder and lynched them. Mr. Hart and his wife were 65 years old.

### Bank President Indicted.

New Orleans, La., Special.—William Adler, former president of the State National Bank of New Orleans, was indicted by the United States grand jury here charged with misapplying national bank funds and with other illegal transactions. There were 74 counts in the indictment. Charges that dealings about which they should have been informed were concealed from the board of directors and that false entries and misapplication and distribution of funds occurred reaching between \$200,000 and \$300,000 were made against Adler in the indictment.

### Louisiana Banker Threatened.

Alexandria, La., Special.—Paul Liss, president of the First National bank here announced the receipt of a letter demanding \$5,000 from him at an appointed place and signed "The United Black Hand of Louisiana." The letter threatens the life of President Liss's daughter if he refuses payment. The police have begun an investigation.

### Attempt to Sell War Secrets.

New York, Special.—The Federal authorities of Brooklyn reluctantly admitted that the arrest of Heinrich Esser, on charges of attempting to sell United States war secrets to Germany, is directly due to the German authorities. The latter notified the German consul in New York, who in turn communicated with the police. Together with the tip came an assurance from Germany that under no circumstances would that government take advantage of such offers.

### Patents to Carolinians.

Washington, Special.—R. W. Bishop, patent attorney, reports the issue of the following patents on the 3rd instant to residents of North and South Carolina: Log turner—J. E. Meece, Roseman; drive gear for engines—M. O. Carter and W. T. Davis; Travelers' Rest, S. C.; sandpaper machine—J. T. Brantley, Salisbury; brush handle—J. H. Greene, High Point.

## TAR HEEL TOPICS

Items Gathered From All Sections of the State

### State Farmers Union in April.

Charlotte, Special.—The North Carolina division of the Farmers' Educational and Co-Operative Union of America will be organized in Charlotte on April 1st and 2d. Mr. G. W. Fant, State organizer, who has been in the city several days perfecting plans for the big meeting, has issued a call to all of the county unions to name delegates for the big convention. Mr. C. W. Barrett, of Georgia, national president of the organization, will be present and make an address. The basis of representation will be one delegate to every 100 members or majority fraction and one delegate at large from each county. This means that Charlotte will have the pleasure of entertaining a vast host of farmers on this occasion. The union in North Carolina has grown very rapidly during the past few months, some of the counties having little less than 1,000 members. Union county is 810 strong and Mecklenburg has 500. There are 5,500 members of the union in North Carolina, 50 more than the number required for forming a State organization. Mr. Fant has also extended an invitation to all State officers of the Farmers' Alliance to attend the meeting next month. It is likely that the two organizations will be merged. The place of meeting has not yet been decided upon.

### Greensboro Bank Liquidates.

Greensboro, Special.—The officers of the City National Bank have decided to place the institution in voluntary liquidation, owing to the continued financial depression and inability to collect outstanding notes. National Examiner Hull will take charge of the bank Saturday. Negotiations are in progress with one of the strongest banks in Greensboro to take over the collateral of the bank and assume the payment of all deposits, and this will be done as soon as the consent of the stockholders and the Comptroller of the Currency is secured. Every depositor will be paid in full. The bank has \$255,058 in deposits and \$405,663 in bills receivable. The City National is an old institution and has been an important factor in the business life of Greensboro. Many of the city's most prominent business men are connected with it. The directors are: W. S. Thompson, president; W. C. Bain, C. H. Dorsett, J. A. Hoskins, M. W. Thompson, J. Van Lundy, Lee H. Battle and G. A. Grimsley.

### No Location Decided On.

Hickory, Special.—The committee consisting of Rev. Dr. G. H. Detweiler, of Greensboro; J. A. Glenn, Charlotte; Rev. N. R. Richardson, of Hickory; Rev. Frank Siler, of Charlotte; J. L. Nelson, of Lenoir; S. L. Rodgers, of Raleigh, and C. H. Ireland, of Greensboro, appointed by the Western North Carolina Conference to select a suitable place on which to build an orphanage, met here last Thursday. The committee, which convened at 2:30 o'clock p. m., at the Methodist church, adjourned for some future date for a final decision. The subcommittee, consisting of J. L. Nelson, J. A. Glenn and G. F. Ivey, on properties and subscription was constituted and instructed to visit the various sites as soon as practicable. Hickory, Lincolnton and Rutherfordton are all making vigorous efforts to secure the location of the orphanage.

### Winston's New Drug Firm.

Winston-Salem, Special.—The articles of incorporation of the Winston Drug Company were forwarded to the Secretary of State at Raleigh Thursday morning. The incorporators are Messrs. J. P. Lawson, T. L. Farrow, Jr., and L. E. Fishel. The object of the concern is to manufacture drugs and sell at wholesale.

### Dr. Kilgo at Winston-Salem.

Winston-Salem, Special.—Governor R. B. Glenn and Dr. J. C. Kilgo, president of Trinity College, have accepted invitations to address the Forsyth County Teachers' Association here Saturday. The faculty of the graded school the Salem Academy and Salem Boys' School have been invited to hear these two distinguished speakers. Dr. Kilgo will go from here to Walkertown, where he will preach on Sunday morning occupying the pulpit of Love's M. E. church.

### The Hearing on Discrimination.

Raleigh, Special.—Chairman McNeill and Clerk Brown of the State corporation commission, left Thursday afternoon for Washington to confer with the inter-State commerce commission relative to the time of hearing by the latter of the suit against the Norfolk & Western for discriminating against North Carolina in freight rates. It is still hoped that the hearing will be held in Raleigh.

### High Point's Newest Bank.

High Point, Special.—The Home Banking Company was formally organized here with the election of officers as follows: President, T. F. Wrenn; cashier, Rev. G. F. Kirby; directors, George A. Matton, J. C. Welch, T. F. Wrenn, N. Welborn, W. P. Ragan, G. F. Kirby, W. T. Kirkman, Dr. J. R. Reitzel, George T. Pennix, M. J. Wrenn, Dr. H. C. Pitta and W. G. Shipman.

### Train Robbery.

Elizabeth City, Special.—The first news of a train robbery which occurred February 17, reached here Thursday when Special Detective Stevens arrived in the city. As the through freight train of the Norfolk & Southern was passing Northwest, Va., four men got aboard and concealed themselves somewhere under the cars. When the train was speeding along at a rapid rate through the woods, the men broke into one of the box cars and threw out everything that they thought would be useful to them. After throwing out about all they could conveniently handle they jumped off and went back and gathered up the plunder from the side of the tracks and carried it away. The robbery was not discovered until the train reached Norfolk, when the proper authorities were notified. For special reasons the affair was not given to the public. Special Detective Stevens, assisted by Hugh Roberts, was engaged to take charge of the case. Since then the detectives have been busy following up different clues and now have four men under arrest whom they think are the guilty parties.

### A Tragedy Near Wilson.

Wilson, Special.—Wednesday night at his home a few miles from Wilson Cad Page, a white farmer, was shot and killed by his 15-year-old son, Ernest. The elder Page had been drinking for two days and was abusing his wife and threatening to kill her, advancing with a pistol in one hand and a knife in the other. His son, seeing this, picked up a shotgun and fired, killing his father. The coroner's inquest is now being held. Young Page did not attempt to escape and will doubtless be justified by the jury. Will Lewis, the white farmer who, while drunk last week, knocked his wife in the head with an axe, killing her, died in jail here. Heart failure caused his death.

### A Contractor Charged With Contempt.

Asheville, Special.—Judge Pritchard will hear an interesting matter here Wednesday when J. D. Elliott, of Hickory, is cited to appear and show cause why he should not be attached for contempt of court for interfering with the management of the Seaboard Air Line, now under control of receivers. It is said that Mr. Elliott had a contract for building the freight terminals of the S. A. L. at Jacksonville; that the company owed him about \$83,000 and that after the road went into the hands of a receiver it was agreed that he should have \$12,500 to complete the contract. It is alleged that he now claims possession of the property and refuses to deliver it into the custody of the receivers.

### Mid-Year Mission Meeting.

Salisbury, Special.—The Executive Committee of the Foreign Mission Board of the Western North Carolina Conference met in Salisbury and arranged for a mid-year meeting in the interest of missions to be held at Marion, in Western North Carolina, April 7th to 9th. Rev. W. R. Ware, of Gastonia, is president of the board and Rev. J. E. Gay, of Lincolnton, is treasurer. A strong program is being arranged for the occasion when it is expected that one of the returned missionary secretaries and a number of other able speakers will be present. The cause of missions has advanced rapidly in the conference during the past year.

### Chief of Police Elected.

Fayetteville, Special.—Mr. John McD. Monaghan, who was appointed acting chief of police following the death of Chief Benton on the 23d ult., has been elected permanently to the position by the board of aldermen. Mr. Monaghan is a very courageous man of high character, and will doubtless prove an acceptable head to the police department.

### Hunting Season Closed.

Raleigh, Special.—State Game Warden John R. Upchurch stated that the game season, under the general law, had closed, and he desired to call special attention to sections 3480 and 3481 of the Revised making it a misdemeanor to hunt on the lands of another without consent of owner and written permission, and he said that he will pay special attention to this law and prosecute all persons ascertained to have violated these sections. He asks that information of the infractions of the law be reported to him.