

# THE CAUCASIAN.

VOL. XXVI.

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1908.

NO. 9.

## 170 CHILDREN DIE IN A FIRE

### School Building Burns and Children Die By Scores in Utter Helplessness

#### DEATH AT SCHOOL HOUSE

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

Cleveland, O., Special.—Pinned in narrow hallways, jammed up against doors that only opened inward, between 160 and 170 children in the school building of the suburb of North Collinwood Wednesday morning were killed by fire, and beneath the grinding heels of their panic-stricken playmates.

The awful tragedy occurred Wednesday morning in the public school of North Collinwood, 10 miles east of this city. At 10 o'clock Wednesday night 165 corpses were in the morgue at Collinwood, six children were still unaccounted for and all the hospitals and houses for two miles around contained numbers of children, some fatally and many less seriously injured.

All of the victims were between the ages of 6 and 15 years. The school contained between 319 and 325 pupils, and of this entire number only about eighty are known to have left the building unharmed. It will be several days before the exact number of 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 who are now lying in the hospitals hovering 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 normally 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 who throughout seemed to have acted with courage and self-possession and to have struggled heroically for the safety of their pupils, marshaled the little ones into column "fire drill," which they had often practiced.

Fortunately the line of march in this exercise had always led to the front 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 a rush 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 upon 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 two hundred of the pupils fighting for their lives. Most of those who were killed died here. The greater part of those who escaped managed to turn back and reached the fire escape and the windows in the rear.

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

#### 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.—Collinwood Friday came to a full realization of her woe. Slowly and solemnly the processions of death began to wend their way toward the cemetery, 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 cortege. 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 Collinwood. 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 an object upon which to wreak vengeance, forgetting as they did that Hirter himself was walking with bowed head and broken-hearted behind the hearse 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 coffins were 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 Heroism.

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 Collinwood 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 Collinwood 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.

#### Louisiana Banker Threatened.

Alexandria, La., Special.—Paul Lissou, 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 Lissou's daughter if he refuses payment. The police have begun an investigation.

#### Two Rewards Offered.

Raleigh, Special.—Governor Glenn has offered a reward of \$75 for the apprehension and delivery of James Langford, late of Madison county, who is charged with the murder of Eli Lunsford. The Governor also offered a reward of \$50 for the arrest of Henry Richardson in Warren county.

#### 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. Penn, M. J. Wrenn, Dr. H. C. Pitts and W. G. Shipman.

## BURIAL OF FIRE VICTIMS

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## PROOF OF CHARGES

Not Complete or Sufficient in His  
Department Says Secretary-Adams  
and His Court May Be Investigated—  
The Secretary of the Interior  
Has Not Yet Answered Senator  
Tillman's Resolution—Tillman Will  
Offer Another Resolution—Taft  
Gaining Ground.

Washington, D. C., March 10, 1908  
Special to The Caucasian.

The Secretary of the Interior has not yet replied to Senator Tillman's resolution of inquiry about the evidence in his office of the charges of bribery against that Indian Citizenship court.

Senator Foraker has written the Secretary of the Interior saying that it has been charged that he (the Secretary) had proof of the charges of bribery sufficient to convict and that he had failed to act, etc., and wanted to know if it was true. It was in reply to that letter that the Secretary wrote him a letter saying "there was no truth in the charge" that he had such complete proof sufficient to convict. But the Secretary did not say (as he has been quoted in some North Carolina papers) that there was no truth in the charges against the court. On the other hand he said that he had heard of the charges but had not sufficient proof.

It is understood that when the Secretary's official reply to Senator Tillman's resolutions is sent in that another resolution of investigation will be offered.

In the meantime fresh rumors of the improper conduct of that court are coming here from Indian Territory and Oklahoma. From what is heard here the reputations of Adams and his court in that country is not very savory.

#### Taft Gaining.

The news that comes from every quarter of the country shows that Taft is constantly gaining. It seems now that his nomination is almost assured. But at the same time there is much renewal of the talk to force Roosevelt to serve the people again. It is clear that if he were before the people for reelection that he would sweep the country with a greater majority than when elected president, and this calls to mind the fact that he has never been elected president but once.

A prominent Republican from the State remarked here today that it was about time for Adams to come up here to again swear loyalty to Taft.

#### Senator Depew Praises Hughes.

Washington, Special.—In a speech on currency legislation Friday afternoon Senator Depew endeavored to show that Wall Street was not the den of iniquity that it has been painted in a condition that "hasty and ill-considered legislation in many States had much to do with the recent panic." Incidentally, he warmly praised Governor Hughes for his veto of the two-cent fare bill, and favored the Aldrich bill.

#### 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. R. 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.

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## GOOD DARKEY SHOT BAD

Affair Occurred at Brick Yard Sunday—Hearing of Case Monday  
Afternoon Before Justice J. W.  
Cobb—Shooting Appeared to be  
Last Resort of Colored Foreman.

Charlotte, Special.—Facing a drunken employe and having been attacked one, two, three times previously by his assailant, Will Hardy, foreman of the Carson brick plant, on the Catawba river Sunday shot and seriously wounded Fred White, who was boisterous, and after attacking Hardy several times, was advancing on him with a knife when Hardy pulled out his revolver and fired. Hardy had been knocked down by the drunken negro and was down when he fired the shot. As a result the bullet rang upward, entering near the right thigh, and coming out at the shoulder.

Sunday morning Fred White loaded up on a grade of liquor that was not exactly peerless, and then started out for revenge for some wrong he imagined the foreman had done him. The attacks of White were warded off by Hardy for awhile, until Hardy was knocked down and White drew a knife on him. Then it was that Hardy thought it was time to defend himself in a more effective manner. Hardy's reputation is understood to be good and he holds a responsible position with the brick company.

#### Corn Culture Lectures.

Raleigh, Special.—The Norfolk & Southern Railway has arranged for a special train of two cars to be known as the corn special, to go over all the lines of that road, leaving here March 22d. There will be four specialists on board, including Dr. F. L. Stevens and Prof. R. I. Smith. These will talk on the culture of corn and its proper fertilization, the best methods of feeding the crop, the proper way to harvest it, and will give full instructions as to selection of the right kind of corn for seed. The car will go to twenty places. At four points President Winston, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, will speak of industrial education. This corn special will be a great educator and it shows marked enterprise on the part of the Norfolk & Southern to supply it. The State is prompt to recognize the value of such an opportunity.

#### Church Floor Gives Way.

Wilmington, Special.—There was a mighty scramble of colored humanity in this city last week in the Methodist Mission church (colored), corner of Eleventh and Orange Streets. Shortly after 8 o'clock, while the service was in progress and many were shouting the strain became too great on the floor and it sank. At the same time a stove in one corner toppled over and the falling pipe struck a number of shouting brethren across the heads. The wildest confusion at once ensued and windows and doors were utilized in the "twinkling of an eye" as a means to get out. Wonderfully, the struggling, yelling mass of humanity escaped without a person being seriously injured, though a number were bruised and all were badly frightened.

#### To Build Connection Tracks.

Raleigh, Special.—A charter was issued for the Goldsboro Union Station Company of Goldsboro, having for its purpose the construction of railroad trackage at Goldsboro for connecting the union station, now being erected there at a cost of about \$60,000, with each of the three railroads participating—the Atlantic Coast Line, Southern and the Norfolk and Southern. The capitalization of the company is \$15,000.

#### Linwood Postoffice Robbed.

Salisbury, Special.—Unknown robbers looted the postoffice at Linwood a small station six miles north of Spenser. The iron safe was blown open and about \$200 taken. The robbers did their work at midnight and escaped before the crime was detected. There is no clue to the guilty parties.

#### Dies While Out Driving.

High Point, Special.—Sunday afternoon while out driving with her husband and child Mrs. D. N. Welborn, a well-known lady of this city, pitched forward in the buggy dead. She was driving while her husband was holding the baby and without a moment's warning fell forward, her husband catching her from falling out of the buggy. She was immediately carried into the home of Mr. Lee A. Dries and physicians summoned, but death was instant, due to heart failure.

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## 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 has 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 Lindley, Lee H. Battle and G. A. Grimsley.

#### No Location Decided On.

Hickory, Special.—The committee consisting of Rev. Dr. G. H. Detwiler, 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 sub-committee, consisting of J. L. Nelson, J. A. Glenn and G. F. Ivey, on properties and subscription was contained 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. Fisher. The object of the concern is to manufacture drugs and sell at wholesale.

#### Dr. Kilgo at Winston-Salem.

Winston-Salem, Special.—Governor E. B. Glenn and Dr. J. C. Kilgore, 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. Kilgore 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.

#### 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 assigned 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 McEl Monaghan, who was appointed acting chief of police following the murder 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.

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