

THE BIDDLE TRAGEDY

Both Men Die in a Most Horrible Manner.

CROWDS STOOD AROUND THE JAIL

Coroner's Inquest Develops the Fact That Both the Biddles Attempted Suicide.

Butler, Pa., Special.—The terrible fate of the Biddles was the sole topic of conversation here Sunday and curious throngs of people have been defying the storm, hanging about the jail entrance in vain attempts to get in to see the bodies of the dead murderers. A great deal of sympathy for the boys was expressed on all sides, and not a few of the female portion of the crowd expressed a desire to see what manner of a man Ed Biddle was, that he could exert such wonderful influence over the woman. The jail doors were closed all day and no one got in but the doctors who attended the autopsy, and the coroner's jury. The newspaper reporters were excluded from the inquest, which was held in the jail, and nothing concerning the deliberations could be learned until late in the afternoon. The testimony of all the officers concerned in the capture was taken except Rob Ray, the Butler policeman, who is sick. The testimony of Dr. R. B. Greer, who was one of the doctors who attended the Biddles, and of Sheriff Thomas R. Hoon, was also taken.

The verdict said that Ed Biddle came to his death by a revolver shot fired from a 38-calibre revolver by himself, and that Jack Biddle met his death from a gun-shot wound inflicted by the officers in the discharge of their lawful duty. Under the instructions of Coroner John L. Jones, an autopsy was held on both the Biddles Sunday morning. The evidence secured by the autopsy bears out the statements that the men intended to kill themselves rather than be taken alive and that Ed succeeded in his attempt, while Jack failed, though his life was forfeited. Dr. Bricker gave the following statement after the autopsy: "Jack Biddle was the worst shot of the two men, although he was in better condition than Ed, when the men were brought to the jail on Friday night. He had two gun-shot wounds on the right side in the region of the liver, the bullets passing up and around the body and doing no damage. These were removed on Saturday. A bullet wound was found in the roof of the mouth, but it was slight and would not have caused his death. This wound was inflicted by himself with the evident intention of killing himself. His right arm was shattered by five bullet wounds. The wound that caused his death was made by a 41.75 calibre bullet that passed through the crest of the skull, on the right side, and passed back through the kidney."

In all Jack suffered from nine wounds but excepting the one that penetrated the kidney, none of them would have been fatal. Ed's suffering from his wounds was intense. One wound was made by Ed himself, the powder marks being visible on the skin. Death was caused by hemorrhage, and the man suffered untold agonies to the last breath. In the opinion of the doctors who held the autopsy, there is no doubt that he killed himself.

The pastors in nearly all of the churches in Butler took occasion Sunday to refer to the sensational capture Friday of Mrs. Kate Soffel and John and Ed Biddle, who died in the county jail Saturday night. Rev. Father Walsh, pastor of St. Paul's Roman Catholic church, who ministered to the Biddles in their dying hours, spoke touching-ly of them to the members of his parish, in both masses. He touched briefly on their statements given out and said it was for every person to decide for themselves as to the innocence or guilt of the men. When seen at his residence in the afternoon, Father Walsh said: "Besides the statements given out by the Biddle boys to the newspapers and officers of Butler county, both Ed and Jack Biddle made confessions to me. Their confessions were full and complete in every particular and they will never be revealed. The poor boys died like dogs, literally riddled with bullets and some one should be held responsible for inhuman actions in shooting them when entirely helpless, unarmed and unable to make the slightest defense or resistance."

Rev. Samuel Cronin Wett, of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran church, criticized severely the woman whom he held responsible for the whole affair. He said: "The Biddles and Mrs. Soffel made a vain flight from justice and retributions swiftly came upon them. The blindness and infatuation of this woman in leaving her beloved husband and helpless little children for a gang of desperadoes is the worst criminal act thus far in the history of the twentieth century."

SERIOUS FIRE AT NORFOLK.

Many Narrow Escapes and Heavy Property Loss.

Norfolk, Special.—A heap of smoking ruins is all that remains of the Atlantic Hotel the massive Columbia office building which adjoined the hotel, the Albermarle flats and a block of stores in the center of the city. The conflagration, one of the greatest in the history of Norfolk, broke out shortly before 2 o'clock Friday morning, and when finally subdued over half a million dollars' worth of property had been destroyed. The loss is said to be fully covered by insurance. The flames started in the Columbia, which is the largest but one of Norfolk's office buildings. It was a structure six stories high and was built in 1892 by Davis Lowenberg, its owner. The fire was first discovered at 1:55 o'clock in the morning and shortly afterward over 1,000 gallons of whiskey stored in the basement of the building exploded with terrific force, tearing out the front wall. The firemen were driven back by the explosion and before they could get a stream of water on the flames the entire building was afire. Hardly 15 minutes later the north wall, which was over 100 feet high, fell in, completely annihilating the home of the Virginia Club, which adjoins the building on the north.

From the outset it was evident that the immense Atlantic Hotel was doomed. J. Hull Davidson, its owner, personally made the rounds of the rooms and aided by his assistants, aroused every guest in the building. To this is due the fact that so far as known no lives were lost, although about 300 people were asleep in the hotel when the alarm was sounded. The little army of half dressed men and women refugees from the flames elbowed their way through the crowded streets. In their hands they carried such small belongings as they were able to save in their flight. The flames soon spread to the five-story Albermarle apartment house, opposite the Virginia Club, which was quickly destroyed, and then to the entire block facing the Atlantic, and running from Plume to Main streets. Within an hour this block was annihilated.

The origin of the fire is not known. The blaze was first discovered in Brown's cafe, which occupies half of the Columbia building, by a policeman who immediately sent in the alarm. The whiskey which exploded was in this cafe. All the Atlantic Hotel guests escaped, though J. O. Ready, of Brooklyn, N. Y., had a close call. The Watt, Betfew and Clay building was saved, although the stock was saturated by water. In the Atlantic Hotel building were the ticket offices of the Southern, Baltimore and Ohio, and Norfolk and Western Railways. The offices of Nottingham and Wrenn, wood and coal dealers; the Equitable Life Assurance Company; Dodson's drug store, Vermillion's liquor store, and Solomon's tailor establishment. In the Columbia building were the cafes of C. R. Brown and Neddes; the offices of D. Lowenberg, the owner, and of numerous real estate firms, lawyers, physicians, architects and contractors. In the block destroyed with the Albermarle were Johnston's china store; Carey and Dean, tailors; Hatch and Dean, furnishers; Mottu, Dewitt and Co., brokers; Stephenson and Taylor, brokers; the Norfolk and Western freight department, and the office of the Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia Air Line.

The loss will approximate \$900,000, possibly half covered by insurance. The buildings burned were: Atlantic Hotel, for which, with its site, C. M. Randolph, who is associated with R. Lancaster, recently paid \$310,000. Columbia building, which cost \$50,000. Everything in the building's offices was destroyed; loss over \$100,000. Albermarle apartment house, owned by George L. Arps, valued at about \$25,000; the Johnston China Company, occupied the ground floor and lost \$10,000. Building owned by C. W. Sams, valued at \$12,000. Mottu, Dewitt and Company, bankers and brokers, occupied two floors of this building and lost valuable papers. Building owned by Mrs. Sarah Almond, occupied by Stephenson and Taylor, real estate and other tenants; loss \$10,000; buildings occupied by Hatch and Dean, men's furnishings, \$15,000; L. B. Carey, merchant tailor, \$10,000; L. G. Blye, florist, and three buildings on Plume street, in the rear of the Virginia Club, \$20,000.

Military Appropriations.

Washington, Special.—The military appropriation bill has been practically completed by the house committee on military affairs and Chairman Hull will report it as soon as he returns from a trip to Iowa, which he is about to take. The bill carries approximately \$91,000,000, which is about \$10,000,000 below the estimates and about \$26,000,000 below the appropriation last year.

FOUR ACRES BURNED

In the Heart of the City of Waterbury, Conn.

NO LIVES ARE REPORTED AS LOST.

Flames Held Complete Sway Over the City For Ten Hours—Property Loss Over \$3,000,000.

Waterbury, Conn., Special.—The sun rose Monday morning on a blackened and smoldering mass of ruins that marked the main business section of the city. There is a very strong suspicion that the fire which completely destroyed the Scoville House, burning thousands of dollars' worth of furniture, apartments, and personal effects and imperiling many lives, was the work of an incendiary. The fire originated in the pool and billiard room in the basement of the house on the further side from the burned district. The room was locked and no one was supposed to be there. No fire was kept in the room, all heat being supplied from a boiler in another part of the building. Manager Truman said at the police station while the fire was still raging, that he had not the slightest doubt it was of incendiary origin. No one could be found to explain its origin and the authorities have been quietly investigating. The fire came so close on the heels of the big conflagration that thousands of spectators who witnessed it were thrown into a more complete panic than the original fire caused. The fire had only begun to die out along Bank, Grand and South Main streets at 4 o'clock, when flames leaped upward, as by magic, and people feared the city was doomed after all. The call was rung in promptly, and the engines that hurried to the scene turned their attention mainly to preventing the spread of the flames. It was evident that the hotel was doomed and if the fire had reached the adjacent buildings, there would have been very little hope of saving the center of the city. The fire burned far into the day and was not extinguished until evening. The loss on the hotel will reach \$150,000.

For ten hours Sunday night and Monday the flames, fanned by a high wind, held sway over the business portion of this city, causing a loss that will exceed \$3,000,000. The best portion of the city, forming a triangle bounded on the north by Exchange Place, on the west by Bank street, on the south by Grand street and on the east by South Main street, was almost wiped out.

The first fire which started in the big store of the Reid & Hughes Dry Goods Company, on Bank street, was not considered under control until about \$3,000,000 worth of property had been destroyed. About the time the firemen supposed they had the flames under control a second fire broke out in the Scoville House, the city's leading hotel, remodelled by the late Judge E. C. Lewis, a few years ago at an expense of about \$75,000, and the establishment was completely wrecked. The occupants of the hotel were forced to seek the street in their night clothes. With the ringing of a second alarm the entire city was thrown into a panic. There was a fierce gale blowing and sparks from the burning hotel were driven in lurid showers over a great area. The occupants of buildings located in the path of the wind prepared to leave. Although the Waterbury fire department was re-inforced from near by cities, it was for a time impossible to stay the progress of the flames.

The fire in its entirety burned over four acres of the city's best business section. Among the prominent buildings totally destroyed are the block occupied by the Reid & Hughes Dry Goods Company, the plant of The Waterbury American, the Masonic Temple, the Scoville and Franklin Houses, the W. L. Douglass Shoe Company, the Johnson block, the Salvation Army Workmen's Home, and scores of other buildings. In all about 100 of the most prominent business houses are burned out.

200 Frozen to Death.

Yokohama, By Cable.—Details of the loss of about 200 Japanese soldiers, who were frozen to death, have been received here. It seems that a command of 210 men, practicing winter marching, were caught in a blizzard on the northern end of the island of Honda and lost their road.

A FINE RECORD.

Statistics Taken From Report of the Commissioner of Labor.

The chapter of the forthcoming annual report of Hon. H. B. Varner, Commissioner of Labor and Printing, devoted to the cotton and woolen milling interests of the State has been completed, and makes a highly gratifying showing for the development the Old North State is achieving. In order that the milling interests may be presented in their entirety both the general summary and the statements by counties are presented here, as stated in this chapter of the report. Here are the summaries:

COTTON AND WOOLEN MILLS.
The cotton mill industry continues to increase each year. The statistics in this chapter, as given in Tables Nos. 1 and 2, are for the year ending June 30, 1901, and therefore do not include mills commencing operations after that date. Table No. 3, however, gives a complete list, including new and proposed mills to date.

The 276 mills, from which Tables Nos. 1 and 2, are compiled, operate 1,680,483 spindles, 36,052 looms and 3,905 machines, using 75,182 horsepower.

Average wages per day of—engineer, \$1.58; firemen, 88c. Highest average wages per day—men, \$2.19; women \$1.06. Lowest average wages per day—men, 35c; women, 28c. Average wages of children, 27c.

Total number of employees, 44,544, of which 18,171 are men, 18,377 women, and 7,996 children under fourteen years of age, 3,857 boys, and 4,139 girls.

The number of hours worked per day vary from ten (in some of the knitting mills) to twelve and a half; 81 per cent of adults and 62 per cent of the children read and write.

There are nine new mills in course of construction or completed since June 30, 1901, making total number of mills 285.

In the following list of counties there are instances where more than one mill is reported as one when they are under the same management.

Alamance—Seventeen cotton, one woolen and two knitting mills, operating 95,598 spindles, 4,811 looms and 99 machines, manufactures gingham, plaids, colored cottons, domestic, chevots, shirtings, stripes, jeans, blankets, warps, yarns and hosiery.

Alexander—Two cotton mills, operating 2,700 spindles, 120 looms and 48 machines, manufactures brown shirting.

Anson—One cotton, one knitting and one silk mill, operating 21,704 spindles and 60 machines, manufactures yarns, underwear and tran and floss silk.

Beaufort—One knitting mill, operating 64 machines, manufactures hosiery.

Burcombe—One cotton and one woolen mill, operating 8,658 spindles and 455 looms, manufactures colored cottons and woolen goods.

Burke—One cotton and one knitting mill, operating 4,000 spindles and 28 machines, manufactures cotton yarns and hosiery.

Cabarrus—Nine cotton mills, operating 93,588 spindles and 3,274 looms, manufactures sheeting, gingham, domestics, eac.

Caldwell—Four cotton and one woolen mill, operating 24,280 spindles and 515 looms, manufacture plaids, yarns and woolen goods.

Catawba—Eight cotton, one knitting and two woolen mills, operating 41,729 spindles, 201 looms and 150 machines, manufacture yarns, hosiery and woolen goods.

Chatham—Two cotton mills, operating 8,704 spindles, manufacture yarns.

Chowan—One cotton mill, operating 6,272 spindles, manufactures yarns.

Cleveland—Ten cotton, three knitting and one woolen mill, operating 42,074 spindles, 380 looms and 51 machines, manufacture sheetings, warps, yarns, twine, hosiery and woolen goods.

Craven—One knitting mill, operating 184 machines, manufactures hosiery.

Cumberland—Seven cotton, one knitting, one woolen and one silk mill, operating 59,566 spindles, 1,170 looms and 45 machines, manufacture plaids, sheetings, shirtings, cottonades, bags, warps, yarns, hosiery, woolen goods and silk.

Davidson—Two cotton mills, operating 17,778 spindles and 604 looms, manufacture domestics, warps, etc.

Davie—One cotton mill, operating 20,000 spindles and 640 looms, manufactures yarns, etc.

Durham—Six cotton and one knitting mill, operating 83,924 spindles, 2,258 looms and 200 machines, manufactures sheetings, chambrays, muslins, white goods, rope, bags, twine and hosiery.

Edgecombe—Two cotton and two knitting mills, operating 17,500 spindles, 200 looms and 126 machines, manufacture warps, yarns, hosiery and underwear.

Forsyth—Two cotton, two woolen

and six knitting mills, operating 16,782 spindles, 428 looms, and 118 machines, manufacture yarns, cassimeres, sheetings, shirtings, woolen goods and hosiery.

Franklin—Two cotton mills, operating 6,920 spindles, manufacture warps and yarns.

Gaston—Twenty-six cotton mills, operating 203,776 spindles and 4,642 looms, manufacture shirtings, plaids, sheetings, warps and yarns.

Guilford—Seven cotton and one carpet mill, operating 43,200 spindles and 1,886 looms, manufacture, plaids, checks, yarns, twine and carpets.

Halifax—Two cotton, seven knitting and one silk mill, operating 21,652 spindles, 800 looms and 450 machines, manufacture cotton goods, underwear, hosiery and silk.

Haywood—One woolen mill, operating 264 spindles, 8 looms and 4 machines, manufacture jeans, flannels, cassimeres and yarns.

Henderson—One knitting mill, operating 100 machines, manufacture hosiery and knit goods.

Hertford—One knitting mill, operating 20 machines, manufacture hosiery.

Iredell—Three cotton mills, operating 17,840 spindles and 3,600 looms, manufacture shirtings, sheetings and yarns.

Johnston—Two cotton mills, operating 10,000 spindles, manufacture yarns.

Lenoir—One cotton and one knitting mill, operating 10,000 spindles and 120 machines, manufacture yarns and hosiery.

Lincoln—Nine cotton and one woolen mill, operating 33,280 spindles, manufacture warps and yarns, cassimeres and blankets.

Mecklenburg—Seventeen cotton and one knitting mill, operating 125,242 spindles, 2,026 looms and 220 machines, manufacture gingham, sheetings, white goods, hosiery, towels, backbands, warps and yarns.

Montgomery—Two cotton mills, operating 5,828 spindles, manufacture yarns and spun wool.

Moore—Four cotton mills, operating 16,912 spindles and 258 looms, manufacture yarns.

Nash—One cotton mill, operating 26,000 spindles, manufacture warps and yarns.

New Hanover—Two cotton mills, operating 17,736 spindles and 856 looms, manufacture shirtings, towels, etc.

Orange—Two cotton and one knitting mill, operating 15,000 spindles and 30 machines, manufacture cotton warps, skeins and hosiery.

Pasquotank—One cotton and one knitting mill, operating 10,000 spindles and 121 machines, manufacture yarns and hosiery.

Person—One cotton mill, operating 5,000 spindles, manufacture yarns.

Pitt—One knitting mill, operating 32 machines, manufacture ribbed underwear.

Polk—One knitting mill, operating 70 machines, manufacture hosiery.

Randolph—Twelve cotton and one knitting mill, operating 50,098 spindles, 2,020 looms and 451 machines, manufacture colored cottons, shirtings, plaids, sheetings, cottonades, bags, hosiery, warps and yarns.

Richmond—Nine cotton mills, operating 63,252 spindles, 1,638 looms and 55 machines, manufacture chevots, plaids, shirtings, warps and yarns.

Rockingham—Seven cotton and one woolen mill, operating 102,682 spindles, and 2,135 looms, manufacture plaids, checks, sheetings, colored cottons, blankets and woolen goods.

Rowan—Five cotton and one knitting mill, operating 57,168 spindles, 743 looms and 50 machines, manufacture gingham, sheetings, chevots, hosiery, warps and yarns.

Rutherford—Four cotton mills, operating 102,240 spindles, 2,476 looms and 600 machines, manufacture sheetings, print goods, warps and yarns.

Scotland—Three cotton mills, operating 20,000 spindles, manufacture yarns.

Stanly—Four cotton and two knitting mills, operating 41,194 spindles and 300 machines, manufacture yarns, clothes lines, etc.

Surry—Four cotton and two woolen mills, operating 11,638 spindles, 113 looms and two machines, manufacture blankets, flannels, jeans, warps and yarns.

Union—Two cotton mills, operating 12,320 spindles, manufacture yarns.

Vance—Two cotton and one knitting mill, operating 25,300 spindles, 296 looms and 107 machines, manufacture sheetings, yarns and underwear.

Wake—Five cotton and two knitting mills, operating 40,490 spindles, 754 looms and 30 machines, manufacture gingham, colored goods, yarns and hosiery.

Wayne—Two cotton mills, operating 9,600 spindles and 70 looms, manufacture sheetings and yarns.

Wilson—One cotton mill, operating 8,080 spindles, manufacture yarns.