

A RIOT IN ATLANTA

Seven Men Killed and a Number of Others Shot.

BLOODY FIGHT FOLLOWED BY FIRE

Barricaded Negro Had a Regular Arsenal and Piled His Rifle With a Deadly Aim.

Atlanta, Special.—Four white men and three negroes dead, five white men and one negro wounded and an entire block of buildings burned, is the result of a conflict which began here early Saturday between the blacks and police. Will Richardson, who is believed to have been half-Indian and half-negro, the owner of a store on Midland street, in the suburb of Pittsburg, and four other negroes, brought on the trouble by resisting arrest and defying the officers of Fulton county and Atlanta.

The dead are: Ed. Battle, a balliff of Fulton county; H. G. Ozburn, a policeman of Fulton county; Thomas Grant, a city policeman; Edward Crabtree, a city policeman; Will Richardson, the negro desperado, who killed these men; Milton Rosby, a negro, who attempted to escape from a sewer; unknown negro, killed in a near-by yard. The wounded are: S. A. Kerlin, beaten by a negro, and W. A. Wright, a county policeman, wounded in the left shoulder; W. T. Jackson, a street car man, wounded in hip; Owen Heard, a county policeman, wounded in the thigh; Call Officer Spradlin, wounded in the arm; Shepherd Finzer, hackman, shot through the hand.

The fight between the officers and negroes occurred in Pittsburg, a negro settlement directly south of the city limits, on McDaniel street. The officers attempted to arrest five negroes suspected of having beaten former Policeman S. A. Kerlin nearly to death Friday afternoon. The negroes resisted arrest by entrenching themselves in a house and the fight ensued. The vicinity is thickly settled with small negro cabins. There are out-buildings and barns and shrubbery over the entire neighborhood, which provides such shelter that it was possible to escape from house to house and dodge between fences without being detected. As soon as information of the fight between the negroes and the police reached the city wagon-loads of policemen, hurriedly armed, were rushed to the scene of action, and Governor Candler ordered out a detachment of the State militia. The shooting was followed by a speaker from Sheriff Nelms, of Fulton county, advising calmness on the part of the crowd and the efforts of officers thereafter were directed towards controlling the temper of the white men, who were walking the streets of the suburb with drawn weapons.

While returning to his home on the McPherson road Friday afternoon former Policeman S. A. Kerlin was waylaid by five negroes with whom he had had trouble while a member of the force. But for the timely arrival of a trolley car, which frightened his assailants away, Kerlin would have been killed. A sergeant stationed at Fort McPherson, who heard cries for help, ran to the place and found Kerlin unconscious. At midnight County Policemen Golden heard that Kerlin's five assailants were located in a house on McDaniel street, and he hastened to the city and secured a warrant for their arrest from Justice Orr. Policeman Golden was joined by Officers Ozburn and Cheshire and accompanied by a number of Kerlin's neighbors, including Owen Heard, the party started for the hiding-place of the five negroes, arriving at 1:30 Saturday morning.

The house was dark, but as the officers approached the inmates opened fire and Owen Heard fell to the ground. He was borne out of range by his fellows. The house was at once surrounded by the posse and daylight was awaited before making another advance, the officers, however, having determined to make the arrests unaided. The house in which the negro Richardson was located belonged to Annie Milburn, also colored. Richardson owned the store adjoining the house. Here he kept ammunition and guns and was therefore well prepared for a fight. At 6 o'clock this morning the group of officers who had been watching the house all night approached the place and called upon those within to surrender.

The answer was a volley of shots and County Officer Battle dropped dead. The attackers retreated some distance and from behind trees and telegraph and trolley poles commenced firing into the store. In a few minutes the door of the house was thrown open and Will King, a negro, ran out and gave himself up to the officers. Inside the house Richardson had an unobstructed view in three directions. One block away Policeman Tom Grant stepped from his shelter to fire into the house. A shot from the besieged house killed him before he could fire. The attacking party sent word to police headquarters and Chief of Police Ball dispatched the reserves to the scene in several patrol wagons. The officers to whom King had given himself up determined to make use of the negro and at the point of a rifle they forced him to walk up to the rear of the house and fire it.

As soon as the flames started the officers, eager to get the inmates of the house, stepped out of their shelter in every direction. Again there was a shot from the house and this time Officer Edward Crabtree met

death. An instant later there was another shot and County Policeman Robert Ozburn fell dead. The shooting had by this time attracted hundreds of people and nearly every man who came to the scene carried a rifle. The shooting into the house became general, citizens and officers firing together. Governor Candler was advised by telephone of the rioting and ordered out the militia. Captain W. W. Barker, of the Fifth Regiment, was ordered to proceed with 50 men and a platoon gun to the scene of the shooting and co-operate with the city authorities and the sheriff of Fulton county.

Chief of Police Ball hurried to the scene on horseback and was joined a few minutes later by Sheriff Nelms. The desperado, Richardson, had been lost sight of. The house burned rapidly and a number of inmates were seen to run from the store to a woodshed and to a barn in the next lot. Orders were quickly given to fire these buildings and in a few minutes several of the buildings were burning. W. T. Jackson, a street car conductor in uniform, was one of those attracted to the scene by the shooting. As he was nearing the house he was shot in the right hip, presumably by Richardson. A negro cabman, driving a spectator to the vicinity of the rioting, was struck in the hand by a bullet. Call Officer Spradlin, speeding to the scene on his bicycle, received a wound in the arm.

A main sewer which runs through this part of the city was utilized by two of the negroes as a possible means of escape, but to no avail. The crowd had increased until 3,000 people, 2,000 of whom were armed, surrounded the burning area. Milton Rosby, a negro, was seen to emerge from the mouth of a sewer. A shout went up and the fleeing negro was shot dead. His body was surrounded and was literally shot to pieces. The crowd of enraged citizens had scarcely finished this work when another negro was seen coming out of the neighboring sewer. He made a run and managed to get to the back yard of one of the neighboring houses, where he was shot to death.

The fire, which had been started by the attacking party, spread rapidly and soon the entire block of buildings, almost wholly composed of negro houses, was destroyed. The police were busy arresting the few negroes found in the vicinity. Two of them, Steve Nisbot and Jim Singleton, believed to be members of Richardson's gang, were arrested. The police had great difficulty in getting out of the crowd of enraged people with the colored men. A mob of 2,000 surged around the patrol wagon and clamored for the lives of the prisoners. The officers throwing their men into the bottom of the wagon, drew their revolvers and forced a passage through the crowd, finally lodging their prisoners in safety in the Fulton county jail, on Butler street.

In less than an hour the block of wooden houses was burned to the ground and a search of the ruins immediately followed. In the woodshed in the rear of Richardson's store, was found a skull and near to it the steel barrel of a rifle. It is believed that the skull represented all that is left of the negro who did the shooting. The police believe they have arrested all the negroes concerned in the shooting, but have been given orders by the chief to bring into custody all suspicious characters found in the neighborhood. The rioting caused the utmost excitement not only in the little suburb of Pittsburg, where it occurred, but all over the city.

In the barricaded store were three negroes. It is believed there were at first as many as five, and that two escaped before daylight. The store was a small arsenal in which were a number of Winchester rifles and a small Gatling gun. It was a renegade's den. Within were sharpshooters who picked off the men on the outside with precision and deadly effect. Every time a man showed himself he was shot to death. After the burned body of Richardson had been found an angry crowd of white men seized it and bore it towards the city. Chief Ball threw a cordon of police across a street at the city limits and took the body away from the crowd and sent it to the city in a wagon. While the procession was passing, Will Gregg, a negro, was heard to remark that it was a shame to kill negroes that way, and he had no sooner spoken the words than he was riddled with bullets. He was taken to the county jail, where he died tonight. Fifty men of the Fifth Infantry did patrol duty in the disturbed district all day, being relieved tonight by the Gate City Guards. As a further precaution, Governor Candler ordered every militiaman in Atlanta under arms and to remain at their company headquarters until further orders.

Perfect order and peace prevailed Sunday in Pittsburg, the negro settlement, where the desperate battle between officers of the law and negro outlaws occurred Saturday. The only evidence of the terrible struggle are the heaps of ashes which mark the spot where the buildings formerly sheltering Will Richardson, the negro desperado, and his companions, and the detail of military patrolling the scene of the disturbance. Although good order prevailed all day, the city and county authorities decided to retain a strong force of military in Pittsburg, and the companies of militia located in this city have been ordered by the Governor to remain under arms for the present. No additional arrests have been made and the police report everything quiet.

Rumors of renewed rioting were heard during the day. A report reached the city in the morning that the rioting had recommenced and a squad of 40 policemen were hurried to the scene only to find that they had responded to a false alarm. Captain F. M. McCurdy, of the central station, was fired on by a negro at 3 o'clock Sunday morning, at the corner of Fair and Walker streets. The bullet passed near Captain McCurdy's head. The officer jumped from his horse and although he gained on his assailant enough to see that he was a negro, Capt. McCurdy was unable to capture or wound the colored man. It was nearly daylight before the hoodlum element which made disorderly demonstrations in the downtown districts during the night, dispersed and the police went to their barracks after a hard night's work. At one time there were 3,000 people congregated at the corner of Marietta and Peachtree streets, but the presence of 50 policemen, mounted and on foot, doubtless restrained any serious demonstration. The crowd was addressed by several prominent citizens, who counselled moderation.

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WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING,

The House Busy Threshing Over Old Straw.

The house spent Saturday in discussing the naval appropriation bill and the most important feature of the discussion involved a revival of the Sampson-Schley controversy. This arose over an amendment to the bill which was presented by Mr. Mudd, of Maryland, and which was adopted, prohibiting the use of Macley's history of the navy as a text book at the naval academy. A number of minor amendments to the bill were adopted but the consideration of the measure was not completed before the house adjourned.

Mr. Mudd, discussing his amendment said that the president of the United States had stated to him that this work should never be used. In reply to a question of Mr. Dayton why he wanted to put the amendment on the bill in view of the fact that the president would hold over the next fiscal year, Mr. Mudd said that while Mr. Roosevelt was a very lively force at this time and promised to live out this term and be ready to take another, he wanted to guard against any contingencies.

Mr. Peare of Maryland said he wanted to join his colleague in unqualified admiration for that splendid American and magnificent sea fighter, Admiral Schley. Admiral Schley, he said, had borne with fine patience the onslaughts of his defamers, and with it all stood before the country as the real hero of Santiago.

Mr. Foss of Illinois remarked that he had supposed the Sampson-Schley controversy was dead, which raised a laugh on the Democratic side. He said the controversy ought to have been closed when the court of inquiry made its findings and when the President of the United States reviewed those findings.

The honor of the Santiago campaign is large enough for all, said Mr. Foss. "In this controversy I have never been for either Admiral Sampson or Admiral Schley. The American navy will live long after the Sampsons and the Schleys are gone. When the smoke of battle dies away, when the tramp of men is gone by, the recording angel will record the names of the men who took part in the Santiago fight."

Mr. Williams of Mississippi interjected a great deal of humor into the debate by stating that he understood he made a mistake in the pronunciation of the name of Crowninshield, that he had mispronounced the proper name of an improper person. That as Cholmondeley was in England pronounced Chumley he understood that Crowninshield should be pronounced Crumchem. He said it was a shame and a disgrace in a great country that a man who had made the brilliant record that Schley had should have been written down by a government employe.

Mr. Schirm of Maryland in making his maiden effort before the house said that the unfortunate controversy between Sampson and Schley had not been forced by the friends of Admiral Schley; that truth had been perverted by Maclay.

Mr. Cannon of Illinois remarked that he did not believe that anybody in the house or the country believed that Schley was a coward.

Notes.

The Senate minority refused to agree to Mr. Lodge's proposition to fix a date for a vote on the Philippine Civil Government bill.

The Philippine atrocities and the Schley case furnished two topics for lively debate in the House.

The present session threatens to make appropriations aggregating \$1,000,000,000.

News in Brief.

A New York dispatch says: "Confirmation of the report that the 'Mason' system has been acquired by the Louisville & Nashville and Southern Railways comes from several authoritative sources.

The Bible ought to be a text book in every public and private school. It is the getting away from or the abolition of that book of books from our schools which causes so much degradation among the young. This, together with lax home training, will bring the wrath of God upon the nation.

We read of the seven ages of man, but one age is ample for the average woman.

FIELD OF BANNOCKBURN.

Good Crops Growing Where "Englischers" Fell.

Most of the historic spots in Great Britain and on the Continent are carefully prepared for the tourist. Tablets tell the facts in the case, and the ruins are all tagged. There is small chance for dreaming or giving the imagination play where guides show one just when to thrill.

It is for its entire absence of trapings and stage setting that the field of Bannockburn is worth more than all the labelled marvels to be seen on a foreign tour. Bannockburn is fortunate in having no facilities of transportation. It is not too easy of approach. A tramcar from Stirling takes one the first two miles, to St. Minians, but after that there remains a half-mile walk to the battlefield. No elaborate description in large type tells that the scene has finally been reached. The only means of identification is a flagstaff to mark the spot where Bruce planted his standard. But for the rest there are just rolling hills, covered over with barley and oats. It is all as productive and unpretentious as some useful tract without memories.

A traveller, not so long ago, who had expected to find barrenness, remarked to a laborer harvesting on the flank of the hill that falls away to the English position, that the murderous work of six centuries ago had not cursed or blighted the region.

"On the contrary," returned the Scot, as he looked over the fertile fields, which had once been the graveyard for an army, "The Englishers, they make good crops."—New York Tribune.

Boulders, But Not Stone.

The Falkland Islands, far off in the South Atlantic, between the lower end of South America and Africa, are not very inviting spots to visit. They are swept by fierce winds blowing from the South Pole and carrying all obstructions before them. For this reason there are no trees on the island, at least not what we, who are accustomed to think of trees as things with height, would call trees.

The visitor to the Falklands sees, scattered here and there, singular shaped blocks of what appear to be weather-beaten and moss-covered boulders in various sizes. Attempt to turn one of these "boulders" over and you will meet with a surprise, because the stone is actually anchored by roots of great strength—in fact, you will find that you are fooling with one of the native trees. No other country in the world has such a peculiar "forest" growth, and it is said to be next to impossible to work the odd shaped block into fuel, because it is perfectly devoid of grain, and appears to be nothing but a twisted mass of woody fibers.

The report of the Remount Department in South Africa, which was lately published in London, gives a curious picture of British "unpreparedness" at the beginning of the present war. Although it had been fairly certain for some time that the war was coming when the outbreak occurred the Remount Department had in South Africa just two horses in reserve and the personnel of the force comprised three officers, one veterinary surgeon and about 300 men, including native boys. Within a few months this force was swelled to 4,425 officers and men, who had received and distributed up to last December approximately 300,000 animals. But this increase was made in the most haphazard fashion. There was no machinery by which the department could be automatically developed. The home establishment could spare only two officers and the rest had to be drawn from various branches of the service. Out of the thirty-five officers now in the department fifteen had not been in the mounted branch of the service when assigned to their present duty and hardly any of the thirty-five had had technical training or experience.

A fashion note from Paris reports the introduction of mica veils for "motorists." Armor plate coats for pedestrians are more in favor in America.

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