

# The Corvallis Times.

WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, SEPTEMBER 24, 1902.

B. F. IRVINE  
EDITOR AND PROP.

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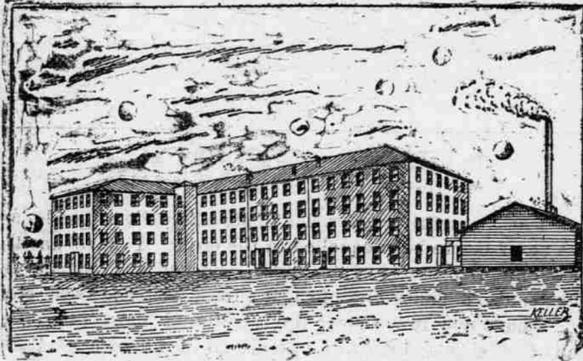
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### TERRIBLE CHURCH PANIC

HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN LIVES  
CRUSHED OUT IN A BIRMINGHAM  
NEGRO CHURCH.

The Cry of "Quiet" Is Mistaken for  
That of Fire—Floors of Church  
Looked Like a Battlefield—  
Bodies Piled Ten Feet  
High—Other News.

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 19.—In an awful crash of humanity, caused by a stampede by the Shiloh Negro Baptist church, at Avenue G and Eighteenth street, tonight, 78 persons were killed and as many more seriously injured. The catastrophe occurred at 9 o'clock, just as Booker T. Washington had concluded his address to the national convention of Baptists, and for three hours the scenes around the church were indescribable. Dead bodies were strewn in every direction, and the ambulance service of the city was utterly unable to remove them until after 1 o'clock. Dozens of dead bodies were arranged in rows on the ground outside of the house of worship awaiting removal to the various undertaking establishments, while more than a score were laid out on the benches inside.

The church is the largest for negroes in Birmingham, and the pastor says there were at least two thousand persons in the edifice when the stampede began. Instructions had been issued to allow no more to enter, but the negroes forced their way inside the building and were standing in every aisle. Even the entrance to the church was literally packed.

Just as Booker T. Washington concluded his address, Judge Billou, a negro leader from Baltimore, engaged in an altercation with the choir leader concerning an unoccupied seat, and, it is said, a blow was struck. Some one in the choir cried: "They're fighting." Mistaking the word "fighting" for "fire," the congregation rose in mass and started for the door. One of the ministers quickly mounted the rostrum and admonished the people to keep quiet. He repeated the word "quiet" several times, and motioned to his hearers to be seated. Again the excited congregation mistook the word "quiet" for "fire," and renewed the struggle to reach the door. Men and women crawled over benches and fought their way into aisles, and those who had fallen were trampled upon like cattle. The ministers tried again and again to stop the stampede, but no power on earth could stay the struggling, fighting mass of humanity. The screams of women and children added to the horror of the scene, and through mere fright many persons fainted and as they fell to the floor were crushed to death.

The level of the floor is about 15 feet from the ground, and long steps lead to the sidewalk from the lobby just outside the main auditorium. Brick walls extend on each side of these steps for six or seven feet, and these proved a veritable death trap. Negroes who had reached the top of the steps were pushed violently forward, and many fell. Before they could move others fell upon them, and in 15 minutes persons were piled upon each other to a height of 10 feet. This wall of struggling humanity blocked the entrance, and the weight of 1500 persons was pushed against. More than 20 persons lying on the steps underneath the heap of the bodies died from suffocation.

Two white men who were in the rear of the church when the rush began, escaped, and, realizing the seriousness of the situation, rushed to a corner near by and turned in a fire alarm. The department came quickly, and the arrival of the wagons served to scatter the crowd which had gathered around the front of the church. A squad of police was also hastened to the church, and, with the firemen, finally succeeded in releasing the negroes from their positions in the entrance. The dead bodies were quickly removed, and the crowd inside, finding an outlet, came pouring out. Scores of them lost their footing and rolled down the long steps to the pavement, sustaining broken limbs and internal injuries.

In an hour the church had been practically cleared, and the sight which greeted the eyes of those who had come to aid the injured was

sickening. Down the aisles and along the outside of the pews the dead bodies of men and women were strewn, and the cries of the maimed and crippled were heart-rending. In a few minutes the work of removing the bodies was begun. As many of the negroes as could be moved by the ambulances were taken to the hospitals, and the rest were laid out on the ground, and there the physicians attended them. At least 15 died before they could be moved from the ground.

Captain Frank H. O'Brien, ex-sheriff of Jefferson county, and one of the most prominent citizens of Birmingham, was a witness of the catastrophe. He lives within half a block of the church, and, hearing the commotion, went to ascertain the trouble. As he reached the front of the church the crowd had begun blocking the entrance, and in describing it he said:

"I have witnessed many appalling sights, but the wild scene at the head of those steps is beyond description. Wildly excited negroes reached the top of the steps and began falling headlong down the incline. Others were pushed upon them, and notwithstanding the warnings from the outside the crowd continued to push. In a few minutes men and women were piled upon each other to a height of 10 feet. Presently a negro woman with a baby in her arms mounted the mass, and, climbing over the bodies, leaped to the ground without injury to herself or the infant. As quickly as possible a rescue party was organized, and as soon as the entrance was cleared the removal of the bodies was begun."

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 20.—Up to noon today 93 dead bodies of victims of last night's panic at Shiloh Baptist church (colored) had been identified. As nearly as can be figured at this hour, the number of dead is 116, while no accurate estimate can be placed on the number of injured. The majority of those who were killed were women. After midnight last night several bodies of persons who were crushed in the panic were found lying in the weeds in the vacant lot adjoining the church. They had scrambled out of the mass of struggling humanity with broken limbs or crushed breasts, and had crawled away in this manner to die. One negro threw himself over the heads of the crowd and had his brains dashed out against the wall.

New York, Sept. 20.—With only enough coal left to finish out the month, the Brooklyn schools are threatened with an enforced recess. Only 1000 tons of coal remains on hand for supplying 145 buildings. By the most rigid economy this amount can be made to last one week.

As it has been found impossible to get a supply of coal in this country for the winter months for the 16 public schools of Yonkers, the board of education has decided to import coal from Wales rather than close the schools. Bids were asked for a bid of about two thousand tons of anthracite, the dealers being allowed all the latitude possible in price. Not a bid was received.

New York, Sept. 20.—The first consignment of anthracite coal which large dealers and consumers have found it necessary to import on account of the coal miners' strike in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania, reached this port on board the British steamer Devonshire, which left Swansea, Wales, on Sept. 5. A second consignment is expected to arrive here in a few days on the British steamer Glencoe, which left Swansea four days after the Devonshire sailed. These two shipments consist of about 8,000 tons.

It is rumored that orders have been placed in Wales for thousands of tons of anthracite, and contracts have been made for the immediate shipment to this city of from 20,000 to 30,000 tons.

Notice of the First Meeting of Creditors.

In the District Court of the United States for the state of Oregon.  
In the matter of Eldridge Hartless in bankruptcy.  
To the creditors of Eldridge Hartless of Philomath, in the County of Benton and District aforesaid, a bankrupt:  
Notice is hereby given that on the 19th day of September, 1902, the said Eldridge Hartless was duly adjudicated a bankrupt, and that the first meeting of his creditors will be held at Corvallis, Oregon, in my office on the 7th day of October, 1902, at one o'clock in the afternoon, at which time the said creditors may attend, and prove their claims, appoint a trustee, examine the bankrupt, and transact such other business as may properly come before said meeting.  
E. HOLZGATE,  
Referee in Bankruptcy  
Dated Sept 24th, 1902.

### IN CORVALLIS

REGISTRATION AT THE COLLEGE  
SHOWS BIG INCREASE IN  
ATTENDANCE.

Death of Mrs. Barker—What Engineer Smith's Lawyers Say—  
A Wedding—Complaint  
About Gravel Hauling  
Football Men at  
Work.

There are students galore out on college hill. Monday was the first day of registration, and at evening time 302 students had been enrolled as against 221 on the same day last year. At noon yesterday, the figures had risen to 351 as against 290 on the evening of the second day a year ago. The aggregate was 61 ahead with the registration of the afternoon to hear from.

At Cauthorn Hall 86 persons ate lunch at noon yesterday, and of them 80 were students. The largest number at the Hall at any time time past, was last year when the total was 72. At Alpha Hall a few rooms remained unengaged yesterday morning. Of old students, many are now returning, though those daily on the ground say the strange faces seem to predominate as yet. The indications are very promising. Chapel exercises were held for the first time yesterday morning, and during the day classes met and lessons were assigned. Mordant Goodnough has been placed in temporary charge of the music department.

After an illness of about six months, Mrs. Christina Henkle Barker, mother of Mrs. Emory Allen, died at the Allen home in this city Monday night, of heart failure. The funeral is to take place from the late residence at 10 o'clock this morning, and the interment will be in the Henkle cemetery. The services will be conducted by Rev. Garrick of the Presbyterian church.

The deceased was a pioneer of 1853. With her husband, she crossed the plains by ox team to Oregon in company with her brother, Ichabod Henkle, who still survives at the advanced age of 92 years, and also with her brother Jacob Henkle of Marion county, and A. J. Henkle, of Idaho, and her sister, Mrs. Mary King, of the vicinity of Corvallis.

The Barkers settled on a farm two miles west of Philomath, where they resided until about 20 years ago, when they removed to Washington, where the husband died three or four years later. After his death, Mrs. Barker returned to Benton county, and thereafter lived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Allen, in Corvallis. At the time of her death, she was aged 86 years, two months and 19 days. The surviving children are, Mrs. F. Allen, of Corvallis, Mrs. Bessie Witte, Waitsburg, Wash., and William Barker, Salem. She was a member of the Presbyterian church, and was ever a consistent Christian, and devoted mother.

For more than half her life, Mrs. Barker suffered with blindness. En route across the plains, her eyes became affected with alkali dust, and the trouble continued after the arrival in Oregon, until in about two years thereafter, the sight was entirely lost. After a life of gentle goodness, she has gone to a place where all who enter, see.

The account is that Engineer Smith will probably make objection to the flat rate of \$800 per year for fire protection in Corvallis under the plan provided for by ordinance now pending in the city council. The original ordinance, it will be remembered as prepared by Mr. Smith's attorneys, proposed a rate of \$5 per fire hydrant. The committee from the council to which the ordinance was referred made an amendment providing for a rate of \$800 per year for fire protection, sewer cleansing, street sprinkling and other city purposes.

After agreeing to the amendment, the committee instructed City Attorney Yates to send a copy to Engineer Smith. Mr. Yates took the amended ordinance to Mr. Smith's attorneys in Portland, and was told by them that the amendment in question was not likely to be satisfactory. As to all the other amendments made by the committee, the

attorneys believed they would be accepted. Mr. Smith, who has been at Huntington, Eastern Oregon, for several days, is expected to meet with the committee in Corvallis, in a day or two.

One of the prettiest and most unique weddings of the season occurred at the home of the bride's parents Sunday evening, September 21, 1902. The contracting parties were Ernest B. Carey of Falls City, and Zelma R., only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Henkle, of Philomath. Promptly at eight o'clock the happy couple were joined in holy wedlock by Rev. F. H. Neff, of Philomath, in the presence of near relatives and a few friends. The bride was becomingly attired in cream albatross and carried white carnations. Light refreshments were served. The rooms were beautifully and artistically decorated, and many beautiful presents were received.

Mr. and Mrs. Carey will make Falls City their future home. They have a host of friends who wish them a long and happy life.

From all accounts a whirlwind of enthusiasm is raging among students at the college over the coming football season. The dull tug of the pigskin as it is kicked and cuffed about, is already wafted townwards by breezes from the west. As early as Monday afternoon, which was registration day, the work was on. No game was played, but a number of the initiated were out for a spell of kicking. Yesterday afternoon again the operation was repeated and the first practice game was played. Coach Herbold arrived Friday, and has already assumed direction of the work. There is no doubt, from all that can be heard and seen on the grounds, that the boys are going this year to make the effort of their lives for a record.

A new feature has been inaugurated this season with respect to ticket sales. Instead of the old custom selling single tickets for each individual game, a season ticket, admitting the holder to all games is to be issued. It is to cost \$1.00. It will admit the holder to all games of the season, for which six are already scheduled. The sale of the tickets is to be entrusted to small boys about town. Each is to receive five per cent of the aggregate sales. Each is also to receive one season ticket for each 10 that he sells. Finally, the boy that sells the greatest number of tickets is to receive a cash prize of \$5. The arrangement places the cost of a game at less than 17 cents, and offers small boys a fine field of enterprise.

Of course single tickets will be available to those who want them at 25 to 50 cents, according to the importance of the game.

The hauling of gravel from the Linn county to the Benton county side of the Willamette is complained of from another source. Recently the TIMES told how the supervisor of the road district on the other side of the river had lodged a complaint, and that he purposed, if possible to stop the practice.

Now comes David B. Ogden, assistant United States engineer, in charge of the government improvement across the Willamette from Corvallis, and says that those who haul the gravel away are subject to a fine of from \$500 to \$2,500. He was on the ground, and says he saw a load of gravel hauled away yesterday morning. The gravel was brought to Corvallis for use on a building in course of erection. Mr. Ogden says that every load of gravel hauled from the spot is one more influence tending to change the navigable channel of the Willamette through the farms to the eastward. There is a heavy wash now, he says, at the very place from which the gravel is taken, and the removal of the gravel only tends to widen and deepen the course that in future may wash and wash until it is deepened so as to become the main channel of the river.

Mr. Ogden left yesterday for Albany, where he will call the attention of the Linn county court to the practice.

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