

## DIED IN TRAP

Many Persons Are Crushed and Burned in a New York Factory

## DEATH TOLL IS HEAVY

They Are Caught Without Means of Escape, Many Jump from Ninth and Tenth Stories—Lives Are Crushed Out on Pavement Before Horrified Spectators.

One hundred and forty-eight persons—nine-tenths of them girls from the East Side—were crushed to death on the pavements, smothered by smoke or shrivelled crisp Saturday afternoon in the worst fire New York has known since the steamer General Slocum was burned off North Brothers Island, in 1904.

Nearly all, if not all, of the victims were employed by the Triangle Waist Company, on the eighth, ninth and tenth floors of a ten-story loft building, at No. 23 Washington Place, on the western fringe of the downtown wholesale clothing, fur and millinery district.

The partners of the firm, Isaac Harris and Mac Blank, escaped from the office on the tenth floor, carrying with them over an adjoining roof Blank's two young daughters and a governess. There was not an outside fire escape on the building.

How the fire started will perhaps never be known. A corner on the eighth floor was its point of origin and the three upper floors only were swept. On the ninth floor, fifty bodies were found, sixty-three or more were crushed to death by jumping, and more than thirty clogged the elevator shafts. The loss to property will not exceed \$100,000.

Pedestrians going home, through Washington Place to Washington Square, at ten minutes to five, were scattered by the whiz of something rushing through the air before them; there was a terrible thud on the pavement and a body flattened on the flags. Wayfarers on the opposite side of the street shaded their eyes against the setting sun and saw the windows of the three upper floors of the building black with girls crowding to the sills. There were no fire escapes.

No Other Alternative. "Don't jump; don't jump!" yelled the crowd, but the girls had no alternative. The pressure of the madened hundreds behind them and the urging of their own fears were too strong. They began to fall to the sidewalk, in a terrible rain of flesh and blood.

Four alarms were rung within 15 minutes. Before the engines could respond, before the nets could be stretched or the ladders raised, five girls had fallen from the eighth and ninth floors so heavily that they broke through the glass and iron roofs of the sub-cellars and crashed through the very streets into the vaults below. In an hour the fire was out; in half an hour it had done its worst. Probably the death list was full in 20 minutes.

The building stands on a corner, with exposure on two sides, but the only fire escape was in the rear, opening into a light and air shaft. In all, there were seven exits—the single fire escape, two freight elevators, at the rear; two passenger elevators in front, and two stairways. All of them proved almost useless and practically all who escaped either climbed to the roof and scrambled thence to the roof of the building occupied by the American Book Company, or fled in the first rush for safety before the crush and the smoke grew too thick.

The buildings stand tonight with shell intact and barely scarred—rather only smudged. The tiling between the floors are sound, and it is impossible for one, who did not see it, to imagine how the flames in so short a time could have caused such havoc. Seven hundred persons were employed by the shirt waist company. They sat in rows at their whirling machines, the tables before them piled with flimsy cloth, the floor littered with lint, the air itself full of flying inflammable dust.

Died in Their Seats. The first rush of flame was almost an explosion. Operators died in their chairs, their lungs seared by inhaling flame. Others were crowded into the elevator shafts, after the cars had made their last trip. Still others were pushed off the inadequate interior fire escape.

In such a horrible stream did the bodies overflow from the windows, that the fire nets, stretched by the first company to arrive, were soon gorged beyond capacity. Twelve bodies dropped into one net, tearing it to pieces, then fell to the pavement.

When the first breath of flame curled over the edge of a pile of shirting, on the eighth floor, five minutes before quitting time, hundreds were in line before the cashier's window.

wrist and jumped. Her body went whirling downward, through the woven wire glass of a canopy, to the flagging below. Her sisters who followed, flamed through the air like rockets. Their path could be followed, but their screams hardly heard.

It was 85 feet from eighth floor to the ground, about 95 feet from the ninth floor, 115 feet from the cornice of the roof. The upward rush of the draught and the crackle of the flames drowned their cries.

Six girls fought their way to a window on the ninth floor, over the bodies of fallen fellow workers, and crawled out in single file on an eight-inch stone ledge running the length of the building. More than a hundred feet above the sidewalk they crawled along their perilous pathway to an electric-feed wire spanning Washington Place. The leaders paused for their companions to catch up and the six grabbed the wire simultaneously. It snapped and they crashed down to death.

A 17-year-old girl hung for three minutes by her finger tips to the sill of a tenth floor window. A tongue of flame licked at her fingers and she dropped into a life-net, held by firemen. The two women fell into the net at almost the same moment. The strings parted and the three were added to the death list. One girl threw her pocketbook, then her hat, then her furs from the tenth story window. A moment later her body came hurtling after them, to death.

At a ninth floor window a man and a woman appeared. The man embraced the woman and kissed her. Then he hurled her to the street and jumped. Both were killed. Five girls smashed a pane of glass, dropped in a struggling tangle and were crushed into a shapeless mass. A girl on the eighth floor leaped for a fireman's ladder, which reached only to sixth floor. She missed, struck the edge of a life-net and was picked up with her back broken.

From one window a girl of about 13 years, a woman, a man and two women, with their arms about one another, threw themselves to the ground in rapid succession. The little girl was whirled to the New York Hospital. She screamed as the driver and a policeman lifted her into the hallway. A surgeon came out, gave one look at her face and touched her wrist.

"She is dead," he said. One girl jumped into a horse blanket, held by firemen and policemen. The blanket ripped like cheese-cloth and her body was mangled almost beyond recognition. Another dropped into a tarpaulin, held by three men. Her weight tore it from their grasp and she struck the street, breaking almost every bone in her body. Almost at the same time a man somersaulted down upon the shoulder of a policeman holding the tarpaulin. He glanced off, struck the sidewalk and was picked up dead.

Effort to Check Stampede. Within the building a man on the eighth floor stationed himself at the door of one of the elevators and with a club kept back the girls, who had stamped to the wire cage. Thirty were admitted to the car at a time. They were rushed down as fast as possible.

The calls for ambulances were followed by successive appeals for police, until 100 patrolmen arrived to cope with a crowd numbering tens of thousands. A hundred mounted policemen had to charge the crowd repeatedly to keep it back.

Led by Fire Chief Croker, a squad of firemen gained access to the building at 7 o'clock. Two searchlights from buildings opposite lighted the way of the firemen. Fifty roasted bodies were found on the ninth floor. They lay in every possible position, some so mangled that recognition was impossible.

Women with their hair burned away, with here and there a limb burned entirely off and the charred stump visible, were lifted tenderly from the debris, wrapped in oilcloth and lowered by pulleys to the street.

Across the street there rested on the sidewalk a hundred pine coffins, into which were placed the bodies. As fast as this was done, the coffins were carried away, in any kind of a vehicle that could be pressed into service, to the morgue, at Bellevue Hospital, and the Charities Morgue, opened for the first time since the General Slocum disaster.

One hundred and six bodies had been taken from the building and twenty injured had been conveyed to St. Vincent's Hospital, at 10 o'clock. Of these three died soon after admittance. Others were not expected to live through the night. Three of five women taken to Bellevue Hospital died soon after admittance there.

Many Rescued by Students. On the tenth floor of the building adjoining the burned structure, is the law department of the New York University. Here twenty odd students were listening to a lecture by Frank H. Sommer, former sheriff of Essex County. He saw the smoke and saw the girls trapped on the roof. He led his class to the roof of the University quarters, where they found two ladders. Two boys bore these down two flights of the roof of an intervening building, swarmed out of the windows and raised them to the roof of the burning building. Forty girls were brought down to safety.

Just how many trips were made by the elevator men will perhaps never be ascertained. The various reports of heroism at the elevators differ.

City officials announced tonight that the usual rigid regulations which follow such disasters will be

## KILLED IN WRECK

"DIXIE FLYER" GOES THROUGH TRESTLE INTO RIVER.

More Than a Dozen Also Injured in One of Worst Railroad Disasters Known in the South.

In one of the worst railroad disasters known in the South Atlantic States, eight persons were killed and more than a dozen injured, when train No. 97, known as the "Dixie Flyer," on the Atlantic Coast Line, and running between Chicago and Jacksonville, went through a trestle over the Alapaha river, eighteen miles east of Tifton, Ga., early Saturday morning. Saturday night but one body, that of John T. Watson, of Wyoming, remained in the river. Had it not been for the wreck, Watson would have been a bridegroom Sunday. His sweetheart, Miss Elise Shippey, of Pasadena, Cal., who was on the train with him, and to whom he was to have been married in Jacksonville Sunday, remained at the wreck throughout the day and night, watching the efforts of the rescuing party to recover Watson's body.

The revised list of the dead and injured is given as follows: Dead: O. F. Bonnhart, Henderson, Ky.; W. W. Culpepper, Tifton, Ga.; Mrs. W. D. Fletcher, Rowland, Ill.; John T. Watson, Landa, Wyo.; J. P. Woodward, express messenger, Waycross, Ga.; C. J. Parnell, conductor, Savannah; Lucius Ellis, fireman, and Albert Simmons, porter, both colored, of Waycross, Ga.

Injured: J. E. Powell, baggage-master, Jacksonville; J. P. Klein, wife and child, St. Louis; father and mother bruised and child scalded, Peter Gerlofs, Holland, Mich.; bruised; Nic Vandermejon, Grand Rapids, Mich.; bruised about the head and knees; Mrs. O. F. Bonnhart, Henderson, Ky.; W. T. Perkins, Catlettsburg, Ky.; bruised; J. E. Greene, engineer, Waycross, Ga.; bruised.

The cars plunged into the river, without a moment's warning to the sleeping passengers, when an axle on the engine suddenly snapped near midway of the trestle. The locomotive never left the track, but the tender was derailed and the tank tumbled to the bed of the stream. The trestle is about a half mile long, but the river was low and at the point of the accident was not more than 50 yards across. The express and baggage cars, two day coaches and one Pullman were piled in an indescribable mass in the center of the stream, but few of the passengers were carried beneath the water.

J. P. Woodward, the express messenger, was killed and Baggage-master J. E. Powell was probably fatally hurt, by timbers driven through the car.

The first-class coach, a new steel car, was driven through the sleeper. In this car Bonnhart, of Henderson, Ky., was instantly killed, while his wife, beside him, escaped with slight injuries.

It is not expected to have the tracks cleared and the trestle repaired for traffic before Sunday night.

## WATERY GRAVES FOR MANY.

Passengers and Crew Go Down When Vessel Turns Turtle.

The British Columbia Shipping Company's little wooden steamer, Sochelt, built for passenger service on an inland lake, turned turtle in a furious gale off Beeched Head, Vancouver Island, late Saturday and went down with all on board, twenty-two passengers and the crew of four men. Thirteen passengers had landed at William Head just before the steamer went out to destruction. Most of the passengers were railroad laborers, bound for a Canadian northern construction camp, but a few were residents of Sooke.

Henry Charles, an Indian, of Rocky Point, was gathering wood on Beecher Bay at 5:30 p. m. Saturday and saw the vessel, three miles off Beecher Head, when the gale struck her. She leaned over and swung around as though she intended to run across the strait to Port Crescent, on the American side. The tiny craft had partly turned broadside to the wind when she righted, then went over and lay on her side.

The Indian watched the steamer ten minutes and at the end of that time the vessel was swallowed up by the sea, leaving not a trace on the surface. Capt. J. B. James commanded the vessel. Beecher Head is west of Beecher Bay, in the Strait of Fuga, twenty-five miles from Victoria.

instigated at once. "The calamity is just what I have been predicting," said one. "There was no outside fire-escape on the building. This large death toll is due to neglect."

The police say that today's fire is the sixth or seventh in the building within twelve months, all of which, they say, occurred in the shirt waist factory. The others were trifling. The factory, incidentally, is said to be the first in which operators struck during the widespread shirt waist strike settled several months ago.

By today's fire the total shirt waist operators who have perished in New York is nearly 200. Not many weeks ago 25 girls met death under somewhat similar circumstances in Newark, N. J.

## WHO THEY ARE

Attorney-General Lyon Gives Names of Those Given Immunity.

## HIS REASONS FOR SAME

In Response to Gov. Blease's Request for Certain Information Attorney General States That Atlanta Law Firm Empowered Only to Offer Immunity.

Giving the list of those who were promised immunity, because of having either turned State's evidence or given certain evidence, or giving up certain information, a defence of the granting of immunity and much other interesting data that the general public had heretofore been unacquainted with, Attorney General J. Frazer Lyon on Friday afternoon sent to Governor Blease a letter, in reply to the one sent to the Attorney General by Governor Blease on the day the dispensary commission was dismissed.

The letter was "released for publication" by Governor Blease, upon Attorney General's Lyon's statement that the newspaper men would have to get permission of the Governor for the letter to be published. The letter given out by Attorney General Lyon this afternoon is the first public statement he has made since the whole dispensary situation was revived by Governor Blease's calling for an investigation, except Mr. Lyon's request to the Legislature for an investigation. Upon other matters, Mr. Lyon has no statements to make at this time.

The following is the letter in full: "Columbia, S. C., March 23, 1911. "Governor C. L. Blease, Columbia, S. C.—Dear Sir: Replying to your letter of the 14th instant, I will say: "M. A. Goodman was indicted by the grand jury of Richland county. Upon his giving me certain evidence showing the guilt of former dispensary officials, and furnishing me information as to how other evidence of similar nature could be obtained, no pro was, or will be in due time, entered upon indictments against him. "J. T. Early and J. B. Wylie testified as witnesses for the State in several cases. Their testimony has largely appeared in public prints. On account of this, I shall not press indictments against them and have agreed to institute no further proceedings against them in behalf of the State.

"Henry Samuels testified before the dispensary commission, and in the Criminal Court as a State's witness. I have, therefore, agreed to discontinue prosecution against him. "I. W. Bernheim and others were indicted in Chester and it was agreed that he, as a witness, should give bond in the sum of \$5,000 or deposit, in lieu thereof \$5,000 in cash, and if he shall not duly appear, the cash to be forfeited, otherwise to be turned over to the State dispensary commission. Five thousand dollars has been deposited with the Clerk of Court at Chester.

"I. W. Bernheim and B. Bernheim paid the State dispensary commission at one time \$530,000, and at another \$34,000, for overcharges on liquors sold the dispensary. Taking into consideration all the circumstances, I have agreed to nol pro as to I. W. Bernheim. "Upon indictments against D. Welskopf nol pro will be entered, upon his testifying the truth, as a witness in behalf of the State, with reference to sale of large quantities of labels sold by Nivison Welskopf to the State dispensary.

"J. S. Farnum was indicted, tried and acquitted. Thereafter, he pleaded guilty and was fined \$5,000. Upon other indictments against him nol pro was, or will be, entered. "At to Col. Dudley. "C. W. Dudley, in addition to giving evidence to the State dispensary commission, testified in Chester in the case against John Black and others, as a State's witness, and I have agreed not to prosecute him. "B. M. Wilson has furnished information concerning certain transactions between the Richland Distillery Company and the former State dispensary and has agreed to testify in regard thereto, and I have agreed that I will not prosecute him for, or on account of, his connection with the transactions about which he testified.

"G. H. Charles gave information, generally as to dispensary transactions; testified before the grand jury in the case against H. H. Evans and was employed as a detective. On account of the above it was not my purpose to prosecute him, even though it should have been determined that an action would probably lie against him. I am informed that Mr. Charles has recently died.

"W. D. Roy testified as a witness for the State in the case against John Black, et al, and before the grand jury, besides giving assistance in working up the cases. It is my purpose not to prosecute him. "I cannot recall anyone else who has agreed to turn State's evidence, or whom I have agreed not to prosecute. But if I find that any name has been in any manner overlooked, I will advise you upon the ascertainment thereof. I cannot say definitely but am of the impression that among those whom I have agreed not to prosecute the following were suggested by Mr. Felder, as persons who would give evidence for the State in such actions as might be instituted: W. D. Roy, B. M. Wilson, D. Welskopf, T. T. Early, C. W. Dudley and M. A. Goodman.

On His Own Responsibility. "I am unable to make the definite statement that Mr. Felder suggested that the persons above should not be prosecuted, for the reason that I, as Attorney General, have exercised this power upon my own responsibility, and in accordance with my own judgment.

"Referring to that part of your letter, which asks what civil actions were settled or compromised and the terms thereof, will say: That the civil actions instituted were in charge of Messrs. Anderson, Felder, Rountree and Wilson, Mr. W. F. Stevenson and Mr. B. L. Abney, Messrs. A. A. and Stevenson having active charge and management thereof. Mr. Stevenson has furnished me the following list of civil actions, which have been compromise. The actions were compromised for the payment of money, the amount of which is stated opposite the names of the defendants given below:

Gallagher & Burton, \$11,395.94; Lanahan & Sons, \$14,083.46; Grabber & Co., \$15,297.17; Roskam-Gerstler Company, \$3,066.37; Freedman-Keller Company, \$1,585; Meyer-Pitts & Co., \$3,437.50; Jack Cranstown Company, \$802.21; American Bonding Company, \$500.

"In several of the above cases the defendants had presented claims against the State, which were disallowed. Such amounts are in addition to the amount of moneys to which reference is above made. "The Act of 1910 authorized the dispensary commission to make settlement of such claims. "Power to Offer Only. "Answering your inquiry as to that part of the contract entered into between the State dispensary commission and Anderson, Felder, Rountree and Wilson, wherein it is provided that Anderson, Felder, Rountree and Wilson are clothed with full power, subject alone to the approval of the Attorney General of the State, to offer any of the parties involved immunity from prosecution, will say: The power to offer immunity was given this firm, but the power to grant immunity, that is, to refuse to prosecute, or, in case of indictment, to nol pro, was left as the law provides, in the discretion of the Attorney General. In view of this power of the Attorney General, this provision was inserted in the contract. Whether any person should not be indicted, or if indicted, should have the indictment against him, remains so far as the contract is concerned, just as the law provides.

"The policy of the State to allow immunity under the circumstances may be fairly inferred from the Act of 1906, providing for the investigation of the dispensary, wherein it is provided that no testimony given by witnesses before the committee shall be used against them in a criminal prosecution. This provision of law was perpetuated and became a part of the law under which the State dispensary commission was created. Acts of 1907, page 835.) So it must follow, independently of the law giving such power to the Attorney General, that such of those whose names are mentioned above, who testified before the investigating committee, or the State dispensary commission, practically have immunity under this Act.

Attorney General Has Discretion. "But aside from the manifest policy of the Legislature, as contained in the above mentioned Act, the Attorney General has discretion as to when, how and against whom to proceed in criminal cases. He has the power to enter a nolle prosequi in virtue of his office, independently of the Court. (Ency. of Law, 23, pages 275 and 276. State vs. Howard, 15 Rich Law, 274. State vs. McKee, 1 Bailey, 651.) The rule is laid down in the McKee case that the prosecuting officer may enter a nolle prosequi at any state of the proceedings until the jury are charged; but he cannot do so afterwards, not at least in case of an indictment for a capital offence, and if he is permitted to do so its effect is the acquittal of the prisoner. The above rule is also recognized in Archbold's Criminal Practice, volume 1, page 317.

"In Bishop on Criminal Procedure, second edition, Volume 1, Section 1,020, it is said: 'If the prosecutor in the English practice wishes to make use of one of the defendants as a witness, the Court will permit a verdict of acquittal to be taken at once in his case, and thus he will be rendered competent. In our own States the ready method in such circumstances would ordinarily be for the prosecuting officer to enter a nol pro as to the defendant whose testimony he wished to use.' "The following rule is laid down by Bishop, Volume 1, Section 1,076: 'In the United States, where prosecutions are instituted and carried on by a public prosecutor, who acts directly for the Government and protects its interests, there is an evident propriety in considering it to be within the exclusive discretion of this officer to determine whether or not an accomplice should be permitted to turn State's evidence, as it is sometimes expressed with us, and whether, if he does, he is afterward entitled to be no further prosecuted by reason of what is thus done.' "It is not easy to say what, in fact, is the practice on this point in all the States, but it is believed that, in most of them, the prosecuting officer acts in such cases upon his own discretion. (Continued on second page.)

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## GOES SCOTT FREE

JOHN BLACK GETS A FULL PARDON FROM BLEASE.

Before His Recent Commutation, Black's Sentence Was Five Years in the Penitentiary.

John Black, former chairman of the State dispensary board of directors, convicted of conspiracy to defraud the State, sentenced to five years in the Penitentiary, [his sentence being later commuted to a fine of \$2,000, or five years, by Governor Blease, was late Friday unconditionally pardoned by the Chief Executive. Black had not yet paid his fine, having been given until September 1, and the proclamation issued by Governor Blease Friday afternoon not only relieves Black of the payment of the fine, but restores the former dispensary director to citizenship, and removes the stigma which commutation could not reach.

Friday night John Black is in Richmond, and it is probable that not until Saturday will he know of his pardon. His local counsel did not know where to reach him in Richmond, his wife is also out of the city, having gone to Denmark, so that it is also probable she does not tonight know that her husband is again free from the sentence of the Court.

The order giving John Black his freedom is formal, being such a proclamation as was issued when John Black's sentence was commuted.

The pardon is as follows: "Whereas, at a Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas, begun and holden in Chester County, at the November term of court, 1910, before Judge (Special) Ernest Moore, one John Black was convicted of conspiracy to defraud the State and was sentenced to five years in the State Penitentiary; now know ye that for divers good causes and considerations, me herunto moving, I have thought fit to pardon and by these presents do pardon the said John Black. "Given under my hand and seal, etc.

"Cole L. Blease, Governor." The pardon was signed late Friday afternoon, shortly before the Governor left the executive offices to go to the Mansion. No reasons are assigned in the pardon.

BLEASE CUSSES A LITTLE. Says Chief Justice Jones Can Do What He Pleases.

"Ira B. Jones can mandamus, or G—d—us, or do anything he pleases. I am not going to appoint Ernest Moore as special judge for the Union county court. You can take back these papers, for I will not read them."

This is the way Governor Blease expressed himself Saturday to R. E. Wylie, of Lancaster, who presented a request for a commission for Ernest Moore as special judge. This statement was made in the presence of Senator Tillman and several other visitors in the office.

The statement means that another special judge controversy has commenced between the supreme court and the governor, and that the governor will disregard the recommendations of the judicial department of the government.

The Union County Bar Association petitioned Chief Justice Jones to appoint Ernest Moore as special judge for a special term of the civil court to commence in that county next Monday.

The following letter of recommendation was addressed to Governor Blease by Chief Justice Jones, asking that Ernest Moore be commissioned as special judge: "Pursuant to section 2, 734, volume 1, code of laws, I have ordered a special term of common pleas for Union county for the trial of civil cases not requiring a jury, for the week commencing March 27th. "There being no circuit judge disengaged so as to hold the court, I respectfully recommend that you issue a commission to Hon. Ernest Moore of Lancaster, S. C., learned in the law as special judge to hold the said court."

Ernest Moore is one of the best known attorneys in the state and has served as special judge on several occasions. He heard the John Black case and sentenced the former dispensary official to five years in the penitentiary. Mr. Moore was not named in the list of "eligibles" recently sent to the supreme court by the governor.

Child Dies of Rabbits. At Lancaster the six-year-old son of Mr. Hutchinson died Friday night at the home of his father in the cotton mill village of what physicians believe to have been an attack of hydrophobia. The boy was ill only three days, during which time he exhibited the various symptoms of the dread disease. He was bitten on the lip by a mad dog in Camden on the 3rd of last month.

Robbed Mrs. Bryan. Mrs. William Jennings Bryan was robbed at the Majestic Theatre New York of a handsome seal hand bag, containing \$75 and valuable souvenirs collected by her and her husband in their recent travels, last Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Stephen B. Ayres, wife of the Congressman, whose guests Mr. and Mrs. Bryan were in the Bronx, made the fact public.

## HOLD UP MAIL

Bandits Loot Passenger Train on the St. Louis Mountain Road

## EXPRESS CAR LOOTED

The Officials of the Railway Say They Have No Report of the Hold Up and Robbery—Twenty Thousand Dollars Said to Have Been Carried Away by the Robbers.

Five men held up St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern railway train No. 104 between Coffeyville and Lenapah, Okla., shortly after midnight Friday, and after looting the mail and express car escaped. The amount of the robbery is said to be \$20,000.

For two hours the masked men held the passenger at a standstill on the prairie about six miles south of Coffeyville, while they blew open a safe in the express car. They escaped in two automobiles, carrying with them money and valuables which, it is believed, will amount to \$20,000.

The train left Little Rock at 8:30 a. m. Friday, bound for Kansas City. It reached Lenapah, Okla., south of Coffeyville at 10:30 Friday night, half an hour late.

Just after the train left Lenapah Engineer Lynch heard a sharp cry: "Hands up!" Turning he saw a masked man sitting on the tender, pointing a revolver at him. "I'm going to ride a little way with you," said the man. "Drive on."

The engineer obeyed. About four miles out of Lenapah the robber compelled the engineer to stop the train near a clump of trees. Five more masked men came out of the wood, and, taking positions on either side of the train, began shooting in the air and along the sides of the train.

Then while two of the bandits stood guard to prevent any passengers from leaving, the four marched the engineer and fireman to the day coach and locked them in.

One man then took a position to guard the rear of the train and three went into the express car, forced the two express messengers to jump out and stand where one of the side guards could keep them covered.

After nearly an hour's work the men had succeeded in inserting a charge of nitroglycerine into the "through" safe in the express car. They blew the safe to pieces and scattered its contents over the floor of the car. They made no haste. They had chosen a strategic position in which to stop the train. They were at least three miles from any human habitation.

After the three men had spent nearly an hour over the packages taken from the safe, the lights of two automobiles were seen drawing near from the direction of the Oklahoma line. As they came within about two hundred yards of the train the automobiles were stopped. Then lights were extinguished and the bandits and automobiles disappeared.

Passengers who had remained huddled in the coaches afraid to look out of the windows relaxed and the disorganized train crew got to their places. When the train reached this city the sheriff was notified and with two deputies started on horseback southward in pursuit of the six bandits.

Train No. 104 on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern railroad, said to have been held up near Coffeyville, Kan., Friday night, reached Kansas City two hours and forty-five minutes late. Iron Mountain officials here denied any knowledge of a hold-up. The train left Little Rock at 8:30 a. m. Friday and was due in Kansas City at 7:15 Saturday morning.

Superintendent George F. Johnson, of the Pacific Express Company states that the men who held up and robbed Iron Mountain train No. 104 in Oklahoma got no money from the express car and that all the booty secured consisted of a few "sealed packages," the value of which is not great. "We no longer use this route for through money shipments, and there was not anything like \$20,000 in the car as is reported."

## BLOW PROVES FATAL

Hit by Stone Several Months Ago, Dies of Effects.

From the effects of being struck in the head with a rock several months ago, while gathering hickory nuts, Samuel Benson, Jr., 14 years of age, and son of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Benson