

DEAD

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WILL BURNED UP

An Accident Which Will Change The Whole Course Of A Testator's Intentions.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.] ST. MICHAEL'S, Md., Oct. 6.—The courthouse at Easton has been undergoing repairs for the last few weeks, and the recent rains have dampened the walls to the extent that the books were becoming moldy. To counteract the dampness oil stoves were placed in the vaults of the Orphans' Court and register's office. Last Thursday the workmen saw smoke coming from the vault, and upon examination discovered that some unfiled and unrecorded papers left over from the Orphans' Court meeting of the Tuesday preceding were charred and worthless. It was feared at the time that at least one unrecorded will had been destroyed. Such proves to be the case. The will destroyed is that of Charles E. Benson, of St. Michael's, who died the latter part of last August. Mr. O. H. Benson, a brother of the deceased, had taken the paper to Easton on the morning of the day on which he left for the Northern trip, and the books were being placed, with others on the centre table, to be recorded at the next meeting of the Orphans' Court.

Justice William Dean and Joseph D. Hunt were authorized to go to Easton last Tuesday and sign as witness to the will. They went, but could find no will. Upon examination of the burned papers two such pieces were found, and the one which was the initials O. H., the initials of the brother who carried the will and who is said to have been a beneficiary, and upon the other were the initials of Mr. Charles E. Benson. It was at once discovered that the valuable paper had been destroyed.

According to the law, Mr. Charles E. Benson had died without a will, and his property will now revert to his heirs. Mr. Benson left one daughter, twenty years old, who is at present traveling in California for Armstrong, Cator & Co., and she is his sole heir. According to the provisions of the will, the daughter was to receive \$10, Mr. O. H. Benson was given a valuable driving horse belonging to the testator, and the residue of the personality, amounting to between \$700 and \$800, was bequeathed to the Methodist Episcopal Church of St. Michael's. The destruction of the will renders it impossible for any of the beneficiaries to come into possession of the bequests, except that the law makes the daughter the sole heir. Mr. Benson was the son of the late James Benson, who left a large real estate in Talbot county at the close of his lifetime. Mr. Charles E. Benson received one-third of the income accruing from the estate. The will in question was made by Mr. Benson some time before his death, and bequeathed only that part of what he had saved of his one-third interest in his father's estate.

THRILLING EXPERIENCE

Four Men Hurt And Two Hand Cars Smashed To Pieces On An Electric Road.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.] MIDDLETOWN, Md., Oct. 6.—The accident yesterday afternoon on the new electric road which built between Middletown and Myererville, briefly mentioned in THE SUN today, was a thrilling occurrence. Two men were severely injured and two trucks, or hand cars, were smashed up. The accident was caused by one of the trucks running away and crashing into the other. The road is completed to a point a short distance beyond Rogers' and is used by a number of diligences and started down the grade leading up by the school-house. Four men, Layton and Edward Shank, of Myererville, Roy Grimes, of Burkittsville, and Lorenzo Main, of Middletown, loaded one of the trucks with a load of logs and started down the grade at a rapid rate, intending to check the speed by means of the brake. The rain had made the track slippery and the car was soon beyond control, running at a terrific rate. Layton Shank was braked, and the others went to his assistance, but without avail. At the foot of the hill on the track stood another truck. The men on the runaway car realized their great peril and prepared to save themselves. Edward Shank jumped off backward and fell violently to the track on his head. A long gash was cut across his forehead and the scalp was peeled and a considerable distance. His brother Layton next jumped and escaped with bruises. Roy Grimes leaped off and had his leg and foot badly hurt. It is

ANNAPOLIS LYNCHERS

Governor's Jury And The Governor Active In Hunting For The Ringleaders.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.] ANNAPOLIS, Md., Oct. 6.—It is estimated that there were about 40 men in the band of masked lynchers who forced their way into Annapolis jail at 2 A. M. Wednesday and killed the negro Wright Smith, who was held on the charge of attempted felonious assault on Mrs. James Morrison at her home, in Anne Arundel county, on the night of September 2. Where they came from or how they assembled is not known, but most of them came in buggies, which were left at a safe distance from the jail. They were very quiet in all the preliminaries. They met some of the electric light employes on the streets near the jail and warned them at the pistol's point to be quiet. They then proceeded to the whole scheme was carefully planned beforehand, and that men engaged in it were enlisted from various quarters of Anne Arundel county, and some engaged in it are said also to have come from Baltimore city. This is probably surmised because the Morrison had lived in the old seventeenth ward of the city before removing to Anne Arundel county, and he is known to have been a South Baltimore politician, and that for that reason efforts would be made to have him released on bail. His wife lives on Bayard street, in Baltimore, to whom the body will be sent. There is reason to believe that some if not a majority of the lynchers were from the neighborhood of Jones Station, on the Baltimore and Annapolis line, on the railroad, seven miles from Annapolis, where the Morrisons live. As neighbors these men felt a deep interest in the case, having families they are often obliged to leave at home without male protection, as in the case of Mrs. Morrison, whose husband is the captain of a sailing vessel engaged in the bay and river trade. It is not surprising, therefore, that the men were quite averse to having the case tried in court, as Mrs. Morrison disliked being obliged to testify to the treatment she received from the negro, who, it will be remembered, penetrated into her bedroom on the night.

Detained To Testify In Court.

It is thought that the lynching was hastened by the fact that the trial was about to come off. The authorities had been lulled into a sense of security by the absence of any demonstrations calculated to excite apprehension. It was only Tuesday that Mate's Attorney Brinkman caused summonses to be issued for witnesses in the case. Among these were Mrs. Mary Morrison and Miss Hattie Rhonda, her sister, upon both of whom the negro had attempted a felonious assault on the same occasion. The work of the band at the jail, some of whom were masked, others not, was very quiet and very quick. One of them rang the door bell. The jail watchman, Thomas V. Duvall, opened the door, supposing the ring was from some constable or private with a prisoner. As soon as the door was opened the janitor found himself confronted by several revolver-wielders, and was so much surprised that he could offer no resistance. Some of the band took him in charge, relieved him of the prison keys, while others went to the prisoner's cell and ordered him up from his cot. He was handcuffed by his captors and led to the top of the mob, without resistance or making any noise, along the corridor to the door. Warden Perry and Deputy Warden Burlingame were asleep in another part of the prison, and were not awakened until after the prisoner was out of doors.

A Dash For Liberty.

It was not until the negro was actually at the door that he seemed fully realize what was in store for him. But that time so many men were gathered about that it was difficult for the prisoner and his two captors to press through the throng. There was a nervous anxiety among many to get near to the victim, and these crowding around the two who held the prisoner, the need to relax their hold, and Smith broke away from them unmanacled as he was. He made a bold and vigorous attempt to escape, crying "Help" and "Murder" as he ran, while the crowd rushing in pursuit fired revolver after revolver to stop his retreat. It is thought to have been the intention of the band to break the prisoner out to the third district, where the offense was committed. A team was in waiting a short distance from the jail for this service, and when the prisoner made an attempt to escape the men in the team pursued him, Smith being handcuffed made little progress, and the team continued up North street, and was run into a lamp-post, carrying the post away. The bolt of the prisoner from his captors with so many rushing after him could not in the nature of the case prove a success. Being manacled he could not run as fast as if his hands had been free, and he was shot down and killed on a vacant lot. A dozen or more shot

several persons saw the girl's perill and called to her, but in her bewilderment she did not heed them. They tried the crossing, but deemed an inquest unnecessary, as it was purely an accident and no blame could be attached to the railroad or its employes.

THOS. A. POFFENBERGER

Nominated For Congress By The Democrats Of The Sixth District.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.] HAGERSTOWN, Md., Oct. 6.—Mr. Thomas A. Poffenberger, of Hagerstown, was Wednesday nominated as the candidate for Congress from the sixth district by the democratic convention, which adjourned over from last week. The nomination came in the nature of a surprise, and after a number of other prominent democrats in the sixth district had declined the honor with thanks.

Then it was that the delegates centered on Mr. Poffenberger. He was brought into court, and everybody pleaded with him to take the nomination. He declined, but afterward reconsidered his decision and allowed his friends to have their way.

Thomas A. Poffenberger was born in Tlghamston district September 27, 1861. He attended school for some years, and at the age of seventeen years began to teach in the schools of Washington county, and came to Hagerstown and read law with Alexander Armstrong from May 22 to August 22, after which he resumed teaching. He was admitted to the bar at the February term of court, 1892, and on the completion of his term of school came to Hagerstown and opened an office. Few men in Hagerstown are better informed regarding questions of public moment than he is. He is an active worker in the democracy and participated prominently in the exciting campaign of 1896, holding true to the principles of free silver and free trade. His fidelity to the party was rewarded by election as chairman of the democratic central committee of Washington county.

Mr. Poffenberger will doubtless receive the full democratic vote. He is now a gold mine. Gen. H. Kyd Douglas, J. Charles Lane and others, who heretofore had with independent democrats, stated they would support Mr. Poffenberger.

The following campaign committee was appointed: Ferdinand Williams, Allegany; Moses R. Hammett, Garrett; W. Baugman, Frederick; Hester Lee, Montgomery; Emma Hoffman, Washington.

The party adopted as their emblem the picture of Jackson, liberty and the hickory tree.

NO BOODLE CAMPAIGN

Colonel Wilbur F. Jackson's Friends Start A Reform Movement.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.] SALISBURY, Md., Oct. 6.—A meeting of the republican and democratic committees of counties composing the first congressional district of Maryland has been called at Easton October 14 to suppress the illegitimate use of money for political purposes. The meeting is to prevent bribery and corruption, and was started by Robert F. Graham, chairman of the republican central committee of Wicomico county, in a letter, September 30, addressed to the Wicomico democratic committee, of which ex-Gov. E. E. Jackson is chairman. Mr. Graham had in view simply for the two committees to reach an understanding with the Wicomico county alone, but ex-Governor Jackson and the other members of the local democratic organization thought so well of the plan that they proposed to extend it to the whole district. Mr. Graham agreed to this, and hence the call for the conference on the 14th instant.

The counties comprising the first congressional district are Worcester, Somerset, Wicomico, Dorchester, Caroline, Talbot, Queen Anne's and Kent. The corrupting evil of election bribery has been felt in every one of these counties. In some of them the abuse has grown immensely, and it is to be hoped that both parties will firmly resolve to abstain from using money illegitimately in the present campaign and honestly abide by the agreement.

DEER CREEK FARMERS' CLUB

A Discussion Of The Cause Of The Short Wheat Crop—Mr. McCormick's Fine Farm.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.] BELAIR, Md., Oct. 6.—The regular monthly meeting of the Deer Creek Farmers' Club was held at Poplar Grove, the home of Mr. J. Lawrence McCormick, near Belair, on Wednesday evening. An inspection of the farm and buildings in the subject of "Wheat and the Cause of the Failure of the Crop of 1898" was discussed. Among the names mentioned

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