

THE CITY'S GREAT CATASTROPHE

Seven Men Seriously Injured in Auto Crash on Albion Street

The story of the accident which occurred on Albion street between two and three o'clock last Monday morning has gone by tongue and pen all over the country. The Reporter has endeavored to see those who witnessed the accident, and even among those the details of what happened were only vaguely observed, but the following facts are told substantially in the same way by all.

When the fire alarm was sounded Fred Carrier was the first there with a car onto which the firemen, among whom were Henry Biessman, Alvin D. Lyon, A. E. Stewart and Albert Schumacher, hitched one of the hose carts and started up Albion street. About in front of the Library the car stalled, and the firemen jumped off and started to pull the hose cart up along the left (west) side of the stalled truck. Meanwhile the truck again got under power and moved up until slightly ahead of the hose cart, stopping to allow the boys to again hook onto the truck. Besides the mentioned firemen pulling at the hose cart at this moment were also Grover Olson, W. Fredendahl, Carle Maves, Rollin Ellison, Connie Midtbon and John Hanson, all of whom volunteered to help pull the hose cart. Just then Dr. F. C. Meyers in a Hudson car came down Albion street from Washington; he was driving rapidly toward the point where the truck stood with the lights on and the men to the left of it and out of the path of the truck headlights. Just what happened in the mind of the driver at this point he did not, perhaps, himself realize. At any rate he thought he had a safe distance between the cart and the truck, and came on. There was a terrific crash. The Hudson had smashed directly into the men and cart. Stewart and Schumacher in some miraculous way found time to jump out of the way and escaped unhurt. The others were scattered in all directions, broken, bleeding and moaning.

Connie Midtbon was knocked senseless, but after being cared for he was taken home, and escaped with minor injuries.

W. Fredendahl sustained bruises about the head, suffered a dislocated knee; he was taken to Lockwood hospital and is coming around in good shape.

Rollin Ellison escaped with minor bruises.

Henry Biessman had a bad cut across the chin, another in the right groin, and was badly bruised from the soles of his feet to his hips. An X-ray taken Tuesday at the Shearer clinic revealed no broken bones.

John Hanson suffered a broken leg above the left knee and severe injuries to his back.

Carle Maves received cuts and bruises.

Grover Olson and Alvin D. Lyon were seriously injured. Olson's left arm was fractured below the elbow, and a bad skull fracture at the base of the head. He passed away at Lockwood hospital Tuesday evening about 7 o'clock. An obituary is published this week.

Mr. Lyon sustained three fractures of the left leg below the knee, in one place the bones protruding, and a split knee cap. A serious fracture of the skull makes his case precarious.

Henry Biessman was taken to his home after the X-ray had been taken. The others are at Lockwood hospital and are cared for by local doctors. Dr. Edward Ochsner of Chicago was sent for and came for a consultation. The hospital was in position to furnish accommodations and supplies for first aid, and Mr. Swift, who came in time to hear the crash and the moans, at once opened his drug store and was ready to furnish the drugs and supplies needed.