

POOR COPY

THE UNION AVOCATE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1902.

His Narrow Escape. PARTICULARS OF THE ACCIDENT

To President Roosevelt—Motor Man's Responsibility.

LENEX, Mass., Sept. 3.—The accident to the President's coach today happened in this way. After leaving Sen. Dawes' home the four carriages containing the President and his immediate party were driven down South street, two carriages on either side. When near the Country Club and at the railroad crossing an electric car was noticed coming at a terrific rate of speed. Mr. Craig, a secret service man, signaled to the motorman to stop, but he apparently paid no attention to the warning and the car came plunging on in its work of death. The President's carriage was literally smashed to pieces and it was feared that the President and Gov. Crane had met instant death.

A witness of the accident stated that the motorman was speeding his car in order to make time. The President, Gov. Crane and Sec. Cortelyou were piled in a heap. The awe-stricken crowd which witnessed the accident rushed to the President's carriage, but with no expectation that he would be found alive. The President was cut on the right side of his chin and his face is much swollen. He is also suffering from severe bruises. Gov. Crane and Sec. Cortelyou were uninjured except for a bad shaking up. The President retained his complete composure, although he was solicited for the rest of those in the carriages.

The excitement was intense and rumors flew thick and fast that the President had been killed. After remaining at the scene of the accident for an hour the President determined to continue his journey to Stockbridge, where his train was waiting on a siding. He arrived at Lenox shortly after 11 o'clock, but sent a courier ahead requesting the people to refrain from cheering. After a brief stop here he was driven to the train. In the next carriage to the President when the accident happened was Dr. G. A. Lung of the navy, who accompanied for just such emergencies as this and who was promptly on hand to render assistance to the President. But the President was disinclined to receive medical attention, saying he was but slightly hurt.

The trolley car came up behind the President's carriage at terrific speed. The carriage was struck as it was crossing the tracks diagonally. Craig, who was looking around and half standing, trying to warn the trolley car back, was knocked from the box to the track and the car passed over him, killing him instantly. The carriage was knocked to one side and wrecked. The President was thrown out and the wreck of the carriage fell against him. He was picked up bleeding from a cut on the right cheek, but he was able to get on his feet at once. Sec. Cortelyou was unconscious when picked up. He was badly hurt on the back of the head and on

the face, but soon recovered enough to ask for the President. Gov. Crane was badly bruised, and Rep. Lawrence was the least hurt of any of the party in the President's carriage.

The driver of the carriage, D. J. Pratt, was very badly hurt and has since died. He fell with Craig, but the reins swung him out of the path of the car.

The military guard of four mounted men of the Second Massachusetts infantry were the first to get at the wreck. They were at once assisted by Secret Service Agent Taylor and Post office inspector Meyers, detailed on secret service duty, who were in the second carriage. The President was helped to the second carriage with Sec. Cortelyou and they were at once attended by Dr. Lung, who was in the third carriage. The President at once directed that Craig's body be cared for and sent couriers ahead to prevent cheering and to announce that he would go at once to his train which had been sent ahead to Stockbridge.

The President stopped for a few moments at the Hotel Aspinwall, where the party was to have lunched and made a brief announcement to the people who were silently gathered on the steps. He alighted from the carriage and walked a few steps and was clearly under the stress of great feeling.

Then he retraced his steps to the carriage and turning said to the people:

"We have met with an accident. One of the party, a faithful friend, has been killed and our driver undoubtedly fatally injured. Under the circumstances, it is, of course, impossible for me to say more to you than I deeply appreciate your kindly greeting."

Then he went on to Stockbridge.

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