

A NEWSPAPER ERROR

9 - 6 - 1907

Report from Portland that Henry Janes
Committed Suicide a Serious Mistake
—Death due to Accident.

OBITUARY

The effect of a newspapers error is apt not to end with its original commission. It is copied into other papers and becomes a difficult matter to correct. A short time ago THE HERALD relying on reports in the Portland Oregonian and word from friends there, stated that Henry Janes, a former resident of this city, had been led by ill health to commit suicide. This was an error as death was the result of an accident pure and simple. Such is the unqualified opinion of the coroner and of those who have investigated the matter. The suicide theory was the creation of a sensational reporter's imagination.

Mr. Janes has lived for many years with his son, C. H. Janes and family in Spokane and Seattle. They had recently moved to Chicago, the father remaining behind to visit relatives and friends and expecting to join Mr. and Mrs. Janes in their home later. Being troubled by a slight indisposition he had gone to Portland to see the old family physician. Unaccustomed to the city he had evidently made the easy error of getting off the street car a few blocks before reaching the home where he was staying at a cross street of a similar name. In attempting to walk across to his destination it is evident that in the dark he fell over the side of a gully where a fill was being made and rolled down the long, steep bank into the stagnant water, which was nowhere over five feet deep. His body was found by some boys the next day. There were no evidences of suicide: he

had not been despondent: he had a good home with his son and he was not in a chronic state of ill health. There was no water in the lungs to indicate death by drowning and the opinion of the coroner was that it resulted from the shock of the fall.

THE HERALD is more than glad to make correction for this error and those who remember Mr. Janes here will feel relieved that the first reports, which they could scarcely believe, were unfounded.

The deceased was born in Slaterville, N. Y., on August 5, 1833 and died in Portland, Ore., August 17, 1907. In 1856 he was married to Frances R. Fuller at Janesville, Wis. To this union three children were born, Alice N. Boyce who died at Portland in 1893; Charles H. Janes of Chicago and Mrs. Hattie A. Douglass of Philadelphia. The wife and mother passed away on Nov. 23, 1894.

Mr. Janes came to Grinnell in 1879 remaining here till 1889. During this time he gained a high reputation for honesty, industry and good citizenship and was a useful man in the community. He was a carpenter by trade and built many buildings here, always giving more than a hundred cents worth of good work on the dollar.

From here he went to Omaha and thence to Portland, where in late years he made his home with his son, C. H. Janes and family who have watched over his needs tenderly and done all that could be done to make his later years bright ones.

Brief funeral services were held at Hazelwood cemetery Friday in charge of Prof. S. J. Buck. Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Janes were here to attend the funeral, having taken charge of the remains at once and brought them here for interment.