

Grinnell Herald

C. A. CHAVATH, W. G. RAY,
CHAVATH & RAY, Editors & Prop's.

Grinnell, Iowa, Friday, Aug. 10, 1902.

HON. CHAS. H. SPENCER KILLED.

Struck by a Baggage-Truck at Colorado Springs.

When Tuesday's HERALD went to press nothing was known beyond the fact that Hon. Chas. H. Spencer had been killed at Colorado Springs, Col., Monday evening. He seems to have been alone at that place and it was some time before he was identified, and then probably not by an acquaintance but by papers on his person, for the first dispatch to this place came from the coronor asking what disposition should be made of the remains. On this account it has been difficult for the friends at this place to get the exact circumstances attending his death. It seems that Mr. Spencer was standing on the depot platform near a baggage truck. One end of the truck was caught by a passing train and the other end was thrown violently against Mr. Spencer, striking him in the chest so violently as to break five of his ribs, killing him almost instantly.

The platform was a narrow one, between the Rock Island and Denver & Rio Grande tracks. There was room for the truck if it stood lengthwise, but not crosswise. The trains on the two roads came in at about the same time, and it was necessary for parties taking trains to occupy the platform. A lady was also slightly injured at the same time. Mr. Spencer was seen to rise after he was struck and apparently tried to help the injured lady, but he staggered and fell beneath the cars of the Rock Island road which were standing still on the track. The blow must have been very severe, for the ribs were broken at both ends.

Mr. Spencer left here a week ago last Saturday to take his summer vacation, partly with his daughter at Denver and partly with Mrs. Spencer at Manitou. It is supposed that he had gone from Denver to Manitou a day or two before the accident.

Perhaps no citizen of Grinnell would be more keenly regretted or more sharply missed from the active business circles of our city than Mr. Spencer. His genial, hearty good nature made him a universal favorite and gave him a wide acquaintance. Scarcely a business man or farmer in this region but could give instances of his accommodating help in the pecuniary pinch of hard times or of bad luck or sickness. His death was a blow that hit every man, and no such shudder of sorrow has ever before visited this community. The suddenness was such that many refused to believe the shocking news until several confirmatory dispatches had been received.

From the earlier days of the colony he has been intimately associated with its business interests and no enterprise of any value to the city has gone without his support, either at its inception or during its progress. He was one of the most earnest and influential promoters of the enterprise of bringing the Central railway through Grinnell, contributing largely to the construction.

Charles Henry Spencer was born in Saybrook, Conn., June 6, 1824. His father, Sylvester Spencer, was an officer of the Merchants' bank of New York City, and his mother was Elizabeth Clark, daughter of Ezra Clark, a member of the Revolution, and sister of Hon. Chas. E. Clark, a member of congress from the Jefferson county district of New York. The family lived in New York and young Charles got his tendency to the life of a banker partly by heredity and partly from early associations as a messenger boy in his father's bank. On the death of his father he went to Jefferson county, New York, and while quite young was engaged in the general merchandize business at Great Bend as clerk and later an owner. In 1850 (Feb. 6) he married Miss Mary A. Haworth, daughter of Hon. Joseph Haworth, of Evans' Mills, representative from Jefferson county in the state legislature. In 1856 he came west, attracted by the youthful vigor and opening opportunities of the then new west, and in March of that year settled in Grinnell. Here he at once went into business, bringing as the best part of his capital a good business reputation and credit with eastern merchants. He went into general merchandize, but his longing always was to be a banker. In this he ultimately succeeded, and as the "company" in the firm of Thomas Holyoke & Co. he organized the first banking institution of Grinnell, which later, in 1865, grew into the First National Bank. Of this old and well managed institution he was cashier and director from its first day until his death.

cer, the founder and cashier from its inception of the First National Bank of Grinnell, we mourn the loss not only of a most faithful and efficient officer of the bank but also of a highly valued personal friend, who by his genial qualities and kind manners had won the esteem and affection of us all.

Second, That we will ever cherish his memory as one of the founders and leaders of the town who was ever active in promoting its prosperity, serving it in various offices at home and representing it in the legislature of the state—always upright, honorable and true to every trust in public and in private, a good neighbor, generous hearted and liberal to the needy, thus exemplifying in his life the principles and character of the ideal citizen.

Third, That we extend our heartfelt sympathies to the several members of the family who have been so suddenly bereft of husband, father, brother and friend.

Fourth, That the bank be closed on the day of the funeral and that the directors attend the services as a body.

Fifth, That these resolutions be spread on the records of the bank; that a copy be sent to the family of the deceased and to the press of the city for publication.

H. K. EDSON, Pres.
S. A. CHAVATH, Secy. *pro tem.*

RESOLUTIONS BY DIRECTORS OF THE
FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

SAMUEL E. COOPER, President.
Geo. H. WHITE, Secy. *pro tem.*
Grinnell, Aug. 18, 1892.

RESOLUTIONS BY DIRECTORS OF
SAVINGS BANK.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished for publication and that a copy be sent to the family of the deceased. C. L. WALKER, President.

H. LAWRENCE, Cashier.

Mr. Spencer was an earnest Republican, bringing into that party the spirit and patriotism of the old Whig party. He was twice elected mayor of Grinnell, was a member of the board of supervisors, and a member of the Nineteenth General Assembly, representing Poweshiek county in the house of representatives. He was a liberal contributor towards the promotion of Republican principles, and no appeal to his benevolence ever went without a response.

Mr. Spencer leaves a widow (whose health for years has made residence in the Colorado mountains necessary), two sons, Capt. H. C. Spencer, banker of this city, and Mr. Louis E. Spencer, attorney of Beatrice, Neb., and one daughter, Mrs. George A. Dudley, of Denver, Col. The first son, Charles H., died at the age of 16 in his freshman year in Iowa College whose record as a student was one of great brilliancy. Henry and Louis are both graduates of the State Agricultural college and of law schools of this state. Mr. Jared W. Spencer, of Grinnell, is a brother of Mr. Spencer.

The funeral cortege arrived from Manitou this morning at half past ten o'clock with the remains. Mrs. C. H. Spencer of Manitou, L. E. Spencer of Beatrice, Neb., Mrs. Mary Dudley and son of Denver, Col., and Prof. L. E. Parker and wife comprised the sorrowful party. A large number of prominent citizens were at the station. The remains were taken to the residence of H. C. Spencer on Main Street. The funeral services will be held at the Congregational church, Sunday morning, at half past ten o'clock, conducted by Prof. L. E. Parker, assisted by Prof. S. J. Buck.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

At a meeting of the directors of the First National Bank, Grinnell, Iowa, to take action upon the death of Honorable Charles H. Spencer, August 17, 1892, the