

# DEATH LURKED ON A CAMDEN STREET

HARRY J. SCHAEFER STEPPED ON  
A LIVE WIRE AND DIED  
IN AWFUL AGONY.

WERE AFRAID TO AID HIM

Policemen Stood Near, But No One  
Warned the Pedestrian of His  
Danger—The Broken Wire Had  
Been Shooting Out Sparks for Half  
an Hour.

Deadly electric wires claimed a vic-  
tim in Camden last evening. Harry  
J. Schaefer, a silk spinner, 22 years  
old, of 608 Vine street, in that city,  
was shocked to death by a live wire  
on Tenth street above Market about  
6 o'clock. Schaefer was crossing Tenth  
street, laughing and talking with a  
friend named Long, when his foot  
came in contact with the wire. He  
fell to the ground and cried:

"Won't some one hold me up?"

AFRAID TO HELP HIM.

These were the unfortunate man's  
last words. As he writhed in agony  
his hands clutched a tangle of copper  
wire, part of the debris from the re-  
cent storm. The current ran through  
his body and shot from his burning  
hands in sparks and flashes of blue  
flame. Long and several other spec-  
tators standing on the corner were  
afraid to risk death in an effort to  
release Schaefer.

Finally some one secured a hatchet  
and, mounting a chair, severed the  
wire through which the deadly cur-  
rent was passing. Immediately Schae-  
fer's convulsive movements ceased and  
a policeman, who put a lantern near  
his face, found he was dead. The  
body was removed to the young man's  
home.

The dead man's hands were burned  
to the bone and a ghastly streak on  
one side of his face showed where the  
live wire had touched the flesh. The  
bottoms of his shoes were burned  
through, the deadly current having  
passed through the full length of the  
body.

A DEATH TRAP.

According to the statement of Po-  
liceman McClung, who was an eye wit-  
ness of the tragedy, Schaefer's death  
could have been avoided. He says the  
wire extended from a pole on Tenth  
street to the south side of Federal,  
and it parted about half an hour be-  
fore Schaefer's death. Federal and  
Market streets run together at Tenth,  
and the broken wire fell across the  
Market street trolley wire. There are  
no guard wires on Camden's trolley  
system, consequently the fallen wire  
received the trolley current and sparks  
shot from it, making a display that  
soon drew a crowd.

Policeman Anderson went to the  
Camden electric light works and re-  
ported the dangerous wire. The cur-  
rent was shut off the Market street  
circuit, but the subsequent fatality  
seems to show that the broken wire  
was attached to the Cooper street cir-  
cuit.

HAD NO WARNING.

A trolley car soon came along on  
the Market street line. The motor-  
man put on his rubber gloves, re-  
moved the wire from the trolley and  
threw it up Tenth street. It laid  
there, and in a few minutes Schaefer  
came down Tenth street, and stepped  
on it before he could be warned of  
his danger.

Two officials of the Camden Electric  
Lighting Company arrived on the  
scene shortly after the accident, and  
claimed that Schaefer was killed by  
the current from a guy wire that had  
fallen across the trolley wire. This  
is denied by representatives of the  
Camden Horse Railroad Company,  
who say that it was undoubtedly an  
electric light wire. Coroner Hopper  
will hold an inquest.