

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1903.

TERRIBLE LOSS OF LIFE BY GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION.

More Than a Score of People Killed and Fifty Injured at Lowell Wednesday by the Blowing Up of Two Magazines— Shock Was Felt at a Distance of Fifty Miles.

Lowell, Mass., July 29.—Two small gunpowder magazines situated in the immediate vicinity of the humble residence of fifty mill operatives, mostly French speaking people, exploded today with a frightful concussion and the resultant wave of death cut off the lives of more than a score of human beings and injured nearly fifty others. Half a dozen men who were loading kegs of powder from one of the magazines were blown to pieces, four boys, 200 yards away, were killed by the impact and fourteen frame houses within a radius of 400 yards went down as if they had been built of cards. Seven of those houses immediately caught fire probably from the kitchen stoves and were completely consumed. At least three persons were caught in the ruins and burned to death while seven or eight others who were rescued died subsequently of their injuries. It is estimated that seventy separate pieces of property, including those already mentioned, were destroyed while the force of the explosion wrecked windows for five or six miles around and its thunder could be heard distinctly for more than fifty miles.

The magazines were the property of the U. S. Cartridge Company of this city, but were fortunately situated more than a mile away from the factory itself. Each was built of brick, being about ten feet high with a rounded roof of corrugated iron. They were constructed some thirty years ago, in what was then a broad open field on the banks of the Concord river. During the last decade small wooden dwelling houses have gradually sprung up in the vicinity crowding nearer and nearer with fancied security to the two innocent looking little buildings until they surrounded them, except on the river side, the nearest house being scarcely fifty feet away. One of the magazines was just within the roadside fence while the other was about 100 feet behind, near the bank of the river. Both magazines originally contained two or three tons of gunpowder in tin kegs, each keg being eighteen inches high and a foot in diameter.

The company has for some time been desirous of strengthening the floor of the magazine nearest the street, and this morning eight men, three of them employees of the company, three expressmen and two carpenters were sent there with large express teams to take out the powder and mend the floor. Two of the wagons had been loaded and the other was almost full when at six minutes past 9 o'clock the explosion occurred.

Clarendon Goodwin, one of the employees of the cartridge company, who survives the explosion stated this afternoon, that in taking up the floor, it was found that it was covered that it was on fire. He rushed away after water and the other men were endeavoring to escape when the explosion came. It is probable that the magazine was the first to go up, followed immediately by the gunpowder in three wagons a few seconds later by the second magazine.

To those who heard the crash, it seemed as if there were two distinct explosions with a continuous roar between them. There are, however, five holes in the ground which seem to clearly indicate five explosions. The entire catastrophe, however, occupied the space of scarcely five seconds, but in that time, the surrounding property was swept as if a small Mont Pelée had broken forth. Every house within 200 yards collapsed. Trees were blown down, the grass within 200 yards moved to the ground, while bricks from the two magazines were hurled all over the neighborhood and far across the river.

For minutes afterwards, the air was filled with smoke and dust, illuminated by the glare from the burning houses. Those who survived hurried from the scene, only to be recalled by the shrieks of those less fortunate. The work of rescue at once began but in many cases the disaster had already gained away over the crumbling ruins and despite the energetic efforts of those who were not seriously hurt, several persons were burned to death before the debris which covered them could be removed.

The property is situated just over the Lowell line in Twolebury but the Lowell fire department at once responded and did good work in caring for the wounded. Before a stream of water was started from the engines, the hose from all the wagons was hung to the ground and the bleeding bodies of the wounded were placed in the wagons and hurried to the hospital. Ambulances soon appeared and all sorts of vehicles were pressed into service. Nearly two score of persons were conveyed to the two hospitals within half an hour, while many more who suffered merely from slight cuts by flying glass, had their wounds bound up and remained on the scene, where they assisted in caring for the less fortunate.

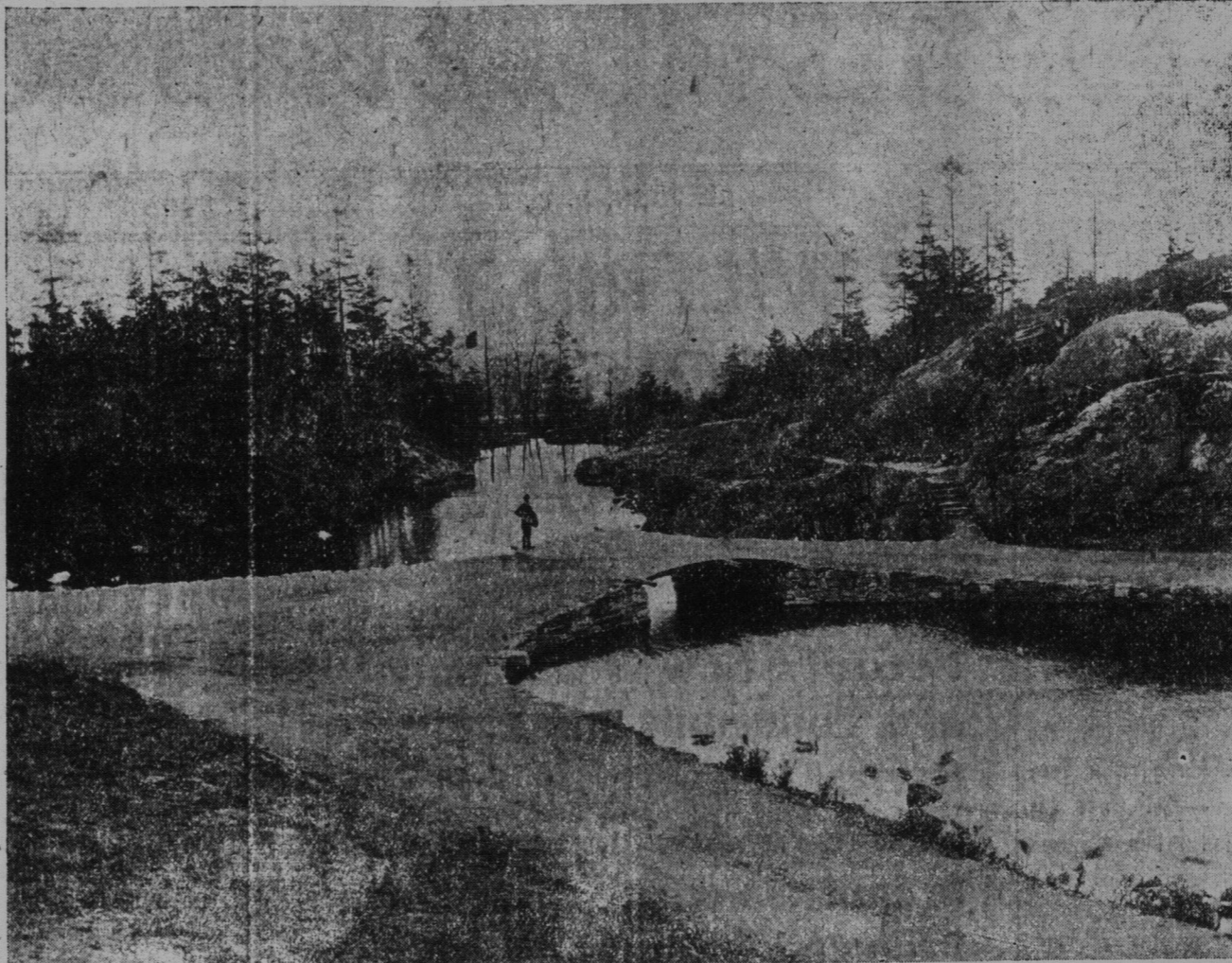
The thunder of the explosion shook the city and drew a tremendous crowd to the scene. Within half an hour, there were at least five thousand people pushing and crowding over the scene of destruction, hindering the work of caring for the wounded so that the acting mayor of Lowell sent out a call for the militia to assist the local police. Three companies, including the Sixth Regiment, and one of the Ninth responded and quickly threw a cordon of troops around the entire destruction, clearing the place of everyone except those who could be of service.

When the firemen first arrived immediately after the explosion, confusion reigned. Many were rushing about bleeding from wounds. Others were lying on the ground, frightfully mutilated, while the shrieks of frantic women and half crazed men in their endeavor to regain their lost ones were agonizing in the extreme. Those houses farther away from the scene of the disaster were hastily called upon to furnish mattresses and bedding for the seriously wounded.

After the wounded had been cared for and the dead removed to undertaking rooms, the work of searching for fragmentary remains of victims was begun. A hundred yards away was found a boys' basket, not far off was the shoe, evidently of the same body while bits of human flesh and small pieces of bone were picked up in all parts of the field, and placed in baskets. Two hundred yards further down the river from the second magazine the firemen discovered the bodies of four little boys, who were just about to have a swim. A fifth member of the party was in the river when the explosion occurred and escaped injury. Apparently the four boys were completely blown off. The fourth was alive when he was discovered by the police and firemen, but he did not long survive his injuries.

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At the End of the Lake in the Park.

RAILWAY FREIGHT CHARGES ILLEGAL.

Present Schedule Has Never Been Approved by the Minister of Railways.

MANITOBA SCHOOL LAW.

Delegation to Wait on Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Friday. About Redress—Premier Says There is No Truth in Rumor About Trans-Canada Road Selling to G. T. Pacific.

Ottawa, July 29.—(Special)—Hon. Mr. Fildes received a delegation today of representatives of the shipping and railway interests, with regard to freight classification No. 12, which the Canadian railways have been enforcing without the sanction of the minister of railways. This classification refers to between 400 and 500 articles, and the complaint of the shippers is that it fixes charges unduly high on some classes of goods.

IS YOUR BACK LAME?

You Are Doubtless Suffering From Rheumatoid Kidney—Sore, Cure is Ferrozone.

Unless you were stricken with in double Bright's disease, don't let your kidneys go without a trial. Ferrozone is a special remedy for this trouble, and never fails to give relief. It is a simple, safe, and effective remedy. It is a simple, safe, and effective remedy.

DALHOUSIE PILOT BOAT LOST WITH CREW.

Two Young Men Named Neilson and Richard Are Known to Have Been Aboard the Craft When Swamped.

Halifax, July 28.—(Special)—A terrific storm swept the Bay of Fundy last night and all day Monday accompanied by thunder, lightning and rain. The vessel lying outside Hathur harbor loading deals had a very hard time; three acres loaded attached to vessels, broke away and were dashed on the beach and six men had to weather the storm in a scow loaded with deals. They were rescued only this morning at 6 o'clock after being twenty-four hours in the scow without food or drink.

BRITISH SUGAR CONVENTION BILL.

Colonial Secretary Makes Some Pertinent Remarks Before the Measure Passed Its Second Reading.

London, July 29.—The house of commons today passed the sugar convention bill, its second reading by a vote of 224 to 144. In the course of the debate upon the bill, Colonial Secretary Chamberlain, in defending it said:

REV. MR. BATES HAS DECLINED THE CALL.

Amherst, N. S., July 28.—(Special)—At a large meeting of the Baptist church and congregation held here tonight, Rev. W. E. Bates, who lately received a call to the Main street Baptist church, St. John, announced his decision not to accept the call there. The announcement was received by the church with hearty expressions of sorrow.

TWO FATAL NOVA SCOTIA ACCIDENTS.

Berwick, July 27.—A fatal accident occurred at Wolford, which is about three miles from Berwick, early on Saturday evening. George Parker, an elderly man, while returning home on a load of hay which was being drawn by oxen, the oxen were attacked by gad flies, and bolted, throwing Mr. Parker off the load. The fall of which broke his neck, killing him instantly. He leaves a wife, who was the daughter of the late Elijah Harris, and one child, a daughter, who is married.

AT THE END OF THE LAKE IN THE PARK.

Another Accident. Dalhousie, July 28.—(Special)—A death was received here today from Stone Haven, Gloucester county, announcing the total wreck of pilot boat Anabella, No. 2, with the exception that the occupants were lost in Monday morning's gale. This boat belonged to Dalhousie and Monday morning early Pilot Joseph Elsieger boarded the steamer Mermaid of Miscon and bound for Campbellton leaving on board the pilot boat two young men named Neilson and Richard, aged eighteen and twenty-two. The former belonged to Porm Island, Westigoche county, Richard, son of Rogersville and has been employed here as stevedore with Benjamin Windsor. Both boys were very much respected.

THE HOME COMER.

(Awarded the first prize in the competition inaugurated by the Old Home Committee of Toronto.)

From the smoke where cities welter From the quiet glens of earth, To the land that gave us shelter, To the land that gave us birth; We, the wanderers, the dreamers, That for love or fortune roam, In the gladness of the morning, In the night come straggling home. Men whose fathers, mocked and broken For the honor of a name, Would not wear the conqueror's shawl, Plunged them in the virgin forest, With their axes in the hands, Built a Province as a bulwark For the loyal of the lands. Men whose fathers, sick of dead lands, Europe and her weary ways, Saw the fading emerald meadows, And the golden meadows in haze, Saw the coast of France or Flanders, Like a glimmer sink and cease, Won the ample land of maple, The domain of wealth and peace. Won it by the axe and harrow, Held it by the axe and harrow, Bred a race with brown and marrow— From no alien overlord; Gained the right to guide and govern; Then, with labor strong and free, Forged the destiny of Empire Silver sea to silver sea. Fighting makes the heart grow fonder, Labor makes the heart grow faint, Still whenever we may wander, We are of the lion strain; We may delve in outland lands, Yet when memory drives and calls, All our hearts come leaping home. Now from smoke where cities welter, From the quiet glens of earth, Come to our land of shelter, To the land that gave us birth. Lo, we bring thee our achievement, Won by strength and patient sell; Thine the strength, and thine the patience— Bring it to thy breast again. And we bid Ontario quicken, Under snow and under sun, Where the spruces root and shiver, Where the waters flash and run; Bid the towns of glad Ontario Gather to thy breast again. With us goes the peerless setting fold, And the sun—Duncan Campbell Scott.

KING AND QUEEN AT KILLARNEY.

Dublin, July 28.—The royal yacht Victoria and Albert, with King Edward and Queen Alexandra aboard, which left Banarna, on the north coast yesterday, arrived at Killarney Bay on the west coast today. Their majesties were accompanied by the Earl of Dudley, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

LOUISBOURG OFFERS BIG BONUS TO NEW COMPANY.

Louisbourg, C. B., July 28.—(Special)—The citizens of Louisbourg, in public meeting assembled last night, passed a resolution that if the Cape Breton Coal, Iron & Railway Company constructed a railway and a shipping pier within the limits of the town of Louisbourg, by January 1, 1905, the town of Louisbourg would pay the company \$50,000 and exemption from taxation for a period of five years.

ALBERT FOURNIER, DEFAULTING MONTREAL CASHIER, SUICIDED IN ORDER THAT HIS CREDITORS SHOULD GET HIS LIFE INSURANCE.

Montreal, July 29.—(Special)—Developments make still more pathetic the circumstances connected with the suicide of Albert Fournier, the defaulting cashier of the Recorder's court. Fournier gave his life to pay his debts. He sought death, not as a way of escaping his financial obligations, but as the only means within his power of providing the money to meet them.

HE GAVE HIS LIFE TO PAY HIS DEBTS.

At the time of his death he was carrying \$7,000 life insurance and it was to make that sum available for covering the shortage in his account that he threw himself into the St. Lawrence River. This is the explanation he makes in the letter to his wife, which he posted just before he took his own life.

THE REAL JOSEPH SCRIBNER.

Nashua, N. H., July 28.—A letter received by Chief of Police Eaton Tuesday from Deputy Sheriff James M. Knowles, jailer at Dover (Me.), made known the fact that Joseph Scribner, who is under arrest at Dover, charged with murder, is Joseph Goyette, of this city. It had been suspected that the man called Scribner was Goyette and Deputy Knowles' letter says he had admitted the fact. On learning this Tuesday John Goyette, of Lawrence, a brother came here for a conference with his father and it was decided to make arrangements for defending the prisoner when his case comes up.

A CURE FOR ROSE COLD HAY FEVER AND ASTHMA.

A prominent New York lawyer in an unsolicited testimonial says: "I have suffered for years from Rose Cold, Hay Fever and Asthma. I have tried all the remedies I could find, but they did not give me relief. I have used Hiram's Cure for Rose Cold, Hay Fever and Asthma, and it has cured me. I can now breathe freely and sleep peacefully. I have never been so well in my life. I can express my appreciation of this medicine." HIRAM'S CURE CO., 14-16 West St., New York. For sale by all Druggists.

BISHOP CAMERON 50 YEARS A PRIEST.

Golden Jubilee of Antigonish Prelate Celebrated Wednesday.

BISHOP CASEY THERE.

A Distinguished Gathering of Clergy—The Town En Fete—Procession, Celebration of Mass, and Presentation of Address—Grand Banquet at Night.

Antigonish, N. S., July 29.—(Special)—This has been a gala day in Antigonish. Business of all kinds has been suspended. Every citizen did something towards swelling the chorus of general rejoicing throughout the diocese and the town has never assumed a more festive appearance.

Fifty years ago John Cameron was ordained priest; thirty-three years ago he was consecrated bishop and the people who for these thirty-three years have benefited by his beneficent rule, as well as those of other denominations both within and beyond the bounds of the diocese, are vying with one another in doing him honor. Yesterday several of his brother bishops from various parts of Canada and one from Newfoundland, came to assist at the celebration. All the clergy of the diocese were present and through the litany from east and west participated in the jubilee celebration.

At 9:30 o'clock the celebration began. Delegates from the various branches of the C. M. B. A. met at the hall of the organization here, and marched in a body to the Episcopal residence. Here they were met along the street. They led the procession. Then came the clergy of the diocese, about seventy in number. Following these were the bishops, and representatives of many bishops who were unable to attend; also the venerable jubilarian, His Lordship Bishop Cameron. In this order they entered St. Ninian street. Proceeding along this street they passed under the beautiful arch erected at the entrance to the cathedral. The procession counter-marched, his lordship entering the church first, followed by the visiting bishops.

DISTINGUISHED CLERGY THERE.

As they entered the choir sang "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus." The church was soon filled to overflowing. His lordship celebrated the jubilee mass. Very Rev. A. Macdonald, D. D. Y. C., was assistant priest; Rev. A. Thompson, R. D., rector of St. Francis Xavier College, and Rev. H. P. McPherson were deacon and sub-deacon respectively and Rev. M. A. McKeenan, master of ceremonies. Within the sanctuary were seated Bishop Casey, of St. John; Bishop McDonald, of Charlottetown; Bishop Barry, of Chatham; Bishop Gray, of Nicolet; Bishop McNeil, of St. George's, Newfoundland; Rev. Monsignor Daly, representative of the O'Brien, of Halifax, who could not attend on account of ill health; Rev. Dr. Lindsay, representing Archbishop Beign, of Quebec, and Very Rev. L. Paquet, of Quebec Seminary.

The sermon, a most eloquent and instructive effort, was preached by Rev. Father Doherty, S. J. He took as his text, "The Lord shall sanctify the fiftieth year, for it is the year of the jubilee." Mass over, the bishop went to the throne where the ceremony of disincensation was performed by Very Rev. A. McDonald, on behalf of the clergy and laity of the diocese, read an address. His lordship replied at considerable length, thanking the clergy and laity for their kind expressions of good will and outlined what the priest of God ought to be.

BANQUET IN THE EVENING.

The banquet tendered to his lordship at the convention hall of St. Francis Xavier College this evening, was a magnificent affair. Upwards of 120 clergymen, exclusive of the visiting bishops, sat down at 8 o'clock to a banquet that surpassed anything of its kind ever seen here. Bishop Cameron was born February 16, 1827, at Antigonish. In 1844 he was sent to Rome to study for the priesthood in the College of the Propaganda, where he spent a year. He was ordained priest in 1848, and became a leading place and was ordained on July 26, 1853. He came to Nova Scotia in 1854 and was placed in charge of St. Francis Xavier College, Antigonish, where he was transferred to Arichat, and in 1870, while visiting Rome, was consecrated bishop. He assumed active work in the diocese of Antigonish in 1871. Many good works stand monuments to his will.

FISH, AS A RULE, INCREASE IN WEIGHT AND LENGTH EVERY YEAR UP TO THEIR DEATH.

COLONIAL SECRETARY MAKES SOME PERTINENT REMARKS BEFORE THE MEASURE PASSED ITS SECOND READING.

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