

DISASTER AT CHEMICAL WORKS; TRENTON PEOPLE PANIC STRICKEN

Refugees by Hundreds Left Town Last Night and Today—No Lives Lost in Series of Terrific Explosions at British Explosives Ltd.—Windows Smashed in Houses and Stores—Explosion Heard Over Fifty Miles Away.

Trenton felt it was on the verge of a volcano in eruption last evening, when a series of disastrous explosions at the British Chemical Works shook the country within a radius of sixty miles. It was the hardest blow which Trenton has ever been struck but miraculously no one was killed as far as is known and no one was hurt.

The T.N.T. plant and the two gun cotton lines are destroyed but the acid buildings in the vicinity of the Grand Trunk railway and the smokeless powder plant are safe.

The loss could not be estimated today, said Supt. Barclay in a statement to the press. Whether the destroyed plant would be rebuilt would rest with the Munition Board at Ottawa. It was felt that there would be no more explosions, he said, about eleven o'clock today and that danger was practically past.

Nine explosions occurred at the works. These have thrown the residents of the town into such a state that they are unable to work and many are leaving the town for Belleville, Carrying Place, Brighton, and Frankford. Nothing can assure them that the town is safe.

Trenton was just getting up from its supper table when the first whistle blew at the chemical works. This was at 7.10. The people of Trenton understood it as the men employed at the plant also knew it was a signal to run for their lives.

Fire had broken out as a result of an overflowing tank and soon a large building was on fire. A heroic effort to stem the flames, the men endeavor was given up and the men were warned to look after themselves. Fifteen minutes elapsed before the expected happened—a terrific explosion, which is said to have been felt at Oshawa. By this time the thousand or more men who were at the plant had ample time for their escape and reach places of safety.

These men included scores of Chinamen, French Canadians and English-speaking workmen, the entire plant on its three shifts per day employing 2,500 or 3,000 men. The flying workmen ran eastward in the main and it was hours before many of them were able to find their way back to their homes.

Scarcely had Trenton recovered its footing when the second heavy explosion occurred at the interval of about one minute. Between these sounds the sky was lighter up for miles around, the flames rolling up into a huge ball of fire, which seemed a quarter of a mile high. A few minutes followed with another awful detonation and so bright was the light from the first shock, many ran from their garages and barns and did their best to get their cars and horses and relatives out. An explosion followed which lasted three or four seconds. Then again the sky lighted up at times even to the zenith, as the nitrates exploded. Explosions followed now and then until eight had occurred.

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side was in darkness for a short while and this condition made the situation much more serious. The Hydro staff from Belleville went to the scene and connected the wires with the British chemical plant and righted a condition of the electric lines coming from No. 2 dam.

Trenton fire brigade was working at the plant all night and today. This assistance helped the good work of the electric pumps on the grounds.

The British Explosives Limited is situated between the C.P.R. and the G.T.R. tracks and occupies a space of about four hundred acres, the main works being to the east and north of the river Trent. The destroyed section extends from the river bank at the old Gilmour plant and eastward from around the mountain. The plant is said to be worth nearly ten million dollars. It has been in operation for about three years.

At ten o'clock last night, it was felt that the worst had occurred. Many who had left, came back after leaving their families. In adjacent streets, explosions followed but did not cause any trouble. About one o'clock, as people settled down to rest, those who remained in town made the best of their unromantic circumstances, what with glass broken and chilly homes, and the fear of disaster.

At 6.30 this morning, the citizens were roused from their slumber by a crowd of shouting men. The first of these was the heaviest of the nine, which rocked the foundations of the town.

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fort of the people. One boy named David walked eight miles with his mother from the town in his bare feet.

The plant was built among the hills, which was considered an ideal situation on account of the vast stretches and the topography of the country. It was pneumonia cases, the plant among the hills, the force of explosion would be spent on them, as it evidently was.

Fire was quite a common occurrence at the works, being almost daily affairs. The opinion expressed by General Manager C. N. Barclay of the British Explosives Ltd., that further explosions were not likely to occur at the Trenton plant has been substantiated by the facts.

The plant has grown very much since it was opened for manufacturing building having been added, until there were over one hundred of them.

The night shifts went on at four and six o'clock. There are quite a common occurrence at the works, being almost daily affairs.

Many Trentonians now in Belleville are afraid to return to the town for fear of more explosions. The influenza and pneumonia cases stand in great danger. The condition of the homes with windows out makes life very distressful. Some have been to Belleville to buy glass for their windows, the supply of small sizes having run out in Trenton.

Mayor Ireland expressed gratitude for the safety of Trenton from a holocaust. "This was a real Thanksgiving day for us in Trenton. We are very grateful that we escaped so fortunately," he said.

Should "Flu" Cases Be Quarantined?

Editor On: I would like to have a brief space in your valuable paper this week? I say valuable for thus it is and I believe many will agree with me on this line. Why is it not a great source of daily intelligence and instruction. For instance today, we anxiously wait for the daily paper and when it arrives every member of the family (seem?) oh no! but eagerly reads every word, then discuss it etc. Tomorrow comes and the old paper of today is cast aside and again we yearn to see or hear the mail carrier on his daily round and thus we go on through life. Old knowledge passing away, the new taking its place. If Mr. Editor I have the right conception of the newspaper is it not also a question of whom we may ask questions? Having carefully followed the press on this dread disease—"Spanish Influenza" I beg here to ask through your paper that if it is so contagious as is reported and "we believe it is" are any of the homes of those who have fallen a prey to it being quarantined? If not it is a question to me why? We hear of some who claim part of their families have it and the other members go and come as they please both in private and public places. Is this fair? Is it wise? Is there not some source or means by which all doctors are compelled to quarantine said cases?

If common sense and the good conscience that God has given us are not used as a guide we seriously believe the stricter means must be resorted to in such a plague as this.

Trifling seems to be one of the chief sins which has been handed down all through the ages. Did not the people trifle and laugh when Noah was building the ark? Did the people not do likewise at the time of the Johnstown disaster and many other instances we might mention and after so many lessons are the people of today going to trifle now? Would like to hear the opinion of others.

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Trenton is Quieting Down

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Glass is one of the problems facing Trenton. A shipment has been sent for from Toronto and is expected today. Plate glass will be more difficult to get and it will be some time before Dundas street stores resume their old appearance.

course of wanton destruction which has always been regarded as inhumane. The nations associated with the German Government cannot agree to a cessation of arms while acts of inhumanity, spoliation and desecration are being continued which they justly look upon with horror and with burning hearts.

"It is necessary, also, in order that there may be no possibility of misunderstanding that the president should very solemnly call the attention of the government of Germany to the language and plain in fact of one of the terms of peace which the German Government has now accepted. It is contained in the address of the president, delivered at Mount Vernon on July 4 last.

"It is as follows: 'The destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere that can separately, secretly and of its single choice disturb the peace of the world; or if it cannot be presently destroyed, at least its reduction to virtual impotency. The power which has hitherto controlled the German nation is of the sort here described. It is within the choice of the German nation to alter it.' The president's words just quoted are naturally construed as a condition precedent to peace. It is to come by the action of the German people themselves. The president feels bound to say that the whole process of peace will, in his judgment, depend upon the definiteness and the satisfactory character of the guarantees which can be given in this fundamental matter. It is indispensable that the governments associated against Germany should know beyond a peradventure with whom they are dealing.

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