

the disaster. Survivors of the explosion say that the crest of the advancing wave swept across Campbell road, more than twenty feet above the level of the harbor, caught some firemen as high up as the armpits and carried them back across the hill to a watery grave. Tugs, it is reported, touched the bottom of the harbor in the recoil. One small steamer was blown clear over No. 6 pier. The steamer Picton was left a desolate sight, swept clean of funnels and deckhouse and with loosened plates. Of her crew but one man remained. The Halifax Herald published a story to the effect that this boat was also loaded with munitions, that fire broke out following the explosion on the Mont Blanc, and that a Halifax citizen, understood to be Captain Harrison, realized the danger which would come from another explosion still closer inshore, that he himself hacked the steel cables and turned the craft adrift in the stream, picked his way forward over the bodies of the dying and the dead, and with the aid of the sole survivor extinguished the fire.

That Mysterious Camera

Terrible though it was, the great disaster was not without its humorous incidents. A navy man on board his ship in the harbour, saw the Mont Blanc on fire and went to his cabin, secured his camera and prepared to take a picture of the burning ship. He grasped the camera firmly in his hands and pressed the lever that operates the shutter—Crash! At that instant came the explosion and the man was thrown backwards, striking his head on the deck. He was placed in his bunk and when he recovered consciousness three hours later, he swore vengeance on the coward who placed the “infernal machine” in his camera. Not until he had left his cabin and seen the wreckage about him, could he be convinced that it was not from his picture box that the shock came.

Duty First and Always.

Examples of heroism were not lacking. Jack Ronayne, a reporter for the Halifax Echo, went out to secure news of the fire as soon as it was reported and was caught in the whirling eddy of death as he approached the pier, thinking only of his duty. Of Mr. Ronayne's death the Halifax Chronicle said:

Among the dead the City may well mourn is “Jack” Ronayne, a young man of splendid promise, of sterling worth and high character. For several years he had been a member of The Chronicle and Echo staff, and had endeared himself to all his associates by his unfailing courtesy and kindness, his enthusiasm for his work, his fine ideals and his clean living. Mr. Ronayne was assigned to the waterfront for his special work, and on Thursday morning telephoned to the Echo that he was going up to get a story of a munitions ship then coming up the harbor, before he reported at