



Fig. 12. A column failure.

in the grinders that the fire which caused the explosion originated. The assistant ran to the floor below, taking a chemical extinguisher with him, and just as he opened a small slide in the elevator leg the explosion occurred. From this it would appear that the opening of one or both of these covers admitted enough air to permit the smouldering ground feed to burst into a blaze which ignited the explosive material in the air. It is very likely that the coke gas in the kiln room did not cause the explosion, although it may have added greatly to its intensity.

The first explanation offered for an explosion of this intensity was that it must have occurred in one or more of the ground oat hull tanks located near the top of the building, into which the elevator leading from the attrition grinder discharged, but owing to the facts that all but one of these tanks remained standing for some little time after the explosion, that the walls appeared to have been blown out near the bottom and that fire was not driven across the bridge to the Cleaning Mill, it is evident that the explosion must have taken place in the lower floors of the building where both the attrition grinders and kilns were located.

#### Damage to Buildings.

Owing to the direction of the wind, the Pump House was damaged but little, part of the roof being smashed. The Boiler House roof was crushed and the boilers put out of commission when the north wall of the Dry House fell. This was the extent of the damage until the Dry House floors and tanks collapsed at 10.50 a. m., as shown in Figure 4, which completed the ruin of the building. Curiously enough the smoke stack survived. Throughout the re-