

ALBION... Report... PROFITS... WIDE... Director... CONTRACTS... Information... Department... NOTICE... WATER... CAL IMPROVE... ASSURANCE CO... ALDSON.

THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

The Number of Explosive Substances Increasing Constantly—A Large Proportion of Explosives Used in Carelessness or Ignorance—Some Fatal Cases.—A parliamentary report has recently been published on the destruction of life and property in the United Kingdom by the use of explosives during the year 1885. It gives a detailed account of twenty-nine explosions of dynamite, with malicious intent. It states that the popular impression that most of these dynamite outrages were committed with impunity is false. It affirms that there is every reason for believing that the same who caused the explosion at London bridge were killed on the spot, and states that twenty-seven others connected with dynamite plots are now doing penal servitude. It has been demonstrated that the employment of violent explosives is attended by great danger to those who use them for unlawful purposes, who have never been trained in their use as persons have who are employed in blasting rocks and coal. The number who escape unscathed from the scene of the explosion, undetected, and are not subsequently punished, is very small. The commission that has been investigating the matter of explosives and explosions are of opinion that there is more to fear from carelessness and recklessness than from criminal design. The number of explosive substances is constantly increasing, and new uses are being found every year. A list of 133 cases of explosions that are reviewed by the commission shows that a large proportion of them were due to carelessness or ignorance. A man engaged in blasting leaves a pound of powder in a cren vessel, where it becomes wet; a boy finds it after it has become dry by standing in the sun, drops a lighted match on it, and it is killed. A man leaves some detonators in his house when he goes to work; his little daughter picks up one of them, and on the top of a lead pencil with which she is writing, she explodes and takes off one of her fingers. A man finds a detonator in a box, and thinking that it would make a good ferule for his fishing rod, he sticks it into the rod, and it explodes, and inflicts a most serious injury on him. A boy finds in a field where some hunters had been, a flask partially filled with gun powder; he places it in a sleeve-over to dry, and goes out to borrow a pig. Before he returns the house is in flames. Travelling dynamite cartridges used for blasting purposes before starting fire, going to bed with a pocketful of quinine, and walking through a handlight are among the more frequent causes of injury by explosives.

The commission thought fit to report on several peculiar explosions that occurred in other countries. The most serious was in Brookline, Mass. A gentleman while dropping his watch into his pocket, was startled by a sharp explosion, which was followed in quick succession by several others. In attempting to remove the watch his hand was severely burned. When the explosion had ceased and he had regained his composure, he began to investigate the cause of the strange affair. He found that the explosion was due to the ignition of one of the watches of pocket watches he had been in the habit of carrying in his pocket. The watch would not start, and he was in pain in his throat occurred. Several of them had been reduced to powder, scattered about the room, and the watch of the man who had been in the habit of carrying it in his pocket, was found to be the cause of the explosion. A Siberian Phenomenon.—Scientific men have been perplexed for many years over the phenomenon of a certain well at Yakutsk, Siberia. A Russian merchant in 1829 began to dig the well, but he gave up the task three years later, when he had dug down thirty feet and was still in solidly frozen soil. The Russian academy had the temperature of the excavation carefully taken at various depths, and from these data it was estimated that the ground was frozen to a depth of 312 feet. Although the pole of the greatest cold is in this province of Yakutsk, not even the terrible severity of the Siberian winter could freeze the ground to a depth of 600 feet. Geologists have decided that the frozen valley of the lower Lena is a formation of the glacial period. They believe, in short, that it froze solidly then, and has never since had a chance to thaw out.

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FOR SALE. A detached bargain. Solid Brick Dwelling on Jarvis, north of Carlton. Frontage 20 feet, 12 rooms, modern conveniences. Price only \$3000.

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