

ACTON POWDER MILL BLOWS UP; SHOCK IS FELT 30 MILES AWAY

Munitions of Allies Destroyed by 14 Ton Explosion. Windows Broken and Goods Damaged in Maynard. Suspicion of Outside Influence.

Acton, Aug. 31.—With a roar that was heard for 40 miles, the big glaze or finishing mill of the American Powder Co. blew up at 2.40 o'clock this morning, destroying 14 tons of ammunition being manufactured for the allies.

Shock Is Felt Fully 10 Seconds.
The force of the explosion shook the towns of Acton, Boxboro, Maynard and Concord for fully 10 seconds. People, awakened by the roar and trembling of buildings, jumped from their beds in terror. Thousands of windows were shattered, and innumerable pieces of china were rattled off pantry shelves. In Main and Nason streets, Maynard, the destruction of windows could not have been more complete had an earthquake shaken the town. During the day thousands of persons came from surrounding towns to see the damage.

At first it was believed that sympathizers with the cause of the German allies destroyed the mill for the purpose of crippling one of the largest ammunition plants in the country. The police worked along this line, and sent out calls to trace a mysterious automobile that was seen 10 minutes after the explosion, speeding in the direction of Stow. During the forenoon, a man found in the vicinity of the powder works was taken to the police station and questioned. He said his name was Rehlander, and that he came from Dorchester. He told a straightforward story of tramping along the road, looking for work, and the police did not detain him.

STORIES OF PLOTS.
The activity of the police gave rise to several sensational rumors, and stories of mysterious strangers and plots gained wide circulation, arousing the fears of the townspeople. As the day wore on, however, the rumors lost their force, and were finally set at rest by a statement from Murray Ballou, president of the American Powder Company.

"We have not the slightest suspicion that the mill was blown up by opponents of the allies," he said, "nor have we asked the police to make an investigation on that supposition. What caused the explosion we do not know, but we give no credence to the report that it was an outside agency." Other officers refused to discuss the matter, other than to say that the cause of the explosion was a complete mystery.

It was learned that the doors and windows of the mills were barred at 8 o'clock Saturday night, after a complete inspection of the interior. One workman said:

"We are not allowed to take to the press, but that mill was left in a safe condition on Saturday night, and we knew it could not blow itself up. No one ever smokes there, and fires of any sort are banned. Further, it is situated in a lonely spot in the woods, half a mile from the nearest building."

Regards It An Accident.
These words were offset, however, by the statement of Deputy Chief O'Connor of the Maynard police. The latter are brought into all big affairs in Acton, as their town has only a call police department.

"I don't think that the powder people have any suspicion that their plant was blown up," he said, "at least they haven't told me that they had, and they usually ask our help when it's needed. We are not looking for anyone, and are treating the affair as an accident."
The explosion will temporarily cripple a plant that was a large factor in furnishing the supply of ammunition shipped from this country to the allies. The building destroyed was the glaze mill, the department that puts the finish on "new" powder. It uses machinery that has to be made to order, and this cannot be obtained for several weeks at least. Meanwhile the entire plant, which has been working to capacity with three shifts of men, will have to remain idle.
The powder company had two glaze mills working until four weeks ago, when a terrific thunder storm swept down through "Powder Valley," as the section is known. Glaze mill No. 1 was struck by lightning and in the explosion that resulted the building and machinery were destroyed. Since then all the glazing has been concentrated in mill No. 2. This was a newer building, and a permanent structure, in contrast to the "shells" that powder companies use for their manufacturing. It was considered a "safe depot" and the officials made no haste to rebuild mill No. 1 as an auxiliary. After the explosion this morn-

ing, however, preparations were begun for immediate rebuilding.
Accustomed as Maynard and Acton residents are to explosions in the powder works, they were terrified this morning because of the unusual force and the length of the roar and shocks. At 2.45 a low rumbling was heard, followed by two sharp bangs and a series of lesser explosions that sounded like a cannon-ade.

Houses Trembled
Panels of glasses cracked and fell from the windows, the houses trembled, pictures fell from the walls, ornaments from the mantelpiece, and china from the shelves. The trembling continued for fully 10 seconds, as if the town was shaken by an earthquake. Some persons say they awakened, jumped from their beds and ran to windows before the trembling stopped.

The damage was particularly heavy in Maine and Nason streets, the two principal business thoroughfares of Maynard. Among those whose business places were damaged were the dry goods establishments of W. B. Case and Stanley & Co. A dozen other concerns also suffered, and today carpenters were busy boarding up large windows to safeguard their stocks.

Panels of glass splintered showering sidewalks and streets. Nason street business places appeared to have been bombed while Maine street, as one Maynard man put it, "looked like a glass factory's backyard."

The actual loss to the powder company will not exceed \$5000.

NEW BRUNSWICK TO TAKE ACTION

Survey of Crown Lands To Be Proceeded With
The Government of New Brunswick has announced that in the near future, it will appoint a provincial forester and proceed with the survey of Crown timber lands, as provided for in the Act of 1912. The Crown lands comprise an area of over ten thousand square miles, or approximately one-third the total area of the province. The proposed action is entirely logical, in view of the fact that the province derives an annual revenue of over half a million dollars from these lands. A careful stock-

taking, together with a thorough and scientific investigation of the questions of reproduction and rate of growth, will be required to determine the means necessary for the perpetuation of the forest and of the revenues resulting from its exploitation.—C.L. in Conversation.

Harsh Cure
Boston Transcript.
Hubby (at breakfast): I've got a bad head this morning.
Wife: I'm sorry, dear, I do hope you'll be able to shake it off.

AT THE NICKEL

J.J. St. John
To Shopkeepers:

100 dozen
ROYAL PALACE
Baking Powder at
50c dozen tins.

500 Dozen
TOILET SOAP
1 dozen in a Box,
35c dozen.

500 Dozen
BLACK PEPPER, at
10c lb.

150 Dozen
ELECTRIC PASTE,
the best Blacklead
on the market,
48c dozen.

J.J. St. John
Duckworth St & LeMarchant Rd

Take in the Week-End Programme at THE NICKEL--Its Great.

Arthur Huskins and DeWitt Cairns,
THOSE HARMONY BOYS IN THE LATEST NOVELTY NUMBERS.

"THE VAN THORNTON DIAMONDS"

A powerful two-act melo-drama by the Selig Players.
"THE HAZARDS OF HELEN." "FABLE OF THE OLD GREY DAWN." "HARBOUR OF LOVE."
A very thrilling episode. A George Ade comedy. A social drama.

THE USUAL BIG BUMPER MATINEE SATURDAY.

MONDAY—A beautiful three-part Vitagraph drama, MOTHER'S ROSES.

A PATHETIC LETTER

Highlander, Frenchman and German Talked of Home Till Death Came

This, says the London Daily Citizen, is the most moving letter written during the war. The writer was a French cavalry officer and the letter was addressed to his fiancée in Paris. It was written as he lay dying, after being wounded in a cavalry charge. It is a wonderful letter. This is how it runs:

"There are two other men lying near me, and I do not think there is much hope for them either. One is an officer of a Scottish regiment and the other a private in the Uhlans. They were struck down after me, and when I came to myself, I found them bending over me, rendering first aid.

"The British was pouring water down my throat from his flask, while the German was endeavoring to staunch my wound with an antiseptic preparation served out to them by their medical corps. The Highlander had one of his legs shattered, and the German had several pieces of shrapnel buried in his side.

"In spite of their own sufferings they were trying to help me, and when I was fully conscious again the German gave me a morphia injection and took one himself. His medical corps had also provided him with the injection and the needle, together with printed instructions for its use.

"After the injection, feeling wonderfully at ease, we spoke of the lives we had lived before the war. We all spoke English, and we talked of the women we had left at home. Both the German and the Britisher had only been married a year.

"I wondered, and I suppose the others did, why we had fought each other at all. I looked at the Highlander, who was falling to sleep, exhausted, and in spite of his drawn face and mud-stained uniform, he looked the embodiment of freedom. Then I thought of the Tricolor of France and all that France had done for liberty. Then I watched the German, who had ceased to speak. He had taken a prayer book from his knapsack and was trying to read a service for soldiers wounded in battle.

"And . . . while I watched him, I realized what we were fighting for . . . He was dying in vain, while the Britisher and myself, by our deaths, would probably contribute something toward the cause of civilization and peace."

The letter ends with a reference to the falling light and the roar of the guns. It was found at the dead officer's side by a Red Cross file and was forwarded to his fiancée.

Politician's Duty To the Farmer

Farming must be recognized as the basic industry, not merely in after dinner speeches and political addresses, but also and primarily in the economic system for which the government in power at Ottawa is responsible.

Such obstacles as high tariffs, which block the natural channels of trade, must be removed. If those who now profit by them and at whose instances they were erected and are maintained, cannot be persuaded that the welfare of industrial Canada can be assured only by full and fair recognition of the needs of agricultural Canada, they must be taught that lesson by means other than persuasion.

Hon. Martin Burrell and his associates should see that the first need of the Canadian farmer is not so much information about markets as free access to the most profitable markets.

Rapid ratepayers are to vote on abolition of Sunday street cars as a means to reduce the annual deficit.

Interned Britishers Often Flee From Holland

Dutch Soldiers Refuse to Shoot Them When They Try to Escape From Old Fort

The Hague, Aug. 29. (Correspondence of The Associated Press)—The ancient fortress of Wierickerschans, where are interned the British officers of the Antwerp Relief Expedition which was forced to retreat into Holland a year ago, occasionally loses some of its guests, notwithstanding that the Dutch profess to guard the place thoroughly.

The British officers refuse to pledge themselves against trying to escape to England to rejoin the fighting forces, and once outside the fortress these prisoners find the Dutch people disposed to make things easy for them. The guards at the camp are under orders to shoot any escaping prisoner, and it is true that they do shoot at them, but never hit them. In fact, if it were not for the constant arrival of shipwrecked aviators, few prisoners would be at Wierickerschans.

The fortress is surrounded by a cluster of green trees and a broad moat, which makes it virtually an island. It was built by King William of England, the Standholder of Holland, and cannot be older than the year 1772. It was in that year that King Louis XIV. of France invaded Holland and marched to Amsterdam. The country was at once flooded and several fortifications were built to guard the few high roads which could not be submerged.

The moat which surrounds the fortress is now used for fishing and swimming purposes by the forty-five British officers interned there. In the distance there is a pretty Dutch landscape, with red roofed houses, clusters of trees, a few busy windmills, and a high sky all of them suggestive of the liberty that is near at hand, but which is barred by a double row of wire fences, both above and under water, and a series of armed Dutch guards. At night the entire zone of barbed wire and rifles is lighted up by strong arc lights, giving the old fort an appearance something like an American amusement park on a Summer night. The occupants of the fort are locked in at night and at 11 o'clock they are sent to bed.

UNSANITARY HOUSES

Dr. Shain Suggests a Scheme to Remedy Conditions

Discussing the action of the board of health in ordering a number of houses closed because they were not fit for human habitation, Dr. Shain, city food inspector stated last week that it was not an uncommon thing to find houses occupied by tenants that contained as many as eight and ten layers of wall paper. In this way many landlords cover up dirty unsanitary walls and save the expense of removing the old paper.

"I think the health regulations should be so arranged as to place all vacant houses in the hands of, or under the direct supervision and inspection of the board of health," declared Dr. Shain.

"Under existing conditions a house becomes vacant and may possibly be in such a condition as to make it unfit for habitation. The landlord simply covers up the dirty walls with a coating of cheap paper, and rents it again to another family. In many of the poorer class houses lavatories are located in the cellar, in fact, not even cellars, but just dug-out. Where these are located, the owners are obliged to change them to upper floors, but many of them exist unknown to the health department.

"If all vacant houses came under the supervision of the health department, and no landlord was allowed to rent a house until he had been supplied with a certificate by the board of health, there would be less cause for complaint about unsanitary conditions."

ROSSLEY'S EAST END THEATRE.

St. John's Leading Vaudeville, Dramatic and Picture Theatre.

Last Day to see Newfoundland Regiment.
Children's Matinee, 2.30 p.m.

SPECIAL ACT
Don, the Wonderful Performing Dog; Mr. J. Russell in big act.

New Performers and Pictures on Monday.

Ian MacKenzie, World Renowned Scottish Baritone. Miss Gertrude Ashton, High Class Soprano, Gold Medallist. William Wallace and his violin. Three of the finest performers in the Vaudeville world to-day.

Shipment of New Films from New York.

5c. CRESCENT Picture Palace 5c.

"Broncho Billy's Double Escape"
A Western Drama with G. M. Anderson.

"The Gypsy Talisman"
A Fine Comedy Drama.

"Little Miss Make-Believe"
A Melo-Drama produced by the Biograph Company.

"The Fable of Aggie and the Aggravated Attacks"

Written by George Ade, America's greatest Humorist.
"Bud, Bill and the Waiter"

A Kalem Comedy with Lloyd V. Hamilton and Ruth Roland.
The Usual Extra Pictures at the BIG SATURDAY MATINEE.

Harry Collins—Irish Tenor—Singing Classy Songs and Ballads.
Good Music—A Cool and well ventilated Theatre.
The Usual Extra Pictures at the Big SATURDAY MATINEE.

NO PEACE POSSIBLE

Pall Mall Gazette:—Russia has vowed, along with her allies, that the sword which they have drawn in one cause shall be sheathed only by a common decision, and her faith chivalry have been placed by the records of this war far beyond the need of vindication. But even if no such pact where in existence, the reasons against any settlement with Germany so long as the latter remains an effective power in the field would be as overwhelming as they are manifest. It would be sheer insanity to trust to any treaty with a nation which stands perjured to the lips, which has ignored its own most solemn obligations, and which employs falsehood and treachery as the ordinary counters for politics and war.

"Dicers' oaths are negotiable scraps of paper" to which the kaiser's seal might be fixed. Germany herself has made it a truism that there can be no peace that is not based upon her subjugation.

Children's day at the Canadian Exhibition was a record with an attendance of over 111,000.

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