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**BOILER EXPLOSION AT STAPLES, ONT.**

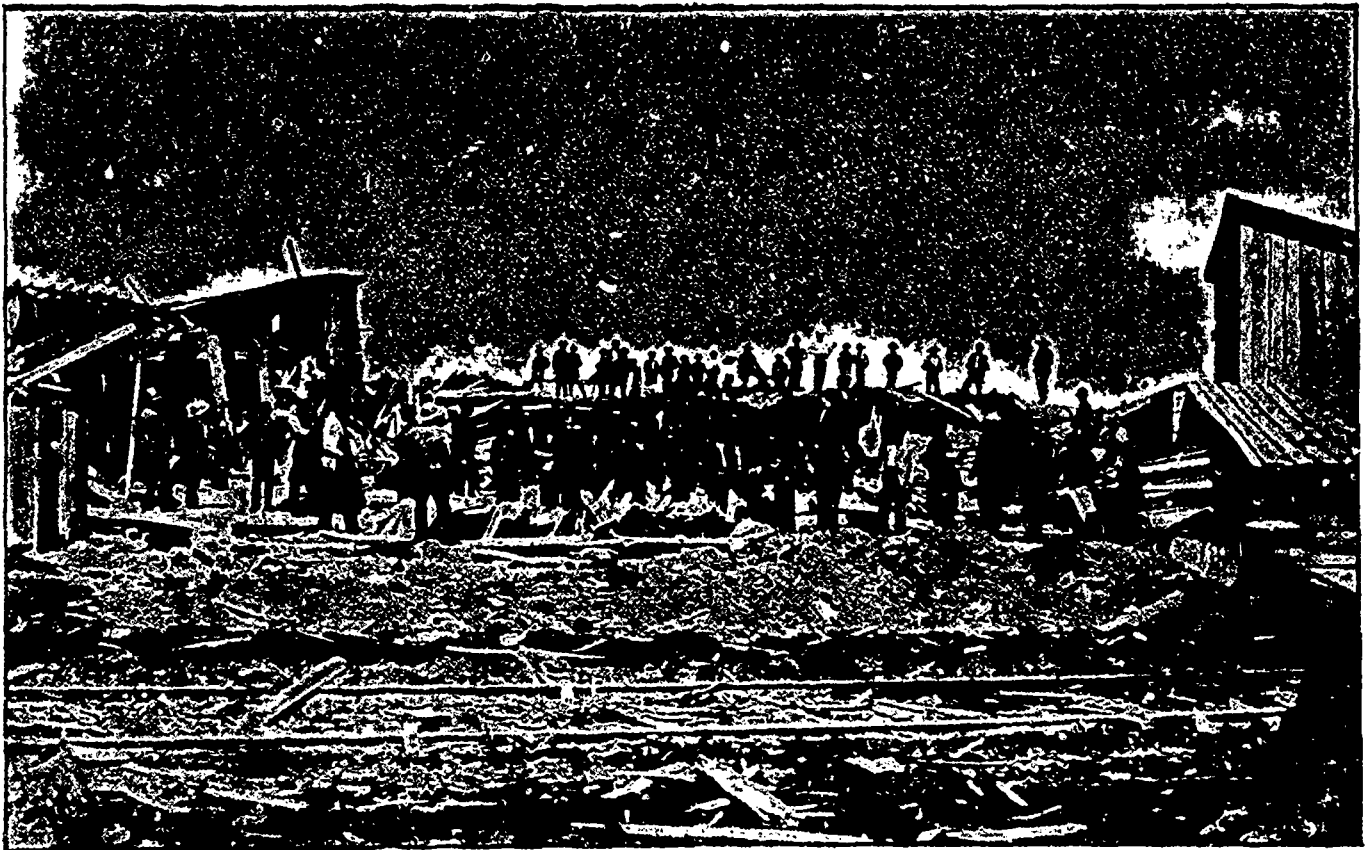
On Saturday, the 17th of September, a serious boiler explosion occurred in the village of Staples, County of Essex, Ontario. Staples is a village of recent origin, and is a station on the branch line of railway from Comber to Leamington. The village contains four saw mills and dwellings of the workers. It is surrounded by hard-wood bush, and the chief employment at the mills is cutting and bending the wood and the making of staves for barrels.

Messrs. Force & Dickson had two steam boilers in their

were suggested, such as that the tubes were rotten, and that scale inside caused the bottom to become red hot, but the jury very wisely did not endorse any of these opinions.

An examination of the remains of the exploded boiler showed that several portions had gone completely out of sight, nobody knew where.

The boiler was an ordinary tubular boiler, built in Detroit about nine years ago, and made of charcoal hammered iron plate fully one quarter of an inch thick. It had been twelve feet long and four feet in diameter, and had a dome about 20 in. diameter.



SCENE OF BOILER EXPLOSION AT STAPLES, ONT.

stave mill. They were horizontal tubular boilers, encased in brick-work. On Saturday morning a few of the men had reached the mill before starting time, and as it was chilly, were near the boilers to warm themselves.

The engineer was preparing to start one of the engines, and was in the act of turning the fly wheel to bring the engine in proper position for starting, when one of the steam boilers exploded.

The explosion was a very violent one, causing the death of seven men and the complete destruction of the mill. The accompanying illustration gives some idea of the destruction caused by it.

The exploded boiler was torn into a number of pieces and scattered about the mill yard and into the bush beyond. The other boiler was driven out of its brick setting and broken in several places.

A coroner's inquest was held, and the jury found that the death of the man whose body formed the subject of enquiry was caused by the boiler explosion, and that the explosion was accidental and from a cause not known to the jury. Various theories

The dome had parted from the shell, tearing the plate near to the dome flange. The part of the shell immediately under the dome was flattened out and lay only a few feet from the original position of the boiler. The upper part of the front of the shell had taken a flight upwards, and lay not far from the dome. The other portions of the shell plates were missing.

The explanation of the cause of the explosion does not seem very difficult. The dome having gone up, and the shell plates under it being flattened out and left near the original site, suggest that the rupture commenced around the dome. The appearance of the fractured plate still rivetted to the dome agrees with this idea, as one part seems wasted and reduced in thickness to about one-half that of the rest of the plate. The man-hole plate was not among the remains, and if it were found might give a better explanation than the one suggested.

The boiler had been covered over with brickwork, and a leak at the dome flange could not have been seen and was probably the cause of the corrosion now visible.

The boiler had not been inspected by anyone competent to do