

TWENTY-FIVE KILLED BY MAGAZINE EXPLOSION

The United States Cartridge Factory of Lowell, Mass., Blown Up Early This Morning.

THIRTY BUILDINGS WERE COMPLETELY WRECKED

Lowell, Mass., July 29.—As a result of a powder mill explosion this morning one injured workman was taken to the hospital and while the surgeons were dressing his wounds he was killed by a second explosion. Because of the disaster and the large force of police were hurried to the scene and there were rumors of a large number of casualties that were not verified by the search of the ruins.

The force of the explosion broke windows in and over twelve miles away. Reports from all of Essex and Middlesex counties indicate that considerable damage has been done by the concussion. Lowell, Mass., July 29.—The police stationed at the scene of the explosion report that many have been killed or injured in the explosion. The accident was in the magazine building, which was filled with dynamite.

Thirty houses were destroyed. Acton street, South Lowell, is in ruins. Twenty deaths (estimated) resulted. Houses were wrecked within a quarter of a mile. Teams of all kinds are being used as ambulances.

LATER. Lowell, Mass., July 29.—Twenty-five killed and 55 injured is a conservative estimate of the result of an explosion in a magazine of the United States Cartridge Company today.

Shortly after 6 o'clock this morning a report like the crash of thunder, followed by a roar resembling a discharge of artillery shook Westbrook, a suburb of this place, wrecking houses and killing or maiming the occupants.

The concussion was felt in the surrounding counties and shattered windows 20 miles away. Boston, 40 miles away, distinctly felt the shock, and police stations were besieged with telephone calls of inquiry as to the cause.

Wild rumors were spread throughout the surrounding country, and it was reported that hundreds had been killed or injured. The streets were crowded with men, women and children rushing about in terror, at the rumors of an earthquake.

All the available police were rushed to the scene of the accident. Crowds soon flocked to the plant of the cartridge company, where all was in wild confusion. A whole pane of glass, dwellings were moved from their foundations, and

many were in a dangerous condition. Four companies of militia were hurried to the scene, to restore and maintain order and protect property. Exaggerated reports as to the number of killed and wounded continued to create excitement. Because of the disaster and the large force of police were hurried to the scene and there were rumors of a large number of casualties that were not verified by the search of the ruins.

The explosion is thought to have been caused by the jarring of dynamite stored in the magazine by workmen who were laying a new floor. The dynamite set off the powder stored in one chamber, and that explosion was followed by another in a second chamber. The plant of the United States Cartridge Company is located in a district known as Riverside Park, in Westbrook, just outside Lowell.

The building in which the explosion occurred was a stone structure about one and one half miles distant from the works of the cartridge company. Within a distance of 100 yards there are twenty houses, and beyond that the houses sustained cuts, bruises and broken bones. Men who lived in streets not far off, who were fortunate enough to escape serious injuries, immediately gave themselves over to the work of removing women and children to places of safety, for almost simultaneously with the explosion came flashes from several buildings. Into the flames and debris scores of men were plunging in efforts to save life and property.

The work of rescuing the victims was necessarily slow, and the rescuing corps was seriously handicapped for ambulances. The patrol wagons of the police and teams of all description were brought into use to supplement the hospital ambulances.

St. John's Hospital afforded refuge for those most sorely in need of surgical attendance, and sixteen victims were hurried there. The house staff separated those in direct emergency, and the hospital was crowded with those dead at the works. At this hospital was stated at noon that four would die, and that as many more were desperately hurt.

A parliamentary committee was appointed to investigate the matter. There were stormy scenes in the Diet this morning, when the Premier, Count Hellday, rose to commence the discussion of the indemnity bill. The obstructionists stood up and the chamber resounded with deafening shouts, the banging of desk lids and insults hurled at Mr. Premier. The opposition benches. The sitting was suspended, but the scenes were repeated several times, and ultimately the Premier handed the clerk of the House a written motion moving the reading of the bill. When the obstructionists became aware of this action a couple of members of the Kossuth party stormed the presidential tribune, snatched the paper from the clerk's hands, and tore it to pieces. The tribune was soon filled with shouting deputies, and amidst the tumult the session was again suspended.

THEY PREFER WHIST. The Position of Methodism in Great Britain.

London, July 29.—Rev. Marshall Hartley, president of the Wesleyan Conference, addressing a pastoral session at Camborne, expressed regret that the position of Methodism in England was unsatisfactory. With two thousand preachers, eighteen thousand local preachers and an army of Sunday school teachers, their increase was only one per cent. He protested against certain distractions that are creeping into the homes of the people. Whist, he said, was in some cases more popular than class meetings, while some seemed to believe that they could dance themselves into the kingdom of heaven better than securing access through prayer meetings.

Baltimore Memorial Service. Baltimore, July 29.—Impressive memorial services for the late Pope Leo XIII. were held in the cathedral yesterday morning. The cathedral being the principal church of the country, the service had been arranged on a scale which would fitly express the sorrow of the hierarchy of the United States and the passing of the pontiff. The sermon was preached by Bishop Donohue, of Wheeling. Archbishop Falconry was celebrant of the mass.

BAKU OIL WORKS BURNED

A Serious Loss Reported from South Russia.

Baku, Russian Transcaucasia, July 29.—The extensive petroleum works at Bakhambay have been burned. The fire is believed to have been of incendiary origin. Large numbers of burning towers and reservoirs of naphtha were destroyed, including those belonging to the Nobel Brothers and to the Caspian Company.

A NARROW ESCAPE

Young Woman With Her Hair Ablaze Leaps Two Storeys.

Ottawa, July 29.—Several persons narrowly escaped with their lives and limbs injured, with burns and bruises in a fire yesterday morning at the residence of Miss Rosalie Leclair, 162 Murray street. Miss Leclair, who was with her hair ablaze, jumped from the second story to the pavement and was severely injured. Neighbors who had been aroused in the meantime succeeded in saving her from being burned fatally. Honour Leclair, also jumped from an upstairs window, and was bruised badly about the side and cut on the arm.

LOYS EVIDENCE CORROBORATED

The Commons Privileges and Elections Committee

RESUMES VALLEYFIELD INQUIRY

The Member for Beauharnois Did Not Know His Property Was Being Purchased for Government.

Ottawa, July 29.—This morning the committee on privileges and elections resumed the inquiry into the charges by Mr. Monk regarding the purchase of property in the town of Valleyfield owned by Mr. George Loy, the sitting member for Beauharnois. Mr. Loy again took the stand and produced a copy of the option which he gave to Mr. Johnston on July 14, 1902, also the letter of acceptance by Mr. Johnston and other documents. There were, he said, only two payments made, the \$100 deposit and a check signed by Mr. Johnston, given to Mr. Dutton, notary public, who was acting for him. Mr. Dutton gave him the checks for \$100 for the balance due after payment of the \$100 was paid to McIntosh and Hyde, witnesses' agents in Montreal, and Mr. Hyde, of that firm, forwarded to witness his own check for the balance of \$100. Mr. R. B. Johnston, who purchased the property from Mr. Loy, stated that it was his own check for the balance of \$100, and that he had no knowledge of the transaction in which there would be raised the money in the Sovereign Bank on his own note, dated Nov. 28, 1902. There was no collateral security given, although he had given as security. Witness knew nothing about an order in council having been passed at this time for the purchase of the property. At the time he went to Valleyfield to get the option witness called on other property-owners and obtained quotations for the purchase of the land. Dandurand instructed witness to go out to Valleyfield and purchase the land. After inspecting several sites witness obtained options from Mr. Dionne and Mr. Loy for the purchase of the property. Witness gave the details of the transaction, and Mr. Loy replied that he was purchasing the property for the Government. Mr. Loy said that he had known the purchase was made for the Government and would not have dealt with him.

Mr. U. H. Dandurand, who received instructions from Mr. Tarte to purchase the property, told the committee that he had given Mr. Johnston the option. Being unable to get into communication with Mr. Johnston, who was traveling on the Government boat in Lake Erie, before the option expired, he instructed Mr. Johnston to make the purchase, and the property was actually bought by that gentleman, acting as his agent, before the sale to the Government was made.

BACK TO THE TOMBS

An Alleged Forger Unable to Furnish Bail.

New York, July 29.—Charles H. Trelawney, the Philadelphia publisher who was arrested at his home in Yonkers last week for the forgery of a check, was held in the Tombs court today and held to await trial in the court of general sessions. He is held at \$5,000. Since the arrest of Trelawney the police have going into the country in his stead, a prisoner was wanted in other cities on various charges. He could not furnish bail and went back to the Tombs.

WEATHER BULLETIN

London, Wednesday, July 29. Sun rises, 5:32 a.m. Moon rises, 11:12 a.m. Sun sets, 7:48 p.m. Moon sets, 10:46 p.m. Tomorrow—A Little Cooler.

The weather has been generally fine today from the lower lake region to the Maritime Provinces, and shower over Lake Superior, Manitoba and the greater portion of the Territories. Showers and thunderstorms are now generally indicated for Ontario and Quebec.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 48-58; Calgary, 44-58; Qu'Appelle, 50-64; Winnipeg, 46-56; Port Arthur, 54-64; Parry Sound, 48-56; Toronto, 60-72; Ottawa, 64-72; Montreal, 64-70; Quebec, 48-59; Halifax, 48-59.

FORECASTS, July 29-31 a.m. Today—Fresh south to west winds; warm, with occasional showers or thunderstorms.

Thursday—Fresh west to northwest winds; mostly fair and cooler.

Temperatures. Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather.

Calgary, 52 52 Cloudy
Ottawa, 60 60 Cloudy
Toronto, 64 64 Cloudy
Winnipeg, 46 56 Rain
Quebec, 48 59 Rain
Father Point, 50 50 Cloudy

CRUISER SINKS STEAMER

Melampus Runs Down the Steamship Ruperra—Crew Saved.

Plymouth, England, July 29.—The British third class cruiser Melampus collided with and sank the British steamer Ruperra off the Lizard last night. The crew of the Ruperra were saved. The damage sustained by the Melampus will necessitate docking her for repairs.

PREMIER GIVES NOTICE OF BILL

The Railway Policy To Be Announced Thursday.

CABINET TO RATIFY MEASURE

At Meeting Today—Bill Receives the Assent of Mr. Hays and His Counsel.

Ottawa, July 29.—The Grand Trunk Pacific agreement is at last complete, and an order in council ratifying it will be passed at a meeting of the Cabinet tomorrow morning. The long-expected resolution came down tonight, but was disappointingly short. It simply intimated that Sir Wilfrid Laurier would on Thursday next give notice of a bill entitled "an act to provide for the construction of a national transcontinental railway." This is the simple, unpretentious form in which the Government notifies the world that in two days' time the details of a great transcontinental project will be laid before Parliament. Some hours' consideration were given to the agreement today before it finally received the assent of Mr. Hays and his legal adviser, Mr. W. H. Biggar. These two gentlemen and Mr. Wainwright met Sir Wilfrid and Mr. P. H. Chrysler, K. C., this afternoon, and were in secret conference for a lengthened period. The Prime Minister had a further deliberation with the members of the House, and the lawyers and railway men continued their conference for another hour. Tonight there was a further deliberation, at which Sir William Mulock, Mr. Fielding, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Sifton and Mr. Sutherland met Sir Wilfrid and Mr. P. H. Chrysler, K. C., this afternoon, and were in secret conference for a lengthened period. The Prime Minister had a further deliberation with the members of the House, and the lawyers and railway men continued their conference for another hour. Tonight there was a further deliberation, at which Sir William Mulock, Mr. Fielding, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Sifton and Mr. Sutherland met Sir Wilfrid and Mr. P. H. Chrysler, K. C., this afternoon, and were in secret conference for a lengthened period. The Prime Minister had a further deliberation with the members of the House, and the lawyers and railway men continued their conference for another hour. 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