

NITRO-GLYCERIN MAGAZINE EXPLODES AT PETROLEA

Big Plant Completely Wrecked Early This Morning
And Oil Town Given Bad Scare.

HEAVY PROPERTY DAMAGE, BUT NO LIVES LOST

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Petrolea, Oct. 17.—Citizens of Petrolea and vicinity were awakened about 4 o'clock this morning by a terrific detonation and it was soon learned that the magazine on the property of the Petrolea Torpedo Company had exploded. The magazine was located on the 12th line about two miles north of the town, but so powerful was the concussion that plate glass and other windows were shattered all over the town and also in Wyoming, a village five miles north of the scene of the explosion.

The magazine where the explosion occurred was built of concrete and brick. It contained about three to four hundred quarts of nitro-glycerin and the force of the explosion scooped out a hole in the ground fully twenty feet deep. The building was entirely demolished, not a piece of either concrete or brick larger than a man's hand being found. The factory was situated some fifty yards north and west of the magazine, and is nothing but a pile of kindling wood. There are several residences in the vicinity of the explosion and none are left with a whole window. Doors were torn off their hinges and walls moved, but fortunately no person was seriously hurt. A young lad named Glass was out about the face with glass, a window being blown into the bed in which he was sleeping. The Glass home was practically ruined.

CAUSE A MYSTERY.

The cause of the explosion cannot be learned. The owners of the property claim they have not been manufacturing glycerin since May last. Some of their employees were working around the magazine yesterday morning, but left the premises at 11:30 and no one was near it since, to their knowledge. A rumor is current that too great heat was the cause, but this cannot be verified. The damage cannot be estimated yet. At the property, the plant is a complete wreck and a total loss. The damage to the various residences in the vicinity will run up into the thousands, one man alone having fully a thousand dollars damage done to his barn and pumping station. In Petrolea also, and in Wyoming, the chief damage is from broken glass.

Petrolea, Oct. 17.—The plant of the Petrolea Glycerin Works was completely destroyed at 4 o'clock this morning by the explosion of 400 quarts of nitro-glycerin in the magazine of the building.

Fortunately, because of the early hour, there was nobody about the premises, and, as the factory is situated at an isolated spot, two miles outside the town, there has been no loss of life connected with the disaster.

The shock was a terrific one, dozens of plate-glass windows in Petrolea were shattered, while everything breakable in residences within a half mile of the spot was reduced to atoms. Of the building there is scarcely a board or brick left, while beneath is a hole in the ground ten feet deep and thirty feet across.

The loss has not yet been ascertained. The plant is controlled by Petrolea people.

FELT AT FOREST.

Forest, Ont., Oct. 17.—About 4 o'clock this morning, the residents of Forest and vicinity were awakened by what appeared at first to be an earthquake. Windows and doors rattled, and in some instances houses trembled considerably. Many persons were so frightened that they would not go back to bed. Reports from Camlachie, 10 miles west of here, state that the shock was also felt there. Rumors are afloat that an explosion occurred in Petrolea, but nothing authentic has been learned.

SHOCK TRAVELED TO CHATHAM.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Chatham, Ont., Oct. 17.—At about 4 o'clock this morning, a large number of persons in the city were awakened by a heavy explosion, that sounded as if it came from a great distance, and was much akin to an earthquake shock. The general query on the street this morning was: "Did you hear the noise?"

For a time no explanation was forthcoming, but later it was learned that at a factory, two miles from Petrolea, 400 quarts of nitro-glycerin exploded, doing great devastation, though fortunately no one was close at hand.

A Big Saving on Street Watering

Chairman Gillean of No. 2 committee is getting his year's work reduced to figures, and the result is most gratifying to the citizens generally. The actual cost of street sprinkling this year is just \$2,887.90, less than it cost the committee last year under the direction of Ald. Matthews. In addition to this there is \$3,500 that the water cost last year that will not be paid over to the water commission this year, as per the agreement made in the spring. This makes a total of \$6,387.90 that the committee has to the good. Chairman Gillean and his committee have worked diligently for the citizens and it is expected that the total surplus of the committee will be over \$7,500. The street sprinkling was done by day labor.

Big Position for Dr. Robert Barnes

Dr. Robert Barnes, formerly of this city, has been appointed to one of the most important positions attainable under the new meat inspection act. Dr. Barnes left this city early in September to take charge of the meat inspection in the city of Toronto.

Last week he received notice that he had been appointed traveling inspector for the Dominion Government, with headquarters in Ottawa. This means that Dr. Barnes will have full supervision over all the meat inspectors in Canada, and that he will practically direct the whole policy in regard to the manner in which the meat inspection will be carried out. The position is a most important one as there are a large number of factories to be looked after, and it is the Government's aim to make Canadian packing houses second to none in the world.

Dr. Barnes has a host of friends in this vicinity who will hear of his success with considerable pleasure.

Dan Cupid Very Busy This Fall

"This year will be a record-breaker in the number of marriages that have taken place in this city," said City Clerk Baker this morning.

"The figures will show probably an increase of over 25 per cent. October and November in other years are the months in which the largest number of weddings have taken place, and so far this season October is easily leading any other year."

Every month shows an increase over the number of weddings in past years. For instance, in 1906 there were 478 weddings, while this year the figures will be well over 500.

Only a very small percentage of those married in the city leave it, and as they all need houses to live in, it means a considerable item in the building line.

Last year there was only one more wedding than in 1905.



DR. ROBERT BARNES, V.S.
Who is Holding an Important Position Under the Dominion Government.

WAGES PETITION HAS FALLEN FLAT

So It Is Alleged in Regard to the Street Railway Employees.

The petition being circulated among the street railway employees asking for an increase in wages has fallen by the boards, so it is said. Many of the men signed the petitions, but it was thought that the method of asking for the increase was not the best, and it was decided to pass the petitions up.

The men will make a direct appeal shortly, it is rumored.

LIBERAL CONVENTION TONIGHT

The attention of every Liberal in the city is directed to the convention called for tonight in Hyman Hall, to discuss the political situation.

There should be a very large representation of Liberals at the meeting, as it is a very important one.

The meeting will commence at 8 o'clock sharp.

Let every Liberal be on hand.

Police Officers on Wild Goose Chase Sent to Hyde Park on False Alarm

Were Told That a Big Robbery Had Been Committed West of the City.

To be routed out of bed at half-past 11 last night and railroaded five miles on a wild goose chase was the unpleasant experience of two police officers residing in this city.

The Grand Trunk operator at Hyde Park, five miles out of the city, was the indirect cause of all the trouble, and to say that he is now no near and dear friend of the officers in question would be putting it mildly.

A Rush Call.

One of the officers received a rush call over the phone last night somewhere about 11 o'clock to the effect that half a dozen odd cars, used for quartering Italian laborers at the Hyde Park work of the Grand Trunk Railway, had been broken into, and everything in sight stolen. The message also contained the information that an extra to Windsor would pull out from East London at midnight, and that a stop would be made at the Richmond street station for the officer and his aides.

The first officer called went part way across the city, and aroused a fellow officer, after which an effort was made to locate Detective Teasdale, of the G. T. R. service, but without success.

A Small Affair.

When the train arrived at Hyde Park a large group of wildly excited Italian laborers, it was learned, were waiting at that point. All appeared to be trying to tell the equally excited operator just what had happened at the same time.

After some delay, during which much time was spent in trying to call the cause of the trouble. Two years ago, when the same complaints were made, we had a report prepared, and it was found that there was nothing wrong with the school.

"Will nothing be done?" asked the reporter. "As far as I can see, nothing will be done," Mr. Fitzgerald replied.

Nothing Doing Re Talbot St. School

"I do not think the board will do anything," said Chairman Fitzgerald, of the Board of Education, this morning. To the Advertiser when spoken to about the conditions of Talbot street school.

"We had a report that the school was all right. Principal Liddicoat says there is very little sickness in the school, and much less than in many of the other schools. Some improvements down stairs have been suggested, and they will be carried out. Occasionally there may be a bad smell in the rooms, but that does not kill anyone."

It is a trifle inconvenient, but otherwise it is all right.

"There cannot be much done with the present system of heating and ventilation. I understand that the Smead-Dowd system is all right if properly installed. I have been informed that the system has not been properly installed, and that has been the cause of the trouble. Two years ago, when the same complaints were made, we had a report prepared, and it was found that there was nothing wrong with the school."

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Printers Favor Old Age Pensions Referendum Is Now Being Taken

Local Members Think That the Proposition Is a Good One.

Local members of the Typographical Union who have been interviewed in the referendum vote on proposed amendments to the constitution of their organization which is now being taken.

Two of these measures are most important, and provide for an old age pension and the increase of salaries of officers.

The pension clause reads as follows:

"Age of eligible applicants sixty years; continuous membership in the International Union 20 years; weekly pension, \$4; source of revenue for fund, one-half of one per cent. of the earnings of members; qualifications of applicants for pension are based on 20

years continuous membership for members 60 years of age, who earn not less than \$4 in any one week, and who have no other income or means of support."

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APPEAL TO LAW TO BLOCK SUNDAY CARS THE LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE WILL DO SO

Act of Legislature Stands in Way of Petitioners.

City Solicitor Meredith Preparing an Opinion for Council.

Whole Matter Is Now Up in the Air—Petitioners To Be Discussed on Friday.

Friday afternoon No. 1 committee of the city council will deal with the petitions for and against Sunday street cars. The parties in favor of the cars have presented a petition signed by over 6,000 persons, and it is understood they will present an additional petition signed by a large number more. The Lord's Day Alliance will present its petitions, which have been largely signed, on Friday.

Both sides will be represented by delegations, and the question will be thoroughly discussed.

Mr. D. A. McDermid, who has been in charge of the petitions, reports that the Lord's Day Alliance will stand by the law.

Against the Law.

"We take the ground that Sunday

cars are against the law," he said to The Advertiser this morning. "It is definitely stated that Sunday cars are against the law, and we will stand by the law. The names on the petitions do not matter a great deal."

"Do you think the bylaw should be submitted to the people?" was asked.

Against Taking Vote.

"I do not think so," he answered. "The law is definite, and it says that there should be no cars. Of course, if it is submitted to the people we will oppose it as best we can. But it will be clearly a matter for the Legislature to deal with in the end. The Legislature, in the case of Port Arthur, refused to allow cars to run even where the people wanted them. That may apply to London."

The Port Arthur Case.

In Port Arthur the council was unanimous in favor of Sunday cars. The matter was submitted to a vote of the people, and carried by an immense majority. The case was then referred to the Legislature, and that body refused to grant Sunday cars.

The decision was based on the Ontario act, passed three years ago, which stated that no cars will be allowed to run henceforth in any city or town in Ontario where there were no cars before the passing of the act. This effectively shut out Port Arthur. This is the act which it is intimated the Lord's Day Alliance will ask to be enforced.

City Solicitor's Opinion.

City Clerk Baker has had the matter under advisement for some time, and he has asked City Solicitor Meredith to prepare an opinion on the subject.

Mr. Meredith has done so, and it will be submitted at the meeting of the committee Friday evening.

When spoken to by the Advertiser today Mr. Meredith said he did not care to say anything on the subject until the written opinion he has made out for the council is made public.

Mayor Judd was asked about Sunday cars, and he came out as being opposed to them at present. He stated that the city was not large enough as yet for them, and consequently he could not see any reason for them.

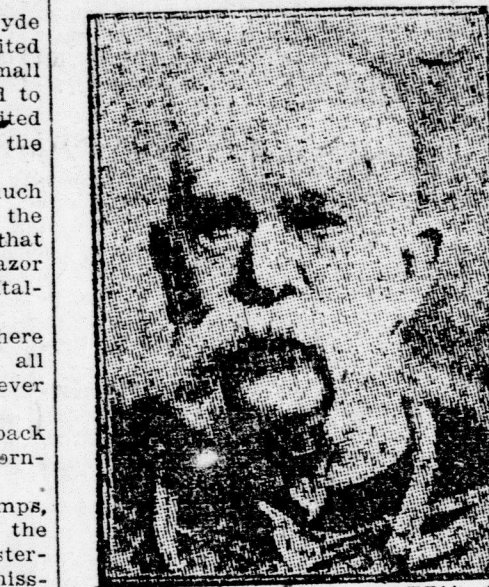
"I am opposed to Sunday cars," he said. "The city is too small. They may be needed in a few years, but not now. In the light of the experience of Port Arthur, where the council was unanimous in favor of Sunday cars, and where the bylaw was carried by an immense majority, yet the Legislature refused to give that city Sunday cars, because the Ontario act passed three years ago would not allow it. I don't see what can be done."

"I do not see how we can avoid the same experience. What will be necessary a few years from now does not concern me. We do not need cars now, and I will oppose them."

STATE SAVINGS BANK SUSPENDS

Millions Involved in Failure of a Butte, Montana, Banking Concern.

New York, Oct. 17.—A dispatch from Butte, Mont., says that the State Savings Bank of Butte has suspended. This bank, according to a recent statement, has deposits amounting to \$4,621,970. Although a savings bank the institution transacted a general banking business.



EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH OF AUSTRIA.
Aged Monarch of the Dual Empire, Who Is Critically Ill.

CAPTAIN BERNIER BACK

Spent Eighteen Months in the Northern Ice With the Arctic.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 17.—Capt. Bernier is expected in Quebec tomorrow with the Government steamer Arctic, after 18 months in the northern ice. The marine department this morning received the following telegram from Father Point: "Arctic passed Father Point today. Frederick Berkenhauser, officer, died last February. Natural death.—Signed Bernier."

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—FAIR AND COOLER.

FORECASTS.

Toronto, Oct. 17.—3 a.m.

Today—Southwest winds, increasing to gales; showers tonight.

Friday—High west and northwest winds; fair and becoming much cooler.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather.

Calgary. 34. 24. Clear.

Winnipeg. 32. 22. Fair.

Port Arthur. 38. 26. Cloudy.

Parry Sound. 52. 36. Cloudy.

Toronto. 50. 40. Fair.

Ottawa. 52. 40. Fair.

Montreal. 50. 40. Cloudy.

Quebec. 50. 40. Cloudy.

Father Point. 44. 44. Cloudy.

The first column records the temperature at 8 o'clock this morning, and the second column records the minimum temperature during the 24 hours previous.

WEATHER NOTES.

An important area of high pressure, accompanied by a pronounced cold wave, has come rapidly over the Western Provinces from the north, and is likely to spread eastward behind a disturbance now developing over Lake Superior. The weather is fine and warm from Ontario to the Maritime Provinces. Cautionary signals are displayed at lake ports.

MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES:
London, 35-64; Dawson, 14 below-6; Atlin, 2-22; Victoria, 46-55; Vancouver, 47-52; Kamloops, 40-52; Calgary, 34-46; Edmonton, 30-44; Regina, 34-64; Winnipeg, 36-64; Port Arthur, 34-54; Parry Sound, 36-58; Toronto, 36-59; Ottawa, 32-59; Montreal, 42-60; Quebec, 32-56; St. John, 42-56; Halifax, 40-56.

London Firemen Want More Money Petition Presented to Committee

Request Is Favorably Considered, But Is Laid Over for the Present.

A meeting of No. 3 committee was held last night, when Assistant Fire Chief Aiken presented a petition from the firemen asking for an increase in pay. It was pointed out that the local firemen were paid less than in Brantford, Hamilton and Toronto.

The committee was favorable to the increase, but the matter was laid over until the return of Fire Chief Clark from Washington.

London Rugby Players Leave O.R.F.U. Cast in Lot With Inter-Provincial

Are Grouped With the Fastest of the Intermediate Teams.

It was given out at noon today that the London Rugby Football Club has decided to join the Inter-Provincial Rugby Union, which has been placed under the ban of the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union.

The local team has been grouped with the Hamilton Cubs, the Dundas Intermediates and the Argonauts, of Toronto.

The first game of the new series will be played in this city Saturday, when London will meet the Hamilton team at Tecumseh Park. At the same time the Argonaut Intermediate team will play Dundas.

The London team will have three away-from-home games, one at Toronto, Dundas and Hamilton each.

The boys were much disheartened when Petrolea and Parkhill dropped out of the district, but the news of big games ahead has cleared things up, and they are now on edge to take a fall out of the Hamilton team on Saturday.

The practices will take on new life from this out, and all players are requested to report tonight as early as possible. As several changes in the line-up will likely occur on Saturday, there will be two practices. Nov. 16—London at Hamilton; Dundas at Argonaut.

Nov. 23—Dundas at London; Hamilton at Argonaut.

Nov. 30—London at Hamilton; Dundas at Argonaut.

Nov. 6—Dundas at London; Hamilton at Argonaut.

Nov. 13—London at Hamilton; Dundas at Argonaut.

Nov. 20—Dundas at London; Hamilton at Argonaut.

Nov. 27—London at Hamilton; Dundas at Argonaut.

Nov. 3—Dundas at London; Hamilton at Argonaut.

Nov. 10—London at Hamilton; Dundas at Argonaut.

Nov. 17—Dundas at London; Hamilton at Argonaut.

Nov. 24—London at Hamilton; Dundas at Argonaut.

Nov. 31—Dundas at London; Hamilton at Argonaut.

Nov. 7—London at Hamilton; Dundas at Argonaut.

Nov. 14—Dundas at London; Hamilton at Argonaut.

Nov. 21—London at Hamilton; Dundas at Argonaut.

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