

# THE TRAGEDY AT ILE PERROT

Nine men were killed, and more than forty people—widows and orphans—bereaved by an explosion of nitro-glycerine at the Standard Explosives Company works on Ile Perrot, near Vaudreuil, P.Q., on Wednesday the 12th of February. The accident occurred while most of the workmen were away at lunch. The exact cause is unknown. The buildings of the Company, which was the largest of its kind in Canada are a total wreck. The building in which the explosion occurred is shewn in the lower illustration. The works of the Company on Ile Perrot comprised some forty buildings, many of them being homes of the workmen.



This heavy piece of machinery, weighing over two tons, was hurled over 200 feet.



Storage Shed—400 feet distant from the mills that were blown up—wrecked by flying pieces of machinery.



The site of the mills as it appeared next day after the explosion—The smoke marks the position of the second mill. Even the trees were stripped of their branches or torn up by the roots.

Photographs by Query, Montreal.

## A Picturesque President.

**A**N interesting personality will be seen in London, England, in the course of the ensuing summer, when President Diaz visits the Mexican Exhibition to be held at Sydenham. He is rapidly approaching his eightieth year, and has held his present position for nearly a quarter of a century. He took part in resisting the French invasion in 1863, and headed an insurrection against the Government a dozen years later. He has probably had a more romantic career than any public man of the present day. Out in Mexico his position is unique, for his influence is as great as that of the Czar. The power of his personality is such, however, that in spite of his iron hand, he is a popular hero among his people.

Diaz first sprang into fame at the age of twenty-

four, when he was a professor of law in Oaxaca, by practically raising a revolution through a vote. He was called upon to vote for a certain measure, but excused himself from doing so, explaining that he preferred not to exercise his right of voting. Upon this remark his companion said, "Yes, one does not vote when one is afraid." "This reproach burnt into me like fire," wrote President Diaz in his diary at the time, "and made me seize the pen which was again proffered me. Pushing my way between the electors I passed up the room and recorded my vote, not for Santa Anna, but in favour of Senator Don Juan Alvarez, who figured as chief of the revolutionary movement."

Diaz hastily fled from the town, and gathered round him a little force of fierce revolutionaries, spoiling for a fight. He gave battle to the troops sent to arrest him, and won his first victory. From that day he was a made man. His rise was rapid.

Before he was thirty he had already become a colonel and a famous leader. Then his party came into power, and he was made a "General of Brigade."

It was not long before the country was again in a state of civil war. Diaz, of course, was in the thick of the fighting, and no sooner had he crushed the opposition than he found himself obliged to start a fresh campaign against the French, who were invading the country. In all, Diaz fought in no fewer than fifty engagements. He was twice seriously wounded, and often slightly hurt. Three times he was made a prisoner, and three times escaped. After the country had somewhat settled down, and the French troops which had been poured into the country had withdrawn, he was elected President. He has been unanimously elected seven times since. —M. A. P.