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#### BOILER EXPLOSIONS.

WITHIN the past few days exchanges reaching this office have contained accounts of quite a number of boiler explosions each of which caused great and lamentable loss of life and destruction or property.

The most terrible of these explosions was that of a boiler in the engine room of the stables of a street railway company, in Fourteenth street, New York, which occurred on November 2. The boiler gave way in the middle, the two halves being propelled in opposite directions with the force and awful effect of high projectiles of war, accomplishing a ruin almost unparalleled in that city from similar cause. One half of the boiler crashed through three walls and into a court beyond, and penetrated another building. The other half burst through the front brick wall of the building in which it was situated, proceeding across the street and into a building which it wrecked. Five men were killed outright, nineteen persons were injured, some of them fatally, eighteen

horses were killed, and the damage to property was about \$53,000. The Chief Boiler Inspector, of New York is reported as having said that throughout that city are hundreds of steam boilers which are never officially inspected, and which are managed by engineers who do not possess licenses. These boilers are exempt by law from inspection because they are supposed to carry only a low pressure of steam, his opinion being that the limit allowed is exceeded in many instances. Many of these boilers are supposed to be in use exclusively for heating purposes, and are to be found in apartments and flats, warehouses and hotels.

Another explosion which was very disastrous, though not attended with so great loss of life and destruction of property, was that of the boiler in the shingle mill of Messrs. Goupil & Bruneau, at Ste. Anne du Sault, Que., on November 5. mill was wrecked and three human lives sacrificed, one of which was that of one of the owners. Some remarkable facts have developed in connection with this explosion. The Quebec Superintendent of Factory Inspectors sent Mr. Louis Guyon, an inspector, to visit this wreck and obtain all possible information concerning it. Mr. O. E. Granberg, inspector for the Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company accompanied Mr. Guyon. On examining the fragments of the boiler it was discovered that this was the one which Mr. Granberg had examined in Montreal in July last, at the request of a dealer in second-hand machinery. The boiler had then been carefully inspected, and an attempt made to test it by hydraulic pressure at the request of the dealer. The test showed the great weakness of the boiler, and the inspector refused to give a certificate, and warned the owner that it was not fit for steam pressure, and advised him to break it up for old iron. Notwithstanding this, the boiler was sold and erected in the shingle mill at St. Ann du Sault. Some time after that another inspector of boilers is said to have called at the mill, and after looking at the beiler said it was good for 65 pounds steam pressure. The boiler had only been in use under steam pressure for about five days when the explosion took place. That the explosion was due to inherent weakness, and not to the manner in which the boiler was managed, is made quite clear by the appearance of the remains. There is no evidence that the water was too low, but all the indications were that there was abundance of water, and that the explosion took place simply because the worn out boiler could not retain the steam which had been generated in it.

We have been shown a letter written by Mr. Granberg on July 19 last to the head office of his company, in reference to this boiler, in which he stated that he had only the previous day inspected it at the request of a dealer in old boilers. He discovered it to be an old saddle boiler, which would not stand the test the owner desired for it. The owner had sold it, and agreed to supply a certificate from Mr. Granberg that he had tested it up to 125 pounds pressure. Under the hydrostatic pressure applied by Mr. Granberg, when 110 pounds was reached the interior straps broke, and the flat surface bulged some two inches out of shape. "The man then had the check to ask me," writes Mr. Granberg, "to give him a certificate for 110 pounds test. I would not give him a certificate of any kind, and I told him the boiler was entirely unfit for use. I could not find out who was buying the boiler. I object to a boiler of that description going into use to kill people; and