

HORROR AND DEATH AT TREND EXPLOSION AT BROCKTON, MASS.

Frightful Story of Torture at Which the Peaceful Massachusetts Town Stands Aghast--More Than Fifty Bodies Have Been Taken from the Ruins, but the Number of Victims Cannot be Ascertained--Mothers and Children in Terror Endeavour to Find Some Trace of Their Loved Ones--Parts of Flying Debris Crashed Through House Some Distance Away.

LAURIER'S AMENDMENTS NO MATERIAL CHANGE, And the Autonomy Bill Remains About the Same--Amendments Meant to Pacify Party Supporters--Haultain Firm.

BROCKTON, Mass., March 20.—The city of Brockton is in mourning for at least three score of her citizens, whose lives were blotted out early today by the explosion of a boiler in a large shoe manufacturing establishment in the Campello district, conducted by the R. B. Grover Company.

The total financial loss is estimated at a quarter of a million dollars, \$200,000 of which falls on R. B. Grover Company. The losses are all offset nearly in full by insurance.

No one knows exactly how many persons were in the factory. It has been estimated at 400, but Treasurer Charles O. Emerson said tonight that he doubted that there were so many.

There is no trace of the body of David W. Rockwell, engineer of the plant, who was first reported as having died at noon from injuries. It is supposed that he perished at his post.

The explosion, which was followed by such a great sacrifice of life and entailed appalling instances of human suffering, occurred shortly after the operatives had settled down to the work of the day.

By the use of long pieces of timber the rescuers were able to raise parts of the wreckage and thereby release some of the imprisoned men and women, and then by rushing into the smoke, pull them from the ruins.

Not until after noon was it possible to begin a search of the Grover factory ruins. Several charred and headless bodies were recovered together at the end of the factory ruins nearest the boiler pit, and the bones of others were quickly found.

Among the first to arrive on the scene was Rev. James A. O'Rourke, curate at St. Margaret's Roman Catholic church, near by.

Scenes of horror followed this wrenching apart of the factory building. In the rear the three upper floors, weighted as they were with heavy machinery, collapsed with a crash that was heard two blocks distant.

Many fell into a veritable fiery furnace, from the sections of the factory which did not collapse, the operatives were panic-stricken as they sought their escape.

Many fled down the stairways and reached the street; others ran to windows for the fire escapes, but in many cases it was found that these had been torn away by the explosion.

Scarcely had the rear portion of the structure collapsed when a tongue of flame started up from the boiler pit and reaching out as it ascended, communicated with the splintered wreckage.

Instant death was the fate of many who went down with the boiler pit collapsed. A large number of men and women who were working near the windows than the others in the factory were engulfed and a great pillar of dense black smoke rose from the burning structure.

The house was practically demolished, the roof being ripped off and the walls torn down. Mrs. Rockwell, who was sitting by the kitchen stove, had a miraculous escape from death, receiving many cuts and bruises from flying bits of timber which descended upon her when the boiler splintered like a mortar projectile through the upper portion of the building.

A woman who was entangled in a shoe machine cried out that she was dying and suffering and commanded the rescuers to attend to others. She begged to be shot. Soon the flames enveloped her.

At the parish house, with his dislocated shoulder bandaged and his face and hair giving silent evidence of his close proximity to the flames, the priest, in a voice which at times broke with emotion, described his experiences.

When I arrived at the factory I realized in a moment how terrible the results must inevitably be. The largest number of men were in the corner of the building situated at the corner of Dean and Denton streets, and to that section the efforts of myself, Policeman Garfield and Deputy Chief Moore were directed.

From the blacksmith shop the fire spread to the dwelling house on Denton street, owned by Sylvester Rice and then across the way to the cottage of John W. Taft, a jeweler. At this point the fire was stopped. Occupants of the dwelling succeeded in saving much furniture.

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Every part of the building and immediately everyone thought of escape. A moment later we saw the flames shoot up, and then the rear of the factory crumbled and fell as though it was made of paper.

With tear-stained and haggard faces women and children besieged the factory during the day, pleading with the priests for information about husband, father, sister or brother who had been employed in the factory and who failed to return home.

Perhaps the most pathetic incident of the explosion was Mrs. Lena F. Baker's escape from what looked like certain death, with the assistance of an unknown man who afterwards lost his life.

The explosion and fire was attended by one mystery which the police had not been able to solve. This was caused by the inexplicable disappearance of David W. Rockwell, the engineer in charge of the Grover plant boiler which exploded during the day.

W. S. Weston, a survivor, who was shot in the front part of the building, said: "Those poor men and women in the rear of the factory were the ones who suffered most. The explosion shook

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(Special to the Sun.)

OTTAWA, March 20.—Laurier's amendments of the autonomy act, to be placed in the hands of the clerk of the house tonight, are, beneath the surface, no abandonment of the premier's original attitude that separate schools shall be imposed on the new provinces by federal legislation.

Section 88 of the British North America Act, 1867, shall apply to the said province with the substitution for sub-section 1 of said section 88 of the following substitution: "1. Nothing in any law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to separate schools which any class of persons have at the date of the passing of this act under the ordinances of the Northwest territories passed in the year 1870."

The special committee appointed to enquire into the telephone question met this morning and elected Sir Wm. Mulock chairman. Mulock said he had out the month. The lumbermen are busy hauling. Clarence Lank, who has been in Philadelphia this winter, has returned home.

CAMPBELL NEWS. CAMPBELL, March 19.—The death occurred of Robert Calder, aged 61 years, leaving a wife and three daughters and one son to mourn.

requested Pownall of the Justice Department to supply an abstract of laws relating to telephone companies in Canada and would personally give the committee a report of one of his officers re telephone business in the western states. What the committee want to get at is how to make the telephone available to rural districts on the cheapest and best basis.

After recess Hughes (liberal) of P. E. Island, in a lengthy speech supported Laurier's argument in favor of the mainland, quoting Laurier's speech to Sir John Macdonald as advocate of this solution of the communication problem years ago.

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CHURCH'S ALABASTINE WALL COATING. The Permanent Wall-Coating. Does not rub or SCALE from any hard surface. Coat over coats can be applied. No staining or staining of wall necessary. Alabastine is The Sanitary Wall-Coating. Equally adapted for Ornamental work and plain tinning.

RUSSIAN GOVERNOR BADLY WOUNDED BY TERRORIST. VIBORG, European Russia, March 20.—Governor Misoreff was shot and seriously wounded today by a lad whose identity has not been ascertained. The lad, who is about 15 years of age, obtained an entrance to the governor's office and fired three times at him, one bullet inflicting a serious wound and the others slightly wounding the governor's legs.

Fear of Strike at Springhill. (Amherst Telegram.) The people of Cumberland will regret to observe that there is an imminent possibility of a strike being declared at Springhill. The management of the Cumberland Railway and Coal Co. has issued a notice, stating that they propose submitting the pay of the men to a reduction of 12 per cent. Of course there is nothing so calculated to precipitate a labor difficulty as a reduction in pay, no matter what the exigencies of the occasion may be.

4th ANNIVERSARY SALE and OPENING OF SPRING CLOTHING. SATURDAY NEXT We will celebrate our Fourth Anniversary by one of the GREATEST MONEY SAVING SALES we have yet had, and the most complete Showing of MEN'S and BOYS' CLOTHING, yet made at this Store. The Sale Prices of Men's Suits will be \$3.95, \$5, \$7, \$8.75, and \$10.

For those who want a less expensive WALL COATING, We have all shades of KALSOMINE, WHITING, JELLSTONE. W. H. THORNE & CO., Ltd. 42 and 46 Prince Wm. St., St. John, N. B.

hired and under the governor's writing table in his pistol, he held up the clerks who were rushing in and managed to reach the street. Secretary Markoff, who followed him, summoned assistance and the would-be assassin was captured. The crime was committed with an automatic pistol of the same type as the one with which Hobenthal assassinated Solsman Soaninen, the procurator general of Finland on February 6th.

DO NOT MISS THIS SALE. REMEMBER THE DATE. J. N. HARVEY. Men's and Boys' Clothier 199 and 201 Union St.

TOBACCO HABITS. C. O. M. Toronto, Canada. McTaggart's professional engraving permitted by the Registrar of Ontario. Victoria College. These are beautiful, safe, inexpensive and hygienic. No hypodermic injections of this iron building. Consultation of doctor.