

THE LAST EXPLOSION

IS ATTRIBUTED TO OTHER CAUSES THAN A PRESSURE OF STEAM.

Testimony of Wm. Golding, Local Inspector Moffett and Others.

On Thursday the Local Board of Steamboat Inspectors met, as they did yesterday, to examine witnesses regarding the late Leslie Taylor explosion, several being examined, as will be seen by the following testimony:

Mr. R. G. Watson, recalled:

Q.—Give the dimensions of the donkey boiler of the Leslie Taylor.

A.—32 inches in diameter and 8 feet long; 2 feet of 9 inches in diameter, with steam pipe 1 1/2 inches in diameter and feed pipe 1 1/4 inches in diameter; one safety valve, size unknown, located to blow at 110 pounds.

Q.—Who located the safety valve?

A.—There was no extra weight attached to it; it had only its regular weight.

Q.—When was the weight put on?

A.—It was put on by the highest pressure it had on at any time while under our charge?

A.—110 pounds.

Q.—What was the average pressure carried for ordinary purposes?

A.—From 30 and 40 pounds.

Q.—Do you know the amount of pressure used in the donkey boiler when under inspection on previous occasions on this boat?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—How long had steam been in the donkey boiler that day before the explosion?

A.—Not an hour.

Q.—Do you not think the donkey boiler exploded through admitting water, or water too cool a temperature, when some of the heating surface was exposed?

A.—The donkey pump was not started, to my knowledge.

Q.—Did you judge of the amount of water in the boiler by the ear or sound, or did you see the gauge cocks as they were opened by the fireman?

A.—I judged by the sound.

Q.—How many gauge cocks were there, and how were they situated with regard to the water lines?

A.—There were three gauge cocks, placed as usual on high pressure boilers.

Q.—Had you a glass indicator on the boiler?

A.—The water gauge was a float and needle.

Q.—Where was the steam gauge?

A.—It sat over the middle boiler, between the breechen.

Q.—How many ganges of water in the donkey boiler had you when the water was last tried?

A.—I do not know which was tried, but it was flush.

Q.—Do you think there was sufficient water in the boiler when it exploded?

A.—I do.

Q.—If you think so, how do you account for no being being soiled?

A.—I was soiled.

Q.—Was it your custom to place a licensed engineer in charge of the donkey boiler?

A.—Myself or partner was always looking after the donkey boiler.

Q.—What pressure do you consider necessary to get the desired pressure on the main boilers for inspection?

A.—About 100 pounds.

Q.—How was the donkey boiler fed when working the same constantly?

A.—By the donkey pump.

Q.—How often was it necessary to pump to feed water into the donkey boiler when working the same constantly?

A.—Sometimes one-half, sometimes three-quarters of an hour, and sometimes every hour.

Q.—What was the quantity of water in the feed water when it entered the donkey boiler?

A.—Cold.

Q.—How long before the explosion did you give the last order to pump up the donkey boiler?

A.—Not more than twenty-five minutes; when steam was up on the donkey boiler.

Q.—Was there any fusible plug in the donkey boiler?

A.—There was when I was on her last April, a year ago.

Q.—What means was there for blowing mud or other sediment from the donkey boiler?

A.—A regular mud valve.

Wm. Golding, proprietor of the Novelty Iron Works, testified that in his opinion the donkey boiler of the boat had been badly used, judging from the sample shown. He also thought that the sample had unquestionably been heated; that it was ununiform, and of bad quality. It was quite possible, in his opinion, for the steam to be super heated by the exposure of the heating surface to an unlimited extent, which will not be indicated by the steam gauge. He was of the opinion that if the donkey boiler had been exploded with anything less than 100 pounds of steam, there would be other causes producing the explosion besides excess of pressure.

Mr. J. W. Moffett, the local inspector, made the following statement:

I went on board of the Leslie Taylor to test and inspect her boilers about 10 o'clock a. m. I met Mr. Watson, who said that he was not ready, and would let me know when he was ready. At about ten or fifteen minutes to 1 o'clock, Mr. Watson called at the office for me, saying that he was ready. I went right over to the boat, arriving there about five minutes to 1 o'clock. Went on board and went to the furnace and looked all around under the boilers to see how everything looked. Found everything all right, and told the fireman standing at the furnace to have the fire caps all ready to open when I called on him. Went aft to the after end of the boilers, to look at the mud-drum, and found it all right. Started aft to the doctor and met Mr. Watson, who remarked that the mud-drum had been renewed last year, and about the time I reached the doctor I asked him if he was ready, and he replied yes. I then asked him if his main throttle valve was open, and he replied that it was shut. I then asked him to open it, as I wanted to test the branch pipes. He said that he was afraid that the receiving valve was not tight, but that he would try it. I asked him if the air was all out, and he replied that it was and that he would open it. I replied that I was all ready. Mr. Watson undertook to start the doctor, and found that the valve had pulled off the stem. Found that he had to take the cap off to get the valve out. At this time Mr. Watson called to one of his second engineers to have the fire caps and fire doors of the donkey boiler opened, and to start the donkey pump, all of which was done. It took from fifteen to twenty minutes to fix the doctor, the donkey pump was wound, and I came down the stairs. At this time Mr. Watson called to one of his second engineers to have the fire caps and fire doors of the donkey boiler opened, and to start the donkey pump, all of which was done. It took from fifteen to twenty minutes to fix the doctor, the donkey pump was wound, and I came down the stairs. At this time Mr. Watson called to one of his second engineers to have the fire caps and fire doors of the donkey boiler opened, and to start the donkey pump, all of which was done. It took from fifteen to twenty minutes to fix the doctor, the donkey pump was wound, and I came down the stairs.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

THE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS.

The examination of applicants for teacherships in the public schools closed yesterday at the Franklin School-house.

Of four or five candidates, all those who had been examined on the previous day in grammar and geography were in attendance yesterday, and were examined in arithmetic and the history of the United States.

The following were the questions propounded on printed slips:

1. The velocity of light is 192,500 miles per second. Through what distance does light move in one hour and thirteen minutes?

2. If 3 1/2 yards of cloth cost 16 1/2 dollars, how many yards of the same cloth can be bought for 25 1/2 dollars?

3. Divide 4 1/2 of 32 by 3 1/2 of 8-11.

4. In a pile of wood, 13 feet long, 40 feet wide and 8 feet high, how many cords has been piled?

5. If a person can travel at the rate of a mile in a minute of time, how much time would it require to travel 12,000 miles?

6. A person invested in flour \$1275, which was 15 per cent of his entire capital; what was the amount of his capital?

7. Find the interest on \$50 for one month and ten days, at the rate of 5 per cent per annum.

8. Bought sixty shares of bank stock, the par value of which was \$50 per share, at 5 per cent discount, and sold at 2 1/2 per cent advance; how much was gained?

9. If 10 A., 1 B., 10 rods of land produce 380 bushels of wheat, how many bushels may be produced from 62 A., 2 B.

10. Extract the square root of 1058841.

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

1. What is the oldest town in the United States? By whom founded?

2. By whom was the colony of Georgia founded?

3. Name briefly the principal events in the French and Indian war.

4. Which side was victorious in the battle on Long Island, near Brooklyn?

5. Name the most important battles in the Revolutionary war, and state which side was victorious in each.

6. When and where did England first acknowledge the independence of the United States?

7. Who was Alexander Hamilton? How was he killed?

8. What was "Ferry's victory," in the war of 1812?

9. When was Louisiana ceded to the United States?

10. Name in proper order the Presidents of the United States and the term of office of each.

As far as Superintendent Flowers has been able to ascertain by a casual observation, the result of the examination will prove to be very edifying.

THE OTIS SAW MILL.

At the last meeting of the City Council an ordinance was passed, authorizing our enterprising manufacturer, Mr. Henry Otis, to establish a saw mill on the river front at the head of Marengo street.

Yesterday, while the Mayor was examining the various ordinances submitted to him for his signature, his attention was particularly drawn to the inability of the city to grant the privilege asked for, the battery at Marengo street belonging to the riparian proprietors, and that the Mayor should Mr. Otis obtain the consent of the riparian proprietor of the ground whereat he wishes to establish his saw mill, it will be all that is needed by him.

THE CONDITION OF THE LEVEL.

We had a conversation yesterday with Mr. Cavanna, the Administrator of Commerce, and Mr. H. G. Brown, his superintendent of wharves and landings, concerning the complaints that have been made against the crowded condition of the river landings. We were informed by these gentlemen that everything was being done to disencumber the wharves and landings of the accumulation of freight, which has been coming at an extraordinary rate within the past week, of the quantity now landed at 35,000 barrels of molasses having been fewer than this port in two days; that every available dray and float of the city was employed by the merchants in removing the freight from the levee at advanced rates of drayage, five cents per bale advanced in many cases paid for cotton. The task, they say, is a laborious one, but matters are being regulated fast, and very soon there will be little or no ground for complaint on the part of our steamboatmen or other interested persons.

WEATHER AND RIVERS.

A Storm Along the Coast—Cautionary Signals Ordered Up.

Frigid says cold weather to-day, and reports the lowest temperature on Thursday night at 51 degrees. Yesterday's temperature he reports at 55 to 57 degrees above zero, and the total rain fall up to 6 o'clock last night as 2.30 inches.

The Signal Service dispatches, dated at St. m. yesterday, show a heavy fall of rain at Galveston, Nashville, Vicksburg, Augusta, Key West, Mobile, Montgomery and Savannah.

The 10 p. m. dispatches report rain falling at Memphis, Shreveport, Vicksburg, Corsicana, Key West, Montgomery and Mobile, and the barometer falling rapidly at Louisville, Memphis, Nashville, Vicksburg, Augusta, Key West, Mobile, Montgomery and Savannah.

A wind storm prevailed, at the hour named, at some of the points, the velocity per hour being 22 miles at Galveston, 15 here (at New Orleans), 28 at Key West, 20 at Mobile and Montgomery, and 15 at Savannah.

THE CAUTIONARY SIGNALS.

were ordered continued at Galveston and Indianola, and were also ordered for New Orleans, Mobile, Key West and St. Marks.

CAPITOL NOTES.

Two appointments yesterday, viz. Joseph A. Hebert, a notary public, and James B. Madison; and James B. Water, Justice of the peace, parish of Rapides, vice H. M. Labat, deceased.

The Governor has received the annual reports of nearly all of the State officials and various State institutions, though two of the latter, the Louisiana Agricultural and Charity Hospital, have not been heard from yet.

The paragraph in yesterday's DEMOCRAT relative to tax collections seems to have been constructed by some as referring to the taxes collected for the entire year, when it was merely for those collected during the last quarter (8900,000), and paid in during the present month. The total collections for the year, or since the present government began the collection in May and up to and including the 24th instant, amount to \$2,882,107 25. Since the 24th half a dozen collectors have settled, one alone paying \$21,000 in current taxes.

A SPLENDID SCORE.

The victories of our sportsmen have been frequently chronicled, but seldom if ever before has such a score as we give below been made even in Louisiana. As is well known our fields afford to our sportsmen as ample an opportunity for making large bags as any one spot in the country, and the extraordinary score we give below, although remarkably large, only attests the number of game birds that resort thither. Mr. J. J. Pingle, who has a number of plantations on Bayou Teche, lately started out with his reliable beech loader, and after a short tramp, it is stated, brought to bag in the course of six days every one of which was killed on the wing. This, so far as we know, is the largest score yet made, and it speaks well for the marksmanship of Mr. Pingle, and for the number of birds that visit us during our winters.

THE TREASURY INVESTIGATION.

THE TREASURER'S BOOKKEEPER AND P. F. HERWIG ON THE STAND.

Former Assignments of Dubuclet's Favoritism Denied.

The legislative committee to examine into the affairs of the State treasury met last night.

Present—Senator White, chairman, and Representatives Keeling.

Mr. James Campbell was the first witness called, he testifying in substance that he was now, and had been since 1866, the bookkeeper in the State Treasurer's office; checks issued passed through his hands after being paid. As far as he knew, there was nothing wrong as regards the workings of the office. Did not know that any one in the office

GAVE INFORMATION OUTSIDE.

as to money being in the treasury, or being paid in by tax collectors.

To Mr. White—His duties were those of bookkeeper simply; had no connection with the cashier's transactions. Sometimes checks were drawn by the witness, and in such cases it was by order of the cashier. The overdrafts reported by a previous committee were accidental, and grew out of a press of business. If out of 200 overdrafts 175 were in favor of one individual, could not say, as an accountant, that there was wrong; and if out of 400 persons, overdrafts should appear in favor of sixteen, could not give an opinion as to whether or not the accounts were accurate or partially had been shown.

It might be possible that

MONEY COULD BE DRAWN

from the treasury without his knowledge, though every entry on his books had the auditor's order, or he had his warrant for the entry. The cashier always had charge of the bank book. Only knew of the money drawn out of the treasury without warrants in 1874-5 by the reports, and knew nothing of it until then. Was merely the bookkeeper; such as the bookkeeper in a bank.

Know Mr. Herwig, the former special deputy collector. He frequently came to the Treasurer's office. Mr. Norcross also came. Mr. Batteneau came there too. Know Mr. Augusto. His duties officially, as far as the State was concerned, were none. He was there day after day. Had seen by the testimony that Mr. Dubuclet claimed him to be his solicitor or adviser. Knew that, from his action in the office. When the Treasurer was in doubt as regarded a legal question, Mr. Augusto would express an opinion. He read the law to Mr. Dubuclet, and was there all or nearly all of the time. Mr. Dubuclet had stated that he was

HIS LEGAL ADVISER.

Had nothing to do with the settlement of tax collectors, and knew nothing of the payment of warrants.

To Mr. Keeling—In my capacity as bookkeeper I registered the overdrafts, and knew now sufficient to see that they could be issued in error. Could always trace them as such, and knew they were true mistakes and innocently done. There might be some overdrafts among the brokers, and I would discover it by checking the books. Check them now nearly every two or three days, and balance the fund book nearly every two or three days, and write every day.

Would testify that as the overdrafts were concerned that, excepting

THE POLICE CONCERN.

all were done through mistakes.

Mr. White—The expert has reported nothing to the contrary.

Witness to Mr. Keeling—Have seen other parties there as often as Mr. Herwig or Mr. Norcross. A number of persons have been there often than Mr. Herwig.

Impossible to say whether money was paid to any one in the office or whether preference was given in the payment of warrants. Was in the front office while the cashier was in the bank office. Never had noticed any preference shown. Would state as a fact that there were a great many persons who had nothing to do, who would go on Carondelet street, among the brokers, and check them out nearly every two or three days, and then these persons would come and

LOAN ALL DAY.

at the Treasurer's office, and they would expect payment when the first tax collector came in. Know that they were continually out of other warrants, which they would get when they were paid in preference to any creditors of the State. Should they not succeed in getting their warrants cashed they were the first to cry out "preference."

Witness would invite investigation of his own conduct, and would challenge any one to say a single word against him in his official capacity.

Mr. White—That is the general report, and the universal comment is that your work is very brilliant, and that you are a very good person.

In fact I have never heard any one say so to the contrary.

P. F. Herwig was the next witness called.

To Mr. Keeling—Am a broker as well as speculator, and have been in the office of the Treasurer since 1875.

GREAT MANY ENTERPRISES.

being interested in steamboats, tugboats, barges, etc., and in the past four or five years have been a large holder of State securities, bonds, warrants, vouchers and securities of all classes—State as well as city. Keep a record of only a part of them, and a great many of them are made on collaterals I keep no record. In such cases, when the loans are paid either in money or otherwise, it goes toward the liquidation of the debt, and the amount of the loan is 1875-6; some were purchased and a large amount I held as collaterals. Presented some at the treasury and others were left there for collection, for which I gave the owners' order when they were paid, and the amount of money on them until they could be collected.

Did not collect a very large amount on my own account. In the year 1876 I think I purchased at one time \$20,000, and in numerous other times I have been buying from \$1000 to \$5000 or \$10,000, and rarely

LESS THAN \$500.

at a time. Know I was the largest holder of 1876 warrants in the State. They were principally general fund. Also held a great many State House warrants, they being of 1875, but I purchased only a part of them. There were a great many of that kind out, but they were in the hands of a few parties only. It was so with the 1876 warrants, and that was owing to the fact that I believe that the revenues would be in excess of the appropriation. Got very few of my own warrants—1876, general fund—cashed, but had a large number cashed on which I had

GIVEN THE PAR VALUE.

for instance in one case I gave a broker \$1700 or \$1710, or about that amount, giving dollar for dollar, and did that in a number of cases. Done that also for a great many State officers, and at one time for the clerks in the Auditor's office. I took the warrants and advanced the par value. They were paid a short time after. I believe, during 1876, that I collected in proportion to the amount I held I was shown no preference; in fact, I thought I collected less than others. Don't know that any favoritism was shown me over other warrant holders.

Mr. Keeling may have collected a few warrants for me. Sometimes I was busy and would send him down and the warrants would be placed in the Treasurer's hands. Some times the holder collected them exactly. Some times the holder would be in excess of the appropriation. Got very few of my own warrants—1876, general fund—cashed, but had a large number cashed on which I had

was to examine the Auditor's and Treasurer's books, and there was a dispute as to who was to be the collector of the same. The Senate committee claimed authority, their body being the highest, and some of the vouchers were issued by the chairman of the House committee, and some of the appropriation, the Auditor refused to issue the warrants. It was afterwards in court, where an injunction was secured.

Being a holder of some of the warrants, and on his withdrawal of opposition to the issue of warrants, I would cash his. Don't remember the date, but can furnish it if that is left blank. It was a long time after that that the

WARRANTS WERE PAID.

The appropriation was less than the amount of the warrants issued, and the Auditor, being enjoined, could not issue any warrants. It went to the Supreme Court, where it was decided that the Senate had the preference over the House. Greater part were not paid on one day. Mr. E. F. Herwig, chairman of the Senate committee, is my brother.

Have collected warrants from other people, a few through Mr. Norcross, but none in any regular collection through Mr. Batteneau. A deputy collector, knew that he collected warrants, but did not know that he was a large collector of warrants. He often collected checks for me. Have been in the Treasury office as far as well as to every department of the State. Have been in the Treasurer's office when tax collectors settled, though have not had warrants paid at such a time, or in fact, have not been in the Treasury office. Don't think the Kline case one where the transaction could be considered a personal favor. Must admit it was not a profitable speculation. Before he was Auditor Mr. Johnson did not collect any warrants, and when he was Auditor I cashed some warrants for him. Mr. Cassar never took knowledge collected warrants for me.

Adjusted last night at 7:30.

AMUSEMENTS.

VARIETIES THEATRE.

"Daniel Druce" will be presented again at the matinee and at night to-day, and for the last time on Sunday. This beautiful play, so full of pathos and exquisite situations, will doubtless attract a large lady audience at the matinee, for it deserves the patronage of the gentler sex, with whose delicate natures it harmonizes so well.

Our young friends will not forget the grand matinee on New Year's at the Varieties, when Santa Claus in person will welcome them and present to each a number of presents in the form of the lucky number, given also, the pretty and costly carriage and miniature double team, "Dunder" and "Buzon," which has already excited the admiration of the thousands of young people who saw the *atellage* at the Varieties on Thursday.

Manager Hall has in preparation a grand spectacular play entitled "The Wild Flower of Mexico," which may be ready for New Year's Day.

AT THE ST. CHARLES.

To-morrow Happy Cal Wagner opens at this theatre, with a fine company of minstrel, including the most of the most rollicking artists in the country.

Humpty Dumpty is still billed at the Academy.

THE FRENCH DRAMA.

Mr. Durand's company will to-night present two excellent comedies at the Opera House, "Le Gendre de Mr. Poiret," and "La Venue au Cimetiere," in which Mlle. Heyward, Mr. Venet, Mr. Martin and Mr. Will appear. The appearance of Mr. Chamblin before a public which was wont to applaud him so enthusiastically several years ago, is of itself a card and signifies a crowded house.

INVESTIGATION DEMANDED.

A day or two ago Capt. Terreboune, of the steamer W. J. Polivest, stated to the river reporter of this journal that he arrived in port at half past 6 o'clock Wednesday night, that a mob of laborers interfered with the unloading of his boat; that there were no policemen in the vicinity, and that he sent to the Harbor Station for help, but from half past 6 until 10 o'clock not a single policeman could be found. Day before yesterday Sergeant O'Rourke, commanding the Harbor Station, made a statement in these terms: "Some time ago, in the fact, but not in general terms Capt. Terreboune's statement that no police could be found at the Harbor Station. In yesterday's DEMOCRAT Capt. Terreboune printed a card, reaffirming his original statement and pointing out the error of Sergeant O'Rourke. This is a matter which demands immediate and thorough investigation by the proper authorities. As the matter now stands were are forced to the conclusion that there has been criminal negligence at the important station in question.

THE WEATHER, ETC.

Yesterday was a bad day for reporters. There was scarcely an item to be picked up anywhere, and the effort to find one was dampening in the extreme. A slow, cold drizzling rain set in early in the morning and lasted all day. This did not deter the reporter—that indefatigable fisher for items—from casting his nets in the accustomed places, yet his only rewards were *ware hams*. As a recourse, he sits him down to writing against time and making amiable puns. But in this the law of compensation finds fulfillment, as in all things—not much is expected of ye local on such days as this; but, oh, what a day for ye editor!

Left all to himself, with no bores to drop in and disturb the comfort and seclusion of his sanctum as he "chews the food of sweet and bitter fancy." With splendid flights of rhetoric, what grating and convulsing logic, what scathing satire and splendid invective, what pleasant rallery, has the public a perfect and just right to expect from his pen. If our city papers are not interesting and brilliant, then, this morning, we ask a discriminating public to lay the blame in the right quarter, upon the editorial room, upon the chaps who write about Herzegovina, the situation in France, the Southern party, and the San Mutual Loan Company, and upon the local who don't report items if they won't occur. Ah, but Friday was a horrible day—too bad even for the pretty women with shapely ankles to be abroad, and when this is said all is said that is necessary.

A RED-HOT BLAZE.

The Old Cry, "No Water," Plenty of Mud, and yet the Damage was comparatively small.

At half-past 12 o'clock last night a fire broke out in the second precinct with such fury that at first it was supposed that the entire block, bounded by Baronne, Thalia, Dryades and Erato streets, would succumb to the devouring element, and such would have been the case had the firemen depended upon water for a weapon to battle with the flame.

At the time the fire broke out the keen north wind was blowing a perfect hurricane, and, regardless of the prompt response of Chief Engineer "Cotton" to his men, it was thought impossible to save the block from destruction. The flames, however, were finally got under control after the following houses had been damaged:

The fire broke out in Major Wm. Arms house, a two-story frame, no. 274 Thalia, owned and occupied by that gentleman, which was damaged beyond repair. No insurance on either house or furniture.

The flames then extended to the carpenter shop of James Ban, and totally destroyed whether insured or not could not be ascertained.

The fire then communicated to the one-story frame building No. 269 Thalia street, owned by Mr. James Ban and occupied by Mrs. L. Lyons, insured for \$500 by the Mutual Loan Company, insured or not, could not be ascertained.

The adjoining one-story frame house, owned by the same party and occupied by a negro family, was also damaged to the extent of \$750.

The fire then extended to the one-story frame house, owned and occupied by Mrs. A. Buzan; was damaged to the extent of \$500; whether insured or not could not be ascertained.

The one-story frame house, 364 Baronne street, owned and occupied by a colored man named J. B. Gladin, was damaged in the rear to the amount of about \$500, the kitchen and wash-house being entirely destroyed; insured for \$2000 in the Sun Mutual Loan Company.

The house occupied by Mrs. Richard Rice, No. 368 Baronne street, was damaged to the extent of

\$10; insured in the Merchants' Mutual Insurance Company's amount unknown.

Mr. Hugh Cassidy's house, No. 366 Baronne street, was damaged to the extent of \$3000 in the rear.

Joseph Blakely's house, No. 362 1/2 Baronne street, was slightly damaged in the rear. No insurance.

The flames, backed up by the strong wind, cut right