

ships of the squadron, which hurriedly despatched pinnaces with men and fire apparatus to the aid of their sister ship.

Presently minor explosions began within the Liberte and many seamen flung themselves overboard.

Cries of "save yourselves; fire near magazines," could be heard ringing across the water in the stillness of the clear morning.

From every side scores of sailors leaped overboard and swam frantically for safety, but scarcely more than one hundred had plunged into the water before the series of detonations culminated in a terrific explosion that seemed to tear out the side of the great steel vessel, which swayed over to one side and sank swiftly.

DEAD AND DYING IN THE WATER.

In a moment dead bodies were floating about in the disturbed waters that splashed around the upper works. In a wide circle around the spot where the craft had floated so proudly minutes before the seamen who escaped death were struggling desperately and small boats were picking up as many as they could reach.

The Liberte had a complement of 700 men. Of these 140 were away on shore leave, so 560 were aboard when the fire broke out. A rough estimate places the number of those who jumped overboard somewhere between 100 and 200.

A rumble of the explosion was heard throughout the city and immense crowds of sober-faced people gathered at the wharf.

Nearly every vessel of the squadron lost some men from the parties sent to the aid of the burning battleship. The Verite was moored nearest, being about 225 yards from the Liberte. Eight of the Verite's men were wounded by flying fragments blown from the Liberte or by pieces of bursting shells. The decks of the Verite were crowded with men who were watching the frightful spectacle and who were targets for the falling debris.

The Liberte was broken in two by the violence of the final explosion. She sank in forty feet of water. Accordingly, large portions of the upper structure remained above the surface. These were swept by the flames and the burning of black powder caused a dense smoke that obscured the wreck.

With the last convulsion of the mighty sea fighter men and wreckage were tossed high in the air and a shower of human limbs, bits of flesh, articles of clothing, pieces of armor plate and splinters of wood fell upon the decks of the Verite and upon the wide circle of the men-of-war and small boats standing by. The officers and men of the Verite beheld an awful picture of disaster and death.

VESSEL IN BIG REVIEW FLEET.

The Liberte was anchored in the roadstead, where she has been since the review of the fleet by President Fallieres. The review was on Sept. 4, when the French national executive gazed upon the most powerful fleet that France has ever assembled. Premier Caillaux and his associates in the Cabinet, together with many Senators and Deputies, were present.

Particular significance attached to the display as it was made on the very day that France communicated to Germany the terms upon which the republic offered a settlement of the Moroccan dispute with Germany. Formed in two perfect alignments were eighteen battleships, six of them of the "all big gun" type; nine armored cruisers, twenty-five torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers. The fleet was manned by 1,700 officers and 26,907 men.

Following the review the fleet resumed the autumn manoeuvres and gun practice. On Sept. 20 the armored cruiser Gloire was engaged in target work when a port gun exploded as a projectile was being inserted in the breech. One gunner was killed and thirteen others injured. Five of the latter subsequently died.

Official Report of Disaster Says Vessel Was in Perfect Shape.

PARIS, Sept. 25.—The Ministry of Marine has received the following telegram from Vice-Admiral Aubert, commanding the fleet at Toulon: "Four explosions were heard on the Liberte this morning at intervals of one minute beginning at 5.35 and followed by smoke and flames which mounted steadily. The explosion occurred at 5.53 o'clock. The ship sank. After the smoke had blown away, one perceived that portions of the structure stood above the water."

The Ministry of Marine issued this note: "The last report of the general inspector showed the Liberte to be in a completely satisfactory condition and especially regarding the precautions taken in caring for the magazines."

In considering the possible causes of the explosion, Minister of Marine Delecase excluded that of spontaneous combustion of powder, since it had been regularly renewed and the magazines were kept at a moderate temperature. Referring to an official report of Sept. 9 upon this very subject, the Minister said that the commanding admiral specified that during the hottest weather the temperature in his own cabin had sometimes been 101 degrees Fahrenheit when the temperature in the magazines was from 84 to 86 degrees. M. Delecase thought that the theory of a short circuit wire, advanced technically at Toulon, was the most probable.

One theory held by several of the experts at the Ministry of Marine is that the initial fire, which the reports say was caused by crossed electric wires, put the electrical equipment of the warship out of business and made it impossible to close all of the compartment doors and prevent the explosions in the powder magazines.

Paris Stunned by News Of Battleship Explosion.

PARIS, Sept. 25.—The news of the explosion of the magazines of the battleship Liberte came as a stunning blow to the French public and to naval officials. It is the climax of a long series of disasters which have marked the history of the French navy since the blowing up of the battleship Iena on March 3, 1907. The accounts of the disaster, as received here during the morning hours, varied widely. The most authentic despatches stated that the sinking came nearly two hours after the discovery of fire in the forward hold. Another account said that the ship broke in half from the force of the explosions and sank twenty minutes later. According to this version the battleship afterward reappeared at the surface for a time, a grim carcass of iron surrounded by a tangled mass of wreckage.

Ill-Fated Battleship Was Here for Hudson-Fulton Celebration.

The Liberte with the battleship Verite and the flagship Justice represented the French Government at the Hudson-Fulton celebration at New York two years ago. Flying the pennant of Vice-Admiral Jules L. M. Le Ford, the Justice arrived in the Hudson on Sept. 20 and, followed by the Liberte and Verite, found her anchorage the first of the foreign craft to arrive at the ceremonies.

When the battleship was here the Liberte was commanded by Capt. A. L. M. Huguet and her other chief officers were Second Capt. R. Velsin, Lieutenants C. F. Caussa, M. P. V. Favereau, J. S. B. Veisler, C. A. Cornet and L. C. J. Perlemaire; Chief Engineer D. L. Agarrat, Paymaster C. A. Begin, Chief Surgeon P. A. A. Audibert.

The Liberte was the type ship of the so-called Liberte class in the French navy—a boat of 14,900 tons displacement and an overall length of 432 feet. Her full crew was placed at 793 men. She bore four 12-inch guns, and ten guns of the French 7.6-inch type. She also had twenty-three small guns and four torpedo tubes. She was completed in 1907 at a cost of about \$7,000,000.

The Liberte class battleships include the Democrat, the Justice, the Verite and the Liberte, all 18-knot vessels of the most modern type. They correspond approximately to the five American battleships of the New Jersey class, including the Virginia, Georgia, Nebraska, Rhode Island and New Jersey.

FIVE CENTS TO CONEY TO-DAY--IF YOU'VE GOT TIME

Advertisement for the B.R.T. (Brooklyn Rapid Transit) featuring a map of the route from the bridge to 65th Street. The map shows the '10 CENT DIRECT ROUTE' and '15 MINUTES OF DUSTY ROAD AND MUSTY MEADOW'. It includes instructions on how to board a train and a surface car, and mentions 'HERE YOU WATCH THE CAR GO BY'.

Worse Than the Maine Disaster; Spontaneous Ignition Possible Cause.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—Based upon the first report of the terrible naval disaster in Toulon Harbor, the experts of the Navy Department here were disposed to believe that the explosion on the Liberte resulted from the spontaneous ignition of some of the smokesheet powder which had deteriorated from having been kept too long without inspection. It is to be kept against such accidents that United States naval regulations require a careful examination of the powder in the magazines of warships at comparatively short intervals of time. This examination involves a chemical test calculated to demonstrate absolutely the safety of the powder. The result of the application of this rule has been extremely beneficial, and only one preventing spontaneous combustion in the first place, but in suggesting to the powder makers changes in the process of manufacture which tend materially toward safety.

BIG BEAR RAID; WICKERSHAM IS SILENT ON TRUSTS

With the Attorney-General, the Judges of the United States Circuit Court and the attorneys for the American Tobacco Company present. The plan for reorganization of the trust was taken up for consideration, the idea being to make it square with the decision of the Supreme Court dissolving the trust. Announcement was made at the conclusion of the conference looking to the reorganization of the American Tobacco Company to-day, and a petition would be filed with the United States Circuit Court on Oct. 3 setting forth the proposed plan of dissolution in consonance with the mandate of the Supreme Court, and that public hearings on the plan would follow. Dates for the public hearings were not announced.

WALL STREET WAS WAITING FOR WICKERSHAM STATEMENT.

It had been expected that the arrival of the Attorney-General would bring an immediate statement concerning his attitude toward the United States Steel Corporation and other big concerns. Wall street, and the trust itself, expected that some sort of legal attack would come from the Federal Government. Upon a word from the Attorney-General, therefore, hung the prospects for the day in the Stock Exchange.

CONGRESS'S PROBE OF STEEL TRUST TO GO ON ANYWAY.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—Chairman Stanley of the Special House Committee investigating the Steel Trust, said to-day: "The statement by the President of the United States and the Attorney-General that they are determined to enforce the Sherman Anti-Trust act without fear or favor is exceedingly gratifying to me. I am not willing that men should be given a plenary indulgence to violate the law, that the law which interferes with the plans of very rich men should be abrogated or annulled any more than I am in favor of annulling the laws which interfere with the cupidity of very poor men. 'Will this committee continue its investigations in the event the Steel Corporation voluntarily dissolves?' Mr. Stanley was asked. 'The committee is not studying the United States Steel Corporation alone; it is studying the problem of industrial combinations, voluntarily admitted that it has been materially affected by the action of the United States Steel Corporation. If it should, before the committee dissolved into complete concerns under the direction of the Department of Justice, and by the sanction of the courts this committee would still be warranted in continuing its investigation. 'As to putting in jail manufacturers of great wealth? 'I cannot too heartily indorse the proposed enforcement of the penal provisions of the Sherman anti-trust law. A fine imposed upon high officials of great corporations is ultimately an assessment upon the stockholders of that corporation, many of whom are inno-

FATALLY HURT IN BATTLE WITH GIRL IN HER ROOM

Intruder Worst Injured of Two When Both Fall Out Window.

Philonema de Spaffano, a pretty girl, fought early this morning when she awoke at the home of Mrs. Camillo Palma on the third floor at No. 63 Mott street and found Frank Luchatti in the room. While they were fighting both fell out of the window and landed thirty-five feet below. The girl was broken wrist. Luchatti's back is seriously injured. He probably will die.

ACTOR TRIES HARD TO STAGE A SHOT.

Magistrate, Police and District-Attorney Turn Down Burt's Appeal for Blank Discharge.

William P. Burt, a vaudeville performer, who has written a playlet, got enough material to-day for the writing of a skit entitled "The Law and its Polity" when he tried to get a permit to use a .38-caliber revolver during the course of his performance. Beyond the first scene was in the office of Chief Magistrate McAdoo, where, hat in hand, Burt made respectful application to use the gun, plus blank cartridges. "I have not the power to grant the permit," said the Chief Magistrate.

FILIPINO NATIVES KILL AMERICAN NAVAL OFFICER.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—Ensign Hailer Belt, commanding the little gunboat Tanager, was killed by hostile natives yesterday at the Tacana Islands, which form part of the Philippine Archipelago. Several sailors of Ensign Belt's party were severely wounded. The details of the affair have not yet reached the Navy Department.

SUICIDE IN HALLWAY.

Jersey City police are trying to discover the identity of a man who shot himself in a hallway at No. 49 Grove street, Jersey City, to-day. The words and music of the song "The Message of the Cross" was the only thing found in his pockets.

COMPROLLER WM. A. PRENDERGAST BOROUGH PRESIDENT GEORGE M'ANENY WILLIAM M. IVINS

Mayor Gaynor will be given full opportunity to reply. J. Aspinwall Hodge, Chairman.

Advertisement for Evans Ale, featuring a glass of ale and the text 'A GLASS OF Evans Ale'. It describes the ale as 'delicious, foam crowned' and lists prices for various sizes.

LONDON MANAGER SUES.

George Edwardes Demands Royalties From Daisy Andrews.

George Edwardes, a London playhouse manager, has brought suit in the Supreme Court in New York against Daisy Andrews, a London play-ker, for \$2,500 royalties. Edwardes says that Miss Andrews sold a play for him to the French Authors' society and as his representative collected the royalties and withheld them.

KAISER FIRST TO OFFER SYMPATHY.

PARIS, Sept. 25.—The German Ambassador to France, Herr von Schoen, was the first to call at the Foreign Office and convey the condolences of his government and himself, and Emperor William was the first ruler to send a telegram of sympathy to President Fallieres. His Majesty said: "Words fall me in endeavoring to find expression for my profound sympathy for France in the national misfortune. The families so terribly grieved may be consoled by the knowledge that the men of the Liberte have perished in the performance of their duty toward their country."

EMERGENCY MASS MEETING RIPPER CHARTER

To protest against the At Cooper Union, Tuesday Night, Sept. 26, at 8:15.

It is learned that the proposed Charter will probably be brought up for final vote at Albany within the next 48 hours. The necessity for prompt and vigorous action by the citizens of New York will be explained by

COMPROLLER WM. A. PRENDERGAST BOROUGH PRESIDENT GEORGE M'ANENY WILLIAM M. IVINS Mayor Gaynor will be given full opportunity to reply. J. Aspinwall Hodge, Chairman.

Advertisement for Penny a Pound Profit Candy, featuring a list of candy items and prices. Items include Chocolate Silver Strips, Greenish Creamed Walnuts, Milk Chocolate Covered Pineapple, and others.

Advertisement for Oxford Club Dry Gin, featuring the text 'OXFORD CLUB DRY GIN DISTILLED IN AMERICA' and 'AN American product that will stand up against the lure of any foreign gin label that comes across the water.'

Advertisement for The Hornless Wonder, featuring the text 'THE HORNLESS WONDER' and 'It's here—a Talking Machine that is not a machine, but a true musical instrument—and it's yours for but \$15—a marvelous Victor.'

Advertisement for Pease Piano Co., featuring the text 'PEASE PIANO CO., 128 W. 42 St., nr. Broadway, N. Y.'

Advertisement for J. Ehrlich & Sons, featuring the text 'J. Ehrlich & Sons Choose Your Oculist-Optician As You Choose Your Physician by work already done.'

Advertisement for J. Ehrlich & Sons, featuring the text 'J. Ehrlich & Sons Oculist Opticians 223 Sixth Av., 15th St., 217 E. 7th Av., 101 Nassau - Ann St., 17 West 42d - Bet. 5th & 6th Aves., New York 496 Fulton St., Cor. Bond St., Brooklyn.'

Advertisement for Campbell's Soups, featuring the text 'Serve boiling hot Campbell's SOUPS Look for the red-and-white label.'

Advertisement for William Necker, featuring the text 'WILLIAM NECKER, World-Wide-known Undertaker. Largest and most complete undertaking establishment in the world.'

Advertisement for They Exceed, featuring the text 'They Exceed In Numbers—those printed in any other newspaper on earth; In Circulation—those published in any other Morning newspaper in the United States. World Ads.'