

# CHEMICAL PLANT IS SHATTERED BY MANY EXPLOSIONS

### "Bombed," Says Manager of Works at Niagara Falls, 100 Have Narrow Escape.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., March 8.—Niagara Falls was shaken and a large part of the huge plant of the Niagara Electro-Chemical Company demolished by a series of explosions and fire early today. Although guards said from seventy-five to one hundred and thirty-five men were in the plant only one man is known to have been killed and one seriously injured. The damage is estimated at \$150,000.

Dr. Hector R. Carvath, manager of the company, issued a formal statement this forenoon to the effect that the plant had been "bombed."

Dr. Carvath stated that he has been making sodium peroxide the output of the works for a number of years, and after talking with his chemists he had come to the conclusion that the fire was not the result of an accident.

In direct contradiction to a statement accredited to him earlier in the day, Dr. Carvath at noon issued the following statement:

"I do not know what caused the explosions. It is my purpose to make a thorough investigation to discover if possible the cause of them. The plant was not working on war orders. It has never had any war orders. We were operating as we have been operating for years, simply meeting the demands of the regular trade. The explosions occurred in that part of the plant given over to the manufacture of sodium peroxide."

Carvath said that all the men in the building at the time have been accounted for, with one dead and one fatally injured. The escape of 100 of

more through poisonous gases that followed the fire and explosions is considered miraculous.

The man killed was Peter Pever, thirty-nine years old. His body was blown to bits.

The plant has been under heavy guard since the recent dynamite explosion in another portion of the works last month.

The explosion was heard for several miles around and across the Niagara Gataract in Canada, when it caused a hasty mobilization of the militia guarding the frontier.

The first explosion followed an outbreak of five shortly before midnight and others occurred intermittently until shortly before 9 A. M. when eight blasts of tremendous force shattered the shell of the burning plant and scattered twisted flaming debris over a wide area. Firemen concentrated their efforts on saving the storage house, said to contain high explosives.

The police roped off the streets in the vicinity of the plant as the fire was driven toward chemicals of a high explosive nature. The firemen were helpless to cope with the spreading blaze because water mixing with the chemicals only added fuel to the flames.

The building, of brick and steel construction about 300 by 75 feet in dimensions, has been completely demolished. The first explosion hurled the slate covered, steel-roofed roof with its massive girders fully one hundred feet in the air and landed it several hundred feet away in another section of the plant's yard.

A string of freight cars standing on a siding two blocks away was bowled over, while one of the huge electric hauling locomotives of the Niagara Junction Railway was smashed. Big steel tanks were shot through a three-foot solid brick wall like projectiles and sunk in the Niagara River some 100 yards distant.

The peroxide plant in which the explosion occurred contains apparatus for the manufacture of a large percentage of the chlorine used in the United States.

Enormous quantities of peroxide of hydrogen are also manufactured there.

The plant manufactures nitrates as a by-product, which are delivered to the various powder companies working on war orders. It is understood they have immense direct war orders.

## FIREMEN SAVE ELEVEN MAROONED ON A ROOF

### Fire Drill in Factory Building Prevents Loss of Life When Blaze Spreads.

Eight men and three women were marooned today on the roof of the six-story factory building at No. 243 Canal Street while a fire burned its way from the second to the third floor. Two firemen were sent aloft as soon as the plight of the eleven became known and they were brought down the stairway in safety.

The fact that the firms occupying the building had a regular fire drill, which was carried out to the letter, probably prevented loss of life, as the smoke was very dense.

The fire started in the rear of the second floor, occupied by the Royal Art Glass Company, employing fifty men and five women, on this and the floor above. As soon as the alarm sounded the men and women marched down the stairs.

It was the employees of E. J. Kines, a window shade manufacturer, who went to the roof from the sixth story workrooms. Mrs. Riley became hysterical and would have leaped to the ground if Foreman Orville Pease had not caught her.

## MYSTERY OF JEWELS THAT VANISHED MAY BE ONE FOR MOVIES

### Meanwhile Sherrill Is Not Worrying About \$12,000 in Gems His Son Jack "Lost."

Jack is the best juvenile lead in the moving picture game. He tried to do a little press agent work for himself but his foot slipped."

So stated William L. Sherrill of No. 230 West Seventy-ninth Street today when asked concerning dispatches from Chicago that told of the loss by his son, Jack, of \$12,000 worth of family jewels.

According to the Chicago accounts, Jack had been having a series of parties and declared that the jewels, which he was going to have reset for his mother, had disappeared from his possession.

"Jack, who is eighteen, and an actor with the Frohman Amusement Company, of which I am president, went to Chicago a few days ago with Mary Miles Minter, the film star," said Papa Sherrill. "They appeared in several theatres, and Jack decided to get a little publicity for himself."

"For a while I was afraid the story was true, for we have some loose from Chicago and we had several thousand dollars' worth of jewelry in a safe deposit vault in charge of a son-in-law. I had Chicago on the long distance telephone and found that the family jewels are safe. Jack is a good boy, never drank or smoked in his life, but he needs a real press agent."

## COX PNEUMATIC COMPANY IS SUED FOR ACCOUNTING

### Ferdinand Hagen Asks That Question of Patent Rights Be Settled—Sues Officials Also.

Suit was brought in the Federal District Court yesterday by Ferdinand Hagen, as a stockholder in the Cox Pneumatic Company, manufacturers of automobile shock absorbers, against the company, Charles Henry Cox, its President; William C. Cox, its Vice President; and Henry Seibel, its Secretary.

Hagen asks an accounting and to enjoin Charles Henry Cox, the principal defendant, from contracting to sell or lease certain patent rights or from transferring such patent rights or the real estate of the company.

Hagen says he met Cox in Los Angeles in 1908, when the latter was head of Cox Pneumatic Apparatus Company, which was represented to him as owning the pneumatic cushion patent rights and as being free of all debt. Seibel bought 4,000 shares, it is alleged, and got the right to sell stock on commission.

A year later the company now sued was established and incorporated under the laws of Arizona. It absorbed the California company. Hagen and Seibel thought the latter is essentially a defendant in the suit, now believe that the company's legal status is not properly established. The injunctive motion will be argued Friday.

His French Not Mistaken's. It was expected that Prince Miskinoff, husband of Mrs. Alice Crocker Gouraud, would testify yesterday before Saragotta Sawyer at White Plains in the contest of the will of Theodore A. Lord, wealthy Yonkers lawyer, brought by Eugene Ferrer, who claims to be the widow, but his testimony was not taken because the Prince refused an interpreter he could not understand him.

Italian King Home From the Front. HOME, March 8.—For the second time since the outbreak of the war King Victor Emmanuel has returned from the front for a conference with the Ministry. He conferred for several hours with cabinet officials today, planning to return to army headquarters within a few hours.

## HARD COAL MINERS HERE TO MEET OWNERS AT UNION LEAGUE CLUB

### Men Want More Pay, but Prospect Is That Conference Will Be Long.

Anthracite operators will go into the hard coal conference at the Union League Club to-morrow, pledged to stand together against the "complete recognition of the union," which President White and his conferees contend brines with it the "check-off system." The operators, headed by S. D. Warriner of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, an Evening World reporter was informed today, are prepared to grant a reasonable increase, but nothing like the 20 per cent. demanded by the United Mine Workers of America.

They will not go beyond a flat 5 per cent. increase, it was said, and though they expect the conference to drag out as did the soft coal one, they are hopeful of a settlement based on about the same increases awarded for the bituminous districts. When the leaders of the miners' union came to New York two weeks ago it was announced that they would not demand the "check-off system" in the hard coal fields, but only recognition of the union.

They have changed their ideas since the first conference and will now demand that the operators collect the dues of the union from every miner employed in the industry. It had not been decided to-day whether the reporters were to be admitted to the Union League Club during the conferences, but it looks as if they will not. The operators are said to be opposed to having a room set aside for them, and the miners have nothing whatever to do with it.

It is the first time a labor and capital conference has been held at the Union League or any other club of its exclusiveness.

The general conference of the soft coal district is in session today to ratify the findings of its sub-committee. Several operators are opposed to the increase, but it is expected the agreement will be incorporated by a vote of 3 to 1 and the formal contract signed before the operators leave to-night for their homes.

## ENTIRE NAVY OF CITY IS OFFERED FOR SALE

### Police Boat Patrol Which Carries Four Guns Too Big for Hunting River Pirates.

The police boat patrol, which carries four-inch guns fore and aft, is offered for sale. It is a splendid craft in which to conduct a filibuster or foment a revolution.

The Police Department doesn't want the patrol any more because river pirates are not so numerous and smaller, swifter boats are more effective in hunting down what is left of them.

Purchased by the city in 1894, the patrol is 137 feet over all, with a 23-foot beam and a draught of 9 feet. Her tonnage is 235 and her coal tonnage is 50.

## WHITMAN IS HUGGED BY A CONVICT'S WIFE

### Governor Promises Woman, Seeking Husband's Parole, to Look Into Case.

CLEVELAND, March 8.—Before Gov. Whitman of New York could gain an inkling of her purpose, Mrs. Anna Schmitz threw her arms about his neck in the Statler Hotel here yesterday.

She also kissed his hand in making a plea for clemency for her husband, who has been in Sing Sing Prison since 1908 serving a twenty-year sentence for the murder of the "other woman."

Mr. Whitman, in response to the fervent appeals of the convict's wife, said he would look into the case when he returned to New York.

Falls Into Vat of Boiling Water. Jacob Siegler, a contractor of No. 94 Seventh Street, Manhattan, while inspecting some reconstruction work of which he was in charge in the laundry in the basement of the Greenpoint Hospital in Williamsburg, this afternoon fell from a ladder into a vat of boiling water. His cries were heard by John Brady, a fireman who pulled him out and summoned help. Siegler was fatally wounded.

## MORGENTHAU MAY REMAIN HERE TO AID WILSON'S CAMPAIGN

### Ambassador Says His Affairs Are in Good Shape for Possible Successor.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Henry Morgenthau, Ambassador to Turkey, will not return to his post, but will remain in this country to take up active work for the Wilson Administration, it was strongly indicated in official circles today.

Morgenthau himself, calling at the White House, admitted certain Administration leaders had urged him to remain and work for the re-election of the President. From reliable sources it was learned that if the Ambassador finds his services are needed in this country he will not return to the Far East.

Although he says at present he plans to leave some time in May, still declares his work is in such condition and the work cleared up to such an extent that a new man could easily take it up where he had left off should he desire to remain.

Senator Lewis of Illinois is understood to have recommended the appointment of Ira Nelson Morris, now Minister to Sweden, to the Turkish post if Morgenthau decides not to return.

Morgenthau came to Washington today to secure means of shipping food supplies to inhabitants of Palestine who are now in need of food. Prominent merchants of New York will send 100 tons of supplies to Turkey as soon as transportation facilities have been arranged. He also is arranging for the shipment of supplies to the American colony in Constantinople, which, he says, will be short of food by fall.

## ACTRESS HELD AS THIEF.

### Selma Pine, Star of Court Scene, Must Play Role in Real Life.

Selma Pine, an actress, was brought here today from Alexandria, Va., to face a charge of having obtained \$112 worth of jewelry from H. H. Macy & Co., Dec. 22 last, by using forged orders. She worked as an extra actress in the Christmas rush. After she disappeared it was learned she had married an actor and was traveling with a musical comedy.

When Detectives Murphy and Broome caught up with the show at Alexandria, they found the woman acting in a court scene in the comedy, and her husband playing the part of the judge. They allowed the performance to end and then arrested her. The detectives say she was wearing some of the stolen jewelry when she was taken into custody.

## LOST GIRL AND \$1,600, WATCH AND DIAMOND IN APARTMENT NAP

### Buffalo Merchant, Hunting "Doris," Has Woman in Flat Arrested.

Mrs. Harriet Curtis appeared before Magistrate Murphy in the West Side Court this morning to explain what she knew about \$1,600 in cash and a watch and diamond stick pin which Charles Rosenberger, a Buffalo merchant, said had disappeared from his possession early yesterday morning while he was asleep in an apartment at No. 250 Riverside Drive.

According to her account of the incident, Rosenberger came to the apartment after midnight on Monday with a Miss Doris Castle, whom he had met in a Broadway cafe. The plaintiff's condition was such, she said, that he went promptly to bed and to sleep. Miss Castle then announced that she was "going out with Billy to get something to eat."

Who Billy was did not come out in her story, but she said that Rosenberger awoke presently and announced that he had been robbed and would call the police.

The witness said she offered him the use of the telephone, but the hall boy declared it would be a breach of etiquette to bring the law into the matter, so he declined to connect Rosenberger with the police station. Then, said Mrs. Curtis, she suggested that the plaintiff go out and get a policeman, which she did, and presently the search for disappearing Doris was begun.

The search proved fruitless, and last night Rosenberger had Mrs. Curtis arrested for "acting in concert" with a person committing grand larceny.

Magistrate Murphy informed Mrs. Curtis that on her own admissions in court she had had herself liable to three years in jail for knowingly buying an apartment conducted for illegal purposes, but he would not press that charge if she would aid the detective in locating Miss Castle. She has, he said, and presently works at the Fourth Branch Bureau, took Mrs. Curtis with them and renewed the search.

Mrs. Curtis said she merely rented a room from Miss Castle and that when Rosenberger awoke he thought he had come there with her instead of Rosenberger. She has been stopping at the Colonial Hotel, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street and Eighth Avenue.

## HIGH-PRICED SUITS MADE IN UNSANITARY WAY, SAYS GOMPERS

### Union Leader Scores Custom Tailors in Speech Encouraging Strikers.

Ready-made clothes are made under more sanitary conditions than expensive made-to-order garments selling from \$50 or \$75 a suit up to double that amount. Well-to-do men who pay high prices for their clothes do not know that the garments they wear are made in the homes of the custom tailors in the bedrooms, parlors and kitchens of squalid east side homes, where the children of workmen afflicted with disease are likely to infect the garments with contagious germs.

These were some of the statements made to-day by Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, in an address to a gathering of members of the Journeymen Tailors' Union in Plaza Hall, No. 110 East Fifty-ninth Street.

Summarizing the conditions under which clothes sold at Fifth Avenue shops are made, Mr. Gompers denounced the present system of making these garments in the homes of the tailors and declared it was a disgrace that such things are allowed to continue.

Since March 2, from 16,000 to 18,000 custom tailors have been on strike, demanding the abolition of home work, sanitary shop conditions and an increase of from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. in the rate of wages.

Mr. Gompers declared the employers held themselves up to the contempt of the public when they permitted a strike to be called in the custom tailors' industry by men who demand they should not be compelled to work in their own homes, which should be outside the pale of commercialism.

As to the increase in the price of the finished product, which the employers allege would have to be borne by the buyers, Mr. Gompers pointed out that it was much easier for the man who can afford to pay \$50 or \$75 for a suit to pay a little more if necessary than it would be for a workman to pay one additional dollar for a suit.

In reply to a question as to whether there was any possibility of stopping the publication in newspapers of advertisements calling for strike breakers, by calling on the Typographical Union, Mr. Gompers said he was opposed to the paying of that smacked of curtailing the liberty of the press.

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The Millinery Department on the First Floor is now showing, at moderate prices, The Spring Importations of Millinery Trimmings comprising a large and diverse assortment of Flowers, Fruit, Foliage, Ostrich and Fancy Feather Ornaments, Braids, etc., embracing the materials and colors that are to be the vogue of the season.

Te-morrow (Thursday) there will be in this Department A Sale of Spring Hats in smart, becoming modes made of the fashionable straws, featuring flower, feather or ribbon trimmings, specially priced at \$8.50 & \$11.00

## The Lace Curtain Department

has now ready a complete collection of newly-received Window Draperies for the Spring and Summer seasons, embracing virtually every variety of curtain that will be in demand. Among the inexpensive Curtains for cottage and Summer apartment use are the following, all of which are in the regular stock at the moderate prices quoted:

Ruffled Muslin Curtains	per pair . . . . . 85c. and upward
Plain Hemstitched Scrim Curtains	per pair . . . . . \$1.00 and upward
Hemstitched Scrim Curtains, with Cluny edge	per pair \$1.35 and upward
Novelty Net Curtains, pair 1.35 and upward	
Imported Scotch Madras Curtains	per pair . . . . . \$2.00 and upward

Also a large assortment of Imported Swiss Curtains per pair . . . . . \$2.25 and upward

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### SPECIAL FEATURE NEXT SUNDAY'S WORLD