

Showers of Debris Throw Luncheon Crowds Into Wild Flight

Blast Damage Estimated at \$1,000,000

Force Felt Seriously for Two Blocks in All Directions; Loss on Plate Glass Alone Is \$750,000

Valuable Papers Are Lost

Hot Slugs, Hurdled High in Air, Sear Hands of Those Who Touch Them

Losses in the heart of the financial district yesterday from broken glass and other material damage are estimated at nearly \$1,000,000. The force of the explosion was seriously felt within an area of two blocks on all sides of the scene of the blast. There were buildings in which practically every window was shattered. Here and there telephones were ripped from walls, desks overturned, pictures torn from fastenings and papers scattered in flurries.

The structures in the immediate vicinity of Broad and Wall Streets were, of course, most seriously damaged. The J. P. Morgan banking house, in front of which the explosion occurred, was left a mere skeleton. Every window on the Wall Street side and most of those on the Broad Street side were blown to fragments, while considerable damage was done to the expensive dome of the building. That the structure was not shattered completely is said to be due to the fact that the windows had been reinforced with steel wire. This wire still held when the windows collapsed.

The Sub-Treasury across the street also looked like a hollow shell, with every window gaping and the doors blown in. The iron fence between this building and the United States Assay office was twisted and bent into knots. On the Broad Street side of the Stock Exchange Building all of the large plate glass windows with the exception of one which happened to be open were broken. The dome of this structure was so badly damaged that business was suspended in order to give workmen an opportunity to repair it.

Only a part of the loss sustained from broken windows is covered by insurance written by the companies which make a specialty of this kind of business. The Morgan building was fully covered against breakage of its windows from explosion, insurance underwriters said. The policy, however, does not cover the dome of art glass which is upon the main banking corridor of the structure.

Major A. White, head of the Plate Glass Insurance Company, which issued policies to the Mills, Equitable and Bank of Manhattan buildings, estimated the window damage to these buildings alone at between \$25,000 and \$30,000. The area affected was much smaller, he said, than that of the Black Tom explosion, when the firm paid out \$60,000 because of window breakage.

Other plate glass insurance men said the price of glass has mounted fully 100 per cent since the time of the Black Tom explosion several years ago, the average window, such as is now in the Wall Street office building, costing about \$35. The Black Tom explosion resulted in the insurance companies paying losses in the neighborhood of \$350,000 on plate glass alone. The damage to plate glass yesterday's affair is estimated at about \$750,000.

A Panoramic View at the Scene of the Disaster



ASSAY OFFICE. OVERTURNED AUTO. THE MORGAN OFFICES. BODIES IN FRONT OF ASSAY OFFICE. WHERE HORSE AND WAGON STOOD. PHOTO BY CURTIS.

The greatest part of the loss will have to be borne by the owners of the buildings themselves, because of the refusal of a majority of the insurance companies to insure windows against explosion above the fourth floor. What the extent of this loss will be can be seen from the fact that in the Equitable Building alone windows were shattered from the first to the thirty-second floors.

The Schulte cigar store at 24 Wall Street was almost completely wrecked. The entire front was blown in, the counters smashed and the walls undermined. Goods littered the floor. The cigar firm of H. Stearns & Co., in the Mills Building, estimated its loss at \$2,000. Herman Stearns, the head of the firm, said this will be a total loss to his company, because insurance companies had refused to give them a policy since the Black Tom explosion.

The greatest force of the blast seems to have been exerted in a north-westerly direction. Of the forty floors in the Bankers Trust Building, at Wall and Nassau streets, not one escaped without broken windows. One of the columns of the Wall Street facade of this building was badly chipped. The superintendent of the structure said that dozens of stenographers here were struck by flying glass and other debris. Desks and cabinets were overturned in many of the offices and many valuable documents blown out of the windows.

All the other structures in Wall Street running west to the First National Bank were damaged. Down New Street to Exchange Place, across Exchange Place to William Street, up William Street to Cedar and west on Cedar to Broadway, could be seen evidences everywhere of shattered glass. The superintendent of the Equitable Building announced that panes of glass had been broken from the ground floor up to the thirty-second, and that most of the damage was done on the Pine and Nassau Street corner. Glass continued to fall from the structure here all through the day.

A five-inch slug crashed through the skylight of Speyer & Co., in Pine Street. A member of the firm at whose feet it fell had a narrow escape. The Speyer Building is just behind the Sub-Treasury; the missile having been hurled high in the air before it fell into the Speyer Building. Numerous windows in this building also were shattered. Next door many windows of the Mechanics and Metals National Bank also were blown out.

Two Warnings Were Issued of Dangers to Financial Section

(Continued from page one)

weights that caused the damage were similar to those used in ordinary dwellings. They have the appearance of having been broken up some time ago, as the fragments are old and oxidized. There were also a few pieces of iron with screw threads on them.

Fire Marshal Brophy would not express any theory as to the cause of the explosion other than to say: "The facts speak for themselves."

Meager Clues Run Down

Police Commissioner Enright, after an investigation, immediately detailed every available man to run down the few meager clues that were drawn out from the mass of conflicting statements told by eyewitnesses. He told them to make every effort to run down the reports of the three men seen running just before the explosion.

To the newspaper men the Police Commissioner said: "I do not wish it understood that I am convinced entirely that this disaster is the result of dynamite loaded in a wagon. I have never said that it was and I do not wish it understood I am working exclusively on any one theory. There are certain developments which do not uphold the explosion of dynamite in a wagon as accounting for the wreck of the buildings."

"My men have found slugs of cast iron all around the scene of the disaster. They resemble window sash weights broken in pieces, but they do not come from windows in this vicinity as far as we can find out.

"We are investigating very thoroughly the theory that this has been the work of bomb plotters. We have men working on the reported escape of three men between Williams and Hanover streets and Wall Street, who are said to have leaped into an automobile and darted away. We do not know what any of these theories are worth, but we are working on all of them. We have about thirty leads which we are following up to ascertain the real cause of the disaster."

Band of Anarchists Blamed

Frank Francisco, one of the investigators of the Department of Justice, who at first expressed the opinion that the explosion was an accident, after further investigation said he had changed his mind and that it was undoubtedly the work of a band of anarchists.

"It is possible that the wagon was loaded with explosives tightly confined with the iron missiles and then driven to Wall Street and abandoned. In this case the whole thing was exploded by means of a timing device got for 12 o'clock."

He commented upon the fact that the explosion had occurred the day

investigate were District Attorney Swann and a number of his assistants. Some time later Alfred J. Talley, chief Assistant District Attorney, made the following statement after examining every available witness:

"The coincidence of all the facts in this explosion is too great for it to have been an accident. The factors that lead me to this belief are that the time of the explosion was at noon, when the greatest damage could have been done, and the location of the explosion was midway between the Morgan offices and the United States Treasury Building.

"It is quite probable that the wagon used was similar to the kind used by the du Pont powder people and was

The Ruins of the Wagon



This is all that was left of the wagon which is supposed to have carried the explosive into Wall Street.

after it occurred with twenty special agents. These men were immediately set to work.

Mr. Lamb refused to make any comment upon the cause of the explosion. It is known, however, that after a complete investigation the men working under his supervision had become convinced that it was the work of a group of anarchists.

Believes Time Bomb Was Used

Other officials early on the scene to

down to his car and found a black box under the seat. The box was about a foot square and was encircled by several wires.

Babb did not attempt to touch the object but called Detectives Michael F. Judge and Thomas Law, who were standing near. The detectives, afraid it might be a bomb, carried it to the Old Slip station, where it was immersed in water until the arrival of operatives from the Bureau of Combustibles. Upon their arrival the box was transferred to their office for further investigation. It was found to contain an electric battery connected with a fuse.

The authorities expressed the theory last night, based on the reported departure of three men in an automobile from the vicinity of Babb's car, that the perpetrators of the crime may have had an extra electric battery ready in case the explosion failed, and in some unexplained manner placed it in Babb's car instead of their own.

No Explosives in Transit

Further checking up of firms dealing in explosives last night elicited the following statement from Arthur Long, secretary of the construction committee of the New York Stock Exchange:

"Mr. Robert J. Eidlitz, treasurer of Marc Eidlitz & Son, Inc., the builders conducting the building operation for the New York Stock Exchange, states that he is positively informed by the president of the Foundation and Underpinning Company, which has the foundation work under way, that absolutely no explosive is in transit for the New York Stock Exchange job and that there was none on the way for the Stock Exchange at any time today."

"Clerk in the office of the du Pont Powder Works in the Equitable Building said the du Pont concern did not have a powder wagon below Sixteenth Street at any time during the day. He said the office force was at a loss to explain the explosion.

The opinion expressed by Assistant District Attorney Talley that the plotters used a wagon similar in type to the regular explosives-carrying wagon is supported by the testimony of at least two witnesses. One, William Gluckman, an eighteen-year-old messenger employed by McKean & Co., brokers, of 36 Wall Street, said he left the offices of his employers, below the United States Assay Office, at five minutes to 12.

Saw Red Explosives Wagon

As he left, he said, he saw a red explosives wagon going west on Wall Street. He paid no attention to it at the time, but a few minutes later heard the report of the explosion.

The other witness was a man who died in the Broad Street Hospital. This man, whose name is unknown, made his statement to Dr. T. B. Wood, of the Broad Street Hospital, just before he expired. According to Dr.

Wood, the man said he had seen a red explosives wagon standing near the Sub-Treasury steps. The next morning he was fatally injured in the explosion.

Acting Inspector John Coughlin, in charge of the Detective Bureau, after a thorough investigation said: "The most plausible theory as to the cause, from a careful examination of the evidence, is that the explosion was the result of a time fuse bomb contained in the horse driven wagon. The plotters undoubtedly drove up to the position between the Assay Building and the Morgan offices, set the time fuse, and then abandoned the wagon and sacrificed the horse. This theory is greatly strengthened by the large number of broken pieces of sash weights that have been picked up."

One of the mysterious elements connected with the explosion was the car bearing a New Jersey license that was completely wrecked at the scene of the explosion. At first the authorities thought this car might have been in some manner connected with the disaster.

An investigation, however, brought out the fact that it belonged to Dunham S. Belden, manager of the Firemen's Pharmacy at Broad and Market streets, Newark. Mr. Belden had driven up a short time before the explosion for a private consultation with Byrnes & Baker, certified accountants, at 52 Wall Street. He said he had parked the car at the only available space at the time, and then had gone up to the office of the accountants. When he returned he found his car completely wrecked and in flames. He was closely questioned both by police and Federal agents why he left his car a block away from his destination. He reiterated it was the only available space at the time he arrived, about fifteen minutes before the explosion.

In order to insure a complete check-up Department of Justice officials have demanded all explosives companies to turn in a detailed account of the exact locality of all their explosives carrying wagons at noon yesterday.

Explosion Chips Granite

Fire Chief Kenon and officers from the Bureau of Combustibles all said there seemed to be no doubt that the explosion was the result of a bomb of some kind. The former said this was almost conclusively established by the pieces of window sash weight found about the scene and which would not under any circumstances be carried on a regularly employed explosive wagon. The terrific nature of the explosion

is emphasized by the fact that one of the pieces of sash weight was hurled through a window on the thirty-eighth floor of the Equitable Building. Another piece struck the coping on the fourth floor of that building with such force that it chipped a piece of granite from the coping two feet long and about a foot deep, despite the fact that the building is fully 200 feet from the place where the explosion occurred.

Plot Well Planned, Burns Says

William J. Burns, whose service is used by the Morgan bank, made a two-hour examination of the scene. He said the several hundred iron slugs picked up by the police and found to have gone through windows as high as the thirty-second story of the Bankers Trust Building was the best evidence so far obtained that the explosion was deliberately planned.

"The evidence shows beyond a doubt that it was the result of a plot," said Mr. Burns. "My theory is that the man assigned to carry the plot into effect drove up with the wagon loaded with explosives and then disappeared, leaving the horse, wagon and bomb to their fate. The explosive might have been dynamite, nitroglycerine or TNT. It is foolish to say that it could not have been dynamite because no hole was made in the street pavement. No one can ever tell what dynamite will do.

"As to the make-up of the bomb, my experience leads me to believe that it was set off by a mechanism, probably an alarm clock. That was the kind of mechanism used in the McNamara dynamite plots. The alarm probably was set for 12 o'clock. When 12 o'clock came the winding hand at the back of the clock was released, which caused a battery connection to be made, which with the spark thus caused brought on the explosion.

"The bomb was carefully prepared. The iron slugs, ranging in thickness from one to two inches and from three to five inches in length and heavy enough to do the destruction of small cannon balls, were so placed about the explosive that they would be shot up and around like a spray, thus killing the greatest possible number of people within a given reach."

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