

# TWO POWERFUL EXPLOSIONS WRECK POWLER WORKS.

There were two terrific explosions of dynamite and nitro-glycerine at the Judson Works, Point Isabel, yesterday. The first was at 12:45 p. m., the second two hours later. Edward Edris, a foreman, was blown to atoms, a number of workmen were injured and the works were burned.

## Death and Ruin Mark Havoc of One Day.

## FOREMAN KILLED Judson Plant Is Scene of the Disaster.

## WORKMEN INJURED

### THE DEAD.

William R. Edris, foreman nitro-glycerine house.

### THE INJURED.

Albert E. Olson, laborer, and seven Chinese laborers.

Two explosions yesterday afternoon at the Judson Dynamite and Powder Works, near the bay shore, two miles north of West Berkeley, killed William R. Edris, foreman of the nitro-glycerine house, seriously injured Albert E. Olson, a laborer, and more or less cut and bruised seven Chinese laborers.

The nitro-glycerine house, the first to go, and the dynamite mixing house, which exploded later, were demolished. Much minor damage was done about the works, while the shocks from the upheavals were felt for miles around San Francisco Bay, many windows being shattered through Oakland, Berkeley, and as far north as Point Richmond.

Edris was in the glycerine-house when it blew up, and not a vestige of his body was found. Olson was 200 feet distant examining tanks of soda and he was struck by flying debris, being seriously cut on the head and the arm. A miraculous escape was that of Jim Ezro, driver of a dynamite car, which nearly loaded on a track near the glycerine-house. The car and its occupants were toppled over, but Ezro was not scratched, nor was old "Dan," the horse, a veteran of several explosions at the works.

The Chinamen who were hurt by debris were either in the dynamite mixing house or just outside. A heavy piece of lead was driven into the shoulder of one of them, but none of the others were fatally hurt.

The nitro-glycerine house blew up at 12:50 o'clock yesterday afternoon, shortly after the material for the day's run had been worked up. It was standing in the mixing tubs ready to be delivered at the mixing house for manufacture into dynamite.

Herman Felix, the helper at the glycerine-house, had cleaned up his work, leaving Foreman Edris alone in the place. For years it had been Edris' custom to remain there and tinker about, examining the machinery and making repairs. With a sudden roar a great volume of smoke shot upward, the boom and crash of explosion followed in an instant, and the glycerine house was gone, with 4200 pounds of the mixture.

**BURNING BRANDS NUMEROUS.** Burning brands flew over the works, setting fire to the grass on the hillsides. Fire continued to spread through the works until the various houses were built. Flaming brands were blown out to give ample warning, and it was the careful precautions then taken that averted a serious loss of life when the second explosion occurred.

The dynamite mixing-house exploded at 2:45 o'clock, almost exactly two hours after the first blow-up. In this house, which had been abandoned when the glycerine plant was destroyed, were 2000 pounds of dynamite and 2000 pounds of nitro-glycerine. On the hillsides in the dry grass were scores of men fire-fighting, and not a few more hardy spirits were in the open fields north of the works. Again there was a cloud of smoke, a roar and a solid body of flame marking the destruction of the mixing-house. Newspaper men who were busy collecting details of the first explosion were shaken up by the concussion, but none of them, nor any employee of the works, were injured.

Fire continued to spread through the dry, grassy hillsides into the underbrush. Big gangs of men were sent out and after a hard battle got the fire under control and saved further loss to the property.

**DYNAMITE IS REMOVED.** As soon as the glycerine-house had exploded a large quantity of dynamite stored in a packing-house near by was removed to a place of comparative safety. Four loaded cars of dynamite that stood on the Southern Pacific Company tracks close to the works were quickly hauled away, a switch engine crew from Oakland being hurried to the station. These were out of the way just after the second explosion had torn a great hole in the hillsides, leaving only a blackened, acid-burned waste of debris to mark the scene. The removal of these laden cars was a great relief to the men at the works, the dynamite there being in sufficient quantity to seriously endanger the lives of employees who were scattered all through the grounds.

Superintendent Nielsen took charge of the fire and rescue brigade as soon as the explosion's shock had warned the works. In the first round-up several men were missed, but all were finally accounted for but Edris.

Dr. R. Woolsey from West Berkeley, and Dr. Blake from Point Richmond were on the scene, summoned with all haste. They dressed the injuries of the men who were hurt and remained at the works until after the investigation proved that none had been hurt in the second blow up. The fire-fighters were warned to keep as far away as possible from the dynamite mixing-house, which was slowly burning. In the debris about the houses were small tanks of glycerine. These burst with sharp reports, signals of the impending crash that should wreck the dynamite-house. Smoke, yellow and black from the acids, rose in dense columns for hours after the explosion. The wreckage, while through it were occasionally silhouetted the grimy forms of men beating back the running fire that was blackening the hill.



SCENE OF THE EXPLOSION.

VIEW OF THE WRECKAGE AND TWO MEN WHO NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH.

## TWELVE QUARRY TOILERS PERISH

Mass of Limestone, Weighing Thousands of Tons, Crushes Out Their Lives

ALLENTOWN, Pa., Aug. 16.—A mass of limestone weighing thousands of tons slid from a side of the quarry of mill A of the Lehigh Portland Cement Company at Ormond at noon to-day, just five minutes before time to quit work. Twenty-seven men were at work in the quarry, which is 1000 feet long, 150 feet across and 100 feet deep.

Only nine of the men escaped death or injury. Four of them escaped by running upon a mass of rock at the opposite side of the quarry. The remaining eighteen were huddled in a space ten feet square. Twelve were killed and six injured. Two of the latter may die. All of the men were Slavonians, who lived in shanties close to the quarry.

The heavy rains of the last two days had softened the earth and caused the slide of rock. When the fallen mass slipped away a smooth, nearly perpendicular wall was left, rising sheer 100 feet above the bottom of the quarry, while the entire quarry floor was covered with broken, jagged rocks.

## HEART GIVES WAY IN DETENTION PEN

Woman From Russia Passes Away Pending Decision of Her Case.

NEW YORK, Aug. 16.—Mrs. Sella Weinstein, wife of a plumber living in this city, died a prisoner on Ellis Island on Monday night. The doctors said that heart disease was the cause of death, but her husband and friends are making a stormy protest over her detention by the immigration officials and declare that the woman died from a broken heart.

Weinstein came to this country from Russia four years ago. He left his wife and their three children with his father. Engaging in business on the East Side, he gradually accumulated money enough to bring them over. He also took out citizenship papers. Mrs. Weinstein arrived at Ellis Island on July 2. Her youngest child had contracted measles during the voyage and was immediately sent to a hospital ashore. The other children also were allowed to land, but the mother was held on a report by the examiners that she had heart disease. The husband went to Ellis Island daily and tried to comfort Mrs. Weinstein.

Meanwhile lawyers were busy and made strong efforts to secure permission for her to land. The matter was finally placed before the bureau in Washington, but no action had been taken when the woman suddenly gave way under the strain and died before her husband could reach the detention pen.

## NEW YORK BOYS ELECT MAYOR OF PLAYGROUND

Choose One of Their Number, Who Is to Care for the Athletic Apparatus.

NEW YORK, Aug. 16.—A unique election has been held among the boys who disport themselves on Hamilton Fish playground, an East Side park. Under the tutelage of the City Commissioner of Parks they cast a regular ballot last night for mayor of the playground city and elected Nathan Kase, 16 years old. All the boys under 18 were allowed to vote and they rallied to Kase under the banner of the Political Purity party. Lads to the number of 800 were registered, but less than half of them went to the polls in the heavy storm which prevailed.

The new mayor will be responsible for the care of the dumbbells, trapeze and other apparatus used by the youngsters who frequent the park. He will appoint a squad to act as police agents and other lads will be nominated to lay the park laborers in keeping the playgrounds clear of rubbish.

## Man Committed Without Bail

BROCKTON, Mass., Aug. 16.—George L. Marsh, who is said to be wanted in Chicago for murder, in police court to-day was committed without bail, charged with being a fugitive from justice, to which he pleaded not guilty. His hearing was ordered for August 19.

## Ill Health the Cause of Suicide.

CHICAGO, Aug. 16.—Mrs. Bertha E. Finney, a wealthy woman of Lincoln, Neb., shot herself in the left temple to-day at the home of a sister, Mrs. Peterson, in this city, and died three hours later. Ill health is believed to have prompted the act.

## BERLIN, Aug. 16.—It is gossiped to-day that Emperor William has conferred the Order of Red Eagle of the fourth grade upon the editor of the Louisville Enquirer, Waldemar von Nostitz, of Louisville, Ky., and the Order of the Crown, fourth class, upon Dr. Junn of Washington.

# NATIONAL CONTROL OF INSURANCE RIVAL OFFICERS FILE CHARGES VS. MILWAUKEE

General Miner, Lieutenant Fortescue and Major Taggart Are the Accused Wisconsin City Is Golden Gate's Greatest Rival for the Eagles' Grand Aerie

NO ACTION AT PRESENT War Department Awaits the Outcome of the Divorce Case at Wooster

Special Dispatch to The Call. CALL BUREAU, POST BUILDING, WASHINGTON, Aug. 16.—When Major Taggart filed his suit for divorce and also accused Colonel (now General) Miner and Lieutenant Fortescue, his attorneys filed charges against the same officers with the War Department. As soon as Colonel Miner found himself named as an accomplice in Mrs. Taggart's alleged misdeeds, he in turn filed charges against Major Taggart on the regulation ground that an army officer must not air his troubles in public, if thereby he implicates brother officers who may be able to prove themselves innocent. As the charges on either side are contingent upon the issue, as well as the evidence, given in the divorce suit, they have been laid aside by the War Department until the divorce trial is over.

WOOSTER, Ohio, Aug. 16.—Major Taggart laughed to-day when asked about the charges against him sent from Washington and appearing in this morning's papers. In a statement prepared by his attorneys, he denies in a most emphatic manner all charges of grafting.

On the witness stand to-day Major Taggart was seen-sawed back and forth between his own and Mrs. Taggart's attorneys. Almost the last question put to him concerned the Chinatown slumming expedition of himself and Mrs. Taggart in San Francisco, where a lewd woman danced before them.

Howard Taggart, recalled to the stand, said that he had been told by Miss Bessie Worth of Orrville that Mrs. Taggart was a sweet little woman, but that she would lose her reputation if she did not quit running around with William Taggart. He said he had conveyed this information to Mrs. Taggart.

He said that Mrs. Taggart told him that she got little notes on the backs of her letters, written by the postmaster of Orrville; that the postmaster also had sent her letters in special delivery envelopes, with other notes inside.

Corwin Swain, an Orrville druggist; C. J. Bricks, a liverman of Orrville; Howard Braden, formerly of Orrville, and Superintendent Mohler of the Orrville schools swore that William Taggart had a bad reputation for chastity in the village of Orrville.

A feature of Major Taggart's closing testimony was a denial of the charge that he had ever been drunk.

"I have never been drunk and have never done anything to be ashamed of. Getting drunk is something to be ashamed of," said the major.

Taggart's attorneys won a victory this afternoon, being given permission by Judge Eason to examine letters which Taggart admitted having written to his wife while in the Philippines, but which, he claims, were written under duress.

## FEDERAL SUPERVISION URGED BY PRESIDENT

Senator Dryden of New Jersey Will Present Bill Embodying the Views of the Chief Executive

Special Dispatch to The Call. OYSTER BAY, Aug. 16.—Federal supervision of insurance was this afternoon the subject of a conference at Sagamore Hill, so important that one of the participants, James M. Beck, formerly an Assistant Attorney General of the United States and now special counsel for the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, having missed the regular train from Long Island City to Oyster Bay, chartered a special train in order to meet his engagement with the president.

The parties to the conference were the President, Senator Dryden of New Jersey, president of the Prudential Insurance Company, and Mr. Beck.

The President, since the disclosure made during the last few months regarding the operations of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, has manifested a deep interest in the problem of national control of the insurance business. In his message to Congress last December he said:

"The business of insurance vitally affects the great mass of the people of the United States, and is national, not local, in its application. It involves a multitude of transactions among the people of the different States and between American companies and foreign Governments. I urge that the Congress carefully consider whether the power of the Bureau of Corporations cannot constitutionally be extended to cover interstate transactions in insurance."

Several months ago, at the President's request, the subject of national supervisory control of insurance was investigated by Commissioner Garfield of the Bureau of Corporations, and the conclusion was reached that, under existing laws, the subject of interstate insurance business could not be supervised by the Bureau of Corporations because in the light of certain decisions of the Federal courts it was not regarded as interstate commerce.

At the last session of Congress Senator Dryden, who is recognized as an authority on life insurance, introduced a bill in the Senate providing in brief for supervisory control of interstate insurance business by the Bureau of Corporations. It was along the lines of this measure that to-day's conference proceeded.

The President is known to be in favor of Federal control of the insurance business, if it can be brought about constitutionally. Whether it can be, is the point yet to be determined. That the Supreme Court of the United States eventually will be called upon to pass on the question there is little doubt.

At the conclusion of the conference Senator Dryden talked frankly. "We discussed the whole subject of Federal supervision of the insurance business," said he, "and our talk was very satisfactory. Personally, I am heartily in favor of such supervision by the national Government, because it would insure to companies doing business in practically every State, a well defined and well considered set of regulations and a definite policy."

"I introduced in the Senate, at the last session, a measure providing for supervisory control of interstate insurance by the Bureau of Corporations. I did so because I wanted to call out suggestions and to sound public opinion on the subject. I had the bill referred to the Judiciary Committee, in order that it might be passed upon in its incipency by the ablest lawyers in the State. I expect to reintroduce the measure early in the next Congress, perhaps in a slightly different form. The principle of the new measure, however, will be the same as that of the first bill."

"My opinion is that a very large majority of insurance companies will favor national supervision. Under existing arrangements we are obliged to conform to different laws and regulations in practically every State. The laws and regulations are being changed continually and different interpretations on the same law. What insurance companies want is a uniform, harmonious set of continuing policies and that we believe is to be had only through national supervision."

"Are there not legal, or constitutional, obstacles to national control of insurance?" was asked.

"Ah, yes," replied Senator Dryden. "There are lawyers who maintain that it is absolutely unconstitutional and they point to decisions of our courts in support of their contention."

Mr. Beck expressed the belief that if the subject were brought fairly before the Supreme Court its decision would be in favor of Federal control.

While no announcement was made of the conclusions of the conference if any were reached, there is ample authority for the statement that President Roosevelt will discuss the question of insurance in his forthcoming message to Congress, in the light of developments in the next six months. That he will recommend the enactment of legislation providing for Federal supervision of interstate insurance there is no room for doubt.

## LOOMIS SOON TO RESIGN FROM STATE DEPARTMENT

Assistant Secretary Expects to Be Given Diplomatic Post by the President.

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, Aug. 16.—Francis B. Loomis, Assistant Secretary of State, was to-day shown the report from Lenox, Mass., that Colonel W. G. Sanger was to be made Assistant Secretary of State when Mr. Root assumes the portfolio.

Mr. Loomis made a statement in which he indicated his intention to resign. He also said that upon leaving his present position he expects to be given a diplomatic post and that at present he has no idea of his successor to what country he will be assigned.

## PARDON COMES TOO LATE FOR A CONVICT

Montana Prisoner Dies When About to Be Released.

Special Dispatch to The Call. HELENA, Mont., Aug. 16.—Governor Joseph K. Toole to-day received a letter from Dr. J. Hood Owings, the physician at the State Prison, stating that Michael Mulich, to whom executive clemency had been extended on August 7, had died in the institution yesterday.

Governor Toole had pardoned Mulich, subject to the approval of the State Board of Pardons, and the case was to have been considered by that body on Saturday, August 13. The Governor's action was based upon a letter from Dr. Owings, who said that Mulich was suffering from an incurable disease and was quite helpless.

Mulich was convicted in Silver Bow County of the killing of a fellow Austrian at a dance in Meaderville. Another man was arrested for the crime, but two days later Mulich confessed that he was the guilty person, although averring that it was an act of self defense.

Mulich's relatives, realizing that death was imminent as a result of tuberculosis, expressed a wish that the prisoner be saved from the ignominy of a convict's death and offered to defray the expense of his funeral; hence the Governor's pardon.

## TWO PERSONS BLOWN OFF ROOFS OF HOUSES

Violent Windstorm Causes Injury to Many St. Louis Residents.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 16.—A score of persons were more or less seriously injured in St. Louis and East St. Louis as a result of a violent wind and rain storm which followed ten minutes of sudden darkness to-day. Two were blown from roofs of houses, many were injured by falling roofs and one was hurt in a stairway crush, caused by a panic in the Louisville and Nashville freight office on the East Side.

Buildings were unroofed, chimney tops were blown down and suspended signs were torn loose and sent rattling along the streets. During the phenomenal darkness the wind reached a velocity of forty-eight miles an hour.

**Strikers Killed in St. City.** GRAND MICHELE, St. City, Aug. 15.—The police here to-day fired on strikers who were stoning them, killing seven and wounding a number of others.

## Wash Vests for \$1

At the close of the season our New York buyer was fortunate enough to find a manufacturer with some 40 different designs of vestings on hand. The manufacturer wanted to close out his stock, so we bought it for about one-half the regular value. We made the vests in our own workshops, and thus are enabled to sell you a brand new washable vest at \$1 which would cost you under other circumstances \$1.50 or \$2.00.

We have all sizes from 33 to 48, inclusive. The vests are made up splendidly in single-breasted style, with detachable buttons. The colors are white, gray and tan grounds, with stripes and figures which harmonize with the ground color.

These vests at \$1.00 are on sale at 740 Market street store only.

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