

Manhattan Shaken By Mysterious Explosions

New York, July 30.—All Manhattan Island, Brooklyn and cities in New Jersey were shaken shortly after 2 o'clock this morning by a terrific explosion. Frantic effort were made by the police to locate the scene of the evident disaster.

The most reliable report received up to 2:30 o'clock was that the Eagle Oil Works located on a peninsula extending from Communipaw, N. J., into New York Bay, had blown up.

The force of the explosion was so great that thousands of heavy plate glass windows in office buildings in lower Manhattan and Brooklyn were shattered. Streets for many blocks in the downtown section were literally strewn with broken glass.

Thousands of persons swarmed into the streets in all parts of the city from buildings, subway exits and railroad stations, running about in a panic. Many women became hysterical. Police whistles were blown frantically, but the police themselves did not know what it was all about.

The first explosion was followed by a second at 2:39, slightly less violent but which again shook all New York and shattered many more buildings.

Nearly all the fire apparatus in Brooklyn was called out in the belief that somewhere in that part of the city there was a great fire, but no trace of one was to be found.

Police headquarters in all boroughs received reports of disasters of all kinds both on the New York and New Jersey side. One report was that an oil ship was blown up near the Statue of Liberty.

A report received at 2:40 was that several carloads of shrapnel consigned to the Entente Allies and lying on the Black Tom, where the Eagle Oil Works are located, had exploded. So far as known at the hour no one had been injured.

Brooklyn police headquarters reported that 10 persons had been killed in an explosion in the subway at Washington street and Myrtle avenue but the report apparently was unfounded.

Flames which lighted the sky for miles around apparently are in the Black Tom district, near Communipaw, which is a part of Jersey City.

The New York telephone company announced at 2:48 that all telephone lines leading from New York to nearby points in Jersey City were blown down and communication was almost impossible.

Children's Day at Five Forks

Children's Day at Five Forks M. E. church on last Saturday, was a great success. The children had been in training for several weeks by painstaking teachers and under the guidance of their efficient Superintendent, Mr. John Arant, did credit to themselves.

After a bountiful dinner, such as they know how to prepare, they returned to the church where speeches were made by Mr. Rouse, Rev. John W. Elkins and Mr. U. A. McManus.

Several from Pageland attended the exercises amongst whom were Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Elkins, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Agerton, Mr. W. O. Tucker and others.

One Present.

Griggs Writes of the Rains in the Mountains

Mr. J. L. Griggs, formerly of Pageland but now of Plumtree, N. C., writes The Journal about the rain and the damage it did in the mountains:

Just a few lines to let you know what is going on up here in the hill country. We have had rain almost continuously for the past two weeks, and on last Sunday the Toe river reached the danger stage so that many families were compelled to desert their homes and go higher up the mountains. The Tar Heel Mica company and the Vance company were forced to abandon work in the mills as both are in the banks of the river.

General uneasiness has been felt by every class, even those living high up on the mountain sides. This danger is from land slides. One of these highland residents told me today that if the rains begin to fall again he would desert his home and the country. I expect there is wisdom in his decision. Land slides have been numerous. A dozen or more occurred, to my knowledge, Saturday night, the largest of which was right here where I am at the base of the Spear Tops. It broke out about a mile up the mountain and came down with such force that trees two feet in diameter were uprooted and broken in pieces. One must be familiar with such disasters to realize the force with which they come. There is something peculiar about them. Yesterday a man told me he had seen one burst out as he was standing at the base of the Spear some years ago. He said he heard a rumbling noise like thunder, and looking up the mountain he saw a volume of water and dirt as large as an ordinary house spurt upward high above the trees and fall back to earth and roll down the mountain. The damage to crops, dwellings and highways will of course run into thousands of dollars here. So far as I have heard only one person has been injured in this immediate section. This one was a woman who was struck by a rock or other object when the chimney to her house was knocked down by timber broken off by one of the land slides I have already mentioned. She is said to be in a very serious condition.

Jas. L. Griggs.

Notice to Members of the County Executive Committee and All Others Interested.

Notice is hereby given that the County Executive Committee is called to meet at Chesterfield Court House on Monday, August 7th, 1916, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of examining the club rolls and doing such other things in reference thereto as required by the rules of the Democratic party.

All persons interested may appear before the Committee at the time and place named and complain of any irregularities, errors etc., and the Committee will hear complaints, if any, as to names being improperly enrolled or left off.

It is hoped that each club will be represented by its member of the Executive Committee.

The rules of the party require that the Secretary of the respective clubs shall transmit to the County Chairman the club roll within three (3) days from July 25th.

M. J. Hough, County Chairman, C. L. Prince, Secretary.

Cotton Buyers Can't Be made to Pay License

From time to time the matter of collecting license from cotton buyers arises. Some have said it is lawful, others that it is not. Hon. C. N. Sapp, assistant attorney general, in rendering an opinion on this subject for the benefit of Wigginsboro and Lancaster cites the following section of the Code and comments thereon:

Section 2947, Code of Law of 1912, Volume 1, provides as follows:

"Licenses—Purchase and sale of Cotton Exempt.—Said city or town council may, and they are hereby authorized annually to require by ordinance the payment of such reasonable sums of money as a license by any person or persons, corporation or corporations, engaged or intending to engage in any calling, business, occupation or profession, in whole or in part, within the limits of said cities or towns, except those engaged in the calling or profession of teachers or ministers of the gospel. Provided, that said license shall be granted according to the gross income of the persons, firms or corporations required to pay such license, or upon the amount of capital invested in said business. They shall have power to collect license or taxes from all persons representing publicity within the limits of said city or town, for gain or reward, and plays or shows of whatever nature or kind soever; and said city or town council are hereby authorized and empowered to give full force and effect to this Section and to punish delinquents thereunder: Provided, that no city, town or village within this State shall collect any occupation license or tax from any person or persons engaged in the business of buying or selling cotton in bales or cotton seed in any such city, town or village.

Nothing herein contained shall apply to cities of more than 50,000 population. This Act shall not apply to the counties of Sumter, Clarendon, Orangeburg or Greenville."

Mayors and councilmen of municipal corporations have only such legislative powers as are specifically delegated to them by the legislature, and I am of the opinion from a construction of the Section above quoted that an ordinance by a town council seeking to impose an occupation license or tax upon any person or persons engaged in the business of buying or selling cotton in bales or cotton seed would be null and void, as no such power is granted them by the Legislature, but on the contrary it is specifically provided that they shall not have the right to exercise such power.

Yours very truly,
C. N. SAPP,

Assistant Attorney General.

Hostess (at party)—Does your mother allow you to have two pieces of pie when you are at home, Willie?

Willie (who has asked for a second piece)—No ma'am.

"Well, do you think that she'd like you to have two pieces here?"

"Oh," confidently, she won't care. This isn't her pie."

"How useless girls are today. I don't believe they know what needles are for."

How absurd you are, grandma," protested the girl. "Of course, I know what needles are for. They're to make the graphophone play."

\$25,000,000 Damage By Ammunition Explosions and Flames at New York

New York, July 30.—Property losses estimated at \$25,000,000 were caused early today by a series of terrific explosions of ammunition awaiting shipment to the Entente Allies and stored on Black Tom island, a small strip of land jutting into New York Bay off Jersey City. The loss of life still was problematical tonight. It will not be determined definitely until there has been opportunity to check up the workmen employed on the island and on boats moored nearby.

The detonations, which were felt in five States, began with a continuous rapid-fire of small shells, then the blowing up of great quantities of dynamite, trinitrotolunine and other explosives, followed by the bursting of thousands of shrapnel shells which literally showered the surrounding country and waters for many miles around.

Fire that started soon after the first great crash which spread death and desolation in it wake, destroyed thirteen of the huge warehouses of the National Storage Company on Black Tom Island, in which were stored Merchandise valued between \$12,000,000 and \$15,000,000. The flames, shooting into the clouds, were reflecting against New York's "sky line" and towering office buildings, which only a few moments before were shaken to their foundations as by an earthquake. Miles of streets in Manhattan were strewn with broken glass and shattered signs. Early reports of heavy loss of life were impossible of verification, and the authorities asserted the number of deaths probably would be small. It was said that owing to the extent of the wreckage, it might be several days before the exact figures could be obtained.

Three are known to be dead and at least two more are missing. Scores of persons were injured, some of them probably mortally.

De Mixup

The following was written by Mr. DeWitt Sanders who is now a reporter for the Spartanburg Herald. A copy was mailed to his mother here:

De co'n is growin' mighty fas',
De cotton's all in bloom,
An' tho' de rains keep comin' down

Dey don't cast any gloom,
B'kase de Good Lawd said to dem:
"Jes' water all de yearth,
So when de harvest time come round"

Dar won't be any dearth."

Ob course, de grass is growin', too,

But don't you mourn 'bout dat;
Jes' get yo' hoe an' go, fin' out
where mos' de grass is at.

Den dig away between de show-ers

Until de end ob day,
An' you will fin' de wu'k you do
Will take yo' grouse away.

An den jes' member dis, my deah,
It can't rain all de time,
An' God jes' sends de showers to make

De weather kind o' rhyme,
It takes de days all full ob gloom,
To make the sun seem bright,
An' somehow he jes' mixes up
De rain and sunshine right.

Why, bless vo' livin' soul, my chile,
It's jes like dat in life;
Dar's sunshine all aroun' one day,
De next is full ob strife.

De flower garden when it rains
Will smell de mos' like musk,
An' dar you'll fin' de sweetest rest

When comes the ebbing dusk.

Don't Borrow Yours Neighbor's Paper

Brownville Bugle.

There are still quite a few important persons in Brownville and vicinity who are not reading the Bugle, or who, if they are reading it, are doing so at the expense of some one else. If such be the case, let them take warning from the following distressful tale which we have clipped from the editorial laments of a brother editor. There's a moral to the tale which the reader will discover in due time. Read on:

We once knew a man who was too stingy to take the news paper in his home town and always sent over to borrow his neighbor's paper.

One evening he sent his son over to borrow the paper and while the son was on the way he ran into a large stand of bees and in a few minutes his face looked like a summer squash.

Hearing the agonized cries of the son, the father ran to his assistance, and in doing so ran into a barbed wire fence, cutting out a handful of flesh from his anatomy and ruining a \$4 pair of trousers.

The old cow took advantage of the hole in the fence, got into the corn field and killed herself eating green corn. Hearing the racket, the stingy man's wife ran out of the house, upsetting a four-gallon churn full of cream into a basket of kittens, drowning the whole flock. She slipped on the cream and fell downstairs, breaking her leg and a \$19 set of false teeth. The baby, left alone, crawled thru the spilled cream into the parlor and ruined a \$40 carpet. During the excitement the daughter eloped with the hired man, taking the family savings with them.

The moral is that every man should be a subscriber to his home newspaper.

Value of a Smile.

Some one has said that a smile is the cheapest thing you can wear. It is, and yet it is your most valuable possession. Nothing else is more becoming. It suits every complexion. No matter how rich your clothes may be, they are ill-fitting unless your face wears a smile. Even though your clothes be plain, they take on a richness and a beauty that attracts when the face wears a happy smile.

Smile, for even though your face be fair it will be fairer still if it wears a smile. Smile, because it will make your own road easier, and will help those you meet. If you smile, you will feel the stones less and see few thorns. If you smile, the fellow you meet—the one who is discouraged and blue—will begin to see more of the roses by the way.

Smile, because it is good for the health. No one can be completely healthy who wears a frown. In the world there is no medicine as good as a smile. It is contagious—your smile. Others "catch it" and still others "catch it" from them. Nothing multiplies quite so fast as a smile. Start one, and see others quickly start.

Would you crush the rose that is worn over the heart of a happy stranger or friend? Then don't frown! For frowns are crushing things. Smile, and that rose so happily worn will shed even greater beauty and glory.

"Smile a while, and while you smile another smiles, and soon there are just miles and miles of smiles!"

If you've never cultivated the smiling habit, start it today. That's right, smile!—Grit.

Snakes and Strange Birds in Union

Monroe Enquirer.

Following the storm of the 14th instant, Mr. Banks McCain, of the Walkersville community in Jackson township, within about a mile of Wilson's Old Store, found a stormy petrel that had evidently gone out of his usual range. The bird was dead when discovered. The stormy petrel is an inhabitant of the salt waters and mostly seen in the midst of the worst storms, hence their name. There is a legend among sailors that these birds cause the storms, as they are seldom seen except in stormy weather. A bird of this type has never been reported in Union county. It was about the size of a half-grown chicken.

A number of Union county boys have returned home from Hopewell, Va., and report that the recently thriving powder and munition city is the "deadest" town in the country. Hundreds of men have been laid off for indefinite periods. Rumor has it that the company has lost a \$190,000,000 order from the entente allies in Europe.

Mr. S. A. Lathan, of Buford township, killed an old mother moccasin and her young ones, ninety snakes in all, a few days ago. The old snake was as large as a man's arm—a good sized arm, too, and weighed ten and half pounds.

"The Only Respectable Disease Is Old Age"

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley speaking in Kansas City recently said that old age is the only respectable disease to die of.

"Hardly one hundred of you here to night will die of old age," Doctor Wiley said, "the only respectable disease of which man may die. The rest of you are going to die before your time.

"I mean it. You men are burning yourselves up with tobacco and with business cares. You women are trying to shorten your lives by drinking tea, dancing the tango and playing bridge.

"Diseases that could be avoided are going to carry you off. You wait for an ache before you go to the dentist. You ought to go twice a year. The dentist will find a cavity or he will prevent one from coming. Every tooth is worth \$1,000.

"The average life is 44 years. Why, a man is just getting into his best years then. Just getting where he can pay back a little interest on the investment he has cost. It is not unreasonable that the average life should be advanced to 88 years."

One Editor Doubts Another

J. N. Strickland, editor of the Cheraw Chronicle, has a peach tree and an apple tree growing close together at his home in Cheraw. This year the apple tree is full of small apples; but when the apples are opened they are all found to contain peach kernels; while the fruit on the peach tree has no kernels. This is a peculiar freak of nature and should be investigated by the State and national departments of horticulture, and reported to Luther Burbanks.—Pee Dee Advocate.

The new editor of the Jeffersonian at Jefferson makes the following comment:

Sounds too much like some of Strick's old timers. We are from Missouri, brother.