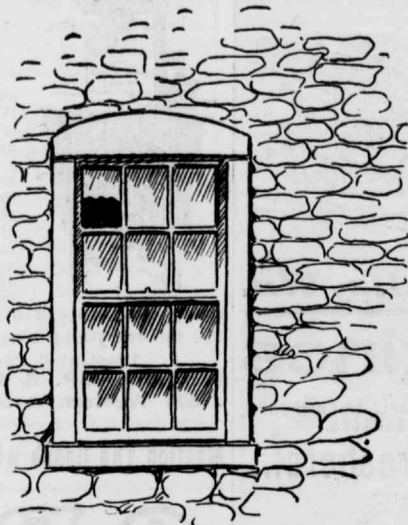


# Alpha Separator Lets Go.

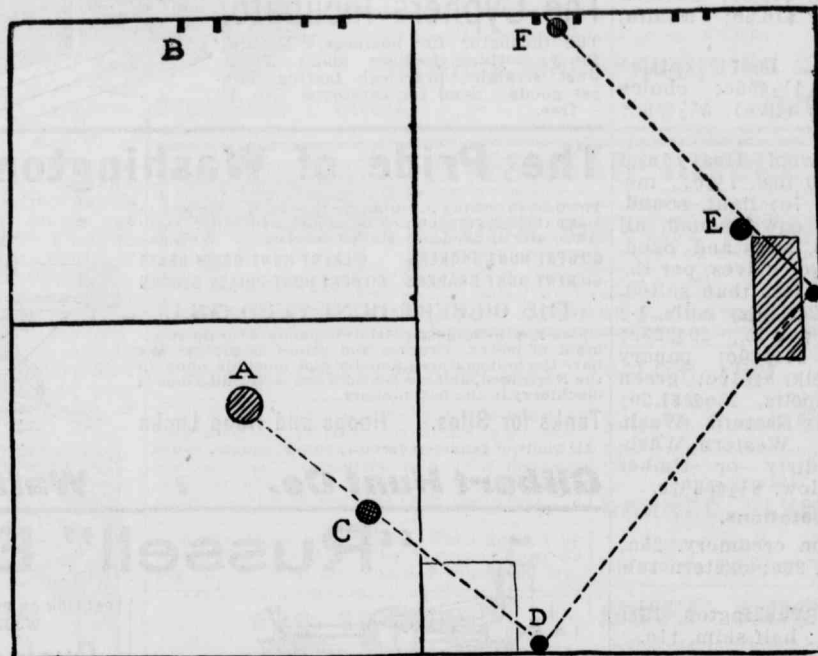
**Three Men Killed, Two Almost Instantly, and One Badly Injured.**

Through the bursting of a No. 2 Alpha De Laval separator at Lisbon, Wis., on the 11th of February, two men were killed almost instantly, one other being so severely injured that he died from the effects of his injuries, while another one must



think himself extremely fortunate that he was not numbered among those that were hurled so suddenly into eternity. The dead are:

Edward Wirth, married, aged 45 years, a patron of the creamery. He was instantly killed, his head being literally torn to pieces, his brains being scattered over the floor, ceiling, walls and windows of the building, while the top part of his skull was hurled through the window. Jas. Pyburn, aged 27 years, the buttermaker, died from his injuries half an hour later, while



A—Where separator stood and where Wirth was killed. B—Window through which top part of Wirth's head was hurled. C—Where Pyburn was killed. D—Where bowl of separator struck the wall. Where William Butler was fatally injured. E—Where Collin's hired man was injured. Here the fragment went through the door.

William Butler, Jr., married, aged 40, who had his leg fractured near the thigh, necessitating amputation, died the following morning. A farm hand employed by J. J. Connel was also severely cut about the head.

It appears that the patrons of the creamery have been in the habit of holding their milk cans under the spout of the cream separator, instead of allowing the skim-

milk to run into the vat intended for that purpose, thereby saving the time and trouble of dipping out the milk. It is supposed that the bowl of the separator was not running true, and from the position of the bodies it seems that the operator, James Pyburn, had been standing over the separator, holding it down by the center bolt, while it was running at full speed—between 5,000 and 6,500 revolutions a minute.

It further appears that Mr. Wirth was filling his cans from the spout of the separator, and Pyburn had evidently turned around to speak to some one when the bowl of the separator jumped out of the frame with terrific force. A portion of the frame of the separator struck Wirth in the face just above the mouth and almost completely severed his head from his body. The force with which Wirth was struck must have been terrific, as we have before said, and blood, brains and flesh were scattered about the floor, ceiling and walls of the building.

The bowl of the separator struck Pyburn with the force of a cannon ball, and practically passed through his body, after which it struck a side wall leading to the basement, while still in a rotating motion, then glancing off at a right angle it struck Wm. Butler, Jr., shattering his leg in a frightful manner just below the thigh. Several others had narrow escapes, having just passed out of the creamery before the accident occurred.

Butler was taken to his home, while the bodies of Wirth and Pyburn were taken to the home of Aaron Berringer, just across the road from the creamery. As soon as Pyburn was struck he called out to some one to "Shut off the engine."

Wirth leaves a wife and seven children. He had only recently purchased a farm near Appleton, Wis., where he intended to move next spring.



THE SEPARATOR THAT KILLED THREE MEN.

**THE Sharples Is the Only Separator that Does Not Explode**  
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