

CHICAGO SHAKEN.

One Hundred Thousand Pounds of Powder and Dynamite Struck by Lightning.

All the Houses in the Vicinity Demolished by the Explosion Which Resulted.

One Girl Instantly Killed and Four Persons Injured So They Will Die.

Five Others Badly Hurt—Effects of the Explosion Felt at a Distance of Seven Miles.

[From the Chicago Daily News.]
As James Duhmstock was beating his way through the rain on Archer road Sunday morning a lightning bolt shot out of the black northern sky, having seemingly selected him for the target of its wrath. The blinding sensation was instantly followed by a withering crash, and before he could breathe the prayer which rose insensibly to his lips he fell to the ground stunned. At the Brighton Park drug-store, a mile away, the tall clock careened to the floor, and smashed into fragments among the debris from the shelves. Its battered hands marked the time, 9:20. Two hundred yards west of where Duhmstock lay a community of houses was in ruins of splinters and flames, entombing dead and dying, while ten miles distant, in the heart of Chicago, French glass windows were strewn over the sidewalks in pulverized pieces. Mystified men, women, and children ran hither and thither, wondering if this was a new Pompeii without a Vesuvius, and wildly speculating on the causes and results of the earthquake shock that had swept along the lake shore. Not until two hours later was it learned that the dynamite magazine of Laflin & Rand had been exploded, causing great havoc and desolation. The destructive forces of 1,500 pounds of dynamite and 3,000 pounds of black powder were discharged by the electric fuse. Houses, trees, and fences went down before the mighty blast like rags before the scythe, and people for miles around were stricken insensibly with wounds or speechless from terror. The dead and injured are:

Dead—Carrie Earnsworth, 14 years old.
Fatally Injured—John Kann, 31 years old; farmer, of Auburn Station. John Gugl, 40 years old; driver for the Laflin & Rand Powder Company. Mrs. John Gugl, 21 years old; wife of the former. Mrs. Eliza Devine, 63 years old; widow. Peter Ham, 28 years old, gardener; his wife and one child. James Shannon, 16 years old; parents reside on Joseph street and Pearson avenue.

Seriously Hurt—Two Kelly brothers, 14 and 16 years old respectively; parents residing on Western avenue, near Thirty-sixth street—Madden, a small boy, whose parents reside on Thirty-eighth street, near Pearson avenue. Philip Bowler, cabinet-maker, 722 South Union street; arm crushed by flying stone, and amputated. John Lorden, Jr., 17 years old, of 165 Canalport avenue; leg badly crushed.

Lesser Casualties—John Jung, 52 years old, gardener; resides south of Archer road. Mrs. Jung, 46 years old; wife of the former. Miss Kennedy, 16 years old; parents reside on John street, a quarter of a mile from the scene.

At Brighton Park, Archer avenue, took the character of the regulation country road, tolerably well graded, but muddy in rainy weather, and provided with deep ditches on either side. The road cuts through a portion of the Town of Lake, and in the triangular piece of the town which adjoins the Town of Cicero stands, or rather stood, Justice Tearney's residence, once a handsome frame structure. To either side of the road, within several hundred yards of the Tearney homestead, extends level prairie land little patches of cultivated soil; otherwise the country around wears a rather desolate aspect. Besides the few human habitations scattered on the prairie, none queer-looking structures attracted the eye of the passer-by. They do so in a greater degree, however, because with the exception of one they are wrecks. Built solidly of brick, about 50 by 30 feet in dimensions, and of two-storyed height, they would look like so many small jails were it not for the fact that there are no windows to admit light. A huge and massive iron door is the only means of egress and ingress. They all have a sort of sinister appearance; one that makes the observer look twice as he passes by and wonder what they contain.

What there is stored of blasting powder, dynamite, nitro-glycerine, and other terrible explosives for the Chicago trade is in these houses, of which nine belong to the Laflin & Rand Powder Company.

STUCK BY THE LIGHTNING.
Many passed by, perhaps, have time and again imagined the havoc that must follow should one of these magazines of destruction belch forth its contents. It happened yesterday. A thunderstorm had been raging at intervals during the early morning hours. It subsided somewhat toward 8 o'clock, but an hour later the elements broke loose with renewed fury. The rain fell in torrents and vivid flashes of lightning cleaved the dark skies, followed by roars of thunder.

About that time John Kann, a young farmer from Auburn Station, stopped at McLarney Brothers' grocery and saloon to avoid the drenching rain. He had two stout horses attached to his heavy wagon and was bound for home. When the heaviest gust of rain abated, seemingly subduing into a moderate all-day drizzle, the farmer wrapped himself in a horse blanket and started his team off on a long road. He had to keep a sharp eye on his bays, because the lightning came in flashes which succeeded each other rapidly, as if all the electricity of the sultry and oppressive atmosphere had been concentrated upon the spot where the immense stores of explosives were scattered along the road near by.

In the short intervals between the lightning the lurid sky overhung everything with almost absolute darkness. Suddenly one of the electric flashes was followed by a terrific crash, as if the earth had been cut asunder by some giant's force. It was the death knell of the long interval of darkness. Rocks were hurled through the air, trees rent to the roots, fences blown down for miles, houses unroofed, and reduced to splinters, and torrents of mud showered around for hundreds of yards. The terrific force of the explosion made the thunder of heaven appear insignificant. The powder magazine of Laflin & Rand had been struck by lightning and 1,500 pounds of dynamite and 3,000 pounds of powder went up, creating a havoc as if old Vulcan had split the earth from within his subterranean abode. The ground seemed to rock and sway under the terrific force of the concussion, and the country for blocks around was wrapped in clouds of stifling smoke.

Mr. Kann was hurled through the air for a distance of over a hundred feet, his mangled body being found half an hour later.

The base of the unfortunate man's skull was blown off, and the brains were flying out upon the muddy field. Pieces of wood and iron had penetrated his back and caused horrible gashes all over his body, from which the blood was flowing, gathering in pools.

All of the clothes of the man, except those covering the lower extremities, were as if cut off from his back, only a few shreds hanging loosely around the lacerated form. He was suffering untold agonies at the County Hospital last night. His death is almost a certainty. Of the wagon, only a few scattered pieces gave witness that the vehicle had been painted a bright red. Both horses were stripped of the harness, but a vestige of leather remaining on them. The one on the side of the exploded magazine was killed instantly, the carcass being hurled into the ditch on the south side of the road; the other horse escaped unharmed, scampared off into the field, and was later on caught and stabled.

FREAKS OF THE DISASTER.

The force of the explosion was terrific. It tore down or wrecked every house within a quarter of a mile of the magazine. The surrounding magazines were unroofed, and several of those nearest had their walls demolished.

Houses which withstood the shock of the concussion were a second after treated to a perfect

shower of stones and huge boulders. The magazine was built over a bed of tough blue clay. The dynamite, as usual with this terrible explosive, went downward. It tore out a hole twenty feet deep and thirty feet in diameter, shaped much like the bottom of a huge punch-bowl. Into this natural mortar the brick walls and huge foundation stones were tumbled, only to be hurled out the next instant. The principle was exactly the same and the force of the monster missiles as great as if the huge hole of clay had been a mortar of chilled steel and loaded with all the giant powder it would hold. Huge stones, weighing fully 100 pounds, were sent sailing through the air like wild round shot, while a perfect cloud of broken bricks and splinters of metal swept over the surrounding country like a volley of canister and grapeshot. Fences were obliterated and sidewalks uprooted for half a mile around.

POTATOES THROWN OUT OF THE GROUND.

Just east of the exploded magazine there was a field of potatoes. The concussion caused by the shock jerked every potato out onto the surface. It saved the man who owned them a lot of trouble, and yesterday they lay on the damp earth already to be taken up in bags and carried to market. The big field in which the mangled body of Farmer Kann was found looked like a Vermont hillside, so thick it was strewn with rocks and pieces of brick. A stone weighing less than a hundred pounds was shot across the field at just such a height that it left a narrow black furrow in the short grass. Away to the other side of the field, almost two blocks away, directly in the course of this huge stone, stood a small tree. The tree was cut off six inches from the ground, and through the picket fence close by a big round hole showed where the stone had glanced off on its course. A trail of torn and uprooted cabbages led to the spot where the terrible missile had at last stopped. It was almost buried in the loose soil of the cabbage field, a quarter of a mile from its starting point.

FEAR OF THE EXPLOSION.

The freaks of the explosion were as wonderful as the were calamitous. John Gugl's house was torn to pieces and set on fire. When Justice Tearney had one side cleared off as neatly as though carpenters had worked at it a week.

A horse in Justice Tearney's barn, a little way back of the house, was torn and cut by a shower of stones, which came through the board siding as though it had been card-board. Another horse, close beside the wounded animal, did not receive a scratch.

John Jung, a Hollander, lived in a little one-story-and-attic cottage, nearly opposite from Tearney's, on the other side of Archer road.

He was sitting near a window, looking out at the rain, when he suddenly heard a crash and a whole pane of glass was driven into the floor. This pane was knocked down, and his two sons and daughter tumbled to the other side of the room. Almost a quarter of a minute after the aghast family heard a terrible crash over their heads, followed by another still louder, which shook the little cottage from top to bottom. Jung and his family threw themselves to the floor and gave themselves up for lost. As no more shocks came, the grown-up son arose and helped his father to a chair. Then he climbed up a ladder leading to the attic and found two holes in the roof big enough to let a man's body through. There were also two immense stones in the attic. They had been part of the foundation of the powder magazine five minutes before, and had been shot out of the big clay mortar with such force that they cut through the roof as clean as a cannon-ball had done.

DAMAGES AT A DISTANCE.

The shock was very severe at the bridge, and a panic among the prisoners was narrowly averted. The windows on the south side of the building were badly demolished, and glass and pieces of the sashes were hurled fifteen or twenty feet into the rooms and broken on the opposite walls. The door casings on the lower story were splintered into kindling wood and the locks broken. The plastering on the ceiling of the main hall was all loosened, and a large crack extends from one end of the hall to the other, a distance of 200 feet. An iron door in the attic, which weighed 200 pounds, was broken from its hinges and four inches thick broken squarely in two. In the laundry and kitchen much damage was done. The carpenter shop and some of the out-houses were badly shaken up. The damages to the building and grounds are fully \$2,000.

Col. Felton was lying on the sofa in front of a window when the shock occurred. The window was broken by the concussion and the Colonel was completely buried beneath a pile of broken glass and kindling wood. He escaped injury, but was badly stunned by the shock.

Mrs. Armour, the matron, was prostrated, and for some time was considered in a critical condition.

The prisoners were greatly frightened. The ignorant among them imagined that the end of the world had come, while the more intelligent thought they were about to be swallowed by an earthquake. They were soon quieted, with the exception of a few of the most guilty wrecks, who will probably continue to shake for days to come.

SIMULTANEOUS SHOCKS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

The southwest portion of the city seems to have received the brunt of the shock, although damage is reported as far north as Evanston.

The windows on the west side of McCormick's reaper factory were nearly all broken. The same is true of those on the south side of W. W. Kimball's piano factory and the building occupied by the Chicago Malleable Iron Works, both of which are situated in that neighborhood.

The water in the river near McCormick's factory was greatly agitated by the disturbance, and lashed up the banks for many feet on either side. A water-bomb burst in front of the Malleable Iron Works and flooded the street before it could be repaired.

Many buildings in the vicinity of the Twelfth street police station were damaged. At the Jesuit Church, at the corner of Blue Island avenue and Twelfth street, a regular panic occurred. Over two thousand people, mostly women, were crowded in the basement at the time. Some one yelled fire at the moment of the explosion, and instantly there was a rush for the door. The weak were knocked down and ruthlessly trampled upon, while many of the stronger ones jumped through the windows and escaped. An alarm was turned in and the fire department responded to the call. No one was seriously injured.

PEOPLE SCARED OUT OF THEIR WITS.

The business portion of the city did not escape. The shock put out the gas in the Grand Pacific Hotel, and caused a lively scene among the guests. Many of them rushed down-stairs in their shirts and stockings, while others, clad in scanty raiment, ran about in the halls and corridors.

No serious injury was done to the building. Two windows in the east corner of the Board of Trade were demolished. Three windows on the north and east side of the Government building were also broken, and a large pane of glass in Spiegel's furniture at the corner of State and Jackson streets was destroyed.

On the West Side considerable damage was done to dwelling houses, in many places on Ashland avenue and Washington boulevard chandeliers were knocked down and dishes were smashed in the closets. In one house on Morgan street not a chandelier was left hanging.

BILLARD BALLS HURLED FROM THE TABLE.

A rather amusing incident occurred at the Union House. A number of young men were having a game of billiards. One young fellow had succeeded in placing the balls to suit him and was leaning over the table preparing to shoot, when the shock came and every ball was hurled from the table, much to the chagrin of the player and the amusement of the lookers on.

A block of stone of about one hundred and fifty pounds went through the wall of the Grand Trunk Roundhouse, about a mile north, and another dropped through the roof, smashing in the cab of an engine.

FATAL CONVULSIONS.

A negro woman living at the corner of Leavitt and Hinman streets was so badly frightened that she went into convulsions and is not expected to recover.

A driver on the Blue Island avenue line was standing in the front door of the car barns. When the shock came he was thrown backward onto the floor and stunned. When he came to he was suffering from convulsions. He was reported better last night.

Joseph Foster of 119 Brown street was walking along Blue Island avenue, near Twelfth street. He was in front of Apollo Hall when the explosion occurred, five miles to the west of where he stood. The concussion shattered a pane of plate-glass in a window in the second story of the building. A falling piece cut a gash over his left temple. Four stitches united his severed scalp, and he went home to wonder how it happened.

"The shock was so great," said Warden McGarigle of the County Hospital, "that the windows on both sides of the main building were broken. The whole immense structure shook to cellar to garret in such a manner that dishes on the tables rattled."

In this connection it may be stated that

REPLYING TO THE CHARGES.

Civil-Service Commissioner Oberly Puts Forward Some Facts of General Interest.

A Document Which Will Be Read with Interest by the General Public.

the Civil-Service Commission, as now constituted, with a Democratic majority, is not responsible for the practice of certifying the whole list of eligibles to the appointing officer. That practice was commenced by the Civil-Service Commission when it was Republican in its majority. The Civil-Service Commission was not Democratic in its majority until after Gen. Black, as Commissioner of Pensions, had selected 123 of his special pension examiners, and the remaining twenty-seven special examiners were appointed from eligible registers supplied by examinations conducted by Republican civil-service examiners.

"And more than this: The Civil-service Commission, since it became Democratic in its majority, has discontinued the practice of certifying unconditionally the whole list of eligibles, and has declared that only four names, taken from those graded highest on the eligible register of pension examiners, shall be certified for the purpose of filling a vacancy in that grade; that certifications shall be made for the purpose of filling vacancies in the grade of special pension examiner in the same way that certifications are made to fill vacancies in any other class or grade.

"Thus it is made manifest that Senators Plumb and Ingalls have made false charges against the Civil-service Commission as now constituted with a Democratic majority; that they have shot venomous arrows at Democratic officials and have hit their own friends.

"In concluding this paper I desire to say that the Democratic Civil-service Commission will not permit anxiety for the success of their party to induce them to wander into any of the by-paths that lead away from the broad highway of the civil-service reform movement."

CLEVELAND'S VETOES.

The Recklessness with Which Congress Votes Money Out of the Treasury.

[From the New York Evening Post.]

The President has given another evidence of the painstaking care which he bestows upon the smaller as well as the weightier matters of his office, by filing with the State Department memoranda of his reasons for not approving nearly a dozen acts and resolutions which reached him during the last days of the session, and had not been acted upon at adjournment.

The strongest impression made upon one by the perusal of these memoranda is that of the recklessness with which Congress passes bills. For example, one bill provided for the payment of \$63,50 to William H. Wheeler for quartermaster's stores furnished the army in 1862, but data furnished the President by the Quartermaster General seem to leave no doubt that the claim has already once been paid. Not a shadow of doubt is left in regard to the similar bill for the relief of J. A. Henry and others, which appropriates various sums to these persons for rent of quarters occupied during the war by the Quartermaster Department of the army, including \$51 to L. F. Green. This account has been paid once, a special act directing such payment having been approved Feb. 12, 1885; and the President remarks that "the fact of this payment, and important information bearing upon the validity of some of the other claims mentioned in the bill, could have been easily obtained by application to the Third Auditor." In another case an act had been passed, doubtless without attracting any attention, which granted a pension to Margaret D. Merchant, although the President had already vetoed a similar bill upon the ground that she was not entitled to it, as the death of her husband did not appear to be in any way related to any incident of his military service.

The easy-going spirit in which Congressmen vote away other people's money is also illustrated in the bills' comments.

One of the bills proposed to give \$200 to Francis W. Holdeman, an Ohio man, "as compensation for services performed and money expended for the benefit of the United States army," upon the ground that in the fall of 1863, when he was a lad twelve years of age, he purchased a uniform, armed himself, attached himself to various Ohio regiments, and performed various duties connected with army service until the end of the year 1864. The boy never enlisted, and never was regularly attached to any regiment, and, as Mr. Cleveland says, it is quite evident that his military services could not have amounted to much more than the indulgence of a boyish freak, and his being made a part of the soldiers with whom he was associated. The President's comment upon the matter is that which would be made by any unprejudiced person:

"There is a pleasant sentiment connected with this display of patriotism and childish military ardor, and it is not a matter of surprise that he should, as stated by the committee, have received honorable mention by name in the history of his regiment; but when it is proposed, twenty-two years after his one year's experience with troops, to pay him a sum nearly, if not quite, equal to the pay of a soldier who fought and suffered all the dangers and privations of a soldier's life, I am bound to dissent."

Another act allowed two men who were employed by the doorkeeper of the Forty-eighth Congress as laborers, at \$70 a year, the difference between that rate of pay and the \$1,200 allowed messengers, on the ground that they performed the duties of both laborers and messengers. Mr. Cleveland points out that the men accepted the position of laborers, that they owed their time and services to the Government, that while they were performing the duties of messengers they escaped the harder tasks which might have been required of them as laborers.

And another act allowed two men who were employed by the doorkeeper of the Forty-eighth Congress as laborers, at \$70 a year, the difference between that rate of pay and the \$1,200 allowed messengers, on the ground that they performed the duties of both laborers and messengers. Mr. Cleveland points out that the men accepted the position of laborers, that they owed their time and services to the Government, that while they were performing the duties of messengers they escaped the harder tasks which might have been required of them as laborers.

And another act allowed two men who were employed by the doorkeeper of the Forty-eighth Congress as laborers, at \$70 a year, the difference between that rate of pay and the \$1,200 allowed messengers, on the ground that they performed the duties of both laborers and messengers. Mr. Cleveland points out that the men accepted the position of laborers, that they owed their time and services to the Government, that while they were performing the duties of messengers they escaped the harder tasks which might have been required of them as laborers.

And another act allowed two men who were employed by the doorkeeper of the Forty-eighth Congress as laborers, at \$70 a year, the difference between that rate of pay and the \$1,200 allowed messengers, on the ground that they performed the duties of both laborers and messengers. Mr. Cleveland points out that the men accepted the position of laborers, that they owed their time and services to the Government, that while they were performing the duties of messengers they escaped the harder tasks which might have been required of them as laborers.

And another act allowed two men who were employed by the doorkeeper of the Forty-eighth Congress as laborers, at \$70 a year, the difference between that rate of pay and the \$1,200 allowed messengers, on the ground that they performed the duties of both laborers and messengers. Mr. Cleveland points out that the men accepted the position of laborers, that they owed their time and services to the Government, that while they were performing the duties of messengers they escaped the harder tasks which might have been required of them as laborers.

And another act allowed two men who were employed by the doorkeeper of the Forty-eighth Congress as laborers, at \$70 a year, the difference between that rate of pay and the \$1,200 allowed messengers, on the ground that they performed the duties of both laborers and messengers. Mr. Cleveland points out that the men accepted the position of laborers, that they owed their time and services to the Government, that while they were performing the duties of messengers they escaped the harder tasks which might have been required of them as laborers.