TOWN WIPED OUT: CHICAGO SHAKEN

Powder Mill Explosion Wrecks Pleasant Prairie, Wis., Doing Damage Many Miles Away.

DEATH 1, MAY DATE 40

Property Loss $1,500,000—Special Relief Train Sent to Stricken Village—Shock Felt at Cleveland, Ohio.

Special to The New York Times.

[CHICAGO, March 9—Chicago was shaken by a terrific explosion about 8:30 o'clock this evening. Windows were broken in department stores and at scattered points in the business district, and people rushed from the hotels and theatres to the streets to learn the cause of the disturbance.

While numerous reports were circulated about explosion, dynamite bombs, and dynamite attacks, nothing definite was learned as to the cause of the blast.

At about 8:45 o'clock, a full half an hour, when a call came by telegraph and telephone from Kenosha, Wis., offering more than a mile west of Chicago, that doctors and nurses were sent at once to Pleasant Prairie, a small town six miles west of Kenosha, to theraid to be almost entirely wiped out by the explosion of the Laffin-Rand Powder Company's mill.

Two shocks were felt. One was of such tremendous force that it shook South Bend, Ind., six miles away, and Belvidere, Ill., which is fifty miles west of Chicago. The telegraph and telephone companies reported that the Northerns Railroad station, and arrangements were soon under way for a special train to carry physicians and nurses and reporters to the scene of the accident.

Every resident of Kenosha owning an automobile was pressed into service and carried doctors, helpers, and surgical supplies to the site.

The special relief train on the North Western Station left at 10:39 P. M., and arrived at the explosion site at 1:30 A. M., the murder. In 15 hours, it was necessary to take automobiles at this point to reach Pleasant Prairie.

The first arrivals from Kenosha found the town in a panic. The inhabitants had retreated to the outskirts of the town owing to the fierce conflagration which was raging at the site of the powder mill, two of which had been blown up. Further explosions were expected at any moment. One-half of the village was in ruins. The financial loss was roughly estimated by one of the officials at $1,200,000. Telegraph linesmen arrived from Kenosha about 20 P. M., and the wires which were broken down by the force of the explosion were restored, and the service renewed.

It was said that seventeen men were at work in the buildings at the time of the explosion. Of this number there have been searched, and the list esti-

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