

## LEFT HOLES IN THE GROUND

Terrific Explosion at Power Mills at Pleasant Prairie..

One Man Killed, 200 Hurt and Million and a Half Lost.

Was Rushing Orders for U. S. Army on Texas Frontier.

Chicago, March 13.—The big plant of the Dupont Powder Co., located near the little town of Pleasant Prairie, just across the line from Wisconsin, near Kenosha, and sixty miles from Chicago, "blew up" to-night with terrific force. The shock was felt for many miles around. In Chicago many large buildings in the loop were shaken. The Boston store, one of the largest buildings in the loop, was so severely shaken that large plate glass windows were broken and fell on passing pedestrians in the street below.

Pleasant Prairie was entirely wiped out, and not a building remains of a once prosperous little town. One life is known to be lost, but up to the present time it is impossible to say just how many more. Wire communication has been cut off, and nothing beyond the meagre report that the town had been wiped off the map can be ascertained. The property loss is estimated at \$1,500,000.

### PARTICULARS OF THE EXPLOSION.

Pleasant Prairie, Wis., March 13.—Fire was still burning this morning in the powder magazines of the Dupont de Nemours Powder Co., which blew up last night, killing at least one person, injuring nearly 200 others and causing damage of perhaps \$1,500,000 within a radius of one hundred miles.

While the officers of the company assert that all the employees except E. S. Thompson, a foreman, were accounted for, three of the men could not be found after the explosion.

Pleasant Prairie is ten miles west of Kenosha, Wis. The powder mill is a mile north of the village, which has a population of about 700.

The force of the explosion completely demolished the houses on the Geneva, which were the nearest the mill, and every house in the village was wrecked. Almost equal damage was done in Bristol, four miles west.

The force of the explosion was felt more than a hundred miles in every direction and that only one man was killed and one dangerously injured is said by officials of the powder company to be little short of miraculous.

The fire makes it impossible to search the ruins. Several attempts were made by Sheriff Andrew Stahl, but on each occasion he and his deputies were driven back by explosions as the fire reached packages of powder.

The last attempt, just before day-break, was stopped by the heaviest of the following explosions, and the sheriff said then that the fire must die out before the ruins could be approached. At that time Sheriff Stahl asserted that he was far from satisfied but one body was in the ruins.

"There are eight carloads of loose black powder in a building still standing," said Sheriff Stahl. "It may let go at any moment."

There is a hole one hundred feet deep in the ground where the dynamite house stood.

This morning a few of the residents of Pleasant Prairie were attempting to remove their household goods from their shattered homes. A number of the men had stood guard in their door yards over night. Almost immediately after the crash, the village was invaded by curiosity seekers and asserting that looting and vandalism was beginning, Sheriff Stahl immediately impressed a hundred deputies and cleared the village. The first work of the deputies was to get every one out of town and away from the danger zone as following explosions were feared.

The escape of Superintendent Clarence Brady was remarkable. He was in the soda house with Engineer Flynn at the time of the explosion. The men were blown through the building and landed on the roof of the adjoining magazine. This exploded instantly and Brady and Flynn, the latter badly injured, were thrown a hundred feet from the building. Flynn suffered internal injuries and inhaled poisonous fumes. His condition is precarious. Brady escaped practically unscathed.

The others of the injured are: Night Foreman Frank Bowe, left hand out, badly burned.

Jack Summerton, packer, blown 200 feet, burns and bruised.

Joseph Steinbach, blown into a field and bruised.

Mattie Jensen, maid of the workmen's boarding house, bruised by falling debris.

Three foreign workmen were not accounted for at a late hour.

That the powder in the plant was being rushed through on a luxury from the government for use in the Texas frontier was denied last night by Supt. Brady.

In all 33,000 kegs of giant powder and 200 tons of dynamite exploded.

When daylight gave a clear view of the ruins today three holes were seen marking the site of three of the magazines. Each excavation is more than fifty feet across and fully as deep. One had broken into a spring and was half full of water.

The trees for a half a mile around were stripped of branches and shorn off with the ground. Part of the plant still stands.

### EXCITEMENT AT CHICAGO.

Chicago, March 13.—The powder explosion at Pleasant Prairie, Wis., last night caused much excitement among the residents of the Italian district. After the houses that had been pulled had vanished from the scene of the plant, the Italian residents rushed into the streets, believing

that another "Black Hand" bomb had been exploded.

It was some time before the Italians would enter their homes. Some thought that an earthquake had occurred and knelt in the streets.

## HYDRO LIGHT.

Seven Hundred Lamps in Operation for First Time in Toronto.

Toronto despatch: Niagara power was turned on in Toronto last evening and for the first time was given a thorough test.

At 9 o'clock the machinery at the transformer station was set in motion and from that time until midnight poured out electrical energy into the network of wires through the city in the section bounded by Bloor, Yonge and Queen streets and the River Don.

All the streets in this district were filled with light, and as one gazed up down some of the thoroughfares it seemed as though the skies were brilliantly lighted, too.

The turning on of the Hydro-Electric power excited something highly delightful in the minds of the people who were privileged to be out on or live on the streets where Toronto's lighting system was first put to a practical test and proved more than satisfactory.

## PRISON TRADES.

Masons and Stonecutters of Guelph Object to Provincial Farm System.

Guelph, March 13.—The masons and stonecutters of the city are up in arms against the action of the Provincial Government with respect to labor conditions at the prison farm. The Government has for some time past been instructing the long-term prisoners in stone-cutting and mason work. No objection has been made by the local masons to this, but they have learned that the officials have secured two stonecutters, one from Beamsville and one from Hamilton, to instruct the short-term prisoners. They claim that they do not object to long-term prisoners being instructed in the trades, as they have sufficient time to thoroughly learn them. They are against having short-term prisoners instructed as these are afterwards turned out as fully qualified men, when, in reality, they are but beginners.

## SEVEN YEARS.

John Cowie Made His Will Before Pleading Guilty to Serious Charge.

Oakville despatch: Seven years in the Kingston Penitentiary was the sentence imposed this afternoon by Magistrate Shields upon John Cowie, a Trafalgar Township farmer, for a serious offence against his fifteen-year-old daughter. The girl gave birth to a child on September 11 last in St. Michael's Hospital.

The father pleaded guilty this afternoon, and his counsel, E. H. Cleaver, made an appeal for as light a sentence as possible. Crown Attorney Dicks, of Milton, and Provincial Inspector John Miller, of Toronto, were present for the prosecution.

Evidently aware that he would receive a long term of imprisonment, Cowie made his will at the jail in the morning. To his daughter, whom he had wronged, he bequeathed his life insurance, \$2,000, and to his wife and five other children his farm and other property, worth several thousands of dollars.

## TO COUNT US.

Census Commissioner Blue Tells of Arrangements for Coming Census.

Ottawa, March 13.—We hope and feel that the census of Canada to be taken this year will be the most successful in the history of the country over that of the last official census in 1901 of at least 1,000,000.

Mr. Blue said he felt that the Maritime provinces would show a slight increase, but that the rest of the country would show a large increase.

The work will be commenced on June 1st, and will continue more than the last one owing to the large increase in population, and to the additional work to be covered. According to Mr. Blue's estimate the census will show the total population of Canada to be nearly 4,000,000. In 1901, it was about 3,500,000. The estimate is largely based on the immigration figures for the past few years and the natural increases during that period.

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## NEWS OF THE DAY IN BRIEF

North Toronto Scarlet Fever Epidemic Traced to Milk.

First Train of Settlers Arrives in the West.

Toronto Carpenters Want an Increase of Wages.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has made arrangements to open a branch at Vernon, B. C.

The Toronto Board of Trade has decided to give \$2,000 towards the establishment of a publicity bureau.

The Thomson Line has just received word that a new boat, the Geronimo, has been launched for it at Waldensontyne.

The condition of Dr. A. N. Worthington, M. P., who was stricken with apoplexy at Sherbrooke, remains about the same.

Jack O'Brien was caught in the belting of Henningson's mill, Minneapolis, Minn., and suffered injuries from which he died in a few hours.

The famous old Evergreen House in Prince Edward county was sold by auction for \$100. The encroaching sandbanks are rapidly destroying the property.

The joint conference of operators and mine workers which has been held at Calgary, came to an abrupt close, on the miners' request for an adjournment, until March 20.

Rev. E. N. Baker, pastor of the Everett Avenue Methodist Church, Toronto, has received a call to Saint Marie, to take effect at the close of the present conference year.

Proceedings have been instituted at Windsor to declare invalid the recent election for Water Commissioners, on the ground that the voters' list used was not the last revised list.

In the Toronto Jury County Court, Mrs. Ida Cook secured a verdict for \$125 damages against Joseph Zoskyk for injuries suffered through his attack on her with a hot poker. The suit was for \$500.

The first special train of settlers and settlers' effects arrived in Winnipeg. The train carried sixteen cars of effects and a large party of eastern people, who expect to make their homes on the plains.

The statement is made by Police Chief Collins, of North Toronto, that he had traced all but two of the cases in the recent scarlet fever epidemic to the supply of milk. The two other cases were from infection.

William Logan, of Corbin, was sentenced by Police Magistrate Hunt, at St. Thomas, to two years in the Central Prison for theft of a horse from Chas. S. Bridgman, district agent of the Imperial Life, of Aylmer, at Springfield.

The Amalgamated Carpenters of Toronto, representing about sixty-five per cent. of the local carpenter labor, in a full meeting at the Labor Temple, placed themselves unanimously on record for 40 cents an hour, an increase of five cents on their present wage.

The Management Committee of the Toronto Board of Education yesterday discussed the question of appointing a superintendent of education, but finally hung up the matter by referring it to the solicitor to take the necessary steps to obtain special legislation.

The enactment of by-laws abolishing the public drinking cup in parks, public schools and on the streets, prohibiting the exposure of foodstuffs to dust and flies in the warm weather by merchants, and compelling registration of public buildings and small theatres, will be considered by a committee of the Toronto Board of Health.

The Liberal members will be accompanied by their wives.

The members selected to represent the Opposition side of the House are: Hon. John Haggart, Hon. G. E. Foster, Mr. H. R. Ames, Dr. Daniel and Mr. C. A. McGrath.

Mr. Borden will not join the delegation, as he intends to devote the summer to a series of political meetings in various parts of the Dominion.

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## 5 DREADNOUGHTS.

Naval Estimates Show Increase of \$63,000,000 Over Previous Year.

London, March 13.—The naval estimates issued to-night provide for the expenditure of \$221,962,300, an increase of \$63,000,000 over the previous year. The cost of new construction is fixed at \$15,318,585. The programme includes five Dreadnoughts, three protected cruisers, one unarmored cruiser, twenty destroyers, six submarines, and an increase in the personnel of the navy of 3,000 men.

The Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, First Lord of the Admiralty, favored five, but the radical section of the Cabinet and Liberal party insisted that four would suffice.

Mr. McKenna's statement shows that a compromise has been reached between the insistent radical demands for naval economy and the Admiralty authorities. According to this, by April 1 the battleship Neptune, the armored cruiser Indefatigable, and five protected cruisers will be available for service, while the vessels under construction will include ten battleships, three armored cruisers, seven protected and three unarmored cruisers, thirty-two destroyers, and twelve submarines.

The Conservatives criticize the amount devoted to new equipment, as being insufficient to do much within the present year on new vessels laid down. It is said that a heavy new construction programme, which will include eight Dreadnoughts, is projected for next year.

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## HOW TO RAISE AND CARE FOR THE PROFITABLE HEN.

LESSON I—A START IN HEN BUSINESS.



It pays to raise chickens in the city. There's no doubt about it.

For long it was the generally accepted theory that a hen needed about 160 acres in which to roam and scratch, and that a big barn-like house was needed for just a medium sized flock to roost.

Wrong. One well tested system gets excellent results both in eggs and meat by confining chickens in very close quarters. In little backyards of city lots a flock of hens will grow and lay and fatten for the market or your table just as if they were on the farm.

If the largest plot you can give to chickens is only eight feet by four, that will do for a half dozen hens and a rooster, and with right care you ought to get 50 dozen eggs a year.

Multiply that by more space and more hens and see how it will cut down your cost of living. Also it will make you free of the cold storage product, and what is almost as good to the city man, the larger the production of eggs and poultry the less the demand for pork, beef and mutton, and correspondingly lower prices for all meats.

Any one who has tried it will tell you that it's mighty nice to go out to the nests in your own backyard and get some fine fresh eggs that are eggs! Maybe the kiddies won't like these fresh eggs! Maybe they won't take to those chickens! And maybe the wife won't enjoy the baby chicks and the fluffy grown up brood!

In succeeding articles a study of chicken raising business will be made from the standpoint of the individual who wants to raise them in the limited space most city people have.

Now, before you decide upon any plan or anything in connection with chicken raising, let this stick deep into your cranium: Don't have scrub chickens around the place. Get good chickens, good breeds. Of course, that will cost a little more to begin with, but they will pay and pay well, while scrubs you will make a failure nine times out of ten.

There are many good breeds of chickens. Many poultry fanciers like the Leghorns best, and both white and brown Leghorns have their advocates. They say that the Leghorn is the best layer and that being small they require less room, less food, and produce more eggs in a year than any other breed. But there isn't much flesh on the Leghorn and as many people like a chicken dinner

now and then, a larger fowl is better.

For meat alone the Brahmas are good. For good all-round layers and meat producers, Orpingtons, Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes and Rhode Island Reds each have their advocates. Personally, I like the Orpington best. It's a big chicken, lays well during the cold weather, can accommodate itself to limited space.

Anyway, whatever breed you select, the big part of chicken raising comes afterwards. For the novice it would be best if he starts small. Every expert poultry raiser will preach that to you day and night. And there's a reason. You must get practical experience, must have your failures and successes, before you can think of making money on a large chicken farm.

One other thing to remember is when you start with a particular breed stick to that breed. If they don't come up to snuff as layers, change the strain, but keep to the breed of which you have already learned something. More will be said about layers in later articles.

Before you get the chickens get the house for them to live in. The size of the house depends altogether upon the size of the flock you will want to keep, and upon the space at your disposal.

The main things to be remembered in building chicken houses are these: They must be dry, well-ventilated, both winter and summer, and room enough for each fowl; roosts need not be more than 18 inches from the floor; plenty of light is also necessary.

Every effort must be made to prevent drafts, therefore place the roosts near the back of the house, and except on real cold nights burly coverings. Fresh air can get through while drafts cannot.

The house need not be expensive. A box house, with hammer and saw ought to be able to put up a good one. Rough wire netting can be used to enclose a runway where the chickens can have their needed exercise.

Now having