

CITY JOLTED AGAIN BY PREST-O-LITE

Terrific Explosions Cause Wide-
spread Injury and Damage to
Adjoining Property.

NOW COUNCIL WILL STOP IT

St. Vincent's Hospital and Fire
Engine House Badly Damaged
and Hundreds Terrorized.

THE INJURED.

B. E. LADA, 136 South Elder avenue, struck on head by flying brick; may be serious.

ALBERT EMEROND, employe, leaped from second-story window; fractured kneecap.

LOUIS RIEHL, 411 South Alabama street, struck by flying glass; not serious.

ALFRED T. BRINGHURST, Logansport, patient in St. Vincent's Hospital, slightly cut by flying glass.

JAMES HALEY, city fireman, thrown from wagon on way to fire; bruises, not serious.

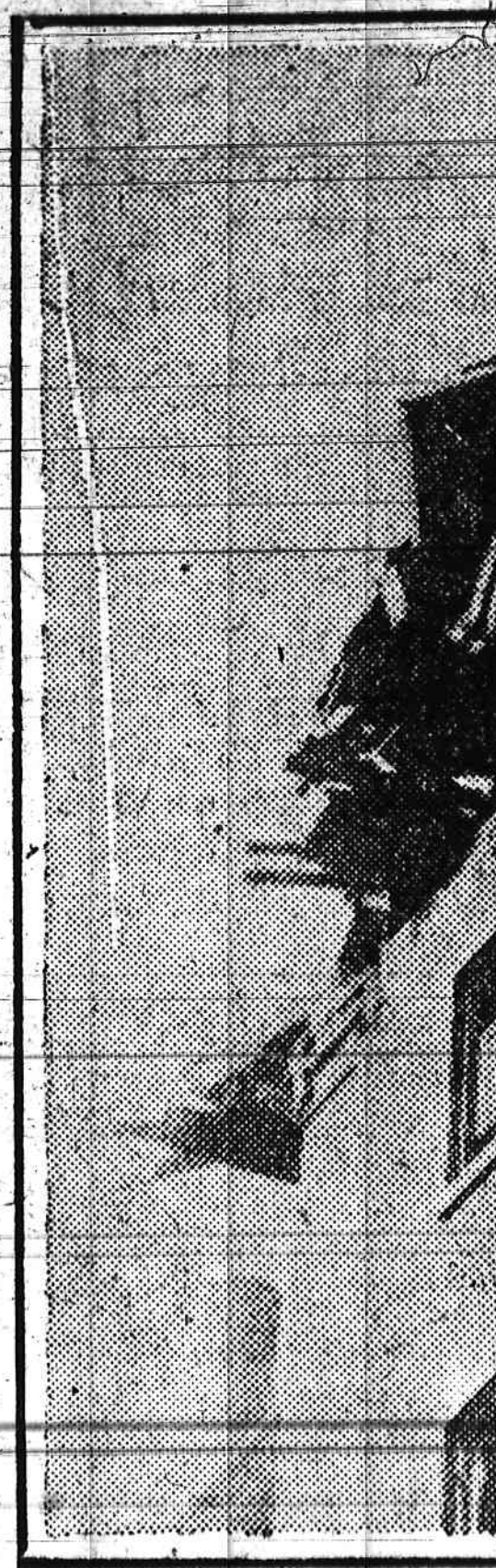
CHARLES HARTMAN, upholsterer, thrown from wagon on South street by force of explosion; bruised.

MRS. WILLIAM QUINLAN, 241 East South street, struck by flying debris; possibly serious.

EDWARD FOULLOIS, city fireman, struck by brick; face cut.

WILL STEINHAEUER, fireman, bruised

What Prest-



The Prest-o-Lite explosion

possibly serious.

EDWARD FOULLOIS, city fireman, struck by brick; face cut.

WILL STEINHAUER, fireman, bruised and possibly injured internally.

OTTO HOFFMEISTER, employe, 2230 Ralston street, burned about head and hands.

JOHN VANGARDEN, employe, 2045 Winter street, burned about head and hands.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON, employe, 2058 Hazel street, burns.

For the third time within a year the charging plant of the Prest-o-Lite Company was wrecked by a series of terrific explosions yesterday. Many persons were injured, but none fatally. St. Vincent's Hospital was damaged, the South street engine house was practically wrecked and hundreds of window panes were shattered for squares around.

The explosions yesterday were more terrific than the explosions accompanying either of the former accidents, and the new location of the plant, 211 East South street, less than a hundred feet from St. Vincent's Hospital, made yesterday's disaster by far the worst of the three that have occurred since the plant was established here.

The company will not be permitted to continue to make gas and charge automobile gas tanks at this plant hereafter, and it is very probable that an ordinance will be passed in the City Council forbidding the operation of any portion of the plant within the city limits. A special meeting of the City Council has been called for Monday night for the passage of such a measure.

The injured came to grief in various ways. Lada is a paper hanger and was working in a yard next door. A piece of brick struck him on the head. He was later taken to his home.

Riehl, who was but slightly injured, was struck by flying glass, and Mrs. Quinlan, also living in the neighborhood, was probably struck by a board.

Leap From Second Floor.

Emerond, with several other of the employes of the company, leaped from a second-story window. He was carried by other employes to a nearby building until the ambulance could take him to the City Hospital. The other employes of the company included in the list of injured were burned and bruised. In addition to

The Prest-o-Lite explosion at Vincent's Hospital.

number of young women were in the office of the company second floor, but all of them escaped. Many men other than the were injured were near the explosion when they started, and they hardly themselves how they had escaped. The origin of the fire or explosion which resulted in blowing up the drums may never be known. Mr. who was present at the time of the accident yesterday, said that he did not know the origin of the fire.

In addition to the two most terrific explosions, which were from the blowing of the steel drums on the second floor of the plant, there were many lesser explosions, cans which were being filled with gas at the time going off in the charging room.

It was reported that a spark from friction heat from a buffing machine had been the cause of the first explosion, but this could not be positively verified yesterday.

The first explosion at the plant of the Prest-o-Lite Company occurred at the new location in 1907. The plant was then situated on South East street, just south of the South street, and many employes had narrow escapes. Several young women who worked on the third floor of the old building at the time had very narrow escapes and three persons were injured.

The next accident took place in 1907, at the same location while the management of the company was preparing to move into the South street plant. The plant was blown up yesterday. The building was badly damaged again, Elmer an employe, was killed and three employes were injured. Flying steel drums scattered about the neighborhood as a result of these explosions, but no one other than the employe of the company was injured.

MAY BE ABANDONED.

South Street Engine House Damaged Will Likely Be Given Up by City.

The South street engine house, which is a door to the Prest-o-Lite plant, will probably be abandoned by the city. For some time Chief Coats of the fire department has urged the consolidation of the engine houses, and the house located on Virginia avenue nearby. This will probably be done and arrangements may go forward next week.

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Charles Hartman, an upholsterer who has a shop on Virginia avenue, was driving past the plant at the time of the explosions, and witnesses declared that he was blown off the seat of his wagon into the street. His horse ran away, but he was not seriously injured.

Bringhurst was a patient at the hospital. He was but slightly cut. Many other patients and attaches of the hospital were terribly shocked, and one employe in the kitchen, Lena Ryan, was cut.

Steinhauer weighs 230 pounds, but the force of the explosion was sufficient to lift him from a big chair in which he was sitting on the second floor of the South Street Engine House and threw him to the floor. His side and back were injured. Foullois, who is a lieutenant, was in front of the engine house with several other of the firemen and the shock of the explosion knocked the rest of the men down.

The Prest-o-Lite building suffered less than some of its neighbors. Carl G. Fisher, owner in the company, stated that the loss of the company would be slight. It was estimated that it would not exceed \$1,000. No insurance was carried.

Other Losses Heavier.

It was estimated yesterday that the loss to the hospital was \$7,000 or \$8,000 and the city's engine house was damaged to the extent of possibly \$2,000, the final estimate of the damage depending on whether the building can with repairs be used as an engine house or for other purposes.

In addition to these larger damages, houses and business buildings all around the plant were damaged. Window panes were shattered and plastering was torn from the walls. The concussion broke windows as far away as the Law Building to the north and McCarty and High streets branch of the Indianapolis Brewing Company on the south.

An idea of the force of the explosion may be had from the fact that a piece of a steel retort about four feet square and half an inch thick was hurled northward for the distance of a square over the freight houses of the Big Four Railroad, and, lighting on edge, cut a new oak rail-

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Members of the fire companies occupying the old building wondered at their escape. All of them were knocked and picked themselves up only to be knocked over again by the second explosion.

The four horses in the house had a brief vacation. The concussion was great that it tore the locks from doors, the doors flew back and the horses galloped on to the street. They stood a block away and were returned.

RAILROADS TAKE HAND.

Send Gangs of Men to Remove Debris from St. Vincent's Hospital.

The Sisters at St. Vincent's Hospital asked last night that the Big Four Pennsylvania railroads be thanked for the service rendered by their employes in cleaning up the debris at the hospital yesterday. The use of the men was made possible through the thoughtfulness of D. E. Schaff of the Big Four. He sent five gangs of men to the hospital and, by suggesting the need of them, secured the services for the hospital of the three gangs from the Big Four company.

Immediately following the explosion of the gas plant, Mr. Schaff directed a number of the employes of the company to the hospital and assist in clearing away the debris and other men, on his suggestion, were sent from the Pennsylvania freight house. The men were not until after 5 o'clock last night, clearing away all the glass and plastering from the floors of the hospital and finally clearing the debris from the hospital yard.

CITIZENS ARE WROUGHT UP

South Side Residents Propose Mass Meeting to Voice Protest.

Thomas J. Markey, 1046 South Jersey street, said yesterday that it would be the intention of the people of the southern part of the city to hold a meeting some time this week for the purpose of protesting against the use of South street property of the Prest-o-Lite Company for any part of the business.

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Another piece of steel, almost as large, was thrown into the yards of the railroad company. A smaller one crashed through a gable of the hospital and still another fell in the alley at the side of the fire engine house. Another smaller piece was blown far into the air and came down through the edge of a roof of a saloon on South Delaware street some distance away.

The explosion was heard for miles. People heard it in all parts of the city. The concussion was so great that employes of neighboring business houses thought that it was in the buildings in which they were working, and they rushed for the streets. John Shine, a city humane officer, was riding his bicycle more than a block away and was almost pitched from the saddle.

How the employes of the company escaped with their lives was a marvel. A

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Immediately following the explosion the gas plant, Mr. Schaaf directed a number of the employes of the company to the hospital and assist in clearing away the debris and other men, at suggestion, were sent from the Pennsylvania freighthouse. The men worked until after 3 o'clock last night, clearing away all the glass and plastering from the floors of the hospital and clearing the debris from the hospital yard.

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South Side Residents Propose Mass Meeting to Voice Protest.

Thomas J. Markey, 1046 South Jersey street, said yesterday that it was the intention of the people of the southern part of the city to hold a meeting some time this week for the purpose of protesting against the use of South street property of the Prest-o-Lite Company for any part of the business conducts. He believes that the company should not be permitted even to store tanks there. He called attention to the fact that he, with other property owners had protested when the City Council considering the matter before. He declared yesterday that the protest that go to the Council from the mass meeting will be such that the Council will be forced to act this time.

PANIC IS AVERTED.

Men Calm Women Who Rush Down Stairway at Freight Office.

A large number of young women employed in one department of the Four freight offices at Delaware South streets and a serious panic narrowly averted yesterday following Prest-o-Lite explosions. The women rushed to the corridors and started down a stairway that has a turn in it. About the offices and a colored janitor finally succeeded in stopping the rush.

In the meantime, however, Miss F. Miles, one of the young women, faint. She had undergone an operation a short time before and was not yet strong. She was taken to her home in West Indianapolis in an ambulance.

Complexions

usually clear up after a