

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, Logans-
port, 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.

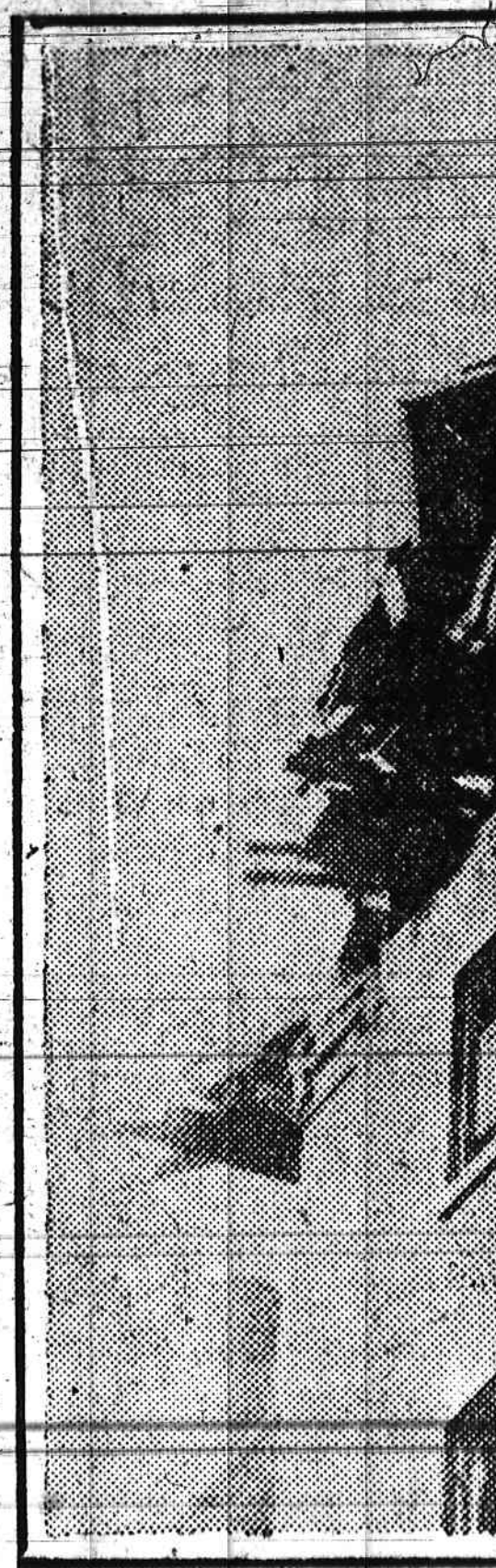
CHARLES HARTMAN, upholsterer,
thrown from wagon on South street
by force of explosion; bruised.

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 injury. Many men other than the were injured were near the explosion when they started, and they hardly knew 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 explosion 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 August 1907. The plant was then situated on South East street, just south of the intersection of South street, and many employes had narrow escapes. Several young men 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 building was blown up yesterday. The building was badly damaged again, Elmer, an employe, was killed and three employes were injured. Flying steel was 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 Probably Will Likely Be Given Up by City.

The South street engine house, located next door to the Prest-o-Lite plant, will probably be abandoned by the city. For some time Chief Coots of the fire department has urged the consolidation of the engine house and the house located on Virginia avenue nearby. This will probably be accomplished 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 at 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 worked 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 the 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 employees 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 employees of the company escaped with their lives was a marvel. A

Pennsylvania railroads be thanked only for the service rendered by employees in cleaning up the debris of the hospital yesterday. The use of the men was made possible through the thoughtfulness of J. H. Schaaf of the Four. His paid five gangs of men to hospital and, by suggesting the need them, secured the services for the pit of the three gangs from the company.

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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 was 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.

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The explosions yesterday were more terrible than the explosions accompanying any of the former accidents, and the 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 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 steel struck him on the head. He was taken to his home.

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

Leap From Second Floor.

Harold, with several other of the employes of the company, leaped from a second-story window. He was carried by the employes to a nearby building until an ambulance could take him to the City

The Prest-o-Lite explosion carried away a portion of Vincent's Hospital.

number of young women were employed in the office of the company on the second floor, but all of them escaped injury. Many men other than those who were injured were near the explosions when they started, and they hardly knew themselves how they had escaped.

The origin of the fire or explosion which resulted in blowing up the big gas drums may never be known. Mr. Fisher, 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 up of the steel drums on the second floor of the plant, there were many lesser explosions, cans which were being charged with gas at the time going off in the charging room.

It was reported that a spark or the 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 Aug. 17, 1907. The plant was then situated on South East street, just south of Washington street, and many employes had narrow escapes. Several young ladies who worked on the third floor of the unfit old building at the time had very narrow escapes and three persons were injured.

The next accident took place Dec. 20, 1907, at the same location while the management of the company was preparing to move into the South street plant which was blown up yesterday. The building was badly damaged again, Elmer Jessup, an employe, was killed and three other employes were injured. Flying steel was scattered about the neighborhood at each of these explosions, but no one outside of the employ 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, next door to the Prest-o-Lite plant, will likely be abandoned by the city. For a long time Chief Coots of the fire department has urged the consolidation of this house and the house located on Virginia avenue nearby. This will probably be done and arrangements may go forward this week.

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

RAILROADS TAKE HAND.

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

The Sisters at St. Vincent's Hospital asked last night that the Big Four and Pennsylvania railroads be thanked pub- licly for the service rendered by their employes in cleaning up the debris about the hospital yesterday. The use of the the men was made possible through 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 hos- pital of the three gangs from the other company.

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A large number of young women are
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 rushed to the corridors and started down
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In the meantime, however, Miss Flora
 Miles, one of the young women, fainted.
 She had undergone an operation a short
 time before and was not yet strong. She
 was taken to her home in West Indian-
 avenue in an ambulance.

SHOCK PROSTRATES PROSECUTOR.

Frank R. Bannister, Overman by Court
 in last in his office.

That at the argument which opened
 the first of the present week's session
 of the Court, Frank Bannister, who pro-
 secutes the case of the men charged with
 the explosion, was prostrated by a severe
 attack of indigestion. He was taken to his
 home in a private car and is expected to
 be absent from the court for some time.

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SHOCK PROSTRATES PROSECUTOR.

**Fred R. Bonfield, Overcome In Court,
 Is Sent to His Home.**

Just as the explosion which wrecked
 the Prest-o-Lite plant yesterday morning
 took place, Fred Bonfield, city prose-
 cutor, was preparing to try several cases
 in Police Court. The sudden explosion,
 which shook the entire city, over-
 whelmed Bonfield and he became faint.
 After a few moments he regained his con-
 sciousness and a physician was called and he
 was removed to his home at once. He was
 unable to leave his bed during the day.

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FORCE JARS HOSPITAL

ST. VINCENT'S IS DAMAGED

Glass From Windows Imbeds It-
self in Walls, but No One Is
Seriously Injured.

Glass was carried with such force from some of the windows of St. Vincent's Hospital yesterday that it made dents in the opposite walls and some of the bits were buried in doors across the room. Alfred T. Bringham of Logansport, a patient who was slightly injured, was in one of these rooms, and he wondered afterward that he had escaped with his life. He said he was sitting near a window at the time. The force of the explosion was sufficient to tear a panel loose from the door of his room.

The beautiful and valuable stained glass windows of the chapel, on the east side of the hospital, were entirely destroyed, but very little other damage was done in the chapel. The altar, an expensive structure of onyx and marble, escaped uninjured, and various images were not damaged. It was remarkable how some of the pictures escaped in other rooms. In the room occupied by Bringham much of the plaster was torn off, but a Mater Dolorosa escaped. The plaster was torn from the wall all about it, but it was not damaged in the least.

Much damage was done in the kitchen. Lena Ryan was making apple pies at the time, and they were spoiled. Broken glass showered down upon them. Various supplies were knocked from the pantry shelf. Miss Ryan was slightly cut by flying glass.

Some of the walls of the hospital building were cracked, but it was not believed that serious injury was done them.

The heat from the explosion was so intense that the paint on the outside of the window frames on the east side of the building was blistered.

For a time it was impossible to control some of the patients who were able to

COUNCIL IS STIRRED BY PRESTO WRECK

W. J. Neukom Issues Call for Special Meeting While Firemen
Are Still Busy.

RESTRICTIVE LAW PROPOSED

Ordinance Suggested to Force
Company to Go Outside
City Limits.

City firemen were still throwing water into the plant of the Prest-o-Lite Company yesterday when W. J. Neukom, president of the City Council, issued a call for a special meeting of the Council for Monday night. At this meeting an ordinance will be offered to do away with all parts of the business of the company within the city limits.

A similar ordinance was offered early this year, and soon after the second disaster at the plant, Dec. 20. Carl G. Fisher and James A. Allison, however, succeeded in interesting the commercial organizations of the city in the matter, and the Commercial Club and the Merchants' Association appointed committees to make an investigation. The committees heard both sides of the controversy, and finally, in an effort to retain the industry here, proposed that the company and the property owners, including those interested in St. Vincent's Hospital, try to agree upon a common ground. It was a result of this that the plant was allowed to remain on South street for a time.

John R. Welch said yesterday that he and others interested in St. Vincent's were never thoroughly contented with the arrangement which resulted, but that they had driven as good a bargain as they believed could be made when pro-

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The heat from the explosion was so intense that the paint on the outside of the window frames on the east side of the building was blistered.

For a time it was impossible to control some of the patients who were able to be up and a dozen of them took refuge in the kitchen of a nearby saloon. There they remained until the nurses persuaded them that the danger was over and that it was safe to return.

EXCITEMENT RUNS HIGH.

Women and Children Run Screaming From Homes During Explosion.

Every one living or working within a square or two of the ill-fated Prest-o-Lite plant were more or less shocked and great excitement prevailed during the course of the explosions. Women and children who were out of doors rushed screaming into their homes, only to be driven into the streets by shattering window panes and falling plastering.

Mrs. William Quinlan, living in the east side of a double house adjoining the plant to the east, at 241 East South street, did not know how she was injured. She was standing in the back yard, just outside her door. She believed that she had been struck by a board, several having been found later in her yard, but it was at first reported that in her terror to get into the house she had struck her head on a part of the doorway. Dr. Jacobs was called and he believed that she was not seriously injured.

Louis Riehl, 411 South Alabama street, was sitting in his house, nearly a square away, and was slightly cut by glass from a window pane. He was also treated to a shower of broken plastering.

James Clune, living on the west side of the house occupied by Mrs. Quinlan, was moving out of the house yesterday and the family was ready for moving vans when the explosions took place. They were moving because of the plant, being fearful of just what happened yesterday. Mrs. Clune was in her dining room, on the west side of the house, when the first explosion occurred, and in her excitement she crawled under the dining table. The second explosion, following immediately, drove her into the street. She found the front door of her home locked and raised a window and made her exit through it, not caring to take time to unlock the door. She rushed to the street and ran east in company with most of her neighbors.

Debris of various kinds was scattered over the yards of people east and south of the plant and persons who looked over the scene yesterday were amazed that more were not injured.

Most of the people had protested personally and through the members of the City Council from their district against the establishment of the Prest-o-Lite plant. They had lived in fear ever since the last disastrous fire and explosion on South East street.

John R. Welch said yesterday that he and others interested in St. Vincent's were never thoroughly contented with the arrangement which resulted, but that they had driven as good a bargain as they believed could be made when provision was made that the company should charge its cans in an isolated place, but that it should be allowed to continue with the charging of cans at its South street plant until it could complete a more isolated plant near Kentucky avenue and White River. The time for moving the charging plant would have expired Wednesday and Fisher said yesterday that the company would have been able to live up to this agreement.

Fred Mayer, chairman of the committee of the Merchants' Association in the conferences which finally resulted in the arrangement by which cans were temporarily to be charged near the hospital, stated yesterday that it looked to him like a business that should not be inside of a city at all. He doubted, he said, that any part of the business should be conducted in the city. His committee was assured, he said, that the plant as constructed on South street could not blow up and do damage to others, but he said that it had been demonstrated that this was not the case. Personally he had never favored having the plant so near the hospital, he said.

"Indianapolis wants and needs all the industries it can have," he said, "but it occurs to me that we do not want businesses as dangerous as this, one appears to be inside the city. It should be so far away from everything else that it could not damage any other property."

Mr. Mayer did not believe that the business men would take any further action in the matter. He said that it was up to the city officials to act.

To Prevent Further Work.

It was reported yesterday that the company was to begin the filling of tanks on South street at once, though managers of the company said this could not be done, and the police, appealed to by the hospital management, took a hand. A sergeant was placed on the job with orders to prevent further work.

Mayor Bookwalter, members of the Board of Safety and several members of the City Council were on the scene of yesterday's wreck and they agreed that something would have to be done for the protection of property about the plant. Many members of the City Council had, when the compromise measure was passed, favored an ordinance to prohibit any portion of the business from being carried on in the city. But they were convinced that the building of the company on South street, which was thoroughly fireproof and was constructed with an effort to make it withstand explosions without damage to neighboring property, was such as would make the business safe there for the time being.

NEW MOVE FOR RAY LAMPHERE

in a part of the house. The house was not hit but the explosion was so intense that the woman was seriously injured.

Louis Smith, 221 South Michigan street, was sitting in the house, opposite a square tower and was sitting and by glass from a window when the explosion occurred. He was a shower of broken glass.

James Chase, living on the west side of the house occupied by Mrs. Gunness, was running out of the house yesterday and the family was forced to flee. It was when the explosion took place. They were moving furniture of the house, being fearful of fire which happened yesterday. Mrs. Chase was in her dining room, on the west side of the house, which the fire explosion occupied, and it had exploded. She was sitting under the dining table. The second explosion, following immediately, after had hit the office. She found the front door of her house broken and falling a window and under her feet through it, not daring to take them in which the door she rushed to the street and ran east in company with most of her neighbors.

Doors of various kinds were scattered over the parts of people east and south of the plant and persons who looked over the scene yesterday were amazed that there were not injured.

Most of the people had protested personally and through the members of the City Council from their district against the establishment of the freon-like plant. They had lived in fear ever since the plant was established there, since the last disastrous fire and explosion on South East street.

CROWDS FLOCK TO HOSPITAL.

Police Have Great Difficulty in Controlling the Curious.

Thousands of people thronged to the scene of the South street explosion yesterday and hundreds hurried anxiously to St. Vincent's Hospital to inquire as to the condition of friends and relatives there. The rush to the hospital was such that Patrolman Naughton was placed at the door to keep out those who might enter through curiosity. Care was taken, however, that no one should be barred who had friends or relatives in the institution.

Even early in the fire, when there was still a possibility that explosions would follow those which played such havoc with neighboring structures, the police had great difficulty keeping the crowds back. It was found necessary to stretch ropes around the place to keep people away out of danger.

THRESHERS FORM TRUST.

Will Charge 4 Cents a Bushel for Work on Wheat.

FT. WAYNE, Ind., June 6.—Forty threshing machine owners in northern Indiana met here today and formed a trust. Wheat will be threshed for 4 cents a bushel, an advance of 1 cent. Oats

market as dangerous as this, one should be to be inside the city. It should be so that every man, woman and child should not damage any other property.

Mr. Hagen did not believe that the business men would take any further action in the matter. He said that it was up to the city officials to act.

To Prevent Further Work.

It was reported yesterday that the company was to begin the filling of tanks on South street at once, though members of the company said this would not be done and the police appeared to be the highest management, took a hand. A statement was placed on the job with orders to prevent further work.

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NEW MOVE FOR RAY LAMPHERE

Attorneys Will Try to Prove Body Is Not That of Mrs. Gunness.

LAPORTE, Ind., June 6.—Attorneys Darrow and Worden, representing Ray Lamphere, under seven indictments for murder, tonight made formal demand on Coroner Mack that the body of the woman found in the ruins of the house and supposed to be that of Mrs. Gunness be examined by a commission of physicians, and that the body be measured, weighed and photographed and a report prepared for the use of the defense. This movement is accepted as meaning that counsel for Lamphere will make a fight to prove the body found in the Gunness home was not that of the woman, but of a cadaver.

CLASS HEARS STANSFIELD.

Indianapolis Minister Delivers Address to the Fairmount Graduates.

FAIRMOUNT, Ind., June 6.—The twenty-second annual commencement exercises of Fairmount Academy were held last night in the Friends Church and six graduates received diplomas, the smallest class for many years. Dr. Joshua Stansfield, Meridian Street M. E. Church, Indianapolis, delivered the address. The following is the class roll: Lelia Davis, Madge Burk, Emma Millsbaugh, Cleo