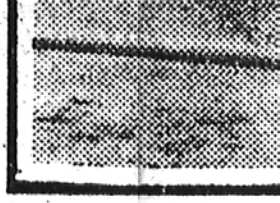
HOLE BROKEN IN BOX CAR 150 FEET FROM BURNING BUILDING BY METAL CAN HURLED BY FORCE OF EXPLOSION.



FIREM

moment in doing what he believed was his duty. In fact, it was necessary for me to warn the men several times that they were running too great risks and to order them away from the more dangerous positions. No, none of my men faltered about facing danger."

There was not a fireman on the job who did not risk his life every minute of the first half an hour of the fire, for during all that time the tanks of gas were exploding and jagged pieces of steel and other missles were flying. The firemen crowded closer and closer to the doors and windows as they saw that the flames were diminishing. At times the white light from the terrific explosions within the building leaped almost into the very faces of the firemen, but they did not flinch. It was an occasion that called for great valor. The men arose to the occasion.

MAY DRIVE PLANT OUT.

Coots Would Have Prest-O-Lite Company on Edge of City.

Fire Chief Charles E. Coots and Building Inspector Thomas Winterrowd will confer early this week in reference to controlling the re-establishment of the charging plant of the Prest-O-Lite Company.

Fire Chief Coots believes that the nature of the business is too dangerous to life and property to permit a plant to be situated in the very heart of a populous district, as was the plant destroyed yesterday. Some time ago, the chief said, complaints were made against the plant, which then occupied a small frame building on Twenty-fifth street. Later these complaints ceased, but the chief did not know until a short time ago that the plant had been moved to Pearl and East streets.

"I had been afraid of trouble," said the chief, "for acetylene gas is very dangerous. As soon as I saw the general neighborhood in which the fire was raging today, I told my driver that the fire was at that Prest-O-Lite plant."

The chief and the building inspector will probably ask for a city ordinance, if this is necessary, to drive the charging plant to the outskirts of the city. The chief said yesterday that experience in other cities had been that plants of this general character were dangerous fire hazards.

LUCKEY STOPPED GAS FLOW.

Injured Man Shut Off Machinery and Prevented Further Explosion.

John Luckey's injuries at the Prest-O-Lite fire yesterday were due to his efforts to stop the compressing machine and thus to shut off the flow of gas following the instant when the first floor of the plant seemed to be enveloped in flames.

It all happened so quickly that Luckey, who was running the engine, hardly

FIREMEN WADED THROUGH A VERITABLE

tom of the iron ladder that served as a fire escape on the building. Tamm caught her, and in doing so he was thrown against the wall of the building and his hand was bruised and sprained. The drop from the bottom of the ladder injured neither of the other two young women.

BIG TANK KEPT COOL.

Firemen Protect Great Receptacle and Prevent Serious Explosion.

A stream of water that played for an hour on a great retaining tank of acetylene gas at the Prest-O-Lite fire yesterday was all that prevented the entire building from being blown into smithereens, and the fact that this stream was

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It all happened so quickly that Luckey, who was running the engine, hardly knew afterward what had transpired. He said that his first thought was to check the escape of gas by shutting down the motor which drove the machinery. He made a rush for the switch and fell over a can of gas. His leg was bruised, his hand was cut and his knee was sprained by the fall, but he managed to crawl to the switch and stop the electricity. Then, scrambling to his feet, the man escaped before the exploding of the highly charged tanks began.

Claude Hess, who believed that the fire might have started from a leak in a gas pipe, was working under Luckey learning the business for the purpose of taking a similar place at one of the company's branch plants at New York.

FIRE PROTECTION LACKING.

Prest-O-Lite Building Not Fitted for Such Industry, Officials Assert.

The whole interior of the building at 20 and 24 South East street, the home until yesterday of the tank-filling department of the Prest-O-Lite Company, was ruined.

The building was in no measure fireproof, and the wooden interior, which was dry as tinder, was in no way protected against such a fire as occurred yesterday.

For a long time the building was occupied by a veterinary surgeon, who also conducted a college, where veterinary surgery was taught, and when it ceased to be used for this purpose there were few changes made for the accommodation of the dangerous business that was to occupy it.

City officials at the scene of the fire yesterday expressed themselves as surprised that the management of the company had established the office—the only department where women were employed—on the third floor of such a building.

RISKS LIFE FOR HORSE.

Drayman, Faithful to Animal in His Charge, Takes Long Chance.

A drayman named Young, employed by the Fry Transfer Company on Virginia avenue, risked his life at the Prest-O-Lite Company fire yesterday to save the horse he had been entrusted with—and finally succeeded.

Young's dray stood in the entrance to the building when the fire started. He was on the dray, and employes of the company were handing him tanks of gas when the room was suddenly enveloped in flames. Turning quickly he jerked the lines and tried to drive the horse out. Trembling like a leaf the terrified animal refused to budge an inch. Finally employes of the company seeing the Young

fire escape on the building. Tamm caught her, and in doing so he was thrown against the wall of the building and his hand was bruised and sprained. The drop from the bottom of the ladder injured neither of the other two young women.

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Soon after the first of the firemen arrived the chiefs and captains in charge of the men learned of this tank and a stream was started to keep it cool. The tank, several feet in diameter, contained enough of the gas to tear the building to pieces, the firemen were informed.

OLD "JACK" GIVES UP LIFE.

Watch Dog Overlooked in Rush to Safety and Perishes.

Old "Jack," a mongrel dog that had formed an attachment for the night watchman at the Prest-O-Lite charging plant, gave up his life in the flames there yesterday.

"Jack" was a strong favorite about the plant, but in their rush to save their own lives the men and women of the factory overlooked the danger of the faithful old dog. They never so much as thought of him until S. C. Hamilton, bookkeeper at the concern, ventured into the office after the fire. He found "Jack" flat on his back with his feet sticking straight up in the air. He was stone dead.

DEBRIS STOPS SEWER.

Before the city firemen had worked long on the Prest-O-Lite factory fire yesterday water stood knee deep at the corner of Pearl and East streets. Joseph Hogue, city street commissioner, was on the scene. He said that a sewer hole at this corner had been filled with debris. It was some time before the hole was opened and the water was drained away.

COMPANY'S FUTURE UNCERTAIN.

Manager to Do Nothing Until Word Comes From Owners.

Frank E. Sweet, manager of the ill-fated charging plant of the Prest-O-Lite Company, could make no definite statement last night as to the future of the business here. The destruction of the plant came at the busiest season of the year. He immediately began to try to get in communication with Carl Fisher and with James Allison, principal owners of the plant.

"It will be several days before we will be prepared to charge tanks—at least at this plant," said the manager. "The company has other plants at New York and elsewhere, but I can not now make a statement as to what we can do as to continuing to charge tanks. I do not know Mr. Fisher as to New York. Mr. Allison is at Colorado Springs or somewhere near there enjoying a vacation."

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CATCHES LEAPING GIRL.

August C. Tamm Breaks Young Woman's Fall and Suffers.

August C. Tamm was one of the first men on the scene of the Prest-O-Lite fire and explosion yesterday and he and Patrolman Kerins, who were joined during the task by employes of the company, assisted the three young women from the bottom of the fire escape to the sidewalk.

Miss Emma Brown, who was injured most painfully, fell from near the bot-

and Peripheral.

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Mr. Sweet expects to hear from either Fisher or Mr. Allison today.

Long after the firemen on the work had supposed that the last of the explosions were over three acetylene tanks on the second floor of the Prest-O-Lite Company's plant let go on the second floor of the building yesterday.

Several firemen were on the second floor at the time. Most of those closest to the point where the explosions occurred were of Hose Company No. 17. Following the terrific explosion, firemen and others who stood on the ground about the building held their breath. They saw in their mind's eye the destruction of some of the firemen in the building. But presently Capt. John Miller of the No. 17 Company poked his head out of a window and smiled, which was a signal that no one was hurt.

The tanks had been found to be empty but after they had been charged with

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