

FIRE KILLS 19; UNIONS ACCUSED

Two Bombs Found After Explosion Wrecks Los Angeles Times Building.

ONE AT GEN. OTIS'S HOME

Another at House of F. J. Zeehandelaar of Manufacturers' Association.

BOTH HAD FOUGHT UNIONS

Gompers and Other Leaders Scour Theory That Disaster Had Any Connection with Contest.

Special to The New York Times.

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 1. An explosion early this morning in the building of The Los Angeles Times, quickly followed by fire, resulting in the loss of a score of lives and the destruction of the building; the discovery of a time bomb which had failed to work at the residence of F. J. Zeehandelaar, Secretary of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, a reported attempt to dynamite the auxiliary plant of the newspaper, and the finding and explosion of still another bomb at the residence of Gen. Harrison Gray Otis, editor of The Times, lead the police to believe that a widespread plot existed against the forces that have been fighting organized labor in this city.

Harry E. Andrews, managing editor of The Times, said to-day:

"The Times building was destroyed by dynamite this morning by the enemies of industrial freedom. The Times itself cannot be destroyed. It will soon be reissued from its auxiliary plant and will fight its battles to the last."

Union Labor Is Accused.

Assistant General Manager Chandler said regarding the destruction of the Times building:

"There is no doubt that this outrage can be laid at the doors of the labor unions. They have destroyed the building and plant and have killed a number of our men, we do not know how many, but they can't kill The Times. For years we have been receiving threatening letters from people who said that the paper ought to be blown up. I have had several telephone calls within the last few weeks threatening us with destruction."

Mr. Chandler added that The Times has established the auxiliary plant at College and San Fernando Streets, equipping it with a press and twelve linotype machines, in the expectation that the regular plant would be destroyed some day.

Gen. Otis was absent from the city when his newspaper plant was destroyed. He was on his way back to Los Angeles from the City of Mexico, whither he went some weeks ago as a representative of the United States Government, by appointment of President Taft, to the Mexican Centennial celebration. This afternoon The Times made public the following telegram from Gen. Otis:

Your wire with its terrible news reached me this morning. I am amazed at the desperation of the criminal conspirators in destroying The Times Building and slaying its loyal defenders, whose loss I deeply deplore; but The Times itself will live on, bravely defending the vital and essential principles of industrial freedom under law which must yet triumph in the entire Nation.

HARRISON GRAY OTIS.

Chief of Police Galloway said to-night: "That The Times Building was wrecked by dynamite seems certain from all that my men can learn to-night. We have found some things that seem to us to point to the authors of this calamity."

Denial from Strike Committee.

A disavowal of labor union responsibility for the explosion came to-day from the Strike Committee of the metal trades, members of which have been on strike for some months, and between which organization and The Times there has been great bitterness. The committee's statement follows:

The union labor men in Los Angeles deplore deeply the loss of life and injury in the explosion and fire at The Times plant. The unions declare that the statement in The Times that the explosion was caused by some person or persons connected with organized labor here or elsewhere is false. Ever since the beginning of union labor here violence of every sort has been condemned in public and private. No union man has been permitted to commit any act of violence, be it ever so slight, nor have the unions failed rigorously to demand that their members obey the laws.

We believe that success can be won only by peaceful reasoning and showing the laboring man his rights and duties.

We, therefore, deny unequivocally that the unions or any union man in our knowledge had anything to do with any violence against The Times employees or property.

We stand ready and willing to do all in our power to aid in a thorough investigation of the explosion.

City Council Offers Reward.

The City Council voted \$25,000 to-day as a fund to be used to run down the perpetrators of the alleged dynamiting, \$2,500 of which was made available as a reward for the capture of the culprit or culprits.

Mayor Alexander, the City Council, the City Attorney, Chief of Police, and other municipal officers, meeting in executive session with the officials of various local union labor councils to-day, mutually agreed to call off the scheduled union labor parade which was to have been held in the city next Monday. The parade was arranged by the unions for the purpose of protesting against the recent anti-picketing ordinance and other alleged anti-union labor orders existing in the city. It was agreed to-day that such an assemblage during the present excitement would be unwise.

A mass of wreckage and twisted steel girders projecting from heaps of debris, and underneath it all the bodies of a score of dead employees, was all that was left at daylight this morning of the Times-Mirror Company's newspaper plant, at First Street and Broadway.

The explosion occurred at 1 o'clock this morning and was followed instantly by a fire that enveloped the whole structure in flames, completely wrecked the main three-story building and the adjoining six-story plant occupied by the Times-Mirror printing and binding house and by the American Engraving and Electrotyping Company.

The death list will probably total nineteen. There are four known dead and

...ing, whose bodies probably lie in the still smoking ruins of the Times building.

THE DEAD.

CRANE, HARRY L., assistant telegraph editor; body in ruins.
ELDER, HARVEY C., assistant city editor; burned and fatally injured, leaping from burning building; died in hospital.
BEAVER, J. WESLEY, secretary to Assistant General Manager Chandler; body in ruins.
SAWYER, R. L., telegraph operator; body in ruins.

THE MISSING.

CARESS, EUGENE, married, one child.
CORDWAY, WALTER, linotype operator.
FLYNN, HARRY, linotype operator.
FRANK, ELMER, operator, married.
GALLIHER, J. C., linotype operator, leaves widow and five children.
GULLIVER, CHARLES, compositor, married.
HOWARD, JOHN, printer, married, one child.
JOHNSON, ION E., operator, married.
JORDAN, ERNEST, operator, married, one child.
LEWELLYN, FRED, linotype operator, married.
MOORE, GRANT, machinist, married, three children.
GAALADA, Carl, linotype operator.
FUNTSTALL, W. G., linotype operator, married.
UNDERWOOD, FRANK, married, one child.
WATSON, EDWARD, printer, married.

In addition there are about twenty injured, some of whom may die.

Elder Jumped to Death.

When the disaster occurred, all the editors and reporters had gone home, with the exception of two or three men. Assistant City Editor Harvey C. Elder was still on duty. When the explosion came and the flames shot up through all parts of the building, Elder was stunned, but attempted to escape. Finding exit by the stairway shut off, he ran to the windows which opened out from the third floor on Broadway.

There were no fire escapes there, and, hemmed in by flames, he jumped. Firemen below held a net for him, but he missed it and struck the pavement. He died soon afterward.

Night Editor Taggart was at work in the composing room. He leaped through a window and made his way across the roofs of adjoining buildings to safety.

The entire force of editors and operators was at work in the telegraph room, excepting Telegraph Editor R. N. Whitney, Harry L. Crane, the assistant telegraph editor, was seen attempting to make his way out of the building. He was not found among the survivors.

Several men came to the upper windows a few minutes after the fire started and called for help. The firemen failed to get their ladders up quickly enough and the flames burst out below them. Nets were stretched and those at the windows were urged to jump. Many did and landed safe. Others hesitated and fell back into the flames.

Foreman Graybill of the composing room, in which the full force of the explosion was felt and where the greatest direct damage was done, is firmly of the opinion that it was due to dynamite in the alley. His statement is the clearest yet obtained. He said:

"I was standing near the centre of the composing room, when all at once a terrific force from below seemed to raise a section of the floor clear to the roof. The upheaval came between two linotype machines. Frames and broken timbers flew in all directions. The force of the thing was indescribable. Grant Moore, a machinist, was directly over the spot where the impact went through the floor. His body was hurled against the ceiling. T. A. Jordan, a head setter, and E. W. Wasson, a galley man, were nearest to him, and they, too, were hurled against the ceiling of the composing room.

"The typesetting machines were thrown and buried in all directions."

About 115 in Building.

Foreman Graybill estimates that there were about 115 men in the building, 80 of whom were in his department. He believes that 12 of his men were killed, and that the fatalities in other rooms number about the same. About 17 men were in the stereotyping department, but all are believed to have made their escape. H. D. Fallada, in charge of the proofreading room, located next to the telegraph room on the third floor, had 10 employees in his department, 5 of whom were women. All escaped.

Assistant General Manager Chandler of the Times had a narrow escape from death in the fire. He had just left his office on the first floor and gone to the street when the explosion occurred. Managing Editor Andrews and City Editor Bler had been in their offices during the evening, but had gone to their homes a short time before the explosion.

Persons who were first on the scene state that there were three distinct explosions. The first seemed to be the heaviest. Crowds that gathered early in the morning saw many men fall back from the windows into the flames. Others leaped and were injured.

An examination of the wrecked buildings shows that the force of the explosion was greatest in the rear of the Times main building, and in the small alley which ran between it and the plant of the printing and binding house.

The theory that the explosion may have been caused by escaping gas in the building itself is not credited by the police. If dynamite was used, it is believed that it was placed at the angle between the two buildings.

Immediately after the explosion the police made a search of the building and vicinity for suspicious characters and two were taken into custody on the Broadway street, one of whom is now in the hands of the police.

Firemen Clearing Wreckage.

Although the flames burned fiercely, the concentrated force of the fire department had soon under control, at daylight today, preventing their spread to adjoining buildings. Effects of police and firemen were then directed to getting the ruins in shape to search for bodies.

Of the newspaper plant there was left standing only the north wall of the printing and binding house and the granite wall at First Street and Broadway with the main entrance to the business office. Because there was imminent danger of the brick wall collapsing, cut ropes were fastened about the top of the remaining portions were left standing. Companies in the crowd of thousands who filled the street for a block or either side were groups of weeping women and children, members of families of men who were missing and whose dead bodies were supposed to be underneath the ruins. Some of these women waited to enter the fire lines and examine the ruins, but they were kept outside. Some of their vigil until the firemen had an opportunity to clear away the wreckage.

First reports of the number of the missing were as high as 100. Later, men were accounted for one by one, and the Times management from its branch office at 521 South Spring Street, announced that the missing did not number more than 20. The men are buried in the ruins in a haphazard way, and the police are unable to determine how many were killed. It is and where the explosion occurred. It is the general opinion, however, that the shock was heaviest almost directly beneath the composing room, and that it may have come from the basement. In any event, the force of the explosion spent itself about the center of the building, and seemed to affect the three floors of the main structure.

The composing room of the Times was located on the third floor.

The building was equipped with gas fittings and the force of the explosion, tearing these pipes, may have released gas which was instantaneously ignited. No other cause than that of a dynamite explosion was suggested by witnesses, except one, a linotype operator, who said he had detected the odor of gas in the building earlier in the night and had called attention to it.

The property loss is about \$1,000,000 for the Times. Typographic business houses in the neighborhood suffered lesser losses.

Bomb at Zeelandlaar's House.

Enough dynamite to wreck the building and perhaps destroy several adjoining residences was found this morning on the ground near the foundation of the south side of the home of F. J. Zeelandlaar, Secretary of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association. His residence is at 830 Garland Avenue. The explosive had a clock attachment, and it was set for 1 o'clock, the hour at which the Times Building was blown up. The police believe the contrivance was arranged to explode last night, and it is thought it failed to do so only because the clockwork was wound too tight and did not work. The clock attachment was connected with a dry battery by a copper wire, which was arranged to spark and light the fuse when the alarm responded to the regular mechanical work-

ings. The dynamite was wrapped in oil paper, and there were fifteen sticks of 80 per cent. giant No. 2 powder. It was manufactured by the Giant Powder Company, and according to a date found on the wrapper, it was sold on Sept. 20.

The explosive was discovered by Alice Wilder, a servant in the Zeelandlaar home. She reported her discovery to G. W. Bingham of 811 Garland Avenue, a street car conductor. Bingham picked up the explosive and carried it into the street in front of the residence. He notified the police, and Sergt. Adams, with Policemen Rico and Jarvis, hurried to the place. Rico detached the wire and the dynamite and contrivance were confiscated by the police. Jack Hendrickson, dynamite expert, says there was enough of the explosive to wreck the building totally. Jones & Boyd's detectives, who were engaged to investigate the case, believe it is possible to get some clue to the identity of the purchaser from the powder manufacturing company.

Mr. Zeelandlaar says that he and his family passed most of the evening yesterday on the front porch of their home, and he believes that the dynamite must have been placed beside the house after they had retired, which was about 10 o'clock. He also reported that the screen in the ventilator at the side of the house had been cut within the last few months.

The dynamite was found beneath the window of the room occupied by Lois Zeelandlaar, the seventeen-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Zeelandlaar. The only occupants of the house were Mr. Zeelandlaar, his wife, and daughter, and the servant. The Los Angeles Times has long been the implacable foe of labor unions, and in this attitude has been actively supported by the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, of which Mr. Zeelandlaar is the active head.

Attempt on Otis's Home.

An attempt to destroy the residence of Gen. Harrison Gray Otis, publisher of the Los Angeles Times, by means of an infernal machine, was made late to-day. The Otis home, known as "The Bivouac," stands on Wiltshire Avenue, in the most fashionable quarter of the city.

After the finding of the infernal machine at the Zeelandlaar residence, Detective Rice was sent to "The Bivouac" to search the premises. Aided by Charles Flocker, the gardener, he found a suit case hidden in a bunch of vines under a bay window on the side of the house fronting Westlake Park. Detective Rice telephoned Chief of Police Galloway, who went immediately to Gen. Otis's house. The officers examined the suit case.

Chief of Police Galloway wanted to take it to the police station without opening it. Rice insisted on opening it there, and finally stuck a knife through the side of the case. A buzz of mechanism was heard inside and smoke oozed out.

Convinced that the suitcase contained a bomb, Chief Galloway excitedly ordered the infernal machine rushed to West Lake Park, where its explosion could do but comparatively little damage. Rice and Flocker took it up and dashed across the street. Putting it down they sped away and put about 100 feet between themselves and the bomb before it went off with a crash that threw the entire neighborhood into a panic.

The explosion tore out a portion of the curbing of the street along the park. Branches of a tree directly overhead were torn off and portions of the park fence were splintered. A plate glass windshield on a porch in the Otis home was shattered. That no greater damage was done was due to the fact, experts say, that the explosive the suitcase contained was not packed or closely confined. Rice said the infernal machine weighed about fifty pounds.

In the Otis home at the time of the explosion were Mrs. Harry Chandler, daughter of Gen. Otis, and a relative, Mrs. Booth, and the latter's two children. Before the suitcase was found there were only a Japanese servant and a cook and Flocker in the house.

The women and children reached the house just after the Chief of Police arrived, to prepare for the home-coming of Gen. Otis, who was expected soon.

Rice hurried back to the scene immediately after the explosion. He found pieces of the suitcase and portions of the clock works which composed the time exploding mechanism of the infernal machine.

Attack on Auxiliary Plant.

Assistant General Manager Chandler is authority for the statement that an attempt to blow up The Times auxiliary plant at College and San Fernando Streets was made a few minutes before the explosion destroyed the main office at First Street and Broadway.

Mr. Chandler said that one of his men had reported that shortly before 1 o'clock this morning two men were seen by a special officer placing a ladder at the rear of the branch building and climbing to the roof. The officer said he watched the men, who seemed to be trying to effect an entrance through the skylight. He fired at them twice and the men fled. Mr. Chandler interprets this as further proof that efforts were planned last night to destroy The Times' main and branch offices.

The Los Angeles Times was established in 1881. Gen. Otis purchased the paper six months after it started. For twenty years the paper and its owner have been engaged in a war with labor unions, starting with a strike by the members of the Typographical Union. Gen. Otis has been ably seconded in this fight by the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, whose Secretary, Mr. Zeelandlaar, was the object of attempted kidnapping.

The Times issued an extra from its press to the auxiliary office, at College and San Fernando Streets, during the morning. The President of the local typographical union issued orders that union printers might work in conjunction with the non-union printers of The Times if any of the local newspaper office is setting up shop for the Times. This was announced after a consultation of union men and the managers of the other newspapers.