

DAMAGE BY BANDITS AT VILLE MARIE

Several Buildings Near the Bank Were Damaged

THEORIES AS TO ROBBERS

May Have Been Escaped Prisoners
From the Internment Camp—An-
other Is That a Woman Accomplice
Made Plans for the Gang.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Cobalt, June 26.—The main street of Ville Marie looks as if it had been subject to a Zeppelin attack. The Quebec Bank is burned to the ground, and several adjacent buildings have been wrecked by heavy detonations of dynamite, put off by the bandits. Windows all over town were broken by the concussion, and one or two pitted by rifle shots.

It is evident that the bandits had made thorough preparations for the attack. They rode direct to the bank and entered it without any attempt at concealment. Once inside, they dropped their tools and went to work by the aid of electric torches as if they had come to mend a main. The staff sleeping above were rudely awakened by the first explosion, and evacuated the premises by means of the windows. Meanwhile the bandits had been posted at all the principal entrances to the street, and at any attempt to give an alarm they shot without compunction.

Boy Dangerously Wounded.

A. Marleau, a twelve-year-old boy, is so badly shot in the legs that he may not recover. The robbers warned everybody back, and when the boy ran across the street he was shot. As the inhabitants heard the noise and lit lamps they were notified by whistling shots that their action was resented, and the majority of them promptly put out the lights again and watched in security. One woman directly across the street had several shots fired in close proximity to her head before she could get the lights out.

Robbers Were Felled.

Apparently the bandits got nothing for their pains. An explosion of dynamite tore completely away the front of the safe containing the money, but the bolts held until the bandits were forced to evacuate the premises on account of the fire which sprang up in the wake of the dynamite explosions.

The people were so much terrified by the evident intention to shoot to kill that it is difficult to get any trustworthy descriptions of the robbers beyond that there were seven of them, and that, although they wore no masks, their faces were blackened.

Two Theories Advanced.

One hypothesis is that the band consists of escaped prisoners from Spirit Lake on the Transcontinental Railway. Some prisoners did manage to escape before and get close to Ville Marie before they were captured.

Another theory is that they were men well acquainted with the locality, and that they were aided by a woman who, for days before, called at the bank for change. Local police say that this woman upon each occasion looked about as if making a mental note of the inside of the bank. The Assistant General Manager of the bank is expected at Ville Marie tomorrow, and will be accompanied by detectives to make a full investigation.