

BLAST RIPS GAS PLANT IN C.N.R. YARDS

Fort Rouge Explosion Starts
Rumors of Foe Plot—Loss Is
\$200,000

DOUGLAS M'LELLAN IS HURT

Many Others Escape Injury
When Several Buildings Are
Shaken

Damage to the extent of \$200,000 was caused by an explosion of the acetylene gas plant at the C.N.R. yards at Fort Rouge shortly after 9 a.m. today.

The cause of the blast is still a mystery. An investigation has been instituted.

Five or six heavy explosions were distinctly heard throughout Fort Rouge.

Wild stories to the effect that alien enemies had blown up the whole C.N.R. yards were circulated throughout the city, but there seems to be little doubt that the whole affair was an accident.

Foreman Is Injured

One man, Douglas McLellan, foreman of the gas plant, was injured painfully about the hands. He was attended by the company's doctor, and was able to resume his duties in an hour's time.

The main building of the gas plant was destroyed, but the employes escaped. In the building were 1,000 tins of carbide of calcium, weighing 100,000 pounds. The second heavy explosion occurred as soon as the water reached this material.

The first explosion occurred in a G.T.P. private car which Foreman McLennan was storing with gas. Then the gas mains in the yards blew up at intervals for a distance of about 300 yards. The fire which followed the explosion quickly spread to the rolling stock in the vicinity. The main building of the gas plant took fire almost immediately and was soon an entire loss. The flames

quickly spread to the ice houses, the roofs of four of them being burned away.

Fire Department Responds

Fire stations No. 4 and No. 15 quickly responded to the alarm, when 20 lines of hose were playing on the fire. All the company's employees in the yards rendered effective assistance to the firemen.

Several persons were knocked over by the force of the second explosion. So far as can be learned they were not seriously injured.

All the rolling stock damaged belonged to the C.N.R., with the exception of one private G.T.P. car in which the fire is supposed to have originated. The total damage to the rolling stock is estimated at about \$50,000.

• Police Make Report

A police report compiled by Acting-Inspector J. Livingston, of the Fort Rouge station, attributes the fire's origin to an explosion of gases and air in the tank of the G.T.P. private car, which was completely wrecked. The fire, says the report, was discovered at 9.5 a.m. Twenty minutes later a loud detonation was heard by residents of the vicinity. Much air vibration was evident. Then a succession of explosions followed the first one. The main pipes connected with the acetylene plant with the various filling stations for cars, caught fire and almost simultaneously seven coaches blazed. These were made up of three tourist, one private, one Pullman and two diners.

As the private car blazed, an ice house situated about ten yards from the siding upon which the car stood, caught fire. Before the fire could be quelled the entire roof was burned and several of the adjoining buildings—there are four in a row—were scorched.

The damage is almost entirely covered by insurance. This sum is made up of the losses accrued by the wrecking of rolling stock, gas plant and mains.

Loss to Company

The losses are:

Damage to gas plant, mains, equipment and 100,000 pounds of carbide of calcium, used in generating of gas, \$150,000.

Damage to rolling stock and ice-houses, \$50,000.

These quotations are only estimates. The true monetary loss is not known.

The fire was completely under control shortly after 11 o'clock. Twenty lines of hose were laid. The fire territory extended over a distance of 300 yards between Scotland and Lorette avenues.