

ALIEN ENEMIES MAY BE GUILTY

Rumor That Workmen Were Warned Not to Go to Muni- tion Factory Blown Up Yesterday.

MONTREAL, Oct. 27.—The cause of the fire and explosions which destroyed seven buildings of the Canadian Explosives, Ltd., at Isle Perrot, near Vaudreuil, Quebec, yesterday morning, has not been ascertained, but it is currently reported that two French Canadians say that on crossing the river to Vaudreuil Thursday night, a boy advised them not to go to work in the plant of the Canadian Explosives, Ltd., as the plant was going up in the air on Friday morning. They do not know the name of the boy, but undertook this afternoon to locate him.

Wm. Kelly, assistant to the president of the Canadian Explosives, Ltd., is disinclined to believe that alien enemies had anything to do with the explosion. He could not say what had caused it. Some of the employees say it was due to an electric spark from a switch flying into some powder in a partially filled shell.

"We expect to be operating again in about ten days," said Mr. Kelly last night.

Early reports as to the loss being one million dollars were greatly exaggerated, and last night it was stated that it would probably not exceed \$200,000, if as high as this.

The explosions followed a fire which started in the shell-filling house of the assembling plant and they continued at intervals throughout the day until six o'clock. Among the buildings destroyed were the shell-filling house, the assembling house, the storehouse and some smaller structures, all having been constructed of flimsy material, as is usual in such plants. There are 500 employees of the company, 400 of whom are boys, girls and women. The injured employees are Paul Ladouceur, aged 53, of St. Anne de Bellevue, who is suffering from some broken ribs, and J. Montpetit, 20 years old, of Ile Perrot, burned about the face and hands.