

NEW YORK PAPER ACCUSES WORKMEN Evening World Lays Bomb Outrage to Revenge. UNION LEADER INVOLVED

Polish Laborers, Barred From Earning Living, Sent Explosive, It Is Alleged.

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NEW YORK, Nov. 11.—(Special.)—Before the dust clouds had fairly settled after the explosion at Wall and Broad streets, between J. P. Morgan & Co.'s building and the United States assay office, September 16, 1920, the Evening World began an independent investigation. It has now flagged. It has now resulted in disclosures in which the interests of justice demand that the general public should share.

The official investigations by federal and city authorities, the score of private agencies hired by private citizens and financial institutions, have devoted themselves to a search for fanatical assassins seeking a shining mark in a crowd in which prominent persons were almost certain to be present, or to force the proof of a great anarchist or revolutionary terrorist conspiracy. These investigations, bringing into view countless details of facts, have struck a dead center in their progress.

Polish Workers Are Involved. The Evening World presents proof that 1800 men, nearly all foreign born, industrious, efficient and well disciplined—houseworkers' local No. 35, known recently also as the "Polish union" and "Zarankos union"—have, within a space of 18 months, been subjected to an amazing conspiracy of greed and injustice, and the explosion was the culmination of this tyranny.

The building trades graft was responsible for the crime. The Evening World does not charge the union, as a union, with responsibility. It was the work of individuals, possibly inside the union, possibly the work of sympathizers.

Further proofs are presented that the wrath and resentment of these working men and their fellows who knew of their tragic lot, they avert vagrancy and starvation in days of overflowing labor opportunity, was centered not only on their arch oppressor, Robert P. Brindell, dictator of the labor trades council, but upon house wrecking contractors.

Hitler Against Brindell. The middle of September. At that time their feeling against the Brindell organized men was at its bitterest. Their last resource for an orderly way out of their straits had failed. Their appeals to the city authorities, to affiliated unions, to the American Federation of Labor and to fair play among the contractors had failed. They had learned they had not even the legal right to declare a general strike in the building industry.

When the driver went away or while he went, the spot noted. Nothing at the time seemed of less importance for it was not then known, even to Albert Volk or to his partner, foreman or workers, that the dead horse and the driver had brought the explosion to Wall street. The employers had a fairly clear idea as to why it had been brought and that it meant reprisal.

center of the dynamite and the broken sash weights had done its work. Twenty-five persons were lying dead in the streets.

One hundred and fifty men and women were lying stunned and broken on the sidewalks, in the middle of the streets and in offices. Of these 14 were so hurt that they died of their injuries, increasing the number of fatalities to 39. Damage to buildings amounted to \$2,000,000 had been done.

Horse and Wagon Annihilated. The bay horse which had been drawing the ramshackle wagon with the red underbody lay splashed in a heap 30 feet from the spot where he had been left to await the return of the driver. His hind quarters had been torn off. Only red chips and splinters and twisted lengths of the iron wheel rims, scattered for half a block in either direction, remained of the wagon.

The first thought of the unconsciously lucky driver over in the Volk office shack was for the horse and wagon. He worked his way through the settling dust fall to the assay office and found that mangled carcass and red splinters, all that was left of his charge.

No more than before the explosion did he realize that the death and destruction all about him had radiated from the load on the wagon which he had brought nearly to the appointed spot.

Nobody Needs Driver. He did not realize that those who engaged the wagon and his services meant to let him take his slim chance for life with all of the other hundreds who were warning all about the streets near the contractor and the hated foreman and the members of the upstairs wreckers' union "Brindell men."

A few moments later the driver reappeared at the Volk office shack on the sidewalk shelter. "Let me telephone," he said. "I would right away telephone the boss. My horse is killed. That is my horse down there—dead."

Nobody paid much, if any, attention to his plea. The death-dealing blast from the telephone. He was half crying from fright and excitement, due both to the horse and to the explosion. He clung alone on the over sidewalk structure trying to tell somebody in apparent authority about his troubles. He told them to Raymond Clark, the chief foreman of wreckers; A. Brindell, lieutenant in charge of Volk's laborers.

Clark was too busy to bother with him. Clark was very serious worried in his own. The death-dealing blast meant to him things which the crowds in the street knew nothing about, just as it did to Volk, the contractor.

Each Believed Himself Target. Each of them then believed the bomb was meant for himself. They were later to take a broader view of it and include everybody on the whole building project among the intended targets.

Agent Walsh of the Travelers' Insurance company, which had suits policies protecting Volk from suits for all accident damages, took exception to the number of persons who were using the sidewalk protection staging for a speculators' stand. He went to Abraham Fleisher, a partner of Volk, and ordered the stand cleared. Clark and his men carried out the order. They did not molest the troubled driver. Fleisher noticed him.

"Put that man off, too," he called to Clark. "That poor fellow is all right, boss," said Clark. "He lost his horse in the explosion. It was his horse that was killed down there. He's just been telling me about it."

Pole Finally Fades Away. When the driver went away or while he went, the spot noted. Nothing at the time seemed of less importance for it was not then known, even to Albert Volk or to his partner, foreman or workers, that the dead horse and the driver had brought the explosion to Wall street. The employers had a fairly clear idea as to why it had been brought and that it meant reprisal.

Clark Shot at Night. They put the car in the garage. As they were coming out of the garage they were confronted by three men in the dark neither Clark nor Kelly could see these men's faces.

"Which one of you is Kelly?" asked one of the three strangers. "I'm Kelly," said the assistant foreman.

"Then you're Clark," said the man, turning to the chief foreman. "I'm Clark," answered Raymond Clark.

Instantly there were three pistol shots. One of them was fired by the man who had asked the questions. He held the muzzle of his revolver so close to Clark's coat that the cloth was singed.

The police traffic rule which delayed the driver of the wagon load of explosives, entirely defeated by the delay it imposed on the real purpose of the perpetrators of the crime. Strangely enough, not only were Volk and his partner, Abraham Fleisher and Michael Sheriff, and the "strong arm" committee of Brindell picked men and the 35 members of the made-to-order local No. 35, unscratched, but not a single chunk of sash weight landed on the Stock Exchange annex site.

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It is not likely that the driver, once he realized how nearly concerned he had been in the terrible business, ever told a soul except his boss of his experience at Broad and Wall streets. Some of the investigators believe that if he had talked he would have been done to death as the surest way of stopping his mouth. There are a few who believe he is dead. Certainly those of the contractors' office and working force who were closest to the scene of the plot became first forgetful and then dumb as they sought to realize what would happen to those who "talked." But Clark did not become dumb soon enough.

Investigation Is Begun. The prospect of a general lifting of the lid in the building business was not much less fearful to them than the prospect of another bomb to be used in the building trades employers' building in Thirty-third street, or the building trades council building in very Marie place. It was not until the Lockwood committee exposed some of these criminally unrighteous building trades employers that the city and federal and private detectives began to gather some of the material which had already been collected by the Evening World. Today the detectives under Captain Busby and Acting Sergeant B. Egan of the police headquarters, Chief William Flynn's federal men and the private detectives are all of them busy looking for the man who shot at Kelly.

Clark Has "Gone Dumb." Within a week Clark had "gone dumb," as they say in the housewrecking trade. He denied he had ever seen a man who said he was the driver of the explosive carrying wagon. He denied having seen the fire marshal and the district attorney. In each place he insisted to reporters his denial of the whole incident.

But Clark had told the story to an experienced member of the Evening World staff. Within the present week the Evening World has found two business men of high standing in the building trades who were present at the explosion, and to whom he mentioned it again when explaining to them the attempt to assassinate him three weeks ago. And so certain are these two business men of the justification for Clark's frightened silence that they would not talk to the Evening World's investigator at all until they had a promise guaranteed by his authority that their names would not be published.

Yaranko Men Are Tricked. Although Volk's testimony, before it went as close to the explosion plot as Mr. Untermeyer and Leonard Wallestein, his assistant, thought it well to allow Volk to go, told how he obtained permission from Brindell for 13 Zaranko men to work on a job up town by paying Brindell \$25 each for initiation fees for them.

The Zaranko men were not told then that they had thus been made traitors to Zaranko and their comrades. Volk explained; they were led to believe they were working in the name of Brindell's permission. They did not find out the truth for weeks afterward.

Volk became Brindell's confidant and friend. Volk was accepting batches of 12 Brindell union men every day and dismissing ten of them until below the day was over. The Zaranko men hated Volk for catering to Brindell; they hated him for helping to keep them out of work, though they had secured him faithfully for years; finally they hated him for employing Brindell foremen, though they had secured him "fees" and "dues" and "work permit" from them and then drove them off the work by threatening their lives.

Zaranko's Men Are Cursed. Always the Zaranko men were cursed and jeered at and called filthy names by all the other men on the job. Constantly great chunks of stones and plaster would fall two or three stories and strike near them. The last of them had been driven from the Broad and Wall street job in fear of their lives by these accidents and by combined assaults of foremen and other workers.

Zaranko had reached the limit of his efforts to lead his union out of its plight. When he came back to New York last winter he found that Vladimir Zaranko, a business agent, had persuaded Zaranko's successor as president, Ostapetuk, to take it out of the American Federation of Labor in which they had an independent charter as Local No. 16, and put it into an organization entirely outside of the federation—the Independent Bricklayers, Helpers and Building Laborers' Union of America, incorporated with headquarters in Essex street.

Brindell Obtains Control. The transplanted union found that this international was under Brindell control. It was asked to turn over its treasury funds to Brindell control. Fankle was revealed as little more than an agent of Brindell, for whom he is today an acknowledged agent. The union members rebelled and were expelled. But they belonged to no union at all, temporarily.

Fankle and Ostapetuk were deposed. Zaranko became president again May 10 last. Zaranko obtained for them a new charter under authority of the international hod carriers, building and common laborers of America, a branch of the American Federation of Labor.

Brindell countered by starting a new union, an exorcism on his dock laborers' organization, giving it a charter under the building trades council affiliation with the American Federation of Labor. He began picking up idle and inefficient cast-offs from any and all other unions.

Zaranko wrote to the dock builders, to the tugboat men and to the distillers to complain. His only satisfaction consisted of letters addressed to the "Dear Brother Housewreckers," saying there must be a mistake, as Mr. Brindell would not approve of anything that was not "right." Zaranko appealed to the American Federation of Labor through friendly intermediaries and directly. He got this response even from Frayne, trusted lieutenant of the international, which is in testimony of the Lockwood committee: "Nothing can be done with Brindell. He seems to be a power unto himself."

Zaranko wrote asking a conference with Mayor Hylan as long ago as May 28 last, Secretary Simons and the mayor was too busy to keep such engagements. As a last resort, Zaranko asked authority from his men to order a strike of the wrecking industry in this city as a protest against the lockout of local No. 35 by the contractors. This authority was voted August 13. Arrangements for the strike and a demonstration against all the Brindell men on wrecking jobs had been underway three days when it was learned that approval of the strike must be had from DeLassandro.

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La Guardia Offers Services. At this point, Borough President La Guardia heard of the distress of the 1800 men and offered his services. He asked them not to strike until he had tried to get a hearing for them with the mayor and their international union head. He found he could not help them. They prepared to strike again when they were warned on September 10 that they had no right to strike because their charter had been in existence only three months of the required six.

Brindell and the members of his union jeered. The contractors laughed openly at the silliness of a new strike by men already out of work who had no authority to strike. Volk is remembered to have commented on it among his friends September 15. The explosion was September 15.

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