

GRANITE ALTERS HARBOR LINES

Greatest Blast in History of the World Set Off at Portsmouth Navy Yard Today.

DRILLED FOR MONTHS UNDERNEATH THE SEA

Thirty-Five Thousand Yards of Rock Blown Up by Fifty Tons of Giant Powder, Increasing Depth of Water in Harbor—Crowds Witness Blast.

(Journal Special Service.)

Portsmouth, N. H., July 22.—Thousands of people lined the waterfront and occupied other points of vantage in the vicinity when at high tide this afternoon 30 tons of dynamite was exploded and Henderson's point, a jutting piece of land that has always narrowed the channel to the exclusion of ships of the heaviest draft, was removed from the geography of New Hampshire.

It was the largest blast ever fired. At the invitation of the navy department, which conducted the engineering, the engineering, naval officers and others were present in large numbers to witness the uplifting of land and water. The invited spectators stood on Reservoir hill from which they had a splendid view of the terrific explosion. The arrangements were in charge of Engineer Gregory, United States navy. Miss Edith Foster, daughter of Superintendent O. W. Foster of the Massachusetts Contracting company, pressed the button which set off the gigantic charge and sent 35,000 yards of solid ledge flying in the air. It was a holiday for the navy-yard and all the employees turned out to witness the sight. The townspeople of Portsmouth and hundreds of visitors from nearby cities and towns swarmed over Pierce island and on the seacoast side of the water.

When all was ready for the explosion the cofferdam that had protected the workmen while they were taking off the surface earth and burrowing deep into the rock to lay their trail of explosive was removed, and the water, which had been kept back from the giant excavation flowed over the point to a depth of 24 feet. This cushion of water served to temper the force of the blast so that no bad effects were experienced by persons or property, though the quake of the earth was felt for miles.

The work of removing Henderson's point has been going on for several years. Three quarters of a million dollars has been expended in the task.

The point projects into the channel at the narrowest places where the river turns at sharp angle and flows into the harbor. The old channel was but 400 feet wide. The removal of the point increases the width to 950 feet and gives the channel a uniform depth of 15 feet—width and depth that will admit of the entrance of any vessel now in the navy or ever likely to be.

For over two years contractors, under the supervision of the government, have been excavating the middle of the point. Nearly 200,000 cubic yards had been excavated, leaving 35,000 cubic yards, which was instantly disposed of by today's explosion.

Down at the bottom of the big pit workmen were engaged for months drilling holes into the rock to receive the giant charge of dynamite exploded this afternoon. Two hundred and fifty holes were drilled horizontally, the longest over 80 feet in length and the shortest 50. Every three feet of progress required the sharpening of bits, drill, so that a blacksmith shop was a necessity in the pit, many feet below the level of the water. The 50 tons of dynamite poured into the holes was manufactured especially for the job. The greatest care was necessary in loading the blast to prevent a premature explosion, which would have been disastrous not only to the lives of the workmen, but to the success of the engineering task. The blast was arranged in three circuits and set off simultaneously when Miss Foster touched the button from a safe retreat in one of the main buildings of the navy-yard.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY COMMISSIONER ORGANIZES

(Special Dispatch to the Journal.) Baker City, Or., July 22.—The board of commissioners for the Fourth Eastern Oregon District Agricultural society has met and elected president, secretary and treasurer as provided in the act of the legislature.

The board of commissioners is composed of five men; Baker county to allow two commissioners and the other counties of Malheur, Harney and Grant each allowed one man. G. F. Wright of Baker county was chosen president and E. G. Everett of this city secretary and treasurer.

After some talk it was decided to hold the annual fair or exhibition from September 19 to 23, which is the same time that the special association holds its meet.

Patrolman Kilgore Must Explain. Patrolman Kilgore is accused of unseemly conduct at the Forestry Inn, near the fair grounds. A Baptist minister and a stockholder in the inn is the accuser. The alleged offense is rendered more serious because it is said to have occurred while Kilgore was on duty.

Advertisement for Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, featuring an illustration of a woman and text describing the medicine's benefits for various ailments.

Advertisement for Walter Baker & Co's Chocolate and Cocoa, featuring an illustration of a woman and text describing the product's quality and awards.

CHURCH SERVICES

LUTHERAN. St. James' English Lutheran—Corner West Park and Jefferson streets; J. A. Lars, pastor. Services at 11 a. m.; Sunday school at 10 a. m.; no evening service.

METHODIST. Trinity—East Tenth and Grand streets; Rev. Alfred Ober, pastor. At 10 a. m., Sunday school; 11 a. m., communion service; 7:45 p. m., sermon by Bishop David W. Moore.

BAPTIST. The White Temple, corner Twelfth and Taylor streets; Rev. J. Whitcomb Brougher, D. D., pastor. At 10:15 a. m., "One second" prayer meeting; 11:30 a. m., preaching by Rev. Herbert Spencer Johnson of Boston; 12:15 p. m., Sunday school; 6:30 p. m., D. Y. F. U. reception and service.

CHRISTIAN. First—Corner Park and Columbia streets; E. S. Mackley, pastor. At 10:30 a. m., "The Heavens and the Earth"; 12:15 p. m., Midsummer Thanksgiving sermon; 7:45 p. m., Bible school; J. P. Candler, state Sunday school evangelist; in charge of Y. F. C. E. in evening.

Episcopal. Trinity—Nineteenth street near Washington; Rev. A. A. Morrison, pastor. At 8 a. m., holy communion; service at 11 a. m., and 7 o'clock; the Rev. J. S. Chestnut will preach in the evening; no Sunday school during summer.

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH. First—Corner East Tenth and Sherman streets; Rev. A. A. Winters, pastor. At 10:30 a. m., Sunday school; C. A. Blavier, superintendent; 11 a. m., "Prayer for Helpers"; 7 p. m., K. L. C. E. meeting.

M. E. CHURCH SOUTH. First—111 1/2 Second street, Foresters' hall; H. H. Moore, pastor. At 10 a. m., Sunday school; 11 a. m., communion; 7:45 p. m., Epworth league; 8 p. m., Dr. Tufts, superintendent of Anti-Saloon league.

MISCELLANEOUS. The Christian and Missionary Alliance—Sixth and Main streets; Rev. C. D. Sawtelle, superintendent. At 10:30 a. m., preaching; 12:15 p. m., Sunday school; 7:30 p. m., open-air service in place of black near Madison street. If it rains the service will be held in the chapel at Sixth and Main streets.

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