HINDUS BLOWN UP BY DYNAMITE IN KITSILANO HOUSE

Mutab Singh Is Killed, Two Other Hindus Are Injured and House Is Wrecked by Dynamite Explosion—Eight Other East Indians in Dwelling Escape Unharmed.

With an explosion that shook houses for blocks around, the home of Mutab Singh, 1748 Third Avenue West, was blown up shortly before midnight. The body of the Hindu who was sleeping immediately above the place where the explosion occurred, was mutilated beyond recognition, while two of his ten roomers were so badly bruised about the body that they had to be taken to the hospital.

The police are of the opinion that the tragedy is the climax of the feud which already resulted in the death of several residents of the Hindu colony, and in the murder of an official of the Immigration Department. It is stated that Mutab Singh, who was the boss Hindu in a False Creek sawmill, belonged to the party opposed to Bela Singh.

The explosion blew off the entire front of the two-storey frame building, and when Sergeant MacLennan and P. C. Creighton reached the scene they found the supporting pillars of the front of the second storey had been torn away and the front half of the building a mass of debris. In the middle of a little corner room, lying near his shattered bed, lay the body of Mutab Singh. His head had been blown off and his arms were missing. In the adjoining room, Duleep Singh and Ban Singh were found suffering from severe injuries.

Roomers Were Asleep.

Mutab Singh had built the house some four years ago, and asleep in it at the time of the explosion were ten roomers, some of whom were fellow workmen with him in the False Creek mill, while others were employed in other mills. In addition to Duleep Singh and Ban Singh there were: Gormack Singh, Baba Singh, Narian Singh, Basant Singh, Bagil Singh, Kishan Singh, Ileman Singh and another Duleep Singh. Every bed in the house was overturned and the occupants tumbled out into the middle of the crowded rooms.

Mutab Singh, the landlord, occupied a little corner room with a window opening on to the street. The only other room on the ground floor with a window on the street was occupied by Duleep Singh and Ban Singh, while in a bedroom under the eaves of the low building Basant Singh roomed alone. The other seven Hindus slept in a crowded condition in two other rooms, one a central room in the lower storey between kitchen and Mutab Singh's room, and the other at the head of a steep stairway directly behind the Basant Singh's room. Some of them had a bed to themselves, while others slept two in a bed.

When the explosion occurred and the supporting pillars in the front of the building were torn away, the floor of Basant Singh's room sagged cornerwise, and sleeping Hindu, bed and furniture slid down into the little grass plot in front of the house.

All Retired at Nine.

According to some of the inmates of the house, they had all gone to bed at 9 o'clock. They knew nothing about anybody being around the place between that time and the time of the explosion. None of them kept any powder or other explosives in the house.

Although there is no basement, there is sufficient space between the flooring and the ground for a person to crawl about. But even this was not necessary in case someone had wished to murder Mutab Singh. His bed was close to the eastern wall of the building, which is on the south side of the street, and a stick of dynamite (if it was one) could easily have been placed in the place under the unfortunate Hindu's bed by merely reaching the hand in from the side of the house.

It was stated by some of the neighbors that a young lady had informed them that when she was coming down Third Avenue about 11.15 she saw two Hindus running westward. They had just reached the corner of Cedar Street and Third Avenue when the detonation occasioned by the explosion startled the neighborhood and reduced the home of the Hindus to a pile of matchwood.

It is a wonder that more houses in the vicinity were not wrecked. Wreckage from the building flew for several blocks, and the vibration communicated itself to houses as far west as Arbutus Street on the west and Granville on the east. Adjoining Mutab Singh's house on the east is a three-storey frame building, inhabited by some twenty Hindus. There is only about eight or ten feet between the two houses, and some of the beds in the larger building were also upturned and their occupants deposited on the floor.

All Windows Smashed.

In the little house immediately opposite the one blown up, lives Partab Singh and several roomers. Partab Singh, all the windows of whose home were smashed, claims to have no knowledge whatever of the inmates of the house opposite. Asked whether he knew if Mutab Singh had had any dispute with a fellow countryman recently, Partab Singh said "No, I know nothing. I do not go out for fear of being hurt."

The homes of several white people in the block living on both sides of the street were also more or less damaged, and the windows along the front were broken. The debris strews the street for a distance of half a block or more, and, attracted by the noise of the explosion and the cries of some of the victims a crowd of whites, Hindus and Orientals blocked traffic along the street for some hours.

For a time it was feared that several Hindus had been imprisoned in the wrecked building and for over an hour after the first reports of the explosion came in the police carried on a search for bodies. Mutab Singh's body was brought out upon a stretcher and laid on the boulevard covered by a blanket until the arrival of the "dead wagon." It was then conveyed to the T. Edwards Company undertaking parlors, where an inquest will be held by Dr. Jeffs.

The work of searching for bodies was greatly facilitated by the searchlight from a hose wagon, which had arrived in response to a fire alarm. Exclamations of surprise was heard among the curious assembled in front of the building that the explosion had not been followed by a fire. The police up to an early hour this morning could find no trace of any burned woodwork.

Corner of Building Sinks.

Inasmuch as the entire corner of the building had sunk down considerably in the vicinity of the place where the explosion apparently emanated, the authorities could not find any dynamite. It is unknown how the dynamite or whatever explosive was used was set off—whether it was by electricity or by fuse.

At about the same time Mutab Singh built the house in which he lived he had constructed other buildings in the same district, and was considered to be fairly well off. The rents from lodgers, who were crowded into rooms irrespective of sanitation, are said to have amounted to quite a sum each week. Among a certain set of Hindus he was quite popular.

Evidently fearing fire, Gormack Singh and his fellow-roomers started immediately after the explosion to drag their bedding and clothing out into a little verandah or porch, which runs the whole length of the back of the house. At about midnight all their personal belongings were piled indiscriminately on the verandah, and the owners were wandering disconsolately among the ruins, apparently at a loss what to do. That Mutab Singh was well respected was indicated by many expressions of sorrow and commiseration by his former roomers.

The police stated this morning that they were quite positive that the affair was not accidental. Detectives Ricci and Imlah are investigating the case, and it is stated that they will make an arrest this morning.

Loan for Railway Passed.

Edmonton, April 13.—The resolution providing for a government loan of a sum not exceeding $2,000,000 to the Central Canada Railway for the McLennan-Peace River Crossing line was passed in the legislature this afternoon after several days' debate by a straight party vote of 34 to 17. Every member of the House was present except the three absent on military service.

SCANDAL OVER PUBLIC LANDS

Further Reports of Mr. Ferguson Charge Trafficking in Public Lands by Various Officials of Late Government.

Ottawa, April 13.—Trafficking in public lands in the West is charged in further reports brought down from Mr. T. R. Ferguson, K.C., in the Commons. Some of them notably a lease of a timber berth to Mr. A. W. Frazer, K.C., of Ottawa, were aired in the Public Accounts Committee a few years ago. The trend of the report is that land limits were sold at much less than their actual value.

In the first case dealt with the commissioner finds that Messrs. R. E. A. Leach, D. J. McDonald and Howard Douglas, who at the time were officials of the Interior Department in the West, formed a partnership with three men—Messrs. W. Crawford of Medicine Hat; T. Kilpatrick and G. McCarter of Revelstoke, B. C., and got for $18,000 berths which a year previously were valued at $162,000.

The case was declared by the commission to be one of conspiracy.

Hon. G. W. Brown Involved.

"What is known as the Craven Dam case, the commissioner states it was established that Hon. George W. Brown, now Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, secured at $1 an acre one thousand acres of land, which when expropriated by the Government in connection with the building of the dam was valued at $25 an acre. Hon. Walter Scott wrote to Mr. J. G. Turriff, then Dominion land commissioner, asking that this land be held for a probable purchaser, who turned out to be Mr. Brown.

A grazing ranch lease in Alberta, next dealt with, involved Mr. A. J. Adamson, ex-Liberal M. P., a nominal application for 32,000 acres of land as made to the department by Mr. A. P. Brown of Great Falls, Mont., but the real applicant, the commissioner states, was Mr. J. D. McGregor of Brandon, and the beneficiary, Mr. A. J. Adamson, a brother-in-law of Mr. Turriff, then land commissioner. The report says that the peculiar fact disclosed is that while 32,000 acres were applied for, sixty thousand were granted and Mr. Brown swore that he was not aware of the increase until told so at the inquiry. Mr. Adamson formed a company which paid $650, the first instalment of rental and then disposed of it to Mr. J. Cowdery of Macleod for $22,500.

Secure More Territory.

In the Cedar Lake timber berth, Mr. A. W. Frazer, K.C., of Ottawa, it is stated, after securing thirty square miles of a berth, claimed his lands were in the lake and secured 17 square miles of additional territory.

The commissioner also finds that Messrs. Frank Pedley, former superintendent of Indian Affairs, James A. Smart, Deputy Minister, and J. W. White, still an official of the Immigration Department, who acquired by tender land in the Blood Mountain Indian reserve on which they made a profit of $84,000. Those lands were secured by means of blank tenders prepared at Ottawa and taken to Toronto by Messrs. Smart and Pedley, where they were filled in and sent back to Ottawa, where all eight or ten were accepted.