

RUSSIANS ARRESTED IN EXPLOSION INQUIRY

Suspected of Being Involved in Blowing Up of Eddystone Ammunition Plant.

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CHESTER, Penn., Oct. 2.—With the arrest this afternoon of two Russian Socialists at Media while a trial of other Socialists was in progress, a solution of the mysterious Eddystone Ammunition Corporation explosion of April 10, which cost 123 lives, may develop. Mitchell Lagoda, formerly of this city, and Nicholas Kleckner of Thirty-fourth and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, former shell inspectors at the plant, were the men arrested. They were charged with murder by Sheriff Heyburn and were committed without bail to the county jail.

Kleckner is reputed to be one of the I. W. W. leaders in this country. At the time of the inquest on the explosion victims he was the star witness in relating the gross carelessness of allowing I. W. W. members to hold inspectors' posts at the powder plant.

Assistant District Attorney J. Borton Weeks, who investigated the explosion with W. A. Hajek, a Department of Justice agent, has been shadowing the two accused men, and decided today to take them into custody.

Attorneys Ernest L. Green of Media and Henry J. Nelson of Philadelphia were retained as counsel for the accused men, and asked for a habeas corpus hearing on Saturday. It is likely the Federal authorities will take charge of the two Russians.

On Sunday afternoon, April 1, a Socialistic meeting was held in this city, at which the principal speaker was William Derman of 3,407 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, and the Chairman was Lagoda. Sheriff Heyburn attended the meeting with an interpreter, and when Derman had launched a bitter arraignment of the capitalists of the country, and advocated an uprising of the laboring classes, the Sheriff broke up the meeting and arrested Lagoda and Derman.

Ten days later the Eddystone explosion occurred. Lagoda and Derman were employed at the plant as inspectors, receiving their commissions as inspectors from the Russian officials sent here. They were not at the plant at the time of the explosion.

Their cases were set for trial on Monday of this week, but were postponed until this afternoon. Since Monday Hajek has been in Media keeping watch on them.

After the arrest of the two men, Hajek requested that a house in Chicago be raided in connection with the case. It is believed that I. W. W. Russians here at the time of the explosion are wanted at that address.