

# EXPLOSION WAS DUE TO HUMAN FRAILTY

EMPLOYEE FAILED TO OBEY  
EXPLICITLY INSTRUCTIONS  
ABOUT CHEMICALS.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Trenton, Oct. 16.—Failure of one of the three employees attending the nitrator to explicitly obey instructions as to the quantity of various chemicals used was responsible for the disaster which wiped out half of the \$3,500,000 plant of the British Chemical Company, Limited, here on Monday night.

This has been definitely established by an investigation conducted by Manager C. N. Barclay of the company; N. W. Pirrie, representing the Imperial Munitions Board, and Mr. Fitzgerald, assistant to Sir Joseph Flavelle on the Imperial Munitions Board.

They also found that there was no malicious intent, but that the accident was due to human frailty.

A rumor which persisted in town yesterday that one man had been killed in the explosion has been run to earth. It had its origin in the fact that a Greek employee had died in the emergency hospital at the plant during the fire from pneumonia following an attack of Spanish influenza. The body was moved to the mortuary of a local undertaker while the fire was in progress and citizens who saw it concluded that it was that of a victim of the explosion.

## Military to Investigate.

Kingston, Oct. 16.—A thorough investigation into the fire and explosion which destroyed part of the plant of the British Chemical Co., Ltd., at Trenton, will be made by the military authorities. This investigation is prompted by the fact that about three weeks ago a notice was thrown into the quarters of the officers in charge of the guard which has been protecting the plant. The note contained a warning to "beware of the Bolsheviks."