

# BLAST INJURES SCHOOLBOYS

## Explosion in Quarry Hurls Gravel and Rocks for Blocks.

### NEIGHBORHOOD IS IN A PANIC.

#### Clement School and Vicinity the Scene of Reckless Work.

Three schoolboys—John Collins, Chris Reilly and Coleman Bone, pupils of the Clement Primary School, at Day and Noe streets—were injured by flying gravel and stones, and the entire neighborhood for blocks around was shocked yesterday morning as a result of a tremendous blast that was exploded in the quarry of Gray Brothers, contractors, at Thirtieth and Castro streets. The blast was touched off at 8:25 o'clock in the morning, when the children of the Clement School were in the yards just prior to being called into the building for the morning session of school.

The quarry where the explosion occurred is about a block away from the school, but gravel and rocks were hurled by the fearful concussion for many yards beyond the school and in every direction. Mrs. P. Quinlan, principal of the school, was standing in the yard watching the children, some of whom were playing in an empty lot across the street, which is used as a playground for the school. The time for calling in the children had just arrived, when she was staggered by the shock of a deafening explosion.

In the quarry which she was facing she could see an immense cloud of dust and smoke shoot into the sky, out of which lifted what seemed to her to be tons and tons of earth and rock, separating and flying in all directions. The next instant, on the roof of the school, in the yard and all about, a shower of gravel and fine rocks began to fall, while here and there big pieces of blue rock, such as are in the quarry, began to fall to the ground.

Fortunately nobody was struck by any of the larger pieces of stone, and when the uproar subsided Mrs. Quinlan found that her pupils had all escaped injury, except the three boys mentioned. They were hurried to their homes, where it was found that they had suffered more from shock than from actual injury. John Collins, however, had been struck by flying bits of rock and had been cut on the forehead. With the exception of the Collins boy, all the children returned to their desks in the afternoon.

In the neighborhood the greatest excitement and indignation against the contractors prevailed. Several windows had been broken, and at the home of Mrs. Smith, at 350 Thirtieth street, a large piece of rock had been hurled through a window and into the interior of the dwelling-house.

The manner in which the blast had been set off could not be ascertained, as great reluctance was shown at the office of the Gray Brothers, at Thirtieth and Castro streets, to discuss the matter. It was stated at first that no blast had been touched off at all, and that the commotion in the neighborhood was due entirely to an erroneous rumor. But the great quantity of gravel and rock in the yards of the vicinity and the protests of the residents was evidence that an exceptionally strong blast had occurred. At the Mission Police Station a report and a complaint was made, and a blockade was placed on the quarry to see that no repetition of the affair occurred.

It was stated by the residents in the vicinity that up to yesterday no blasting had been heard in the quarry for many months, and that if there had been any, it must have been underground, as nothing in the way of a report had been heard for some time. An examination of the record of the Supervisors office failed to show any permit to blast in that quarry since 1906. Whatever work of that kind which may have been carried on would have to have been done under the authority of some permit granted over two years ago.