

# RUBBISH DUMP EXPLODES AT DEER PARK

## MANY HOUSES SHAKEN

### Worker's Home Damaged.

With a tremendous burst which could be heard up to six miles away, waste products being destroyed at the explosives factory of Nobel (Australasia) Pty. Ltd., Ballarat-road, Deer Park, exploded in a dump at the back of the works yesterday afternoon. Almost every house in Deer Park, Sunshine and surrounding districts rocked, and some windows were broken, out, fortunately, no loss of life or injury occurred.

Mr. J. Wood, manager of the works, explained yesterday that it is the practice of the company to destroy waste products every Thursday in a stone pit at the rear of the factory. Explosions were not uncommon, because of the mixture of small amounts of nitro glycerine which were generally associated with the waste. It was because of this fact that the material was destroyed at this isolated pit.

Yesterday, apparently, there was a bigger mixture of explosive material than usual which accounted for a heavy blast. The direction of the wind blowing at the time, carried the detonation towards Sunshine, Albion and other settled areas which might have caused some alarm, as it appeared much louder than usual Thursday explosions.

### Sub-Station Rocked.

Albion railway station electrical sub-station—a substantial brick building—was rocked almost to its foundations, although it was about three miles from the scene of the explosion. However, no damage was done.

The property which received the worst damage was the weatherboard home of

Mr. T. Johnson, an employe of the factory, which is in an open paddock between the Ballarat-road and the railway line, and only about 300 yards from the dump.

Several sheets of fibrous plaster forming the wall of the house under the eaves were shattered on the side facing the explosive dump, and the kitchen window on the same side was blown in. Two front windows were also splintered. Mr. Johnson's young family, fortunately, escaped injury from any flying fragments.

### Employe's Experience.

Mr. Johnson, himself, was walking home from work, and was about to take a short cut past the dump at 8.15 p.m. when he heard two small explosions. Being about 200 yards away, he kept to

windward and stood still. A split second later there was a much louder detonation like a thunder clap, and a huge column of greyish-white smoke burst at about 400 feet into the air, and rolled for half a mile over towards the Ballarat-road.

One side of the stone pit was blown down, and flames caught the dry grass and travelled down to the creek between the road and the pit. The paddock, however, is isolated from the explosive works, and could cause no danger.

The dump is fired regularly each Thursday by two employes, who lay a trail of shavings, which they set alight and they then hurry from the premises. A red flag on a pole near the pit is flown as a warning that explosive waste material is being destroyed.



*Two of the windows of a house nearly 200 yards away which were shattered by the force of the explosion at Deer Park yesterday.*