CAPITOL'S WALLS WITHSTAND BLAST

Powerful Explosive Fails to Loosen Foundation

SALEM, June 3 (Special)—Approximately 120 sticks of 20 per cent blasting powder, set off under the southwest wall of the burned capitol here at 5 A. M. today, tore a gaping hole above the first story but failed to loosen the foundation.

Expert powder men attributed this to earth conditions under the capitol which caused the blast to go downward. Old-timers recalled that the structure was built on a fill.

Blasting of the wall was guarded as a secret by officials, and less than 50 persons had gathered to witness the blast. State and city police were on patrol duty, and no person was allowed to go within less than half a block of the building.

There were four separate charges of powder which were set off simultaneously by an electrical device. The explosion was muffled and could not be heard more than a few blocks away. In some parts of the city, particularly in that territory adjacent to the capitol, windows rattled and there was a heavy vibration.

Most of the bricks loosened by the explosion fell into the interior and will be salvaged for construction operations at the state institutions. Huge cracks in other parts of the wall were visible following the blast.

Other powder charges will be set off early tomorrow.