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Munitions Ship Afire Drifts To Pier and Blows Up; Hundreds Of Lives Lost; Property Loss Is Millions In Disaster That Overwhelms The City Of Halifax

Truro, N. S., Dec. 5—(2.30 p.m.)—Latest reports reaching here from Halifax state that it is estimated that the loss of life will reach three hundred, and that many hundreds have been injured.

Relief trains are being rushed from here to the stricken city. Firemen and apparatus are going, while every available doctor and nurse is being rushed to assist in relieving the suffering of the injured.

There is no confirmation as to the extent of the damage done in the conflagration, which is said to be raging in the northern section of the city.

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 6—The berth of the cruiser Niobe was near the area affected, but no reports have been received to show if the ship or her crew were injured.

MASSACHUSETTS OFFERS AID

Boston, Dec. 6—Governor Samuel M. Call, on learning of the disaster at Halifax today filed the following telegram addressed to the mayor of Halifax:

"Understand your city in danger from explosion and conflagration. Reports only fragmentary. Massachusetts stands ready to go the limit in rendering every assistance you may be in need of. Wire me immediately."

News Stirred St. John.

The news of the great catastrophe in Halifax caused much excitement in St. John. Many who have friends and relatives in the garrison city anxiously besieged the telegraph and newspaper offices through the morning.

Since all the buildings from the Queen Hotel to the North street station are reported to have collapsed, there is some fear for St. John students attending Dalhousie College.

ST. JOHN OFFERS AID; MAYOR TO GO TO SISTER CITY.

Immediately upon hearing the news from Halifax Mayor Hayes wired Mayor Martin as follows:

"Our citizens shocked to hear of dreadful disaster. Is there anything St. John can do to relieve the situation? Mayor Hayes will leave tonight for Halifax to tender in person the sympathy of St. John."

Explosion Near Pittsburg. Pittsburg, Dec. 6—Eight men were killed, two are missing, and more than twenty-five were injured, many of them seriously, late yesterday by an explosion that wrecked the "T. N. T." plant of the Acta Chemical Company at Heidelberg, a suburb.

One report received in St. John today says that sixty per cent of the buildings in Halifax were damaged, at least to some extent.

C. P. R. Operators Hurt. Word was received at the C. P. R. telegraph office this morning that some of their operators had been injured when the explosion took place.

Ottawa, Dec. 6—Authentic official advice as to the loss of life and extent of damage done at Halifax were still lacking at the capital up to 12.30 today.

The department of railways and canals has received fragmentary messages from Moncton, but they do not add anything as to what is known of the details of the disaster.

Officials of the naval department were trying to get into touch with Halifax by wireless after the news of the disaster was received, but no details had

been obtained up to noon. It was said at the department that the wireless stations are situated at some distance from the city itself, and the difficulty was in establishing communication between them and Halifax.

Advices of the disaster were also received at the military department, but they contained nothing in addition to the details obtained by the newspapers. The opinion was expressed in telegraphic circles that the early reports of the explosion were much exaggerated.

The reason given for the paralysis of the telegraph service was said to be that, following injuries to some of the operators through broken glass, the military authorities had stepped in and taken over the wires.

Fredericton, Dec. 6—The news of the destruction of a portion of Halifax by an explosion this morning caused consternation in Fredericton and vicinity on account of the large number of Fredericton people who are in that city.

Definite word of the extent of the disaster of the fate of the people is being awaited with anxiety.

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TWENTY-FIVE HUN PLANES RAID ENGLAND

London, Dec. 6—About twenty-five airplanes raided England today, it is announced officially. Of these six reached London.

Two of the raiders were brought down, the crew of three men on each machine being captured.

Bombs dropped by the raiders caused several fires in London, but all were quickly brought under control.

This is the first German air raid over England in more than a month.

The last previous raid occurred on the night of Oct. 31, being made by about thirty airplanes in seven groups.

MUST REDUCE THE BREAD RATIONS

Copenhagen, Dec. 6—Final figures for the cereal harvest show a total of only 62,000,000 bushels, which is 30,000,000 bushels less than in 1916, and some 10,000,000 bushels less than was reckoned in the summer, when the authorities fixed the bread ration.

Only about 28,000,000 bushels of all grains is available for flour making during the coming year.

Accordingly it is probable that the bread ration will be reduced. Any exports to Norway now seem to be out of the question.

What a shameful reflection on all the rest of us if it should be left to the men in khaki to save the honor of Canada by their votes as well as by their blood.

The mother who votes against union government votes to make it harder for her son in the trenches, for that is what delay in sending reinforcements really means.

The Laurier policy is a policy of delay.

BRITISH MAKE SLIGHT GAIN NEAR CAMBRAI

London, Dec. 6—The British have advanced slightly their lines southwest of La Vacquerie, on the Cambrai front.

On Tuesday night, the official statement says, the British troops withdrew to the southwest of Noyelles-sur-L'Escaut and Bourlon Wood.

The withdrawal was accomplished without the Germans appearing to be aware of it until late yesterday.

Paris, Dec. 6—Our patrols brought back prisoners south of St. Quentin, north of Ailles and in Alsace, says today's official report.

"On the right bank of the Meuse our batteries effectively shelled enemy batteries which were very active on the front between Louvemont and Bezonvaux was repulsed.

Another enemy effort, in the region of Largitzen, Upper Alsace, met with no better success.

"Everywhere else the night was quiet. The Situation Yesterday.

With the British Army in France, Dec. 5.—(By The Associated Press)—The Germans today were still holding hands along most of the new battle front.

Fighting was in progress around a fortified farm north of Havrincourt, after an enemy attack in the morning, but no other offensive developed against the British line up to noon.

There had been rumors of an attack south of Maroing, but it did not materialize; it is possible that it has been postponed because of the heavy casualties suffered by Von Hindenburg's forces on Monday.

The Germans doubtless hope to push back the British line and recapture the front between La Vacquerie and Maroing. The British have held this line against repeated heavy attacks, but there is no gainsaying the fact that it is a difficult position to maintain and it is considered that the British front would be considerably stronger without it.

The wood is filled with pools of water, over which the gas from shells hangs some times for twenty-four hours. In addition, the German guns are able to reach it from many directions owing to the bend in the line.

There is an interesting report that a few British cavalry actually entered the town of Cambrai at the beginning of General Byng's offensive.

They were small in numbers, however, and were withdrawn immediately, as they were far in advance of the main body. The enemy has brought in two fresh divisions to the Maroing front.

With the Airmen.

London, Dec. 5—The following official communication concerning aviation was issued this evening:

"On Tuesday 118 bombs were dropped on enemy airfields north of Douai and on villages and German machine gun emplacements in the battle area. Several thousand rounds were fired at the enemy troops in trenches and in the open.

"Only one or two fights took place in the air and no decisive results were obtained. None of our machines is missing.

"Wednesday afternoon two raids were carried out by our airplanes into Germany."

In Mesopotamia.

London, Dec. 6—The British official communication dealing with the operations in Mesopotamia says: "After the withdrawal of October 20, in which we established ourselves on the Jebel Hamrin range (north of Baghdad), and on the left bank of the Tigris River, the Turks continued to hold a position in the hills and on the right bank of that river north of Bely Abbas. General Marshall reports that this position was attacked on the morning of Monday by converging columns, one of which successfully bridged the Djalal near Kizil Robat.

"The enemy attempted to delay our advance by flooding the area between Hamrin and the Djalal river close to their junction, but the morning of Tuesday saw our troops had driven back the Turks and were in possession of the Sakal Tuz Pass, through which the road from Daly Abbas leads north.

"A force of Russians under command of Colonel Bicharokov operated on our right flank and rendered valuable assistance.

"Prisoners to the number of 105 and two field guns were captured."

TONIGHT'S MEETING ACROSS THE HARBOR

Unionist Candidates Will Address the West Side Electors in City Hall

Candidates S. E. Elkin and R. W. Wigmore of the Union party, will speak to the people of Carleton this evening in the City Hall. The chair will be taken at sharp 8 o'clock. In addition to these gentlemen the speakers' list will include Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, Major Gordon Johnston of the Fighting 26th, and G. Adam, a splendid speaker, who has just arrived from the scene of battle on the western front and is about to tour in the interests of the military Y. M. C. A.

IS SOLDIER THROUGH MOTHER OBTAINED HIS EXEMPTION

Quebec, Dec. 6—In a letter he wrote his mother in Loretteville, Que., Louis Boulet, a young French-Canadian, contends that he was enlisted through the Military Act, at Smooth Rock Falls, although his mother had obtained for him exemption papers at the Loretteville exemption board. He says that at Smooth Rock Falls, there was no exemption board and that, together with eight other young men, he was arrested and sent to the military barracks and given a uniform.

"We heard we are going to the front in a few weeks," he writes his mother. He says that he was arrested on a charge of not reporting in accordance with the act and that he spent some time in jail after which he was enlisted and that he is now a soldier.

The affair is causing quite a stir here.

THE SIX DAY RACE

New York, Dec. 6—Nine of the twelve teams which passed the half way mark in the six day bicycle grind at midnight had covered 1,481 miles and three laps at eight o'clock this morning, with Goulet leading and the other three one lap behind. The record for the 60th hour is 1,604 miles and six laps.

Goulet and Magin, with a total of 103, led the point score list. Hill and Hanley, with 127 and Corry and other riders with 114 are the only other pairs who have reached the three figures.

Phelix and Pheridand WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service

Toronto, Dec. 6—Pressure is high over the greater portion of the continent, but a shallow disturbance is centered this morning on the south Atlantic coast.

The weather has turned colder in Ontario and western Quebec and continues decidedly cold in the western provinces. Lakes and Georgian Bay—Fresh northeast and north winds, some light local snowfalls and colder today and on Friday.

Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence Valley—Northeast to northwest winds, generally fair and decidedly cold today and on Friday.

Lower St. Lawrence—Moderate to fresh westerly to northerly winds, fair and decidedly cold tonight and on Friday.

Gulf and North Shore—Westerly to northerly winds, fair and colder tonight and on Friday.

Snow. Maritime—Fair and cold today; Friday, northeast winds, with snow.

Lake Superior—Moderate winds, fair and decidedly cold today and on Friday.

Manitoba and Saskatchewan—Fair and continued decidedly cold today and on Friday.

Alberta—Some local light snowfalls, but mostly fair and decidedly cold.

New England—Generally fair tonight and Friday, except snow on the southeast coast; fresh north to northeast winds on the coast.

There is an interesting report that a

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 6—Halifax has met with the greatest catastrophe in its history. Hundreds of buildings have been destroyed or damaged, scores of lives have been lost, and certain sections of the city are now in flames.

At an early hour this morning, while an American munition steamer was moving out from her pier in the north end, near the suburb of Richmond, another steamer coming through the narrows rammed the outgoing steamer broadside, and an immense explosion resulted. Both crews were instantly hurled to their deaths.

Loss of Life Very Great

Truro, N. S., Dec. 6—It is reported here that the first estimate of the loss of life in the explosion in Halifax harbor this morning is placed at fifty, while the number injured is correspondingly great.

The concussion resulting from the explosion caused the roof of the North street station to collapse. The warehouses on the water front were badly damaged. Freight cars were blown off the tracks, and all the buildings from the Queen Hotel in Hollis street, both sides, to the North street station, fell in or were badly damaged by the awful cataclysm.

The explosion was heard in Truro, and a few minutes later a wire came through asking that nurses, doctors, firemen and food be immediately rushed to the garrison city.

LOSS OF LIFE. The loss of life has been appalling, and the number of injuries caused by flying debris and falling houses, cannot be reckoned.

All sources of information have been cut off. The Western Union and the C. P. E. offices in the heart of the city together with the headquarters of the Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company, have had their wires broken in thousands of places, and it may be days before communication can again be established.

At all the main centres in this district, doctors, nurses and firemen are being hurried to the scene.

At Truro, Windsor and Amherst, the town councils met this morning to take steps to aid the afflicted people. It is understood that the inhabitants of the city are in need of food. The Amherst fire department was called out.

This Report Even Worse

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 6, via Havana—Hundreds of persons were killed and a thousand others injured and half of the city of Halifax is in ruins as the result of the explosion on a munition ship in the harbor today.

It is estimated the property loss will run into the millions. The north end of the city is in flames.

STARVATION.

London, Dec. 6—A member of the Finnish food commission has issued through the Swedish press appeals to the Scandinavian countries for help, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen.

The situation is desperate, and Finland is unable to save itself, and that thousands of families must starve unless help arrives soon. It is reported from Haparanda, the despatch adds, that Russian soldiers' organizations have seized large quantities of food and have completely cut off imports from Russia into Finland.

Enemy Repulsed On Italian Front At All But One Point; Losses Heavy

Italian Army Headquarters in North Italy, Dec. 6—(By the Associated Press)—The furious enemy attack on the Asiago Plateau has been repulsed by heavy losses except at the northeastern sector, around Monte Tondare, where, after a desperate struggle which lasted until this morning, the enemy succeeded in occupying some of the advanced Italian lines, which were moved to more serious positions.

The fighting has been extremely heavy, with masses of infantry engaged in hand-to-hand, combat. The first attack on the Italian left was met and repulsed by the 22nd Corps, with large enemy casualties. Many prisoners were taken. The main attack on the Italian right was contested thirty-six hours by other corps, which inflicted heavy losses before yielding ground.

Heavy fighting. Italian Army Headquarters in North Italy, Dec. 5—(By the Associated Press)—Heavy fighting around Asiago has developed rapidly. The enemy assaults began with intense artillery preparation, followed by liquid gas and waves of infantry. The fighting continued throughout yesterday and last night along the heights of Asiago, marked by the zone between the heights of Monte Sisonol and Monte Letetta. This line extends nearly ten miles.

Attack and counter-attack are going on, leaving the final outcome still open.

THE WAR RESOLUTION IN AMERICAN CONGRESS

Washington, Dec. 5—With a formal report from the foreign affairs committee the resolution to declare war on Austria-Hungary was today brought into the house of representatives.

There were no dissenting votes in the committee, and at the request of Chairman Flood the house gave its unanimous consent to take up the resolution tomorrow at the beginning of the session and pass it before tomorrow night.

WALL STREET NOON REPORT

New York, Dec. 6—The market continued to lose ground during the morning, profit-taking and unfavorable foreign news encouraging short selling. Rails relinquished all their gains, Reading falling two points and other coolers as well as grangers manifested heaviness. Steels and coppers suffered reversals of one to two points on intimation of further price revisions. Shipping utilities and specialties notably oils and motors, also yielded. International bonds were lower.

It's hardly necessary to state the value to YOU of this feature, as the earlier the paper is out, the larger the sale—hence, an increased market for you.

It also means that your advertisement will receive the best of attention as regards typographical treatment, will be dressed in the way your PUBLIC SALESMAN should be dressed. Best work, of course, can't be done in a rush, and neither you nor THE TIMES is satisfied with a poorly dressed ad.

The unfortunate fact that quite frequently advertisements have to be omitted from THE TIMES on account of late copy, prompts this S. O. S. call, and really your own best interests would demand that it be heeded.

Advertising Manager

THE BEAR IN TROUBLE.



AFTER THE UPSET. Westminster Gazette.

France Is Far From Being Exhausted

New York, Dec. 6—Speaking at a dinner given by the Association of National Advertisers last night, M. Stephane Lausanne, editor of Le Matin, said: "Some people are saying that France is exhausted and bled white, but France is not exhausted. In Sept. 1914 at the Marne she had an army of 1,500,000 in the field—today her army numbers 2,700,000. That is how France is exhausted."