Saint John Girl's Vivid Story of Disaster In Nova Scotia Capital

Miss Eleanor Tapley, Student at Mt. St. Vincent, Describes Scenes and Speaks of Outstanding Incidents

Miss Eleanor Tapley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis E. Tapley, was one of the Mount St. Vincent young lady students to return home this morning. She gave an account of the disaster to a representative of the Times. "The class at Mount St. Vincent had just finished their hour in the commercial room," she said, "and it was nearly time to change classes, when a fearful roar came from the direction of the city. It was not known what had happened, but after some seconds we were again startled by a sudden smashing of every pane of glass in the building and an inrush of cold air. It took that long before the effect of the concussion was felt at the Mount. Immediately we were panic stricken and did not know what was happening. What added to our fears and was generally thought to be the most trying, was the fearful shrieking which came from the stricken city. By the time we had begun to realize that it was some really terrible thing which had happened our nerves had quieted down and we could look at things a little more calmly.

"We first got word of the disaster from an engine which came tearing up from the city, rocking from side to side with terrific speed. The engineer, the only man aboard, cried to us, 'Give me anything you have, blankets, food, bandages or anything. The whole city is wrecked and for the mercy of God be quick.. We girls rushed to get anything we could lay our hands on. Sweaters, coats, clothes torn in strips for bandages, everything was piled on the engine which immediately tore at full speed back to the scene of horror.

"No one at the convent was killed, but some of the Sisters were terribly cut by the flying glass, which in our section of the city, did most of the damage. Every window was broken and some of the pillars in the chapel fell.

Some Girls Injured.

"Some of the girls were hurt, too—Miss McPartland, Miss Ready, Miss O'Neill and Miss Gorman all suffered slight cuts. The rest of us, fortunately, got off practically without a scratch. These injuries at the convent, however, were absolutely nothing compared to some of the wounds that we treated there later. Before we realized the extent of the loss the wounded began to pour in in all kinds of vehicles. Two prominent Halifax business men brought in a poor woman and her child on a sloven all the way to the Mount. When we left that evening, however, it was feared that the woman would die.

"About this time the authorities of the city were in dread of another explosion from the ignition of the magazine near the waterfront. Every precaution was taken, thousands of the inhabitants were rushed out from the danger zone as far as possible and we were ordered to leave the mount. We did this, and, accompan-

ied by the sisters, made our way to the hill behind Mount St. Vincent.

In Vivid Contrast.

"Here no signs or traces of the cataclysm a few miles away were visible. The trees had not been damaged by the concussion and the cows were quietly chewing the cud or lying down in the field. It was a startling change and produced instant reaction on the wrought nerves of all. Below in the distance we could see the cars rushing to and fro and we could see the smoke of the burning city, but all around us was peace and quietness and we could hear only the distant sounds of the disaster. We spent the whole of the morning there in prayer, Sisters and girls, and it was a prayer that, I believe, was answered.

"By noon we received word that the magazine had been flooded and that the only danger left was from the conflagrations throughout the city. We immediately returned to the convent and there the sisters redit the fires and courageously set to work to make a place for all the wounded that could possibly be cared for at the place. We were given something to eat and then helped in the work of dressing wounds. Miss Flood did great work here and in every way possible gave assistance. Where none of the girls and not even the fathers of little babies would do it, she would hold the injured ones while their wounds were sewed up by the doctors.

Soldiers Reported Killed.

"It was the same tale of wounding and death everywhere. I was talking to a soldier who had been washing the dishes at the armory at the time of the explosion. The armory was rendered a mass of ruins as a result of the concussion and many soldiers there were killed. This soldier had had an artery cut with glass and he was bandaged in five places. He and his family were able to get away to their home in New Glasgow late in the afternoon. It was not known whether he would live or not. At five o'clock we were told that there was a train leaving for Truro and we came away with little but the clothing we wore.

"We were not allowed to go near the city the whole time. In the evening, as we were leaving the sky was of flaring red with great luminous pillars of smoke rising out of the city. St. Joseph's school suffered terribly, and we think ourselves lucky to get off as we did.

"We reached Truro safely and a train was being made up there for St. John. This we boarded. At all the stations as far along as Moncton crowds of people were anxiously waiting for news or for word of friends and relatives in the city. At last we reached here, and after the terrible day we had been through we certainly were glad to hear 'St. John next' this morning.

"The number of dead and injured in Halifax is appalling. Every possible aid that St. John can send will be absolutely needed."

WORD OF SAFETY OF ST. JOHN PEOPLE

Many St. John people have received answers to their telegrams asking for news of relatives who were at the scene of the explosion yesterday morning. Rev. J. H. Jenner of West St. John has received a telegram from his daughter, Nursing Sister L. M. Jenner, who was at the military hospital in Halifax, saying that she escaped safely. D. C. Clark of West St. John has had a similar message from his daughter, Miss Ella Clark, who was studying at a Halifax business college. Word has been received by Gershon Mayes of West St. John that his son, Harold Mayes, is safe. He had a narrow escape, however, as it would appear that he was in the Union Hotel at the time of the explosion.

A wire was received early this morning by A. M. Belding from his son-in-law, E. V. Morrow, Halifax manager for the Burroughs Adding Machine Co., saying that Mrs. Morrow and he were safe. G. S. Mayes received a wire this morning from his son, Harold Mayes, saying that he was safe, and the family were greatly relieved, for he was known to be in the very district ravaged by the explosion.

L. C. Armstrong, traveler for T. H. Estabrooks & Co., is safe but slightly injured.

His Lordship Bishop LeBlanc today despatch stating that the children of the Sacred Heart and St. Mary's schools were all safe.

K. OF C. OFFER QUARTERS HERE FOR HOSPITAL

A fine example of generosity has been shown by the Knights of Columbus of this city. Learning that some of the injured from Halifax might be sent here they have offered the use of their home on Coburg street, with accommodation for probably 200 patients, and the members are ready to give all the assistance possible in regard to clothing or any other way they may be able to serve.

The local Red Cross asks for donations of old clean linen, preferably sheets. Kindly leave at Red Cross depot or Soldiers' Club.

The ladies of the St. John Methodist churches are requested to meet at the centenary church parlor Monday, Dec. 10, at 3.30 p. m. for united effort in behalf of Halifax sufferers.

Offers of help came in from all quarters of the city when the terrible news was known here yesterday. The Sisters of religious organizations in the city and just before leaving last night they received word that no accommodation could be found for them in Halifax at present and later word came that no help was needed immediately. Between fifteen and twenty members of the V. A. D. had also volunteered but their services may not be needed until the nurses and Sisters prove insufficient.

GENERAL CURRIE

Commander of Canadians Figures in Cable Over Matter of Leave

(Special Cable to Times by F. A. McKenzie. Copyright.)

London, Dec. 6—Careful inquiry has now revealed the grounds attributing General Currie's leave to disagreements with other authorities. He visited Paris to fulfill public engagements. The relations between him and General Turner are excellent. General Currie has won in the highest degree the confidence and affection of the whole army corps. He possesses the supreme gift of inspiring his men. His careful preparations, bold strategy and dogged hard-driving are universally appreciated and have splendidly justified his selection for the corps command.

General Turner is doing admirable work in England, where his transformation of the organization made it possible to keep the fighting corps the whole time up to full strength. While the principle of giving the minister of militia for overseas control of corps appointments and promotions through the chief home commander is radically bad, everyone tries to work it to the best advantage.

LLOYD GEORGE IS SLIGHTLY ILL

London, Dec. 6—Premier David Lloyd George is slightly indisposed, having suffered a chill. A dinner arranged for Friday, at which it was announced he would reply to the Lansdowne letter, has therefore been postponed for a week.

LAURIER DECLARED HOPELESSLY BEHIND IN SOLDIERS' VOTE IN THE BRITISH CAMPS

(Special Cable to Times by F. A. MacKenzie. Copyright.)

London, Dec. 6—Inquiries at British camps since my return home concerning election prospects here show that Laurierism is hopelessly beaten. An active union propaganda during the last eight days has been very effective. Preston has announced his intention of bringing another action, this time against the military who, he says, arrested him at Witley Camp.