

The Evening Times Star

VOL. XIV., No. 103.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1918

TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

Captain of Steamer Mont Blanc and Halifax Pilot Arrested on Charges of Manslaughter

Held Wholly Responsible for Violating Rules of Road by Drysdale Commission

Pilotage Authorities and Commander Wyatt Also Censured

Finding of Commission Which Inquired Into Causes of Halifax Disaster Rendered This Morning; Recommends That Pilot's License be Cancelled and Criminal Prosecution Instituted; Captain's Case Referred to French Authorities; Urges Greater Precautions

Halifax, Feb. 4.—That the collision between the French munitions ship Mont Blanc and the Norwegian-Belgian relief ship Iino, which took place in Halifax harbor on Dec. 6 last, resulting in the explosion of the Mont Blanc's cargo and the loss of 1,500 lives and great destruction to property in Halifax city and county, was caused by violation of the rules of navigation and that Pilot MacKey and Captain Lemedec of the Mont Blanc were wholly responsible, therefore, was the finding of the court of inquiry here this morning. The court recommends the dismissal of Pilot MacKey by the pilotage authorities and calls the attention of the law officers of the crown to the evidence with a view to criminal prosecution.

The court recommends to the French authorities consideration of this evidence with a view to cancelling Captain Lemedec's license and dealing with him according to the law of his country.

Immediately after the announcement of the findings of the court of inquiry, Chief of Police Hannahan took into custody Pilot Frank MacKey on a warrant issued from Stipendiary McLeod's office charging manslaughter in connection with the death of Pilot Wm. Hayes, who was killed on the Iino. A half hour later the chief arrested Captain Lemedec, master of the Mont Blanc, at the corner of Prince and Granville streets, in a similar charge.

The court finds the pilotage authorities deserving of censure for having permitted Pilot MacKey to pilot ships after the collision of Dec. 6.

With reference to Commander Wyatt, R. N., chief examination officer at the port of Halifax at the time of the collision, the court states that he has been guilty of neglect in performing his duty.

The court considers the evidence in fact satisfactory that he ever took sufficient steps to bring to the notice of the captain superintendent of the dock, then Captain Martin, the pilots' neglect to report movements of vessels in the harbor. The court does not consider the alleged disobedience of the chief examination officer's orders by the pilots as the proximate cause of the collision.

With reference to naval traffic regulations here the court points out that these do not specifically deal with the handling of ships laden with explosives and recommends specific regulations for this.

The information on which the warrants for arrest were issued by Stipendiary McLeod was laid by the chief of police, at the instance of the attorney-general's department. The information sets forth that "Frank MacKey of Halifax, alofted pilot, and Aime Lemedec, I present of the same place, sea captain, did at Halifax alofted on the 6th day of December A. D. nineteen hundred seventeen, unlawfully kill and slay one William Hayes, at this defendant is informed and doth verily believe and hath good grounds for so believing."

This afternoon both MacKey and Lemedec were admitted to bail for their appearance tomorrow before Stipendiary McLeod, bail being granted to Captain Lemedec in \$10,000, furnished by French Consul Gaboury and Alfred Colwell of Robert Reford, Limited, and to Pilot MacKey in \$6,000, his bail being furnished by Sheriff Hall, chairman of the pilotage commission. H. Mellish, K. C., is acting on behalf of Captain Lemedec.

(Continued on page 10, third column)

COMMISSION ON FISHERIES PROBLEMS REACHES CITY TODAY

The members of the International Fisheries Commission will arrive in the city this afternoon. They include Hon. W. C. Redfield, secretary of commerce in the U. S. A.; government; Hon. E. C. Sweet, assistant secretary; Dr. Swift, commissioner of fisheries for the United States; Hon. J. D. Hazen, G. J. Desbarres, deputy minister of marine and fisheries; Mr. Robertson of the British embassy at Washington, and Mr. DeWight, secretary of the commission.

The party left Boston last night, according to advices received in the city, and will arrive here this afternoon about three-thirty o'clock. Tomorrow the commission will meet in the Equity Chambers and there hold a consultation with the leading fishermen of this district. It is understood that several of the most prominent fishing operators throughout the province will attend the meeting.

HARTLAND PRICES

Hartland Observer—Today potatoes bring 88, turnips fifty cents, oats ninety cents, dressed pork, twenty to twenty-two cents, eggs and butter thirty-three to thirty-five cents, chickens, eighteen cents, buckwheat meal, 88, pressed hay, 80.85.

TRAINS LATE

The trains were late in arriving in the city today. The delay was due to the heavy storm of last night. The Montreal was reported two hours and thirty minutes late, and the Boston, one hour and thirty minutes late.

ALLIES SHOW SUPERIORITY IN TRENCH RAIDS

German Lines Visited With Satisfactory Results

ENEMY LOSSES HEAVY

U. S. Artillery Actively Engaged—Wrecked Enemy Positions—British Airmen Bring Down Five Hostile Machines

London, Feb. 4.—"Early last night a party of our troops raided the enemy's trenches east of Hargicourt," says today's official announcement. "The hostile artillery was active during the night in the neighborhood of Lens and north-east of Gavrelle."

Paris, Feb. 3.—The war office announcement issued tonight says:—"One of our detachments this morning carried out in the sector, northwest of Courtrai—in the region of Alliettes, an attack on a small German position, which it brought back in its entirety to our lines, taking thirty prisoners and capturing material."

"Supplementary reports show that the enemy attack repulsed by us last night north of Bures was carried out by a detachment of about 1,200 men. The enemy attack repulsed by us last night north of Bures was carried out by a detachment of about 1,200 men. The enemy losses were particularly heavy. On Eastern Front.

"Eastern Theatre, Feb. 2.—There was reciprocal artillery activity in the region of Dobran and west of the Vardar. On the Serbian front there were several encounters with Bulgarian patrols."

Belgian Operations.

Paris, Feb. 4.—The Belgian official statement on military operations issued last night reads:—"During the last two days our artillery has silenced several enemy batteries, and has carried out fires of destruction and reprisal against enemy organizations and defenses in reply to artillery fire and bombing firing before Dixmude. An enemy aviator was brought down within our lines by British airmen."

On U. S. Lines.

With the American army in France, Feb. 3.—(By the Associated Press)—A German barrage fire at sundown last night, one of the heaviest bombardments of many days along the American sector, of French, where he piled shell for shell as the firing of the heavy guns spread along several kilometres of front.

Two Americans were killed and nine wounded during the bombardment, and one suffered shell shock.

It was ascertained today that the American gunners wrecked several of the enemy dugouts and so badly damaged the first line positions that at one point the Germans were unable to occupy them Sunday.

Airmen Busy.

London, Feb. 3.—An official statement on British aerial operations tonight reports considerable activity on Saturday and the bombing of various enemy targets.

"Five hostile machines were brought down in air fighting," says the statement, "and five others were disabled. One British machine is missing."

Medal for Queen.

Paris, Feb. 4.—King Albert of Belgium passed through Paris yesterday for the south of France, where he will spend a few days with the queen. He called on President Poincaré, who asked the king to hand to the queen a newly created medal "France's gratitude" on behalf of the French government.

Naval Air Raid.

London, Feb. 4.—"Yesterday naval aircraft carried out a bombing raid on the enemy airfield at Houtave, Belgium," the admiralty reports. "Many bombs were dropped on the objective, and during the day, in the course of aerial fighting one enemy aircraft was destroyed and two were driven down out of control. Two of our machines are missing."

U. S. Troops.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Secretary of War Baker's weekly war review, issued today, makes the official announcement that American troops are at last occupying a portion of the actual battle front.



WAR MACHINE. "Donnerwetter! Now, I can't let go!"—News of the World, London.

GERMAN STRIKES APPEAR TO HAVE COME TO END

Secret Court Martial Dealing With Strikers

SPREADING IN AUSTRIA

Leaders of Central Powers To Confer On Economic Questions Affecting Their Common Interests—Munitions Depot Blown Up

London, Feb. 4.—With the exception of a new movement at Jena, reported by the Tagblatt, of Berlin, the German strikes appear virtually to have ended. The leaders of the strikers advised that work be resumed today. German newspapers record no disturbances in Berlin on Saturday.

The directors of the Krupp works report, the Cologne Gazette says, that only 400 out of 110,000 workmen went on strike, and that these were fined or dismissed.

The Berlin Vorwarts says that the building in which the court martial is sitting is closed to the public and guarded by troops. Heinrich Schultz, the first prisoner to be tried, was sentenced to imprisonment for six months for having distributed leaflets urging workers to strike.

Munitions Exploded.

London, Feb. 4.—The explosion of a munitions depot near Prague, capital of Bohemia, involving the loss of many lives, is reported in despatches from that city to Zurich, as forwarded by the Exchange Telegraph Company. According to some accounts the depot was blown up intentionally.

Resume Work.

Amsterdam, Feb. 3.—A Trieste despatch received by way of Berlin reports that a general strike, including the shipyard workers, was declared there. A deputation of the strikers interviewed the governor, demanding peace and food.

After hearing the governor's reply, which dwelt especially on the recent speech of Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, the strikers held a further meeting and decided to resume work. This they have already done.

A New Movement.

Amsterdam, Feb. 4.—A new strike movement, the Berliner Tagblatt, of Saturday evening announces, began at Jena on Saturday, about one-third of the workmen striking.

To Hold Conference.

Amsterdam, Feb. 4.—Dr. Von Kuehlmann, German foreign minister; Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, and General Von Ludendorff, the German chief quartermaster general, a semi-official announcement from Berlin says, will arrive in Berlin Monday to participate in deliberations on political economic questions affecting the common interests and territories of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Count Borha Von Wedel, the German ambassador to Vienna, is also expected to attend.

Join Government Party.

Amsterdam, Feb. 4.—The Hungarian constitutional party, headed by Count Andrássy, and the United Independence party, the leader of which is Count Abovics, have decided to join the new

FRIENDS OF KERENSKY TO HOLD CONVENTION

Delegates From All Parts Of United States Will Gather In New York To Move In Opposition To Bolshevik

New York, Feb. 3.—Consternation spread among the Bolshevik delegates to the self-styled Russian colonial congress in this city when news was disseminated today that another Russian convention is to be held here Feb. 3 to 11 by the followers of Alexander F. Kerensky, deposed Russian premier. The new convention, it was said, will be national in scope and will have delegates from all the principal cities in the United States. It could not be learned who is at the head of the movement in opposition to the Bolsheviks, but Alexander Kerensky, who has arrived here, is reported in calling today's session of Stokhlyt in calling today's session of the congress to order, said that vain efforts had been made to "get this wing of the Russian colony in line with the conference."

Although the Bolsheviks are in control of the present assemblage, a persistent minority has created so much confusion that virtually nothing of a constructive character has been accomplished since the opening session Friday.

Copenhagen, Feb. 3.—The new Bolshevik representative, who has arrived here, said that the former dowager empress of Russia, Maria Feodorovna, who was a Danish princess, is coming to reside in Denmark.

Phelix and Pherdinand WEATHER REPORT

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

Pressure is low on Atlantic and Pacific coast, while a very severe cold wave covers the country from Saskatchewan to Quebec. A considerable snowfall has occurred in Quebec and the maritime provinces.

St. Lawrence and Ottawa Valley—Fresh northwest to west winds, fair and very cold; Tuesday, moderate winds, fair and very cold. Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore—Strong winds and gales, north to west, gradually clearing and much colder; Tuesday, fair and very cold.

Clearing and Colder.

Maritime—Strong winds and gales, north to west, gradually clearing, colder; Tuesday, fair and very cold.

Superior—Moderate winds, fair and very cold today and on Tuesday, then moderating. Manitoba—Fair and very cold today; Tuesday moderating. Saskatchewan and Alberta—Fair and becoming much milder today and on Tuesday.

New England—Fair and cold tonight and Tuesday. Fresh to strong northwest winds.

government party, according to a Budapest despatch to the Vossische Zeitung of Berlin. Five of Count Aponyi's followers declined to join the movement.

New Field Marshals.

Amsterdam, Feb. 4.—Emperor Charles, it is announced officially in Vienna, has appointed Generals Von Boehm-Ermolli and Borevics to be field marshals.

TO DISCUSS REVISION OF THE COMMISSION CHARTER

Council Will Devote Thursday Session to Consideration of Amendments; Other Legislation Suggested; Commissioner Fisher Talks of Street Paving Plans

At a meeting of the Common Council this morning Commissioner Fisher said that he thought the members should take up legislation matters as there was not much time left to advertise, etc.

Mayor Hayes said that he was in favor of an immediate start and as the other commissioners favored this, a discussion took place regarding matters which will be brought up at the next session of the legislature.

Commissioner Fisher had a list with a number of suggestions, as follows:

1.—To improve the commission government act.

2.—To prevent the flow of water from alleys, yards, etc., across the public sidewalks.

3.—To enable the city to assess locally for one half of the cost of cement sidewalks and granite curbing together or separately on residential streets in cases where property owners representing seventy per cent of the frontage would petition for the work to be done.

4.—Assessment act, interest rate on bonds, patriotic taxation and snow removal.

Commissioner McLellan said that there was one important matter to be taken up, namely, to provide for the city getting part of liquor fines under the prohibition act. He said that boot-leggers were going to give up their business, and that after next May there probably would be more fines than at present, as they would undoubtedly fight to a finish.

Commissioner Fisher spoke about getting the authority to have scrutineers representing candidates allowed in polling booths, but said that he realized that the city would not be able to afford to allow any more in than at present allowed.

Commissioner McLellan said that he felt that candidates were being looked after pretty well. If they had representatives, years ago they might get a little too much looking after. He said that if there were to be any amendments to the commission charter that a day should be set aside when a general discussion would be taken up which might lead to the betterment of the commission form of government.

Commissioner Wignone said that in his advocacy of the commission form of government as he ever was, but felt that after several years experience changes might be made which would be beneficial.

Commissioner Fisher suggested that the charter be taken up section by section and was in favor of having a day set aside for a discussion. Mayor Hayes ordered of wounds, officers, 21; men, 1, 825.

Wounded or missing—Officers, 129; men, 4,305.

The low mark for many months past is reached by last week's census sheet. They compare with 8,588, the previous week, with 17,048 the week immediately preceding and with 9,201 for the week ended December 31, the previous low figure for any week in recent months.

AUSTRALIAN COAST SWEEP BY TORNADO

London, Feb. 4.—(via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—A despatch from Melbourne states that Melbourne's seaside suburbs have been devastated by a destructive tornado. Several persons were killed and a number injured. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

GREEK SOLDIERS MUTINY

Athens, Feb. 4.—A mutiny which involved a large portion of the Greek army infantry regiments stationed at Lamia, about ninety miles northwest of Athens, and a few artillerymen in the town occurred last Friday evening. It was promptly suppressed.

An official statement attributes the mutiny to a desire to hamper mobilization. No officers took part. Most of the rebellious soldiers, says the statement, returned to their barracks and laid down their arms.

Troops sent to Lamia from Athens and Larissa, pursued the remainder of the mutineers and arrested them. A court martial was convened to try the delinquents.

FURLOUGH IN IRELAND

Mrs. George Harris of Manawagonish road, has received word that her nephew, Gunner George Chambers of a siege battery, unit has been spending a furlough with his relatives in Londonderry, Ireland.

KAISER HONORS SUBMARINE CREWS

Special Recognition of Anniversary By Ruthless Warfare—A Reply To Sir Eric Geddes

Amsterdam, Feb. 4.—Emperor William created a special decoration for U-boat crews on the anniversary of the inauguration of ruthless submarine warfare as "recognition for meritorious work during the war."

The Vossische Zeitung says the decoration is available for officers and crews after three voyages.

The emperor also has conferred the Order of Pour Le Merite on Admiral Von Holtzendorff, head of the naval general staff, and Admiral Scher, commander of the German battle fleet.

Amsterdam, Feb. 4.—A despatch received here today from Berlin gives the German reply to the statement last week of Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the admiralty, who is reviewing the first year of unrestricted submarine warfare, said the submarine menace was being held back, the sinking of merchantmen was decreasing, and the destruction of U-boats increasing, and that the morale of the submarine crews was deteriorating on account of the British policy of secrecy in regard to the fate of the men on submarines which failed to return to their bases.

The German reply, in the form of a semi-official statement, follows:

"What Sir Eric Geddes said is not new. It is merely repetition of familiar assertions which are disproved by the facts, and appear periodically in the speeches of talkative war pullers in England. If that brave optimist Geddes expects by such means to lower the morale and the power of resistance of our U-boat crews he will have as little success as has been met with in the attempts to bluff the German people, who long ago realized that English secrecy was nothing but an expression of consciousness of weakness."

BRITISH CASUALTIES LOWER THAN IN MONTHS

London, Feb. 4.—British casualties reported during the week ended today totalled 6,884, divided as follows—Killed or died of wounds, officers, 21; men, 1, 825.

Wounded or missing—Officers, 129; men, 4,305.

The low mark for many months past is reached by last week's census sheet. They compare with 8,588, the previous week, with 17,048 the week immediately preceding and with 9,201 for the week ended December 31, the previous low figure for any week in recent months.

AUSTRALIAN COAST SWEEP BY TORNADO

London, Feb. 4.—(via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—A despatch from Melbourne states that Melbourne's seaside suburbs have been devastated by a destructive tornado. Several persons were killed and a number injured. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

GREEK SOLDIERS MUTINY

Athens, Feb. 4.—A mutiny which involved a large portion of the Greek army infantry regiments stationed at Lamia, about ninety miles northwest of Athens, and a few artillerymen in the town occurred last Friday evening. It was promptly suppressed.

An official statement attributes the mutiny to a desire to hamper mobilization. No officers took part. Most of the rebellious soldiers, says the statement, returned to their barracks and laid down their arms.

Troops sent to Lamia from Athens and Larissa, pursued the remainder of the mutineers and arrested them. A court martial was convened to try the delinquents.

FURLOUGH IN IRELAND

Mrs. George Harris of Manawagonish road, has received word that her nephew, Gunner George Chambers of a siege battery, unit has been spending a furlough with his relatives in Londonderry, Ireland.