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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1911

EIGHT PAGES—ONE CENT

MORE THAN 300 DIE IN EXPLOSIONS WHICH SINK FRENCH WARSHIP

FIRE IN THE LIBERTE REACHES MAGAZINES

Many Seaman Die in Their Berths; Grim Call to Duty Holds Back Others About to Leap to Safety

Climax of Series of Disasters in French Navy Occurs in Toulon Harbor Where Finest Vessel of the Fleet Becomes Death Trap for Hundreds of Her Men—Fearful Explosions Wreck the Vessel and Send Her Down

(Canadian Press) Toulon, Sept. 25.—Fire broke out early today in the ammunition hold of the battleship Liberte, one of the finest vessels in the French navy, explosions which followed wrecked the great ship, and killed more than half of her crew of 793 officers and men.

The fire was discovered at five o'clock, at first it did not appear to be serious, but somehow or other, it gained a quick advance over the squad of sailors sent to extinguish it, and suddenly, without warning, it reached the magazine, which had not been flooded on account of the apparently trifling nature of the blaze.

The force of the explosions was terrific. They shook the vessel fore and aft, each one seemingly stronger than that preceding, opening up great fissures in the armor and the framework of the vessel. The Liberte immediately became a mass of fire and smoke, and soon almost demolished by the terrific detonation, sank to the bottom of Toulon harbor.

As an early hour medical estimates of the number of dead ran as high as 300. Estimates by naval men varied widely, but there was no doubt that the loss of life was more than 300. Scores of the seamen died in their berths, a few down save themselves by jumping overboard. Many of those injured leaped into the water but were drowned before the heads from the other ships in the roadstead could reach them.

The hundred firemen escaped death, owing to the fact that they were aboard on leave. Commander Jaures, a brother of the generalissimo, was not on board. The damage by the explosion was worse than could ever have occurred in an actual engagement. The first crash came when the crew, for the most part, was dispersed in various sections of the vessel. Without warning shells began to fall, and bodies were hurled high into the air, accompanied by great fragments of frame-work, armor plating and other material, sufficing smoke of the powder.

Men below, who had not yet been awakened, were killed as they slept. Others, awakened by the explosion, started to jump overboard and were caught by the second detonation.

Liberte came as a stunning blow to the French public and to naval officials. It is the climax of a long series of disasters, which have marked the history of the French navy since the blowing up of the battleship Iena on March 3, 1907.

The accounts of the disaster as received here during the morning hours varied widely. The most authentic despatches stated that the sinking came nearly two hours after the discovery of fire in the forward hold. Another account said that the ship broke in half from the force of the explosions, and sank twenty minutes later.

According to this version, the battleship afterward resurfaced at the surface for a time, a grim carcass of iron surrounded by a tangled mass of wreckage. Estimates of the number of dead vary from 300 to 500.

The ministry of marine has received the following telegram from Vice-Admiral Albert, commanding the fleet at Toulon: "Four explosions were heard on the Liberte this morning, at intervals of one minute, beginning at 5.35 and followed by smoke and flames, which mounted steadily. The Liberte to be in a completely satisfactory condition, and especially regarding the precautions taken in caring for her."

Toulon, Sept. 25.—(Later)—From 300 to 350 of the crew of the Liberte and about 200 men from other warships, which had been sent to help extinguish the fire, disappeared. The Democratic lost 20 dead and 60 injured.

WALTER SWIFT, OF C.P.R. IN WOODSTOCK, DEAD

Had Been in Company's Employ Since a Young Man and Had Risen to Be Conductor

(Special To Times) Woodstock, N. B., Sept. 25.—Walter Swift, one of Woodstock's most respected citizens, died on Sunday morning from kidney trouble at his home in Woodstock, aged fifty years. He had been in failing health for a year or more, but was able to go out until a few days before his death.

He was born in St. Andrews, but had been a resident here for many years. He had been connected with the C. P. R. since a young man, and for several years was a conductor. He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter, one brother and one sister. The body was taken to St. Andrews for interment.

CONFIRMED NEARLY 1,300 Bishop Casey Has Returned From Westmorland County

His Lordship Bishop Casey returned on Saturday evening after a confirmation tour through Westmorland county. His Lordship administered the sacrament of confirmation to nearly 1,300 children and adults, the former, of course, being greatly in the majority. His Lordship was away since Thursday, Sept. 14, and his tour ending on Saturday, probably finished his duties in confirmation for this year.

The places visited, with the approximate number confirmed, are as follows:—Moncton, 107; Schodde, 85; Shediac, 130; Barrington, 108; Aboussay, 85; Cape Sable, 290; Port Elgin, 35; Melrose, 37; Sackville, 63; Dorchester Penitentiary, 11; St. Edward's church, Dorchester, 35; Memramouc, 59; and Irishtown, 35.

TURGEON'S MAJORITY IS 1040; A GREAT GAIN Bathurst, N. B., Sept. 24.—The latest returns makes O. Turgeon's majority over T. M. Burns 1,040, with Misou Island to boot.

A more than double Mr. Turgeon's majority in 1908, which was 487.

CHANGE ROUTE OF RAILWAY IN A DAY Toronto, Ont., Sept. 25.—One hundred Grand Trunk laborers working all Saturday night and Sunday morning, altered the route of the railway between Toronto and Hamilton by moving the tracks at Simmesdale from the upper level to the lower level, thus making a one-mile cut. The old high grade road is now abolished as far as traffic is concerned.

RAN AWAY BECAUSE BROTHER WAS SPANKED London, Ont., Sept. 25.—Angered because her mother spanked her six-year-old brother, Grace, the five-year-old daughter of J. A. Simpson, left home on Saturday with her brother, Johnny, and has not been heard of since. The children took with them a suit case, a satchel and two quilts.

TRIBUTE TO SIR WILFRID (Hon. Richard McBride) "As a Canadian I would express the hope that Sir Wilfrid Laurier may be induced to continue in public life, and to give that service as leader of the opposition in parliament, for which his long experience and recognized ability easily fit him."

ASSASSIN OF STOLYPIN IS HANGED TODAY IN KIEV Kiev, Russia, Sept. 25.—Dimitry Bogoroff, the assassin of Premier Stolypin, was hanged today. He asked that he might see a rabbi, but refused this consolation, when informed that the interview must be in the presence of officials.

British Airship Wrecked London, Sept. 25.—The British admiral's first airship broke in the centre while being launched at Barrow on Sunday. The accident was due to the collapse of the gas bag. The airship was wrecked but no one was injured.

Because of High Prices Paris, Sept. 25.—In view of the increased cost of food, the government has induced the railroads to increase the twenty pound limit of the agricultural parcels post to eighty pounds, for perishable goods.

THE BATTLE LINE. S. S. Trebia bunkered and proceeded on Sept. 23rd, at St. Lucia. She is from Rio Janeiro for Philadelphia. Capt. Starrett is commander.

S. S. Eretria, Capt. Purdy, bunkered at St. Thomas on Sept. 24th. She is from Philadelphia for Buenos Ayres Roads.

S. S. Tanagra, Capt. Dalton, from Philadelphia for U. K., arrived at Grindstone Island on Sunday.

C. P. R. STEAMERS. S. S. Mt. Temple arrived at Quebec at 8.45 p. m. Sunday. S. S. Lake Umbagog arrived at Quebec at 7 a. m. today.

CROOKED WORK BY TORIES ON ELECTION DAY

Col. McLean Makes Statement in Reply to The Standard

HERE ARE INSTANCES In view of the charges made in the Standard this morning regarding the election in Queens-Suburb, Col. H. H. McLean, M. P. elect was asked for a statement. He gave out the following:—"Throughout the constituency the Conservatives adopted a scheme of checking how the election voted or in other words of making sure that the goods were delivered by getting the voter to make certain marks before or after the cross and also of putting dots over certain letters in Smith's name. I hope there will be a recount so that it will be seen that a number of ballots for Smith are so marked. An energetic protest was entered at St. Field against fifteen ballots that were marked for Smith in the manner described.

"We have abundant evidence that twenty and twenty-five dollars a vote was paid at different polling districts by Smith's agents for votes. Perhaps the most notorious cases of bribery were at Hampstead where the Smith forces were led by Bayard Sloop, brother of A. R. Sloop, M. P. Large sums were offered to the colored voters to secure their support; but they were very loyal to me and no amount of money could buy them.

"I was surprised to learn that J. K. Flemming in a speech he made in Hampstead parish on the Tuesday before the election stated that the government was going to build the Valley Railway to Walford. This in view of the fact that in his letter to Dr. Pugsley of May 25, he stated as follows:—"You will observe that the draft contract provides for the construction of the road to the city of St. John, crossing the St. John River at the Mistake and entering the city from the east side."

The reporters saw the original letter from Mr. Flemming to Dr. Pugsley verifying the contract as given.

"I cannot understand," said Colonel McLean, "what a man in Mr. Flemming's high position would deliberately make such a misstatement. If there was a ballot used in Lincoln, as charged, I regret it very much, as my instructions to all my workers were that the election must be conducted on honorable lines and all I wanted was a square fight.

"The Standard states my brother went to Waasa on Friday night. This is not so. My brother was in St. John but did not go to Waasa, on Friday. He was in St. John Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"I have evidence that the bribery at Lincoln by Mr. Smith's friends was open and notorious. I am getting the evidence into shape and will then make the facts public, which will show that leading Conservatives gave \$20 a vote for Smith. In view of the desperate measures used by Conservatives and the illegal means adopted to identify the voters given by the electors and the system of marking ballots, I am not surprised at the small majority which I obtained. Had there been a fair election I am satisfied I would have had 300 of a majority at least.

"I am receiving evidence now of gross corruption worked by Conservatives at Chipman. It is a well known fact that I should have received over 100 majority at this place, when the figures only showed sixty odd."

"W. H. Monahan, of Blenville, who was in the city yesterday, when interviewed referred to the fact that at the last election, when Luther B. Smith, the Conservative candidate, was working at the polls at Blenville in the interest of Mr. Wilton, a ballot was used against Colonel McLean and at the closing of the polls it was found in the pocket of a prominent Conservative. Mr. Monahan gave the name of the person but his name is withheld for the present. Mr. Monahan said that desperate means were used by Blenville by Conservative workers on Thursday working under the direction of Luther B. Smith. Jars of whisky were stored in the cellar owned by a prominent Conservative near the polls. Bottles were filled from these jars and were then taken to the woods opposite W. F. Hoyt's. Several Liberal voters were induced to visit this rendezvous and they say they were drugged."

Col. McLean will leave this afternoon to attend the declaration day proceedings at Gasqueton tomorrow.

SIGHTS A DIRELECT Fishing Smack Stephen G. Heart, Abandoned, Reported by Steamer

Halifax, N. S., Sept. 25.—(Special)—The department of marine and fisheries here received a Marconi message via Cape Sable yesterday from the steamer Beina Maria, Christiania, which reports that in latitude 16° N. long. 68° 53' W. she passed a smack half submerged with three forealls stretched. The name of the boat was Stephen G. Heart of New Harbor, Conn. The message says nothing reporting life on the wreck. It is presumed the crew abandoned her.

WAS FIRST OF THE PAID BALL PLAYERS HERE

Joseph McNamara, on Visit to St. John, Recalls Sporting Events

CAME HERE AS RUNNER Later Brought St. Stephen Baseball Team from States and Then Was With Shamrocks—Has Been Successful in Upholding Good Clean Sport

An interesting and welcome visitor to the city is Joseph McNamara, of Boston, who for more than twenty years has come this way annually on a vacation trip to renew acquaintances in St. John, where he is popular with a wide circle of friends. He has come to be as well and favorably known here as if he were a citizen himself. He has been the guest of his cousin, John

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TEN CASES OF SMALLPOX INSTEAD OF THIRTY

Dr. Fisher Visits Affected District at Neguac—Dr. Maltby Insists on Resigning

(Special to The Times) Chatham, N. B., Sept. 25.—Dr. F. B. Fisher, of the Provincial Board of Health, was in town on Saturday, and went down to Neguac, where smallpox has broken out. He found about ten instead of thirty cases, as reported, and seems to think there is no danger in the situation.

Dr. Maltby still persists in his resignation and it is expected that the next chairman of the county board will be Dr. McKinnon of Loggieville.

CHANGE IN METHOD OF LEVYING TAXES IN NEW BRUNSWICK

This is One of Important Matters for Union of Municipalities—The Programme for Newcastle Convention

The Sixth annual convention of the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities will be held in Newcastle on October 11 and 12. The programme as now outlined is:—

Wednesday, October 11. 11 a. m.—Delegates will register. 11.30 a. m.—Introduction and formal reception. 12—Meeting of executive. 2 p. m.—(1) Convention opened by Hon. John Murray, chief commissioner of public works. (2)—Address of welcome—His Worship P. L. Pendolin, M. D., Mayor of Newcastle. (3)—Reply on behalf of delegates—His Worship Mayor Frink of St. John. His Worship Mayor McDonald of Campbellton. (4)—President's address—A. Sterling, M. D., ex-Warden, York.

(5)—Report Hon. Secretary—Transer—J. W. Anceedy, city clerk, Fredericton. (6)—A Provincial Reform School for male and education of juvenile delinquents—Introduced by C. H. Thomas, Mayor of Fredericton. (7)—Addresses by Hon. J. D. Hazen, attorney general and visiting members of the executive government. 7.30 p. m.—Meeting of executive. 8 p. m.—Convention opens. (1)—Report on resolutions. (2)—Civic Industrial Development—E. A. Reilly, mayor of Moncton. (3)—Busses or Loans in aid of Industrial Enterprises—conference. Thursday, October 12. 9.30 a. m.—Meeting of executive. (1)—Report on Resolutions. (2)—Taxation—Ald. H. H. Stuart, Newcastle; Ald. F. L. Potts, St. John. Resolved, that the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities prepare a bill for the next session of the legislature, providing that taxation in the Province of New Brunswick shall be raised by means of a land tax, poll tax and a system of licenses, or by some other means instead of the present methods. (3)—Municipality of the City and County of Saint John. (4)—Resolutions. 2 p. m.—Meeting of executive. 2.30 p. m.—Convention opens. (1)—Report on resolutions. (2)—Next place of meeting. (3)—Election of officers.

CALL ON ELECTIONS IN ONTARIO SOON IS NOW THE OUTLOOK Toronto, Ont., Sept. 25.—(Canadian Press)—For two hours, on Saturday, Sir James Whitney and his colleagues of the provincial cabinet were in close session in the parliament buildings. It is believed that the question of bringing on the provincial elections in the near future, was considered, and that the government has practically decided upon that course, although no official announcement was made.

There are nine vacancies in the legislature, one caused by death, and the remainder by resignations of members who contested federal seats.

The Strike in Ireland Dublin, Sept. 25.—It is reported that a large number of railway strikers are making efforts to be reinstated. There were numerous cases of intimidation and some minor disorders today. Otherwise, the strike situation remains unchanged.

London, Sept. 25.—The war office has ordered half a railway corps from Aldershot to Ireland to work the mail trains and the trains engaged in the transportation of troops.

Protest Against War Paris, Sept. 25.—A mass meeting of socialists and laborites to protest against a war with Germany, brought out 15,000 persons today. Large forces of police and municipal guards were stationed at the place of meeting, but the proceedings were orderly and the authorities were not required to interfere.

To Prevent the Fight London, Sept. 25.—Sporting Life announces that the district railway company, owners of the Freshford Earlsfoot exhibition will apply to the courts for an injunction to prevent the Johnson-Wells fight.

NECK BROKEN BUT HE WALKS ABOUT

Canadian Aviator Recovering From Injuries Received in a Fall

Chicago, Sept. 25.—(Canadian Press) A neck broken, is merely an incident of the day's work with Alexander McLeod, Canadian aviator, who is reported rapidly recovering in the West Pullman Hospital, following a fall last week. Physicians asserted McLeod's neck was broken in two places but despite the breaks the hospital physician today said, "McLeod is doing nicely. He walked around his room yesterday."

PRESS FOR PLACE FOR CROCKET

York County Tories Promise Trouble if He is Passed Over For Hazen or Fowler—Majority is 1669

(Special to The Times) Fredericton, N. B., Sept. 25.—Tory voters in York are actively pushing O. S. Crockett's claims for a portfolio in R. L. Borden's cabinet and declare that they will be war if he is passed over in favor of Premier Hazen or Geo. W. Fowler. It is likely that a delegation will leave for Ottawa this week to put the matter up to Mr. Borden.

Alexander A. Sterling returning officer, made his declaration in the York election at the court house this morning in the presence of a fair sized crowd. The figures were Crockett, 418; Albertson, 267; and Hazen, 153. The candidates made brief addresses thanking the electors for the support given them. A vote of thanks was tendered the returning officer.

A heavy rainstorm set in here this morning.

BOYS IN FIGHT OVER POLITICS; ONE STABBED

Chatham, Ont., Sept. 25.—(Canadian Press)—As a result of a heated argument over politics, two young boys got into a fight in this city on Friday, and Freddie Osbourne, 5 years old, son of Thomas Osbourne, of 60 West street, was stabbed in the abdomen by another boy nearly twice his age. The boy is now in a critical condition in the hospital, and it is feared he will not recover.

THEY KISS AND MAKE UP

Sussex, N. B., Sept. 25.—Editor of The Star, Montreal. The large circulation of the Star in this district made it a strong factor in determining the result. The Star secretly gauged the splendid patriotism latent in the Canadian people. Please accept my personal thanks. GEO. W. FOWLER.

McBRIDE WILL REFUSE

(Victoria, B. C., Letter) Premier McBride will unquestionably be urged to join Mr. Borden's cabinet, and with equal certainty it may be said, will refuse for the present, being determined to complete his work and policy in and for British Columbia, before seeking a larger sphere for the exercise of his admitted gifts in politics.

THE TIMES' NEW REPORTER

TRUTH AND FICTION. Mr. Peter Binks stopping the Times' new reporter this morning to say that he was once more reading the newspapers.

"I missed the news a lot," said Mr. Binks. "I really think you ought to get out a supplement at election time, with the news in it. A lot of us had to take to reading the Bible and other standard works during the political campaign. I am fond of fiction, but a campaign news-

ITALY SENDS WARSHIPS TO COAST OF TRIPOLI

Merely Scouts, say Reports, But Are Ready for Trouble With Turkey

(Canadian Press) Rome, Sept. 25.—It is reported that an Italian squadron consisting of the battleships Napoli and Roma, the armored cruisers Pisa, Anafi, Giuseppe, Garibaldi, Varese and Francesco Ferruccio and two flotillas of destroyers and torpedo boats, left Syracuse last night for Tripoli. The warships carried no troops and it is understood will confine their action, for the present, to watching the coast. They will interfere only in the event of an outbreak on the part of Turkey.

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AWFUL RESULT OF ACT BY FIREBUG

Father, Mother, Baby and Boarder Burned to Death in Incendiary Blaze

Chicago, Sept. 25.—Four persons were smothered to death early today in a fire believed to be incendiary that destroyed two small buildings in South Sangamon street. The dead were: Harry Egoletch, his wife, their baby, and L. Albert, a boarder. They lived in the third flat of a three story rear building.

Because of High Prices Paris, Sept. 25.—In view of the increased cost of food, the government has induced the railroads to increase the twenty pound limit of the agricultural parcels post to eighty pounds, for perishable goods.

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