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tion to the Publishers.

ST. ANDREWS, N. B., CANADA.
Saturday, 15th December 1917

PROGRESS OF THE WAR

December 6 to December 12]

ANOTHER week has been added to the greatest test of the war's continuance—a week in which the British arms secured some triumphs and suffered some reverses—a week in which the battle-clouds were lowering, and the hopes of victory were being steadily tested. In the Western campaign the interest of the week centred in the further shortening of the British front on the Cambrai salient, made necessary, apparently, by the greatly increased German forces brought to this point, mostly from the Russian front. The French were active on the Meuse and in Alsace, but positions there remained unchanged. It may be said, generally, that on the Western front the week was one of preparation and anticipation rather than of aggressive hostilities.

The only news of the week concerning the part of Russia and Roumania in the war was that they had agreed to an armistice with Germany and Austria-Hungary. In Russia a civil war was in progress, news of which was meagre and obscure, but reports indicated a weakening of the Bolshevik party, and the possibility of its early and complete overthrow. No news was received of the campaign in Mesopotamia; but satisfactory progress was reported in the campaign in Palestine. The British took Hebron, and having surrounded Jerusalem on all sides, the Holy City capitulated to them. They followed up their successes by advancing to the north of the railway connecting Jaffa with Jerusalem.

During the week the Italians practically held the enemy in check, though the Austro-German forces claimed to have taken about 15,000 Italian prisoners. German submarines were active during the week, and secured a slightly increased number of victims.

Air raids were a conspicuous feature of the week. One was made on England on December 6 by about twenty-five German airplanes, six of which reached the London area. Considerable material damage was done by bombs, and seven persons were killed and ten injured.

Portugal had another revolution and set up a new government, but its extent, its bearing, and the probable future result are difficult to ascertain from the meagre news to hand.

THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

THE election campaign is drawing to a close. It has been different from any other election which preceded it, and it is to be hoped that like conditions will never recur in any subsequent election. In the past it has been the universal practice for the two principal parties to wage unremitting party warfare on each other, to employ all the recognized party weapons and some of those supposed to be debased according to the rules of the game; but in this contest principles have largely supplanted prejudices, patriotism has been placed above partisanship, and the usual election cries, and charges, and counter-charges, for the most part, have yielded to the supreme demand of the hour—the sole real issue in the election.

There is only one issue—the attempt of the Laurier Liberals to resurrect all the old party shibboleths in nothing more than camouflage and the drawing of herring (pretty stinking herring, some of them) across the trail—and that is, Canada's further contribution of men towards the continuation of the war.

On this issue alone was it possible to form a Union Government, for on no other question would it be possible for uncompromising Liberals like Carvell and Rowell to join hands with the Conservatives remaining in the Union Cabinet. The issue is CONSCRIPTION, and the vote that will be taken on Monday is all the referendum that is necessary, and, indeed, there will be no other.

The only possible alternative to conscription is an absolute severance of Canada's connexion with the British Empire. As the war clouds thicken—and they are thick and black enough to-day—and the demand comes from the various battle-fronts for men and more men, if Canada swail, then she must hide her diminished head in shame and be forever disgraced as a bastard offspring of the races from which she has descended.

On the battlefields of Europe and Asia and Africa, the British and the French—hereditary foes—have joined hands to

fight the common enemy in the cause of freedom and justice; and from this fair Canada of ours many worthy scions of the two races have hearkened to the call to arms, have crossed the seas to join the combat, have fought, have bled, and have died in order that we may live and that liberty may prevail. Shall we who have stunk, or have been laggards and slackers, who have been willing that others should fight our battles and bear the heat and burden of the day,—shall we not at length assert our manhood? ... and now attest: That those whom we called fathers did beget us? Let everyone concerned who has read thus far in what is here set down, take his Shakespeare from the shelf and turn to "King Henry V." Act III, Scene I, and read it and imbibe it. "We must be free or die, who speak the tongue That Shakespeare spake."

Yes, now is the time to assert our manhood and to strike the blow for freedom. In Charlotte County the election has been conducted with more than usual decorum, but entirely without the aid of hardy annuals—the campaign lie and the campaign gag. The usual political meetings have been held by both parties in many parts of the County. In St. Andrews there have been only two public meetings, both held in Anderson Hall, one on Dec. 3, when Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Hartt were the principal speakers; and the other on Dec. 12, when Hon. Sydney Fisher and Mr. Todd spoke. We reported the first meeting in last week's issue, and this week give a full and pretty full report of the second meeting, including that of the eloquent and impartial utterances of the able and fair-minded chairman.

We have neither time nor space today to make any lengthy comment on the speeches delivered at the Laurier Liberal meeting, but must express our sincere regret that any political candidate in the County should appear for support on such a platform of polemic, and we are confident that the decision of the voters on Monday will follow the attitude of the two St. Andrews' audiences at the respective meetings. St. Andrews is overwhelmingly in favor of conscription and support by a great majority the party pledged to carry it out.

THE HALIFAX CATASTROPHE

AT the time of going to press last week we were without any definite particulars of the terrible calamity that befell the city of Halifax, N. S., on Thursday morning, December 6. Since then the daily papers have been filled with graphic accounts of the great tragedy, but it will be some time before a full and complete inventory can be made of the lives lost, people injured and property destroyed. The disaster was caused by the explosion of a French steamer, the *Mont Blanc*, which had just arrived in Halifax on her way to Europe with a full load of explosives. In addition to the explosives she carried a deck-load of motor-spirit. A Belgian relief vessel, the steamer *Imo*, was passing out of Bedford Basin on her way to the open sea, when she collided with the *Mont Blanc*; and though the actual damage done to the vessels from the collision was slight, it caused a fire to break out on the *Mont Blanc*, whereupon she was abandoned by her crew, the crews of both vessels seeking safety in flight. It was some time after the collision before the *Mont Blanc* blew up. Her explosion caused the destruction of nearly the whole water-front of Halifax, and all the northern part of the city from the centre to Bedford Basin, and great damage was also done in Dartmouth on the opposite side of the harbor.

More than 25,000 people were rendered homeless, thousands were injured more or less seriously, and over 1200 were killed outright or fatally injured, according to the latest estimate to hand. The value of the property destroyed will greatly exceed \$20,000,000.

A full inquiry into the terrible occurrence is to begin at once, and it is much more than likely that it will be found that it was not due to the accident alone. As was to be expected, the tragedy immediately brought forth tangible expressions of sympathy and material succor in aid of the sufferers. Nearby places sent immediate assistance in the way of food, clothing, bedding, and hospital supplies; and doctors and nurses arrived on the scene as fast as the disorganized railway service permitted. Many of the injured people were taken as soon as possible to Truro, the most accessible town, and a number died on the way.

The horrors of the frightful event were increased by the severe weather which set in soon after it occurred, heavy wind and rain being followed by intense cold, and the work of the relief parties was rendered more difficult.

An appeal for assistance was sent out by the Mayors of Halifax and Dartmouth, and there is no doubt that the money will be forthcoming to cover the cost of the material damages incurred. In St. Andrews the canvass for funds for the Relief which was inaugurated at a public meeting referred to in another column, resulted in the collection, up to Wednesday night, of \$2384, of which \$2000 has already been remitted to Halifax through the Bank of Nova Scotia. More contributions will be made, and Mr. G. W. Babbit, of the Bank of Nova Scotia, will continue to act as treasurer. Owing to the pressure on our news and advertising columns this week we are obliged to hold over till next issue a list of the contributors.

NEWS OF THE SEA

Ottawa, Dec. 8.—News of another probable tragedy affecting the Maritime Provinces, more particularly the City of St. John, has been received by the Marine and Fisheries Department, the wireless bringing news of the foundering of the Magdalen Islands last night, of the government steamer *Simcoe*.

There is no doubt as to the loss of the ship, and it is only barely possible that the crew, who took to open boats may be picked up. The S. O. S. calls, which were interrupted at Grindstone Island and Fane Point, said the *Simcoe* was sinking and the ship was being abandoned. These messages were forwarded to the Department at a late hour last night, and arrangements were made to send relief.

The chief officers of the vessel were: Master, Captain W. J. Dalton, St. John; pilot, Wm. Sencalbaugh, Georgetown, P. E. I.; first officer, M. Brickley; second officer, Kenneth Kerr; third officer, W. Ring; wireless operator, W. E. Ward; chief engineer, W. M. Pitt; second engineer, W. Lockhart; third engineer, Geo. P. Johnson; fourth officer, A. F. Bennett; steward, J. Dairick, all of St. John. Captain Theodore Simpson and Mr. J. A. Carson, of Quebec, may have been on the ship.

The *Simcoe* was built at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Newcastle, N. B. Dec. 9.—The American steamer *Coburn* was seen south of Escuminac Light during last night's snowstorm. Lightkeeper MacLennan has signalled her several times today and she is making water fast. The crew is safe and will have no trouble making shore. The steamer is about 600 yards off Barry's shore and inside the reef. She will be unable to get off without a tug, which has been sent for. Owing to navigation being closed here no tug from here can get out. She is about 1,000 tons.

Halifax, N. S. Dec. 10.—The Boston-Halifax relief ship, *Cabin Astin*, put into Yarmouth, N. S., today, to escape the bad weather. She will resume her trip tomorrow if the storm moderates.

Copenhagen, Dec. 6.—It is reported from Dragoer, at the southeast extremity of the Island of Amager, that a German auxiliary cruiser, the *Bohin* was blown into a collision with a German mine field off that coast. The cruiser sank but the number of men lost unknown, the survivors refusing to give any information. The *Bohin* was formerly a Russian vessel which was captured by the Germans.

London, Dec. 8.—Survivors of the British steamer *Apsco*, sunk by a German submarine, say that the second torpedo smashed a boat containing a score of passengers. Several were killed and the others, except three, were drowned. The fourteen women on the *Apsco*, eight were drowned.

Mrs. Harrigan, wife of the Controller of Customs at Accra, Gold Coast, was severely ill of fever and efforts were made to remove her from her cabin with a view to her recovery, but she was too ill. Thereupon her husband said: "Very well, I will remain with you." They remained together in the cabin and sank with the ship.

Madrid, December 7.—Twenty-one survivors of the American steamer *Acton*, which was torpedoed and sunk on November 25, have arrived here. They are suffering severely from exposure.

Havre, December 8.—The Belgian steamship *Ambiorix*, 1,444 tons gross, has been sunk in the English Channel. Her loss was caused by collision with the Norwegian steamship *Primo*. The crew of the *Ambiorix* was brought in patrol boats. The *Primo's* bow was damaged.

An Atlantic Port, December 8.—Two mysterious craft, apparently a large submarine in tow of a steam vessel, were sighted off the Nova Scotia coast, in the vicinity of Halifax, on the night before the Halifax explosion, according to the captain of a steamship which arrived here from St. Lawrence River port today.

Savage Harbor, P. E. I. The crew escaped. Several vessels were in danger yesterday near Grosbe Isle.

Six lives were lost when the barge *Chippewa*, *Marion B.* and *Madison*, went ashore at Jamestown, N. I.

The crew of the Quebec schooner *Forbin*, which founded 500 miles off Cape Race, was landed in St. John yesterday by a steamer.

Advice reached Quebec yesterday that two steam barges on their way from the Great Lakes to New York are aground in the Gulf. The *Forbin* is fast ashore near Point Escuminac and another is ashore off the Magdalen Islands. Assistance has been sent. The American barge *German*, reported in distress yesterday in the Gulf has reached Quebec leaking. The *Angouleme*, which flew danger signals, also arrived there.

London, Dec. 12.—Slight increase in the losses of the British merchantmen by mine or submarine in the past week is noted in the admiralty statement to-night. Fourteen vessels of more than 1,600 tons were sunk, as well as seven under that tonnage.

Losses to British shipping by mine or submarine the previous week comprised sixteen merchant ships of 1,600 tons or under that tonnage.

CAMPOBELLO

Dec. 8. A lecture by D. Wiley was given in the public hall on Thursday evening.

The Misses Mary and Beatrice McDonald, of Eastport, spent the American Thanksgiving with friends here.

Mrs. Howard Townsend is visiting relatives in Boston, Mass.

A very violent wind and rain occurred here on Saturday and the early hours of Sunday morning.

Mrs. Wm. Lellan was a passenger to St. John last week.

A junior branch of the Red Cross Work was begun among the school girls and teachers last week.

WILSON'S BEACH, C-BELLO

Dec. 11. On Monday afternoon and evening a Sunday School Convention was held in the church. Rev. Mr. Ross, Rev. Mr. Goodin, and Rev. Mr. Weaver were in charge. The meetings were helpful to those interested in Sunday School work.

Mrs. Winslow Richardson and daughter Miss Daisy, of Leonardville were recent guests of Mrs. Will Cline and other relatives here.

Miss Beattie Savage, who is working in Lubec, spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Savage.

Rev. F. A. Currier returned last week from two-weeks vacation spent in Maine.

Miss Myrtle Newman is visiting friends in St. John.

Mrs. James McLeese, of Back Bay called on friends here one day last week.

Mr. W. E. Ludlow made a business trip to St. Stephen last week.

Mr. Gorham Babcock, who has been ill for a number of months, left here on Saturday for Boston for medical treatment; his mother, Mrs. Guilford Babcock accompanied him.

Mr. W. P. Todd, Laurier Liberal Candidate for Charlotte, was an over-Sunday guest of Mr. and Mrs. James I. Savage.

Mrs. J. A. Rice, who has been on the sick-list for some time, is slowly gaining her health.

Mr. Atwood Savage made a business trip to St. John this week.

Pe. George Enos, who has been visiting his father, Mr. Paul Enos, left on Saturday for Ottawa.

The sad news reached this place on Saturday evening, of Irving Malloch's wife being killed in the Halifax disaster. Mr. Malloch is a native of this place, and the sympathy of the community goes out to him in his terrible bereavement.

A Liberal meeting was held on Saturday evening in the interest of the Laurier Liberal party, and was addressed by W. P. Todd, the Liberal Candidate, and Foster Calder, of Deer Island.

Mrs. Emily Mathews returned home on Saturday, after a pleasant visit with her sister, Mrs. Arthur Calder, at St. Andrews.

TO THE CLERGYMEN OF NEW BRUNSWICK:

The Provincial/Union Government Committee has endeavored by a campaign of advertising, and public meetings addressed by well known men and women to assist in the presentation of the great issue before the people of New Brunswick and Canada in this all important Election and National Crisis.

The success of Union Government and the Safety of the Honor of Canada will depend largely upon the information given to former Liberals and Conservatives and winning their support for united action in the face of a common enemy until peace is declared.

Feeling that it is the highest duty of every leader of the people to persuade the men and women of this country as to what is best for them and the Empire, the officers of the Provincial Union Committee request the clergymen of New Brunswick to Make Sunday, December 16th

UNION SUNDAY

and to direct the attention of their congregations to the duty to their Country and the gallant Canadian Soldiers who are fighting for freedom and civilization overseas.

IRVING R. TODD, Chairman,
Provincial Union Committee.
E. S. CARTER, Secretary.

ST. ANDREWS, N. B.
Dec. 5, 1917.

Christmas Bargains
In Men's and Youths' Suits and Pants, Hats and Caps, Shirts, Collars, Ties, etc. Shoes for Men, Boys, Youths and Little Girls. Rubbers for Men and Women. Raincoats, Overalls, etc.
R. A. Stuart & Son
We are well stocked with Bulbs and Batteries.

Remember this! Paint insurance on your buildings is just as important as fire insurance.
Sherwin-Williams
Paints and Varnishes
Fire may never come, but the deteriorating effect of the weather on buildings of every kind is certain, unless protected by paint.

Examine your buildings now—A little money spent in painting at once may save you much larger expenditure a little later.
G. K. GREENLAW
SAINT ANDREWS

Advertising Pays---Try a Beacon Adv.

Social and

Mrs. Howard Chase St. Stephen.

Mrs. Allan Grimme spent a few days as the Mrs. J. D. Grimme.

Mrs. Thomas Miller a pleasant visit with Mr. Alex. Grant at McAdam.

Sir Thomas Tait, of town on Friday, Dec. 7.

Mrs. W. J. Rollins of Dr. Miner's hospital, went to Calais last week.

Mr. Arthur Turner real to take a position.

Mrs. Roy Grimme, visiting Mr. and Mrs. G. D. turned to Hempstead.

Mrs. Thomas Burton a visit to St. Stephen.

Mr. Andrew Alorton Montreal by the serious George.

Mrs. James McDow daughter, Mrs. Stan Brownville, Me.

Rev. Wm. Fraser left Halifax.

Mrs. C. S. Everett Everett will be at home Tuesday and Thursday next week from 4 to 6.

Mr. R. D. Rigby was business this week.

The W. P. A. will be in Paul's Hall, on Cards from eight until rest of the evening, Cambridge Mission twenty-five cents.

Miss Dorothy Lamb friends on Tuesday evening.

A most extraordinary time of a year was noticed when a double rainbow.

Mrs. R. Brewer is sp with her parents, Mr. Dick.

A number of young people out to Chamcook last evening.

Sheriff Stuart was in week.

Mrs. Wm. Carson from Halifax that her Govt, who was there the 1st of Quebec Regiment.

Mr. Elmer Anderson's to hear that his condition.

Mr. Warren Simons brother of his friends on Friday.

Mrs. M. N. Cockburn last week.

ST. ANDREWS MA

William Robert Howie appointed Chief Deputy Division, Quebec District, Falls, Ont., was born at B. Sept. 14, 1871, and service in Sept., 1887, since then to June, 1889, telegraph various points, New Br. 1890, to Oct., 1891, bagg Megantic, Que., and St. 1891 to Oct., 1895, agent P. R., at different post Division; Oct., 1895 to patcher, C. P. R., Brown Mar., 1912, to Oct., 1917, Brownville Jct. Me.—C and Marine World.

MORE CANADIAN REACHED EN

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—The have arrived safely in B Infantry drafts from Winnipeg, and Kingston Infantry draft from Sign Ottawa; drafts for horse artillery and howitz column, from London, T treat. Medical corps draft royal flying corps, New recruits, details.

It is hard tea only you see, Red Rose e And it's a rare econom flavor.

Kept Good the Sea Packa