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The Toronto World

TWELVE PAGES—TUESDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 26 1911—TWELVE PAGES

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VOL. XXXI—No. 11,352

Four Hundred Fifteen Sailors Lost in Terrible Explosion Which Shatters "Liberte"

Other Battleships in Toulon Harbor Were Damaged and Many Seamen Were Killed in Launches Giving Assistance—Fire Started in Oil Storerooms and Spread Too Quickly to Allow Ammunition Chamber to Be Flooded.

CLIMAX TO SERIES OF NAVAL DISASTERS

TOULON, France, Sept. 25.—The battleship Liberte was torn apart and totally destroyed by an explosion of her magazine to-day. Three hundred officers and men were killed. The battleship Republique was badly damaged and the battleships Democrat and Verite also suffered severely from the masses of twisted iron and armor-plate that were hurled upon their decks.

This is the greatest disaster that has ever fallen upon the French navy, and in magnitude is almost without precedent in the annals of the world's fighting ships.

Late to-night the naval authorities declared that the number of victims is greater than at first supposed. The official estimate is now given as between 350 and 400 dead or missing.

At 5.35 the first explosion occurred. It was followed by three others at one-minute intervals. Then came the final explosion, the terrific reverberation of which shattered the windows of the whole city and was heard for a radius of many miles. The Liberte was rent asunder. Her bows were thrown high in the air and then the vessel slowly settled down, and in nineteen minutes nothing was visible but the top works.

A Horrible Spectacle.
Those still on deck were hurled skyward amid a shower of iron and steel. The boats of the rescuers were sunk and serious damage was done to the Republique, which lay at anchor close by. Two of her decks were stove in, and one of the Liberte's armor-plates was hurled against her port side and demolished the cabin of an absent ensign. For a few minutes after the final explosion an intense black cloud of smoke hovered over the harbor.

When it shifted, a horrible spectacle met the eyes of the people of Toulon, who, awakened by the first explosion, had hurried to the shore. The twisted upper works of the battleship were protruding from a mass of formless wreckage, among which struggled the seamen from the rescuing boats that had been sunk by the flying debris or sucked down in the maelstrom.

The explosion, which wiped out one of France's newest and most powerful battleships, occurred at 5.03 o'clock in the morning. It was preceded by and was the result of an outbreak of fire. The flames spread rapidly in spite of all efforts to master them, and reached the magazines before there was time to flood them. The magazines exploded with tremendous violence, sowing death and destruction in every direction.

The fire was first discovered at 4 a. m., and the bugles immediately sounded the alarm. The crew rushed to quarters and fought desperately the spreading flames, but it was soon evident that the fire had obtained a firm hold. Signals of distress were flashed to the other ships, and these despatched steam pinnaces and launches at full speed to assist in the work of extinguishing the flames and rescuing the men. But their services were of little avail.

Save Qui Peut.
The position of the fire made it impossible to flood the magazines at this time; nevertheless, efforts to do so were made, and finally the commanding officer, realizing that the ship was doomed, ordered the bugler to sound the "save qui peut" (Let him save himself who can), and shouted to the men to jump for their lives.

Exactly from what cause or where the fire broke out has not been established, but it is believed that it had smoldered for several hours. Of the vessel's full complement of 742, Capt. Jaures, brother of the Socialist leader, and the second officer in command were both ashore on leave, as well as 140 officers and men. The command of the ship devolved on the senior lieutenant, who perished.

The work of rescue was quickly begun. An ambulance station was installed in the arsenal, and Admiral Merin-Darbel, maritime prefect, went to the wreck and superintended the work of extricating those imprisoned under the shattered steel. The first body recovered was that of an officer, which was hauled from under an awning with a boathook. Up to this evening forty

Continued on Page 7, Column 4.

Loss of \$7,000,000

The battleship Liberte, which was built about five years ago, was a sister ship of the Verite, which met with misfortune at the manoeuvres a few days ago, going on the rocks and suffering considerable damage before being released.

The Liberte, was of about 15,000 tons displacement and carried four 12-inch guns and ten 8-inch guns. She had a horsepower of 12,000, and speed of 18 knots. Her length was 452 feet, and when completed in 1907, cost about \$7,000,000.

HURLED BOY FROM TRACK RESCUER ALMOST KILLED

A. E. Shank Here of Daring Exploit—Engineer of Train Feared Double Tragedy.

By presence of mind and admirable courage, A. E. Shank, night engineer of the Phillips Manufacturing Company, Carlaw-avenue, saved the eight-year-old son of William Hayes, of 32 Boulton-avenue, from being instantly killed by a Grand Trunk train near the crossing at Jones-avenue at 5.30 yesterday afternoon.

Shank leaped in front of the engine and knocked the boy out of the way, and his escape from being struck was so narrow that it was almost miraculous.

The story Shank tells of the affair is a modest one. He admits that he came pretty close to being struck by the pilot of the engine, but he does not apparently regard his action as of the heroic order.

The engineer of the train, G. T. Davidson, has been on the road for 30 years, but he says he never saw in all his experience anything like the deed for sheer bravado.

Everything happened within a few seconds. The boy, pursued in sport by playmates, dodged under a standing freight car on a siding beside the track on which the train was traveling. He crawled thru and stopped, still on his hands and knees, on the rail of the track upon which was the advancing train. He was intent on his play and he turned his head, looking for his playmates.

Not a Second to Spare.
Shank was walking along the track on his way to work. He knew the train was coming, so he stepped from the westbound track on to the east-bound track just before he saw the boy. As the boy appeared, Shank heard a wild blast from the whistle of the approaching train. He turned around and it was only about 20 feet away and traveling at a good rate of speed.

Shank looked at the boy, but he was still looking under the car, not having become conscious of the nearness of the train.

With a shout he leaped straight at the boy.

Continued on Page 7, Column 5.

PROBING U. S. STEEL

Wickersham Says Big Complex Combination Must Stand Inspection.

NEW YORK, Sept. 25.—Attorney-General Wickersham to-night, in response to many enquiries regarding the possible prosecution of the United States Steel Corporation, made the following statement:

"It has been the consistent policy of the department not to state in advance of actual proceedings that action against any particular party was in contemplation. There are many reasons why this is the proper position to maintain.

"It should go without saying that a great complex combination of corporations under a centralized control, dominating the trade of the country in an important industry, would not escape the careful study and consideration of the department. Whether or not that examination would result in proceeding to compel a disintegration of the combination into a number of separate disconnected parts could not be determined until such study and examination is completed."

Salvation Army Convention.
The annual convention of the Salvation Army of the Dominion of Canada will be held on Oct. 11 to 18. The meetings will be presided over by Mrs. Brauer Booth, daughter of General Booth, who will be accompanied by Col. Mildred Duff, a relative of the Duke of Fife. A series of special meetings and functions are being arranged.

Continued on Page 7, Column 5.

ANOTHER GAIN FOR BORDEN IN GASPE

Hon. R. Lemieux, Postmaster-General, Defeated in His Substitute Constituency—Chicoutimi Remains Liberal—May Be Protest in Russell County—Brockville Celebrates.

MONTREAL, Sept. 25.—The two deferred elections in Quebec, those in Gaspé and Chicoutimi-Saguenay, took place to-day and resulted in the return of the majority against the government.

In Gaspé the latest returns indicate the defeat of Hon. R. Lemieux, minister of marine, by Dr. G. P. Gauthier, who is leading by 558. Mr. Lemieux will, however, be a member of the new house, as he was elected last Thursday in Rouville.

In Chicoutimi-Saguenay there were four candidates in the field, the victor being J. Girard, the late member who was first elected as a Conservative, but who supported the government in the parliament. Mr. Girard's majority so far as heard from is given as 1200.

OTTAWA, Sept. 25.—The majority of Hon. Charles Murphy in Russell County is 1008. There is strong talk of his election being protested by J. W. Vincent, Conservative candidate, on the ground of irregularities. The majority of Honore Achin in Labelle is 88.

WINNIPEG, Sept. 25.—Latest bulletin from Humboldt gives Neely, Liberal, 4000, with twenty polls still to hear from.

SHERBROOKE, Que., Sept. 25.—W. H. Lovell, returning officer, to-day checked over the deputy returning officer's statements and declared Mr. Moore's majority to be 40. The result of the election is not certain, as there are seventy-four voters rejected to be decided at a judicial recess.

Ghost Over Graham.
BROCKVILLE, Sept. 25.—The great victory achieved by the Brockville Conservatives and the party throughout the country was celebrated here to-night with a big torchlight procession, in which electors from all parts of the riding joined, as well as excursionists from the constituencies adjoining.

Trains were run in from Smith's Falls and Ganouake, as well as from points on the D. W. and N. W. R. The parade was one of the biggest of the kind ever seen in the island city, and very heartily participated in. The successful candidate, John Webster, with some of his chief workers, was drawn thru the principal street in a trolley, from which he addressed his friends on Court House-square. At the conclusion of the parade hundreds of people repaired to the waterfront, where there was a grand display of fireworks. Bonfires burned thruout the town and together it was a night long to be remembered. Four bands furnished music and there were horns and other noise-making devices by the score.

Gouin Explains the Defeat.
MONTREAL, Sept. 25.—"Sir Wilfrid Laurier was defeated by sentiment, and will be restored to power by reason," declared Sir Lomer Gouin to-day when interviewed on the result of the election.

Sir Lomer said he had no doubt that the Conservative regime was doomed to a premature death, and that the Liberal party would come to power, stronger than ever. Sentiments and prejudices had been worked efficiently against Sir Wilfrid and his colleagues, but the effects of such a campaign could not be of any protracted period.

The provincial premier declared that he did not see how the result of the elections could affect his policy. If the time had come he would not hesitate to appeal to the people and would be sure of a victory.

Sir Lomer declared that nothing official had been decided about the next session of the legislature, but that it would most probably open in the beginning of January, like the last session.

Leaders Meet.
OTTAWA, Sept. 25.—(Special).—Mr. R. L. Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier met for the first time since the election to-night at the banquet tendered the governor-general by the Rideau Club. Both leaders supported the toast to his excellency.

Commission on Spending Bureaus.
The possibility of the appointment of

Continued on Page 7, Column 5.



QUEEN'S OPENS SEPT. 27 GLASS BREAKS RECORD

New Men Join Staff From Oxford—Football Team Gets Britton For Coach.

KINGSTON, Sept. 25.—Queen's University will open on Wednesday. It is expected the attendance will reach 1700. Last year it was 1612. Principal Gordon will arrive from Scotland tomorrow. There will be half a dozen new men on the teaching staff. While in the old country Principal Gordon and Rev. Dr. Howland, Ottawa, secured Mr. Colville for the English department, and Mr. Small for the department of classics. Both are from Oxford, and will act as assistants. Mr. Hyde, Columbia University, New York, will be assistant professor of geology, and Mr. Scheub, Cornell University, assistant professor of philosophy.

W. J. Camie, aged 56, a prominent citizen, died suddenly to-day. Nicholas E. Granger, a prominent Orangeman, is dead, aged 65. He came here from Belleville 20 years ago.

George Bennett, aged 19, was caught stealing a ride on the Grand Trunk freight train, and was arrested. He was remanded for sentence. He said he lived at 95 Queen-st., Toronto, and was heading his way to Montreal.

Bertha Lovelace Godfrey had her finger caught in a milk separator and had to have the finger amputated at the hospital.

Russell Britton, Ganouake, has been secured as coach by the Queen's football team. The team had practice to-day and showed up well. It is a much stronger team than last year.

W. F. Kelley, who was injured by a fall from a C. P. R. train at Maberly last winter, is suing the company for \$5000 damages.

Continued on Page 7, Column 5.

How Parties Stand

Province	Cons.	Lib.
Ontario	72	13
Quebec	28	37
New Brunswick	9	9
New Scotia	5	5
Prince Edward Island	2	2
Manitoba	2	2
Saskatchewan	1	2
Alberta	1	6
British Columbia	7	0
Totals	133	80

Conservative majority 47.
Fort Arthur and Yukon elections deferred.

CARL AHNRENS' PAINTINGS

Noble Exhibition of Canadian Pictures, October 17.

Lt.-Col. Mercer has arranged to exhibit the M. S. Mercer collection of Carl Ahrens' paintings during the week of Oct. 17-24 in the art galleries of the public library, College and St. George-sts.

This is a unique exhibit of purely Canadian art. Mr. Ahrens' work having received special recognition in Europe for its distinctively national quality and high standard, and he has been invited to exhibit in Europe in consideration of the striking and original merits of his finest compositions.

Thirty or more canvases will be hung in the Mercer collection, and the exhibit will be entirely free.

NEW STATION AT LONDON.

MONTREAL, Sept. 25.—London is to have a new C. P. R. station, the erection of which will be started at once. The new building will cost about \$10,000, and it will be a modern structure in every respect. The main building will be 65 feet long and a storey and a half high, and besides, there will be additions at either end, giving the building a total length of 121 feet.

Germany Acts for Peace Between Italy and Turkey

Fears Disturbance of Balance of Power by Outburst in the Balkan Powder Magazine—Italian Fleet Ready and Army is 80,000 Above Normal Strength.

BERLIN, Sept. 25.—Altho Germany has not offered formal plans it is known that she is exerting her best efforts at Rome and Constantinople to bring about a peaceful settlement of the controversy between Turkey and Italy over Tripoli. Germany regards hostilities between those two countries as a menace to European peace, since it would probably be followed by an outburst in the Balkans, into which Austria-Hungary and the other powers might be drawn.

Germany advocates as a solution of the question Turkish recognition of Italy's special interests and her abandonment of opposition to the economic development of Tripoli by Italy, and also of the recognition by the latter country of Turkish sovereignty.

Germany's position is a delicate one, as she is bound by an alliance to Italy and by friendship to Turkey.

CHASSO, Sept. 25.—According to the latest advices received here the whole of Italy, with the exception of a section of the Socialists, now demands the speedy occupation of Tripoli. The Socialists argue that Italy is not sufficiently prepared to stand the heavy expenses required to enter colonial competition.

In the meantime the Italian Government is taking the present opportunity to experiment in the partial mobilization of the troops. The entire fleet is now ready for war, including the smallest and the oldest ships. The coast fortifications have been strengthened to meet any attack. Sixty steamers have been chartered for the transport of 35,000 soldiers, war material, second-line and first-line and Red Cross workers.

The contingent of soldiers kept in service after their time had expired, with the reserve called up, bring the standing army to 80,000 above normal. The troops intended for Tripoli are centred chiefly in the Naples, Sicily and Taranto Barracks.

King Victor-Emmanuel has expressed a desire to review the troops before they leave for Tripoli, but definite decision has not yet been reached.

TWO MEN NEARLY BURIED WHEN WALLS COLLAPSED

Partly Demolished Building Opposite Princess Theatre Crashed Down Without Warning.

With a deafening roar, the side wall and partitions of a partially razed building opposite the Princess Theatre, on West King-st., and immediately west of the Genesee Hotel, collapsed, and thousands of brick fell out over the street, crushing in the stout archway like an eggshell.

Joe Thatcher, 31 West Queen-st., had a narrow escape from being buried in the debris. In company with a friend, he was walking west on King-st. wheeling his bicycle, and had just entered the archway, when he heard a loud crack, and a few loose bricks fell out over the street. He sprang back out of the danger zone, throwing his wheel down as he jumped. Then, with a roar, the avalanche came. The protruding arch was broken immediately under the weight of the collapsing walls. His bicycle was almost completely demolished.

The building, which is owned by Gibson Bros., 7 Toronto-st., was partially torn down, the front wall having been demolished. It was the purpose of the firm to build up-to-date stores and buildings on the site.

The debris on the car tracks was quickly cleared away, and traffic was not obstructed for long. The damage done was small.

TO ASSIST CROWN ATTORNEY

Edwin Bell Will Give Advice to Those Who Would Invoke Law.

Part of a long-felt and much needed advance has been made at the city hall, Edwin Bell of the firm of Crown Attorney Corley has moved into the crown attorney's office, adjoining the police court, and will be there during the day every day of the week. He will advise with those who come to lay criminal informations and to apply for warrants and generally conduct the office part of the crown attorney's business.

There will not yet be a magistrate on the premises continually, nor will there be anyone in the crown attorney's office after office hours, but henceforth it will be easier for complainants to find out whether or not they are to be granted summonses or warrants than has heretofore been the case.

Whether Mr. Bell will be in his office on Saturday afternoons has not yet been decided. He will not be there in the evenings or Sundays.

NAZIMOVA A GREAT ARTIST.

Classed among the best of the world's great actresses is Mme. Nazimova, who begins a short engagement in this city Thursday evening at the Princess in "The Other Mary," the first American play in which the charming lady has appeared.

Jews Return to Kiev.
KIEV, Russia, Sept. 25.—Three thousand Jews who left the city following the assassination of M. Stolypin, fearing that they might be the victims of racial riots, have returned here.

PRISON REFORM ON SOUND BASIS

Congratulatory Addresses on Great Work of Ontario Government's Prison Farm at Guelph Featured Founding of Administration Building—Distinguished Gathering Attended Ceremony.

Humanitarian work never got a greater boost than that which has been and is being accomplished by the Ontario Government in the matter of prison reform.

Less than two years ago the experiment of a prison farm at Guelph was put into operation. It has been an unqualified success, and yesterday Sir James Whitney laid the corner-stone of a splendid new administration building, but of stone cut from the quarries on the farm by the prisoners themselves.

A great work has been done at the Central Prison Farm at Guelph, a great work is now being done, and a still greater work will be done there in the future.

Things are shaping that way now. The experiment stage has passed, and the worth of the institution, which owes its existence in large part to the efforts of Hon. W. J. Hanna, the provincial secretary, has been proven.

It was a distinguished party that left the Union Station on a special train yesterday morning for Guelph. Parliamentary representatives of the people were there in plenty, as well as private citizens interested in the various phases of humanitarian work and in philanthropy.

A Distinguished Party.
Among those present were: Sir James Whitney, Hon. W. J. Hanna, Hon. J. Foy, Hon. Dr. Pyne, Hon. Colonel Matheson, Hon. Dr. Reaume, Hon. Thomas Crawford, Judge Teetzel, A. E. Frigg, M.P., Andrew Broder, M.P., W. D. McCowan, M.L.A., Dr. Forbes Godfrey, M.L.A., Alex. McCowan, M.L.A., J. L. Enghart, Noel Marshall, Dr. Bruce Smith, E. R. Rogers, Dr. C. K. Clarke, Rev. Dr. Chambers, Rev. A. L. Hughes, Kelly Evans, J. S. Cartwright, John M. Lyle, the architect, and many others.

On their arrival at the farm, the visitors proceeded direct to the big dining-room, where the prisoners were at dinner. Escorted by some of the officials, Sir James Whitney went in and made a few remarks to the men just as they had finished eating. The premier's words of encouragement were received by the prisoners with hearty applause.

"My friends," said he, "the object of the government is to keep you comfortable and contented. That is being done now and it will be done in future. All I want to say now is to give you a word of encouragement. You have met with obstacles, but in our lives no obstacles are insurmountable. You can overcome them and we want to help you all we can. I wish you happiness and prosperity when you leave this place and go elsewhere."

Laying the Corner Stone.
Immediately afterwards, the visitors proceeded to the new administration building where the ceremony of laying the corner stone was conducted by Sir James. As the stone settled down into the wet mortar, the premier paid a compliment to the prisoners who had put the sub-structures in position. One tap with the silver trowel and the "level" showed that the stone was truly laid.

"My task has been an easy one," said Sir James. "That is on account of the good workmanship and just what I expected."

"In building this institution," continued the premier, "the government—and when I say government, I mean the people of Ontario—puts into operation a scheme, not necessarily very

Continued on Page 7, Column 3.

The Fall Races.

The race season in Toronto either in spring or fall always marks the time when the hatters' stock for that season is most complete. With Dineen this year you will find some exceptional value, particularly in English hats that cannot be approached on the continent. Considered the only proper thing on Fifth-avenue to-day, and the stylish dressers there pay just twice what the same blocks are sold at in Toronto. Dineen is sole Canadian agent for Henry Heath of London, England, who makes hats for His Majesty, and is distributing agent for nearly all the other big makers. Call and look over the new stock of rough felt English Alpine hats for fall wear.

Continued on Page 7, Column 3.