

EXPLOSION SHATTERS HALIFAX

Hundreds Dead Following Wreck of Ammunition Ship Buildings Destroyed, Portion of City in Flames

Explosion Resulted When American Ammunition Steamer Collided With Another Vessel--The Loss of Life Likely Very Heavy, and Destruction Great

By Courier Leased Wire.

Truro, N. S., Dec. 6--This afternoon word from Halifax gave the number of dead from munition ship explosion at 300.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 6--Hundreds of persons were killed and a thousand others injured and half of the city of Halifax is in ruins as the result of the explosion on a munitions ship in the harbor to-day.

It is estimated the property loss will run into the millions. The north end of the city is in flames.

AT LEAST FIFTY KILLED.

Truro, N. S., Dec. 6--It is reported here that the first estimate of the loss of life in the explosion in Halifax harbor this morning places it at fifty, while the number injured is correspondingly great.

DESTRUCTION GREAT.

Amherst--Later reports on the destruction at Halifax said that the whole city north of the Queens Hotel is a mass of wreckage, and that fires have broken out in a dozen parts of the city. The area affected is several miles.

The Canadian Government depot also used by the C. P. R. is described as utterly crushed, while the repairing plant at Willow Park is wrecked.

The vessels collided soon after 8.30 this morning, and it is presumed that the munition ship was hit in the stokehold because instantly flames were seen to pour from her. The crew appeared to make an effort to get the fire fighting apparatus to work, but the explosion occurred before anything could be done.

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 6--An American ammunition boat collided with another boat at Rockingham, three miles from Halifax. A section of Halifax is on fire.

Hundreds of buildings were destroyed or damaged, scores of lives believed lost and certain sections of the city are in flames.

WHERE BERNSTORFF WAS DETAINED.

Rockingham is located well within Halifax harbor, at the south of Bedford Basin. It is at the northwestern portion of the harbor and since the war has been used as an examining station for ocean steamers. It was at this portion of the harbor that ex-Ambassador Bernstorff and party were held and examined on their way from the United States to Germany.

Ottawa, Dec. 6--According to advices received here the Halifax disaster was due to the blowing up of ammunition ship in the harbor at eight o'clock this morning. All telegraph wires are down and the damage is very serious. It is believed a number of people near the scene were either killed or injured, including several telegraph employees.

Amherst, N.S., Dec. 6--Scores of people have been killed, hundreds of buildings destroyed and a portion of Halifax set on fire by an explosion which occurred following the collision of an American ammunition ship and another vessel at Rockingham, according to telephone messages reaching here this morning. The explosion was so terrific

that it destroyed the installation in the telegraph and telephone offices for thirty miles around Halifax, while it was heard at Truro, 61 miles distant.

It is reported that the American munition steamer was moving out from her pier and was rammed broadside by another vessel. Instantly there was a tremendous explosion which practically destroyed the two ships and killed their crews.

The concussion resulting caused the roof of the railway depot at North street to collapse, while all the warehouses on the water front for a mile and a half were damaged. The premises affected in many places caught fire.

The force of the concussion was so great that freight cars were blown off tracks for a distance of nearly two miles.

Messages asking for fire engines and fire fighting apparatus, doctors and nurses, hospital supplies, etc., were received by a number of localities in Nova Scotia from Halifax. Special trains were made up with everything required that could be secured.

At Truro, Windsor and here the city councils met this morning and decided to take immediate steps to render aid to the afflicted people of Halifax. It is understood that large quantities of food were destroyed and that the citizens of Halifax may soon be in danger of starving. It was decided that carloads of food must be despatched at once.

The damage done to the Western Union and Canadian Pacific Telegraph Companies and Nova Scotia Telephone Company is so complete that it will be days before wire communication can be restored.

BRIEF BULLETINS
Bulletin, St. John, N.B., Dec. 6--It is announced here that the censor has taken control of all wires at Halifax, in connection with the explosion there this morning.

New York, Oct. 6--Halifax has been cut off from all communication with the rest of the world, either by wire or cable, according to officials of the Western Union Cable Company in this city. All land lines are down and the plant of the United States Direct Cable Company at Halifax, has been so damaged by the explosion that it cannot be operated.

FURTHER GAIN FOR BRITISH

Lines Advanced Near La Vaquerie, on the Cambrai Front.

London, Dec. 6--The British have advanced slightly their line southwest of La Vaquerie, on the Cambrai front, it is announced officially.

On Tuesday night, the official statement says, the British troops withdrew to the southwest of Noyelles-sur-Escant and Bourlon wood. The withdrawal, it is added, was accomplished without the Germans appearing to be aware of it until late yesterday.

The situation in the northern Italian front the enemy has resumed his efforts to dislodge the allied troops. The British repulsed German efforts near Cambrai and east of Asolo the Italians are engaged in a furious battle with the Austro-Germans.

German attacks in the Cambrai area, under the leadership of General von Marwitz, were against the British and northern legs of the salient. After the British had repulsed minor attacks in the regions of Gonnellen and La Vaquerie, southwest of Cambrai, the Germans hurled strong forces against La Vaquerie. General Byng's men checked the Germans in severe fighting. On the northern end the attack was against the line between Bourlon wood and Moeuvres. This was repulsed by the British artillery.

Another Attempt? Large forces of reserves hurried to the Cambrai area, convinced the British leaders that the enemy has not given up hope of blotting out the salient, notwithstanding the heavy losses he sustained in the past week. The Bourlon wood position, the dominating one west of Cambrai, is almost in a pocket and a despatch from British headquarters intimates that the British front would be stronger without it. However, the British still wish to successfully German attempts to recapture the Bourlon position.

Down on Italy The Austro-German push to break through to Vinzenza and the Venetian plains, evidently is in force, but the Italians are standing the shock well. The attack is against a line from Monte Badeneche, west of the Brenta River, a front of about ten miles. The first effort of the enemy was from the northwest between Sissmol and Melotta, and this was broken up in hand-to-hand fighting, in which the attackers suffered heavy casualties and left several hundred prisoners in Italian hands.

Larger forces took part in the second effort from the northeast against the western wing of the front. After fierce fighting the enemy occupied Italian trenches on Monte Tondrechar and Monte Badeneche, and the defenders withdrew from the more advanced positions. Berlin reports the fighting is continuing with success.

In the Jezbel Hamr range north of Bagdad, Mesopotamia, British and Russian troops have taken from the Turks an important pass. More than 100 prisoners and two guns were captured from the Turks.

The boys at the front are busy. Vote for Cocksbutt and help keep the munition factories busy to help them.

BETTER TO GIVE MEN AND MONEY

NOW THAN TO BE STRIPPED OF ALL IF GERMANY WINS THE WAR

DIED WITH WIFE.

By Courier Leased Wire

London, Dec. 5--Survivors of the British steamer Apapa, 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. Of the fourteen women on the Apapa, 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. She asked that she be not removed, because she felt too ill. Thereupon her husband said: "Very well, I will stay with you." They remained in the cabin together, and sank with the ship.

TWO HUN RAIDERS ARE BROUGHT DOWN

Enemy Airplanes Raided England To-day, Inflicting Little Damage.

By Courier Leased Wire

London, Dec. 6--About 25 airplanes raided England to-day, it is announced officially. Of these, six reached London. Two of the raiders were brought down, the crew of three men on each being captured. Bombs dropped by the raiders caused a number of fires in London, but all of them were quickly brought under control. The casualties are believed to be light.

This is the first German air raid over England in more than a month. The last previous raid occurred on the night of October 31, being made by about thirty airplanes in seven groups.

An official report on aviation last night said two raids were carried out over Germany by British airplanes, the first which had been possible for more than a month, owing to the incessant bad weather.

APPOINTMENT MADE

Of an Investigator Into Farmers' Complaints

Harry Cocksbutt Receives Telegram to This Effect:

"Harry Cocksbutt to-day received the following telegram from Headquarters, Toronto.

"W. R. Parker appointed representative of Minister of Militia to investigate cases of special hardship regarding farmers refused exemption."

DYNAMOS AFFECTED

By Courier Leased Wire

Montreal, Dec. 6--Reports reaching telegraph companies here indicated that the explosion near Halifax had effected their dynamos. All wire communication with Halifax and outside points was severed.

Forceful Appeal For Conscription of Men and Money Alike Delivered by Mr. W.F. Cocksbutt at Mount Pleasant Last Evening--Exemption For Farmers Essential

To Mount Pleasant Mr. W. F. Cocksbutt carried the fiery cross of Union Government last night, delivering a spirited appeal in the school house there for union, support of the Union Government and the backing up of the boys overseas. Mr. Cocksbutt, laying stress upon the splendid valor and high moral qualities of the Canadian troops to-day, pointed out the advisability of supporting the Military Service Act rather than facing the menace of a German invasion of Canada, no impossible or even improbable thing were the British navy not ever vigilant. Mr. Cocksbutt compared the Military Service Act with Laurier's Militia Act placed on the books of Canada in 1904, showing the latter to be a much more drastic and unsystematic measure. He stated that he had made an attempt to secure one of the four Brantford exemption tribunals for the hearing of farmers' claims exclusively, and that such might yet come about. Mr. Cocksbutt emphasized the need of conformity to the food restrictions, and closed with a powerful appeal for union and the winning of the war by voting to send reinforcements to the men overseas.

The other speakers of the evening included Mr. A. T. Briggs, chairman; Sergt. Stanbridge, of the Great War Veterans' Association; Mr. W. G. Strong, and Pto. Oliver, also of the G.W.V.A. The attendance was fairly large and included a number of women, the fair sex never losing interest in the campaign.

Mr. A. T. Briggs Lack of reinforcements prevented their return to Canada, and on December 17th, the people would cast their ballot on the question.

"Do we want to win this war, or do we want to prolong it for years?" demanded the speaker. All wanted to see the men now overseas home once more, and conscription and the winning of the war, were the only means of achieving this end. When the Motherland called, over 400,000 Canadians rallied to fight for the cause of humanity. That the fight was for humanity, the speaker established clearly, telling vividly of atrocities committed by the Huns in some of them for over three years.

(Continued on Page three)

THE RECORD OF THE UNION GOVERNMENT

They abolished patronage in appointments to Government positions, in the purchase of supplies and in awarding of Government contracts.

Patronage was the Worst Evil in Politics

They controlled the packing houses by ordering that they must not charge a profit of more than two per cent. on their sales--that is to say only two cents profit on a dollar. They passed an order providing that the flour millers can make a profit of only 25c. on each barrel of flour. They stopped the use of grain in the manufacture of liquor.

They stopped expenditures on almost all Public works with the object of conserving our finances for the war. They greatly extended the powers of the Food Controller, giving him practically unlimited authority.

They increased the separation allowance to wives and other dependents of soldiers under the rank of Sergeant from \$20 to \$25 a month.


They are standing no nonsense from the Quebec Exemption Tribunals who tried to make a farce of the thing. Thousands of appeals from these Tribunals have been taken by the Government representatives and will be tried promptly. The Government are seeing to it that Quebec does not escape its duty.

They have been in office only eight weeks and have been hampered through having to run an election forced upon the Country by Laurier.


WEATHER BULLETIN
Toronto, Dec. 6--Pressure is high over the greater portion of the continent, but a shallow disturbance is centered this morning on the South Atlantic coast.

The weather has turned colder in Ontario and western Quebec and continues decidedly cold in the western provinces.

Forecasts.
Fresh northeast and north winds, some light local snow falls and colder to-day and on Friday.



THE SEVEN WIVES OF THE WORLD
THE SEVEN WIVES OF THE WORLD
HOW THE MARRIAGE FAMILY NOW PAYS THE GROCER, MEAT, VEGETABLE, COAL, CLOTHING, AND NO BODILY DUES



Are YOU Going to Vote WITH the Brave Boys at the Front, or Will You Vote AGAINST Them?

Vote for Cocksbutt and help keep the munition factories busy to help them.

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J. Harvey

Optician. Phone 1478
Est. Open Tuesday and
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W. V. GILBY,
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it will not be paid for.