GERMANS SINK MERCHANT FLEET AND CONVOY

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RECORD VOTE POLLING AT MANY POINTS

ENTENTE ALLIES TO RECOGNIZE NEW RUSS GOVERNMENT

GLASS WORKERS OPEN SUBURBAN POLLS THREE HOURS BEFORE AUTHORIZED TIME; REFUSING TO ALLOW ROSS SCRUTINEER IN

Invoke Aid of City Detective and Policeman to Keep Out Ross Representative—Tactics May Result in Protest Should S. F. Glass Be Returned.

An incident, which members of the Liberal executive for East Middlesex feel confident will justify them protesting the election should S. Frank Glass receive a majority and result ultimately in his being unseated, occurred at subdivision 55, east end of Ealing, early today, when Liberal scrutineers were refused admission to the polling booths.

In spite of the fact that the chief returning officer for the district issued a proclamation saying that the booths in rural ridings would not be open until 9 o'clock, they were opened in this subdivision at 6 o'clock. Two booths were established, as the vote promised to be a big one.

The Liberal scrutineer got wind of the early opening, and was on the job, but he was refused admission to the booth on the grounds that he did not have a signed certificate from the candidate whom he represented, according to Liberal headquarters. His possession of a signed certificate was not in the least necessary, it is maintained, because, according to the election act any elector had the right to enter, and the man was an elector in that district.

Forced to return to the committee rooms for a certificate, he was not able to get back to the booth until nearly 9 o'clock, and no Liberal scrutineer was present at the voting done during that time.

Detective Barred Way.

A second man sent out with a certificate to act at the other polling booth which had been opened, was refused admission in spite of the document which he carried. The Advertiser was told. His entrance to the booth was prevented by one of the city detectives and a policeman. A third man was sent from the committee rooms with instructions to remain in the booth until he was thrown out and preparations were made to lay an assault charge against the person making the attempt. The detective and policeman were gone, and the Liberal was admitted.

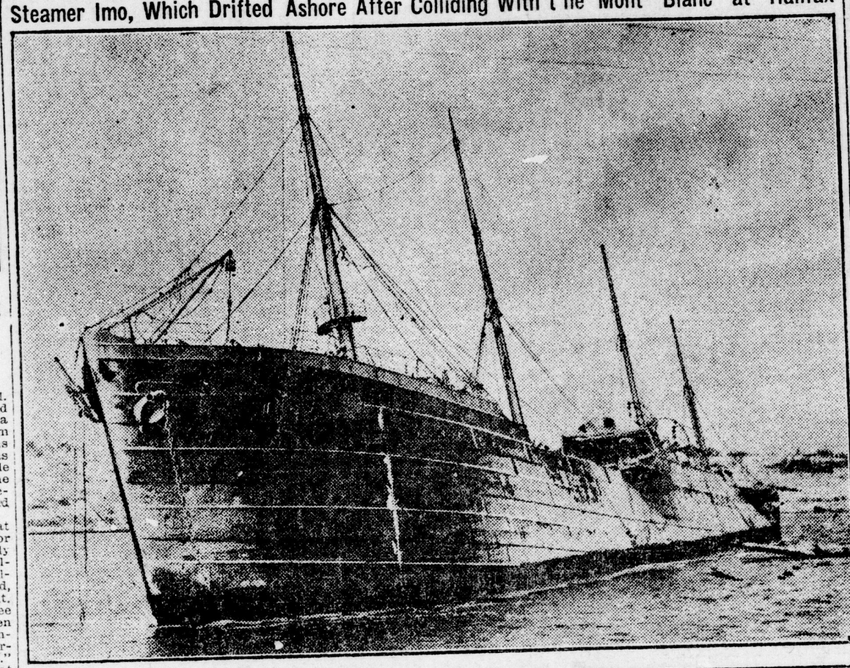
The committee men point out that one booth was without a scrutineer for three hours and the other for nearly four, and although they made no allegations that it was possible for almost any election trick to be practiced, without the Liberal party learning of it.

It is also stated at the committee rooms that workers there have been given proof that S. Frank Glass is implicated in the fake exemption of farmers in the district through "Capt." Hezzlewood and other means, and that his election, in the event of it taking place, will be protested from this standpoint as well as from the occurrence in subdivision 55.

Liberals Optimistic.

This is the only subdivision in the riding where trouble occurred, and the feeling of the Liberals is confident. The organization cannot compare with the well-oiled machine of the Tory-Unionists, but committee men report that they are getting their electors out well in almost every subdivision. Influences at work in the annex subdivisions may make the vote slightly unfavorable there, but the others are more than likely to obviate this.

Steamer Imo, Which Drifted Ashore After Colliding With the Mont Blanc at Halifax



Advertiser Illustrations

GREATEST VOTE ON RECORD IS BEING CAST IN LONDON TODAY

Indications Point to 13,000 Ballots Locally.

ORGANIZATIONS WORK HARD

No Possible Votes Have Been Overlooked by Either Side.

When this issue reaches the public the elections will be over, save for counting the ballots. The polls close at 5 p.m., with probably the largest vote ever recorded in London.

According to present available information there are approximately 16,000 names on the lists. Of these it is estimated that 80 per cent will be polled, or about 13,000. There were close to 60 per cent of the votes cast by 2 o'clock, and the balance will be in during the afternoon.

The final returns will easily beat all records. The largest vote ever cast in London was during the Hyman-Gray election of 1905, when 8,832 ballots were counted. The election in 1904 showed 8,580, while in 1911, the total was 8,575. These will be easily exceeded, possibly by thousands.

Heavy Early Polling.

There was no trouble in getting the people to the polls. The fact that the booths opened at 8 o'clock in the morning resulted in a large number getting in early. At 8 o'clock in a large number of the subdivisions, particularly in the so-called workingmen's districts, 40 per cent of the total vote had been cast. At noon there was 50 percent in practically all divisions, and every hour added to the quota.

The woman's vote was slower in coming in. The early hours of the morning saw a small percentage, most of them young women, who voted on their way to their employment. In the the afternoon, however, there was a decided improvement, and ti is expected that the larger proportion of the women will be taken to the polls. There are plenty of automobiles, the weather is good, and as a result there should be a big women's vote.

The soldiers are voting to a man at Carling Heights and Queen's Park camps and at the Convalescent and Byron Hospitals.

There is the greatest keenness being manifested. Not in many a day has there been such a contest, one

Continued on Page Three.

EARLY REPORTS SHOW HEAVY BALLOTING IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC LARGE WOMEN'S VOTE

Indications That Ontario's City and Rural Vote Will Be Exceptionally Heavy—Cold Weather At Montreal and Ottawa Having No Effect—Toronto Reports Brisk Polling

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—Polling is actually taking place in 202 constituencies today. The 29 acclamations and the four deferred elections make up the total of 235 seats which constitute the new parliament. The deferred elections are Halifax (two seats), Nelson, Man., and the Yukon.

At the last general election, held on September 21, 1911, 221 members were elected, of whom 133 were Conservative, 86 Liberal and 2 independent. The members classed as independents were W. F. MacLean, South York, and A. Verville, Maisonneuve.

Toronto, Dec. 17.—Voting in the Dominion elections opened briskly and early in this city, and in some instances there were many men and some women waiting at the booths before the deputy returning officers and other officials arrived with their impedimenta. The prospects are that this city and the province of Ontario as a whole will produce a record male vote today, in addition to the heavy increase brought about by the "soldiers' women." It is expected that a majority of the vote will be polled here before noon.

In the rural constituencies of Ontario it is expected that the vote will also be very heavy, though in some cases the roads are almost impassable owing to the heavy snowdrifts. Motoring is out of the question in many localities, and all kinds of sleighing rigs have been pressed into service.

HEAVY MONTREAL VOTE; MANY WOMEN BALLOTING.

Montreal, Dec. 17.—Despite the bitter cold weather prevailing the voting here began early, and before 9 o'clock reports from the Montreal district indicated that a very large vote was to be expected. The polling booths were crowded all morning. The women's vote reported to be coming in very heavily.

The morning passed without incident.

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—Sir Robert Borden is the only member of the Government who will get the election results tonight at the capital. None of his colleagues are here this morning, and, so far as can be ascertained, none are expected to arrive during the day. Maritime province ministers, other than Sir Robert Borden, are in the east. Hon. J. D. Reid, minister of railways, is in Halifax.

Quebec ministers, with the exception of Hon. P. E. Blondin, who is overseas, will, it is expected, all hear the returns tonight in Montreal.

Sir George Foster is confined to a hospital in Toronto; Major-Gen. Mewburn is in Hamilton; Hon. T. W. Crothers will get the results in his home town of St. Thomas; Sir Thomas White, at Brockville; Hon. N. W. Rowell, at Toronto, and Hon. Hugh Guthrie, probably at Guelph.

It is expected that with the clear cold weather conditions prevailing today an unusually large vote will be cast. At the capital there has been a steady rush to the polls since 6 a.m. During the forenoon hour's a heavy woman's vote was polled. Reports from surrounding constituencies also indicate an abnormal vote.

BIG AT MANITOBA.

Winnipeg, Dec. 17.—With fine and unusually mild weather, indications are for a record poll in this city. At some polls in South Winnipeg, one-third of the entire registration had voted by 9 o'clock this morning. The women especially were turning out early.

Weather conditions are favorable all over the prairie.

PULPIT POLITICS FIGHT'S CAUSE IN CITY CHURCH

First Methodist Sermon Sunday Morning Marked by Real Scrap.

HYMN BOOK EFFECTIVE

Used by Indignant Member When Hiss Follows His Departure.

The most dramatic scene in the history of the First Methodist Church occurred at the morning service yesterday, when Rev. R. G. Peever, for several months pastor of the church, attempted to persuade the members of his flock to vote for Union Government.

The sermon was over and as the last hymn ended Mr. Peever rose and assumed the role of dictator in political affairs.

Arthur T. Little, head of the firm of Robinson & Little, and for many years one of the church's strongest supporters, rose from his seat, grasped his overcoat and his hymnbook and without any attempt to conceal his contempt for the proceedings, started for the door.

Slams Hisser With Hymnal.

As he neared the door he heard a hiss, and when he became aware of the source from which came the hiss, Mr. Little's new Methodist Hymnal descended upon the head of E. C. Mitchell, a local drug manager and supporter of Major Hume Cronyn. No reply to the "swat" was forthcoming, and Mr. Little left the church.

Several others followed.

A chill fell upon the audience. Later one of the congregation informed Mr. Peever that he had been supporting the Unionist side of the campaign, but he did not believe that politics should be discussed from the pulpit and that his

Continued on Page Eleven.

ALL MONTREAL POLICE FORCE ON DUTY TODAY

Montreal, Dec. 17.—Every member of the police force in this city is on duty today, at least during the polling hours, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., so Chief of Police Campeau says, and if any trouble arises the police will be ready. The bars are open in St. James's and St. Mary's divisions, as there is no election contest in either of these constituencies.

TERMS OF PACT LIMIT GERMANS TO EAST FRONT

According to Armistice, Cannot Transfer Forces Until Jan. 14.

TROOPS TO FRATERNIZE

Naval Agreement Embraces the Black and Baltic Seas

Petrograd, Dec. 17.—The terms of the Russo-German armistice, according to a statement issued here, obligates no transference of troops until January 14 (January 1, Russian); no increase of troops on the fronts, or on the islands in the Moon Sound, or a regrouping of forces. The Germans are not to concentrate troops between the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea east of the 15th degree longitude east of Greenwich. Intercourse between the troops may be allowed from sunrise to sunset. Groups are limited to 25 persons at a time, who may exchange newspapers and unsealed mails, and who may carry on trade and exchange articles of prime necessity.

A Naval Agreement.

A special agreement will be made by the naval general staff regarding the extension of the armistice to the White Sea and the Russian coast in the Arctic zone. It is agreed also that attacks on war and commercial vessels must stop in these regions in order to avoid attacks in other seas.

The armistice on the naval fronts embraces all of the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea east of the meridian 15 degrees east of Greenwich. The demarkation line fixed for the Black Sea is from the lighthouse of Sliuka to the estuary of the Danube to Cape Garos. In the Batlic the line runs from Reoguel to the western coast of Worns Island to the Island of Bagsher to Khegarne.

Russian war vessels must not cross south of this line and the other parties must not go north. The Russian Government guarantees that the Entente war vessels will obey the rules of this provision, and that Russian warships will not be allowed to sail among the Aland Islands.

SIX MERCHANT SHIPS, BRITISH DESTROYER AND FOUR SWEEPERS SUNK BY THE ENEMY

London Reports Coup In the North Sea By Naval Forces of Germans—Merchant Vessels and Convoy Lost.

London, Dec. 17.—One British and five neutral merchantmen, a British destroyer and four mine-sweepers have been sunk in the North Sea by German naval forces.

The losses were the result of an attack on a convoy bound from Scotland to Norway, Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the admiralty announced today. The total tonnage of the lost merchantmen was 8,000.

London, Dec. 17.—Two neutral merchant vessels and a trawler were sunk off the Tyne on December 12 by German destroyers, Thos. J. MacNamara, financial secretary to the admiralty, announced in the Commons today.

LONDONER MEETS INSTANT DEATH IN TRAIN SMASH

C.P.R. Brakeman Decapitated in Rear End Tillsonburg Wreck.

CABOOSE IS DEMOLISHED

Light Engine Plowed Into the Rear of Freight on Main Line.

Charles W. H. Pring, 485 Dorinda street, London, a brakeman on the C. P. R., met his death early this morning at Tillsonburg, when a light engine crashed into the caboose of a freight train on the main line. Mr. Pring, who was in the car, was mangled beyond recognition, being decapitated. The caboose was burned, and another car was derailed.

The freight was en route to Port Burwell, and according to the crew of the engine should have pulled out some time before. The engine crew stated that they had expected a clear line, and did not expect to find the freight on the main line taking water.

Engineer Johnston of Port Burwell and Fireman McDermaid of London had charge of the light engine.

The C. P. R. officials here are making inquiries into the accident.

Mr. Pring is survived by his wife, Mrs. Jennie Pring; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Pring, 727 Princess avenue; five sisters, Mrs. George Topping of Melrose, Mrs. Frank Wright of 320 Hill street, Flossie, Audrey and Ruby at home, and three brothers, George and Frank of this city, and Reginald in France.

The body is at present at the undertaking parlors at Tillsonburg. Arrangements for the funeral and forwarding of the body have not been completed.

LIB. CHIEFTAIN TO GET REPORT AT FT. WILLIAM

Sir Wilfrid Changes Plans and Passes Through Winnipeg This Morning.

Winnipeg, Dec. 17.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his party passed through Winnipeg at 8 a.m. today. The party will arrive at Fort William this evening, where, it is thought, Sir Wilfrid will remain over night.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier had planned to remain in Winnipeg for election day, but this plan was changed at the last moment.

DENIES SECRET MEETING BETWEEN BOLSHEVIKI AND HUN SOCIALISTS

Stockholm Dec. 17.—M. Vorovsky, said to be the representative here of the Bolsheviki Governmnt, is quoted by the Tidningen, as saying that the story published by the Social Demokraten concerning secret negotiations between the Bolsheviki and Philip Scheidemann, the German majority Socialist leader and other German Socialists, is untrue. He says it is true that Scheidemann and other Socialists are in Stockholm, but no secret conferences have been held, nor are any contemplated. No conferences will be opened, he added, unless the Entente Powers agree to enter negotiations for a general peace.

BRITISH LABOR HEADS OUTLINE PARTY WAR AIMS

Determined to Continue the Struggle Until World Safe for Democracy.

MUST BE RESTORATION

Demand Rehabilitation of Belgium at the Expense of Germany.

London, Dec. 17.—The Daily Telegraph prints the text of a long statement on war aims and peace policies formulated by the parliamentary committee of the Trades Union Congress and executive of the Labor party, which is to be submitted for indorsement by all sections of the British labor movement at a conference at Westminster on December 28. The statement follows mainly the terms of a similar pronunciamento published and cabled abroad some months ago.

It declares that in continuing the war labor is actuated by a determination to make the world safe for democracy hereafter. No sympathy is expressed with attempts to convert the war into one of conquest, but the statement insists that restitution and reparation, also certain territorial readjustments are necessary if the renewal of armaments and war is to be avoided.

The statement puts at the forefront a demand for the restoration and rehabilitation of Belgium at the expense of Germany. It deals with Alsace-Lorraine, Italy, the Balkans, Poland, Turkey and German African colonies on lines similar to those suggested in earlier documents.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during were: Highest, 16; lowest, 8 below.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 14; lowest, 2.

CONFIDENT THAT TODAY'S RETURNS ARE FAVORABLE

George S. Gibbons Declares It Is Up to People to Decide.

"The results are in the laps of the gods," said George S. Gibbons, Labor-Liberal candidate. "We have fought our fight, and it is for the people to decide. I am confident that the returns will not be unfavorable to the Labor-Liberal candidate in London."

At the Labor headquarters the greatest enthusiasm prevailed, and the men are confident that this evening will see the election of George S. Gibbons.

"We have the fight won," said one of the delegates. "Labor never presented so united a front. We can count on 90 per cent of the union men of London to support our candidate. A large number of men unorganized at present are with us. I can't see anything to it but the election of Gibbons."

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW—FAIR AND MILDER.

Toronto, Dec. 17—8 a.m.

Forecasts.

Southeast to south winds; generally fair and milder today and on Tuesday.

Temperatures.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	46	42	Cloudy
Calgary	50	14	Fair
Winnipeg	22	14	Cloudy
Parry Sound	10	—2	Clear
Port Stanley	18	16	Cloudy
Buffalo	14	..	Snow
Toronto	14	11	Cloudy
Kingston	0	—8	Fair
Ottawa	2	—12	Clear
Montreal	—2	—10	Clear
Quebec	—2	—10	Fair
Father Point	14	—10	Cloudy

Minus (—) means below zero.

Weather Notes.

A very pronounced area of high pressure covers the eastern portion of the continent, and decidedly cold weather prevails from the Ottawa Valley to the Maritime Provinces.

It has become much milder in nearly all parts of the West.

ENTENTE WILL HELP SAVE RUSSIA FROM ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

More Sympathetic Agreement With the Bolsheviki Indicated.

London, Dec. 17.—While the Russians were continuing to make progress in the ratification of an armistice arrangement with the Germans, the Entente governments apparently were approaching an agreement for more sympathetic dealings with the Bolsheviki Government. The adoption of a more tolerant attitude toward Russia was said to have been urged by the American delegates to the recent Paris conference, and this viewpoint now apparently has been adopted by all the members of the Entente. Lord Northcliffe's weekly dispatch says today:

"The belief here is that the Bolsheviki Government is likely to remain in power for a long time. The principal aim of the Entente, henceforth, will be to try to assist in every effort to bring Russia relief from an economic collapse."

Dispatches during the last 24 hours from Petrograd tell of further efforts by the Bolsheviki to consolidate their Government in civil life, and with the army, church and the courts with regard to the railway communications.

SECOND HEARINGS ON EXEMPTIONS TO START ON TUESDAY

Appeal Judges of the District Have 3,250 Cases Ahead.

The 22 exemption appeal judges in this district will commence their duties on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock on the 3,250 appeals filed by persons who were refused exemption by the tribunals.

Judge Macbeth and Judge Judd have each been assigned 48 cases for Tuesday.

The importance of the appellant attending is so vital that his failure to appear will mean that his appeal will be disallowed by default.

MAY BE NO QUORUM.—The city council will meet this evening. There is little other than routine business to be disposed of. There may be no quorum, as many of the aldermen are busily engaged in the elections.

REFUSES BIG POSITION OFFERED AS "REWARD" FOR JOINING BORDEN

Arthur T. Little Rejects Rowell's Proffered Chairmanship of War Purchasing Commission, Placing Principle Above Self and Declining Honors Which Meant Alliance With Sir Robert.

LONDON, Nov. 7, 1917.

HON. N. W. ROWELL, CHATEAU LAURIER, OTTAWA, ONT.

FIRST PARTY SAYS NO BECAUSE IT WOULD STAMP APPROVAL ON PARTY TO WHOM HE IS UNQUALIFIEDLY OPPOSED. SECOND PARTY WANTS TILL SATURDAY, BUT I DID NOT HOLD IT OPEN.

F. H. DEACON.

The above is an exact copy of a telegram sent from this city on November 7 by Lieut.-Col. F. H. Deacon, notifying Hon. N. W. Rowell that Arthur T. Little, head of the firm of Robinson & Little, would not take the chairmanship of the war purchasing commission of Canada at the price of throwing his weight and allegiance for the cause of the Borden Government.

On November 6 Lieut.-Col. Deacon arrived in the city on the 9 o'clock evening train from the east. He immediately got into communication with Mr. Little, and until an early hour in the morning endeavored to persuade Mr. Little to succeed Hon. A. E. Kemp in the chairmanship of the board, which has to do with the purchase of all Canada's supplies for war purposes, the expenditure of which totals millions upon millions of dollars.

Puts Principle Above Self.

While Mr. Little appreciated the opportunity for the performance of a patriotic service, his reply to Col. Deacon was that he could not agree with Mr Rowell and other gentleman that what was morally wrong could be politically right, and he refused absolutely to accept the offer—the greatest opportunity for him to secure honor that had come in a lifetime—while a vestige of the corrupt Government of the last four years prevailed and held power at Ottawa.

Col. Deacon was at pains to explain his position in having entered into negotiations which he had condemned, and stated to those with

Continued on Page Eleven.

ENTENTE TO RECOGNIZE "REDS" IN ORDER TO BLOCK GERMANS

Tchitcherin To Be Released by British Government at Petrograd's Request.

London, Dec. 17.—London newspapers forecast that the "Allies will recognize the de facto rule of the Bolsheviki in order to prevent Russia from passing under the political and economic heel of Germany."

This is along the lines of the statement made by Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade, in an interview with the Associated Press on Friday. A step in the re-establishment of relations with Russia may be seen in the report that Great Britain has decided to release the Russian Tchitcherin, chosen by the Bolsheviki as ambassador to London. The Bolsheviki have now withdrawn the refusal to permit British civilians or couriers to leave Russia. Presumably the Bolsheviki will not insist on Tchitcherin occupying the post of ambassador, and he will return to Russia immediately.

RAIDERS OF GERMANY ARE NEAR SINGAPORE

Manila, Dec. 17.—Officials of the Philippine Government have issued a warning to ship owners to beware of German raiders suspected to be near Singapore, one of the Strait Settlements.

American and British warships, it is announced, are co-operating in guarding the shipping routes.

TOMMIES ARE ATTACKING ON THE ITALIAN FRONT

Berlin, Dec. 17—Via London.—British troops on the Italian front yesterday launched an attack against the Austro-German lines south of Monte Fontanal Secca, but it broke down before the Teuton positions, the German war office announced today.

MANY ROUNDS FIRED BY HAIG'S AIRMEN

Trenches of Germans Heavily Bombarded Near Lille.

London, Dec. 17.—The British war office statement on aerial operations, issued last midnight, reads:

"Although the weather was fine on Saturday, a very high wind and ground mist interfered with reconnaissance and artillery work. Many rounds were fired during the day into enemy trenches, and bombs were dropped on numerous targets, including two positions of long-range guns, southwest of Lille. Later we again bombed these gun positions.

"During several fights three hostile machines were driven down out of control. None of ours is missing."

TURKS TAKE ISLES OFF ASIAN COAST

London, Dec. 17.—British admiralty Per Wireless Press.—The occupation by the Turks of two islands off the coast of Asia-Minor is announced in an official statement issued yesterday at Constantinople.