

Government exists in order to ensure the greatest happiness to the greatest number.

In every rank, or great or small, 'Tis industry supports us all.

-Gay.

# THE EVENING ADVOCATE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE UNION OF NEWFOUNDLAND

TORONTO, (noon)—Variable winds. Cool, overcast and showery with much fog today and Wednesday.

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ST. JOHN'S, TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1922.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

## LATEST

WASHINGTON, July 4.—Reduction of \$1,014,000,000 in the public debt during the fiscal year ended June 30th, is announced by the U. S. Treasury.

ALBANY, July 4.—Importation of 500 strike breakers for railway shops and yards, increase of guards and police on railroad property and small demonstration against negro strike breakers, marked the first day of railway strike here.

PARIS, July 4.—Three projects for general world disarmament were placed before temporary mixed disarmament committee League of Nations by representatives of Britain at Commission's opening session. First provided for extension of obligations of Washington Naval Treaty to other powers, which did not sign Washington Pact. Second, provides for land disarmament on ratio basis, similar to that worked out for naval reduction. Third, provides for General Disarmament, Naval, Military and Aerial in return for which all powers are to enter into pact to protect each other against aggression.

### On St. Pierre Island

QUEBEC, July 3.—The wrecking steamer Lord Strathcona with the wrecking schooner G. T. D. in tow left here this afternoon to go to the assistance of the Canadian Commander ashore on Platte Point, St. Pierre Island. The Commander was "bound from Chatham, N.B., across with lumber."

DUBLIN, July 4.—An official bulletin issued at noon says that Glenferri barracks at Leitrin, near the Ulster border, held by Free Staters, was attacked simultaneously by Irish insurgents and Ulster specials from different positions. The small garrison stubbornly resisted, but was forced to yield to the combined forces, says the bulletin.

DUBLIN, July 4.—Enveloping movement by the Free State Forces in Sackville Street area is complete and final defeat of rebels is in sight, says official communique. Insurgent positions have been captured in Earl St. with 32 rebels. Young Men's Christian Association Building in Sackville Street occupied by Insurgents was burned during the night, following an attack by Free Staters.

## Confession of a Suicide May Lift Mystery Veil from Cause of Terrific Halifax Explosion

Finn Chemist, Reported From Seattle, Not Only Admitted Responsibility For Disaster, But Confessed to Murdering Two Men, One a Captain of a British Transport—Address at Which He Resided In Halifax Declared to be Known to Government Agents—Left Note "It's No Use."

SEATTLE, Washington, June 14.—Solution of the mystery which surrounded the explosion of the British ammunition ships and caused death and devastation in the city of Halifax, late in 1917, is believed by government agents in Seattle to have come with the suicide of Wm. Johnson, alias "Mike" Murphy, alias N. Primatzen, a highly educated Finn chemist, whose body was found by an Indian on Bacon Creek, Skagit county, last month. Agents of the United States and Canadian governments say the chemist confessed, not only to responsibility for the Halifax disaster, but also admitted the slaying of two men, one a captain of a British transport. Worry over his deeds and fear that came to him after he is alleged to have confessed, are believed to have caused him to kill himself.

It has already been established that Johnson was in Halifax in the British transport service at the time the explosion occurred. An address at which he later resided in Halifax is known to agents. Effects of the suspect, found in a lonely cabin, deep in the woods of Skagit county, fifteen miles beyond Rockport, off the line of the city of Seattle railway running to the city's power project, and others in a trunk traced to a cache near Bellingham, will reveal names of accomplices, it is believed. First news of the investigation under way came from officers in Sedro-Wooley. They have co-operated in the original phases of the investigation with government agents sent from Seattle.

Johnson, as the man was known to a few persons in Skagit county, lived alone in the secluded cabin, where he experimented with acids and explosive formulas, it is stated. His cabin was filled with peep holes, so none might approach it unobserved. The only window was filled with an opaque glass. The man is known to have been in the woods there since about March, 1920. On one occasion an explosion burned him severely and neighbors a few miles away learned that he was experimenting with explosive materials in the manufacture of what it is supposed were bombs.

First information regarding the alleged confession and possibilities of clearing up the Halifax disaster mystery, came from J. R. Cox, a

watchman employed at Talc Mines on the Skagit River, beyond Rockport. Cox at the same time informed Canadian officials. Agents of the Department of Justice from Seattle, went into the woods last month to investigate. In the cabin they found evidence that Johnson was well educated, a thorough chemist, and that he had been familiar with powder and other high explosives. I. W. W. literature found in the cabin indicated that he had radical connections. The investigators were at first handicapped, however, in finding that a trunk containing diaries and many personal papers had been carried away before his death by high water, which cut into a bank where the suspect was camping. Addresses, thru which the other trunk at Bellingham was located were found in the cabin and among papers at the home of F. M. Younkens, proprietor of a road house, where some of the effects were taken.

It was while talking with Johnson some days before his death, Cox told Seattle agents, that Johnson uttered the chemist whether he would identify an unbranded high explosive powder, Johnson named it at once: "I had thirty-five pounds of a more dangerous explosive than that left after we blew up those ships in Halifax harbor during the war." Johnson is alleged to have told Cox: "If they hadn't discharged me, there would have been more ships blown up. We will be better prepared for them next time they start a war."

### Volcano Active

GUATEMALA CITY, July 3.—The volcano Santa Maria is in active eruption and has covered the Chuvra and Solola districts with ashes doing great damage.

### Burnt Barracks

BELFAST, July 3.—Prior to their evacuation of Limerick District the Republicans burned several police barracks and military huts, blew up the bridges and cut telegraphs.

### Hail Storms

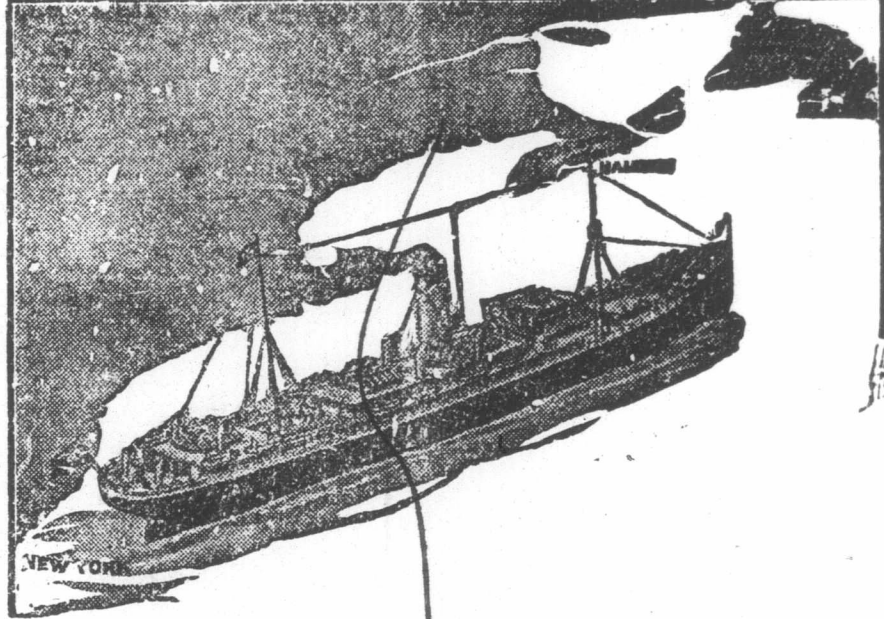
REGINA, July 3.—Over \$1,000,000 damage was done by hail storms in Kronau and Richardson districts and around Osage on Saturday, otherwise reports indicate good crop prospects.

### Railway Horror

ATLANTIC CITY, July 3.—Splitting a switch at Cape May, the Philadelphia and Reading express plunged forty feet down an embankment early today. Five persons were killed and 75 injured, half of them seriously.

## RED CROSS LINE

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S. S. ROSALIND will sail from St. John's on Saturday, July 8th, at 12 o'clock (noon).

Passengers embarking for New York will please see the Doctor in ship's saloon one hour before sailing.

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## National Irish Troops Press the Irregulars

Rebels are Encircled and Escape is not Easy

DUBLIN, July 3.—Severe fighting in O'Connell Street was in progress at ten o'clock tonight. The National troops were maintaining unrelenting pressure, but at that hour there was no indication of surrender. All approaches to O'Connell St. were barred and some of the posts held by the Irregulars are on fire. The attack on Gresham Hotel and other premises in O'Connell Street has been in progress since morning. The rebels hold positions in two areas near each other with a wedge of regulars between. In the upper area, on the high ground above O'Connell Street abutting Parnell Square, they hold Barry's Hotel but have lost all other strategic points in this section. The encirclement of this area is practically complete and the Irregulars are confined within a position from which escape is not easy. In the lower area of O'Connell St. the rebels still hold the block of buildings running from Gresham Hotel to Cathedral St., fronting on O'Connell St. and backed by the Parcel Post Office, the Catholic Cathedral and other buildings in Marlborough St. Until late this afternoon on the south side of the city the people were moving freely. During the course of the fighting the heavy barrage of machine gun fire from armoured cars and rifle fire from buildings opposite it was answered by a brisk fire from the Irregulars. The rattle of guns continued all day and crowds of onlookers gathered outside the line of fire. Now and then especially heavy firing or bursting bombs or grenades caused a stampede but the crowds soon returned fascinated by the spectacle. Up to the present the casualties among the combatants are astonishingly small, while the toll of civilians is heavy. Those who dare the guns seem to escape, while others fall by stray bullets.

## Start Search For \$50,000,000 Hoard

Five Men Sail for Island off Nova Scotia Seeking Treasure

AN OLD STORY

Halifax Advisers Tell of Previous Efforts to Find Gold

NEW YORK, June 22.—Today five men will sail for an island off Nova Scotia in search of a legendary \$50,000,000 hoard. Edward W. Boone, of Newark, who heads the searchers, said a resident of California told him that during a war between South American countries many years ago, the national treasure of one of the participants was put on a ship to save it from capture. The vessel escaped

and on reaching the Canadian Coast the treasure was buried. Boone said the Californian convinced him that he held the secret of the treasure and decided to lead the search.

MANY OTHER SEARCHERS.

HALIFAX, N. S., June 22.—The American argonauts probably hope to locate the treasure trove of ten million pounds sterling alleged to be buried on Oak Island, in Mahone Bay, N. S. Earlier legends connected with the search for this "treasure" are said to have inspired Edgar Allan Poe's famous story "The Gold Bug."

Probably a dozen companies have been formed to recover this legendary treasure, and about a million dollars

## BRITISH WILL SEND CRUISERS FOR BRAZIL EX.

LONDON, July 3.—Asked in the Commons today if Great Britain was the only great power who would be without naval representation at the Brazilian Centenary exhibition to be held at Rio de Janeiro, Premier Lloyd George stated the Cabinet on reconsidering the matter had decided to send the battle cruisers Hood and Repulse. The Prime Minister described the suggestion that the Overseas Department be requested to co-operate with the Admiralty and to profit by this opportunity in the interests of British trade as an admirable one which he would be pleased to communicate to the department.

have been collected from credulous folk in New England and Nova Scotia eager for the thrills of treasure seeking by proxy. The promoters of these companies did very well, but the shareholders never received dividends. About twenty years ago a company carried on excavations at Oak Island, for many months, with hundreds of men and horses, and a lot of machinery, which had a high value on the books of the company, but always broke down when the excavators arrived near the place where the treasure was supposed to be located.

The resident manager of the company then was an old sea captain, who had handed over a large private fortune to the prospectors, and who firmly believed in the existence of the treasure. The old captain took over the lease of Oak Island and during the war was considering an offer from parties in Chicago to help him in another search. The Chicago parties had a scheme to freeze the quicksands which are said to guard the treasure. But the old man died recently, and his estate has surrendered the lease. One company, which worked on the theory that the famous Captain Kidd had buried on Oak Island the treasure he was supposed to have captured in the East Indies, purchased the dunage of a ship from the East Indies and distributed it out on the shores of the island before they started operations and took the public into their confidence.

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