

ONE MILLION OTHERS WILL FACE EACH OTHER ON THE RENCH FRONTIER
FIRST GIANT BATTLE IN GREAT WAR OF NATIONS TO BE FOUGHT ON THE FRANCO-GERMAN FRONTIER
I. C. R. ELEVATOR BURIED LAST NIGHT; WAS IT WORK OF ENEMY OF THE EMPIRE?

What Promises to be One of Greatest Battles in History --- Armies about Equal in Number --- Most Decisive Fighting Likely Between Verdun and Brussels --- Important Fight in Progress at Tirlemont.

ALLIES CONCENTRATED IN BELGIUM TO CHECK ADVANCE OF GERMANS

That no important engagement has occurred between the French and Germans is indicated by an official announcement issued by the French war department that up to Wednesday afternoon there had been no encounters between the respective forces, except those of outposts. Later, however, Paris reported that the bombardment by the Germans of the important town of Pont-A-Mousson, in the Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle, had commenced. This town is twenty miles from Nancy, and it was the birthplace of Marguerite d'Anjou, wife of Henry VI, of England. The German army is advancing into the heart of Belgium. The forces which have been investing Liège have moved to the north, and a new army corps has taken their place. Brussels reports that the French and British allied forces are concentrated at various important points in Belgium and are prepared to check the German advance. From Berlin German successes are announced at Muelhausen and Lagarde, with the taking of many French prisoners and the clearing of German territory of the French. The British war office information bureau says that the majority of the twenty-six German army corps have been located, and that the mass of the German troops are concentrated between Liège and Luxembourg. The combined Montenegrin and Serbian invasion of Bosnia has begun, under the Serbian general Jankovic, who was commander of the Serbian army corps at Prizrend in the Balkan war. Brussels, Aug. 12, via London.—The fight for the possession of the Liège forts has re-commenced. The Germans erected a bridge at Lixhe for the transport of troops and heavy material and it is possible that simultaneously an attempt may be made to cross the river Meuse in front of Liège.

Most Spectacular Blaze St. John has had for Quarter Century, did Damage Estimated in Vicinity of \$700,000 -- Much to Indicate Fire was of Incendiary Origin.

A fire, which the thousands of people present firmly believed to be the handwork of German or Austrian spies, early this morning totally destroyed the I. C. R. grain elevator near the Union Depot, two hundred feet of the conveyor, running to Long Wharf, and ten box cars, badly damaged the roof of the Union Station train shed, the two I. C. R. freight sheds, under the shadow of the elevator, the new C. P. R. freight shed on the other side of the street, and scorched the alle and roofs of more than fifty houses facing on Mill streets and Paradise Row. The damage is estimated as in the vicinity of \$700,000. With the elevator is lost 70,000 bushels of wheat which was brought here for shipment to England, to relieve a possible food famine, and for the service of British soldiers in Europe. The first shipment of 7,995 bushels was taken on board by the Furness liner Rappahannock yesterday. The fire was discovered by Police Officer Thomas Sullivan, who, standing at the corner of Mill and Pond streets, was attracted by the mighty crackling of the flames. Rushing to the nearest alarm box he called out the fire department, but before they arrived the flames were shooting hundreds of feet in the air and the doomed structure was a roaring inferno, the blasts from which carried a fiery devastation to the valuable property surrounding. Horrified Citizens Watch. Instantly the surrounding area was alight and thousands of citizens hurried to the scene and standing under an ever threatening brilliant yet grim pall of soaring flames later, amidst blinding, brilliant metal shingles, scintillating and burning matter of every description watched with averted faces the awful devastation of the fire. With the arrival of the department, it was seen that the elevator itself was a total loss, as the flames were breaking from the top and bottom, showing the inside of the structure. The passenger cars and the elevator were reached by the flames before anything could be done and four of them destroyed. It is understood that they were unloaded, the small power house at the eastern end of the elevator was directly

in the danger zone and a rumor spread among the crowd that a large amount of gasoline was stored in the building. This caused the rapid departure of many but it was learned later that the rumor was untrue.

Elevator Pumps Utilized. Jerry Daley, the engineer of the power house, was on hand and to aid the firemen started the big pumps giving low more streams wherewith to fight the fire. This action resulted in saving several houses in the immediate vicinity. When the train shed caught fire the Dominion express branch office and the baggage room were immediately cleared as were the other offices in the building. The long shed was filled with smoke and the heat was such that the big glass windows in the roof cracked and fell in.

The flame caught in the roof and a hose and men were rushed up and succeeded in holding the blaze. The fire worked its way along the wires and several of the telegraph and telephone poles soon caught. The heat in the space between the burning elevator and the station was intense and it was impossible to for an hour to pass through this space. On Paradise Row many of the timid ones were carrying their valuables to the street, and in many cases into the houses on the other side. Women and men in scant attire were rushing about all imbued with idea of saving their worldly goods. Great credit is due the St. John fire department for saving these buildings from total destruction, as time and again they caught. Water was carried in every conceivable way and with the stout aid of the department all escaped with a bad scorching or a little damage about the ribs.

When the big fire engine of No. 1 Company was racing down Mill street hill toward the Union Station, one of the horses slipped and fell. Dozens of citizens rushed to assist and backed the heavy machine up allowing the horse to regain his feet. Luckily the animal was not seriously injured. Chief Blake having a large area to cover drove about in his wagon and directed operations in an able manner. The elevator was erected about fifteen years ago by Contractor Jameson and one man was killed and another injured in the construction. Continued on page 2.

(Special Cable to Standard Through International News Service.) Paris, Aug. 12.—A million soldiers will face each other on either side of the Franco-German frontier. The armies are about equal in numbers, but there is no doubt that the morale of the French troops are far superior. The utmost confidence and stamina will be needed on both sides as some of the impending battles are expected to last several days, and perhaps a fortnight. The frontier country lends itself to heroic exploits. It consists chiefly of mountainous roads bordered on either side by dense woods.

commencing a fresh phase of the war. Their attack through the Central Belgium having failed, they are trenching along the Maestricht. Liège forts can be heard twenty miles off. A fight of importance occurred at Tirlemont, where a thousand German cavalry, with quick-firing guns, mounted on horses, attacked a regiment of Belgian lancers. It is believed to be the first time that quick-firing guns were used in such a manner. The Belgians were driven off, with a loss of two officers and a small number of men in killed and wounded.

The carrying of two frontier passes by the French troops gives them an enormous advantage as far as Upper Alsace is concerned. Down at Muelhausen the French troops have been withdrawn to defensive positions and are preventing the Germans from returning to the town. With 600,000 men forming the German central force between Liège and Thionville, it is now practically certain that the most decisive fighting will take place between Brussels and Verdun. If France does not carry this titanic struggle into Lorraine, she will aim at checking the entire German advance until the end of August, when Russia's millions will pour across the western frontier, where Germany has left her worst fighting men because she hoped to strike a vital blow at France within a fortnight and then turn her finest troops against Russia.

The war office announced tonight that a general attack on the French at Belgium centre had failed. The Germans are declared to have retreated all along the line with the exception of at one point where fighting still continues. The announcement was accompanied by a statement that fighting had been serious and resulted in heavy losses. Also it was announced the attack of the Germans on the Liège forts had been renewed from great vigor. The Germans have brought up the heaviest type of Krupp action guns to batter the forts. The forts are holding their own, and their fire is hampering the movement of German troops across Meuse by way of pontoon bridges they have erected in place of those destroyed by the forts' fire several days ago.

London, Aug. 12.—A telegram to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Paris says despatch to the Matin from St. Petersburg reports that in an official communication the Russian chief of staff has announced that the Austro-Serbian and Zborje. Four regiments of Austrian Infantry and 80 Uhlanes were routed. The prediction is added that the approaching big battle probably will be decisive.

Paris, Aug. 12.—It is officially announced that a general engagement is progressing at Tirlemont, Belgium. Germans assaulted the Belgium position there at dawn today and the attack still continues. This is believed to be the opening of the attack on Brussels. The Belgian capital, which is only twenty-five miles west.

(Special cable to The Standard through International News Service.) Brussels, Aug. 12.—The Germans are

London, Aug. 12.—A Rome despatch states two German infantry regiments were totally wiped out during a battle with the French at Muelhausen. They were the Eighth Baden Infantry and Fourth Prince William Infantry. The commander of the twenty-fourth division was killed, the same despatch says.

The Kaiser Evidently Counted Without His Foe

Had Invited His Artillery Officers to Be His Guests at Dinner in Paris on August 11.

(Special Central News cable to The Standard.) Paris, Aug. 12.—A Brussels despatch says that on German officers captured by the Belgians was found evidence that Emperor William had invited his artillery officers to dine with him in Paris, August 11.

Antwerp, Aug. 12.—A despatch received today from Cologne states that spires of Cologne Cathedral and other cathedrals in Germany have been transformed into aeroplane stations. The newest form of aeroplane guns have been put up in the belfries.

London, Aug. 12.—A news agency despatch from Paris says that it is rumored there that three sons of the Duke and Duchess of Malak, members of the French nobility have been killed by Germans in the Duchy of Baden. The basis of the rumor was not stated.

Columbia, Ceylon, Aug. 12.—British and French ships today renewed their sailing to and from Hong Kong. The ships, however, were notified to keep clear of Tsingh Tau port as Japan is said to be seeking permission to take possession of that port, which has acted as the base for the operations of the German fleet.

FRENCH FLEET TO SCOUR ATLANTIC IN SEARCH OF GERMAN CRUISERS

(Special Cable to The Standard Through International News Service.) London, Aug. 12.—Official press bureau this afternoon issued the following statement: A French fleet is searching the Atlantic for five German

man cruisers known to be there. The Germans will be hunted continually and kept too busy to do any mischief. Eventually they will be run down. The Admiralty is commissioning fast armed merchant vessels to keep the routes clear of German raiders.

BRITISH SEA VICTORY REPORTED TEN MILES OFF PORTSMOUTH, N.H.

(Special Cable to The Standard through International News Service.) Boston, Aug. 12.—Wireless despatch picked up at radio stations along the New England coast late this afternoon stated that the British cruiser Suffolk had defeated a German warship in a terrific encounter ten miles off Portsmouth, N. H., harbor today. The Suffolk which wireless the flash claimed to have won a victory over the German ship. The latter craft was said to be in a sinking condition.

be seen from the roof of a hotel there. Isles of Shoals, N. H., Aug. 12.—Heavy firing at sea directly east of Belire was distinctly heard late this afternoon. The only vessels visible were a large two-funnelled steamer, apparently an ocean liner, twelve miles to the southwest headed for Boston, and a fishing boat. The firing apparently came from a distance of fifteen miles. Several guns seemed to be discharged simultaneously at short intervals. After fifteen minutes the firing ceased. An hour later the firing was resumed, apparently from the same point as before. It lasted for five minutes. The watch in the observatory of the United States life saving station on Appledore Island reported that at 6:40 he could see no vessel.

(Canadian Press.) Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 12.—A telephone message received here from the Isles of Shoals, at 5:40 p. m., today, said that a naval battle between a British and a German warship could

GREAT BRITAIN IS IN STATE OF WAR WITH AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

(Special Cable to The Standard Through International News Service.) London, Aug. 12.—The foreign office states that diplomatic relations between France and Austria being broken off, the French government has requested His Majesty's government to communicate to the Austro-Hungarian ambassador at London the following declaration: "After having declared war on Serbia, and having thus taken the initiative in the hostilities in Europe, the Austro-Hungarian government has placed itself, without any provocation from the government of the French Republic, in a state of war with France."

public, in a state of war with France, and after Germany has successfully declared war against Russia and France, she has intervened in this conflict by declaring war on Russia, who has already been fighting on the side of France." "According to information worthy of belief, Hungary has sent troops over to constitute a direct menace against France. In the face of these facts the French government finds itself obliged to declare to the Austro-Hungarian government that it will take all the

PRIVATE WIRELESS STATIONS IN CANADA ORDERED DISMANTLED Ottawa, Aug. 12.—The Naval Department has ordered all wireless stations in Canada not operated by the government to be at once completely dismantled. This applies to all amateur stations, as well as those used for commercial purposes.

measures permitted to reply to these acts, and menaces." The foreign office statement continues: "Communicating this declaration according to the Austro-Hungarian ambassador, His Majesty's government has declared to His Excellency that the rupture with France having been brought about in this way they feel themselves obliged to announce that a state of war exists between Great Britain and Austria-Hungary, as from midnight."

Official arrangements have been made for the Austro-Hungarian ambassador and his personal representative to leave London tomorrow. Brussels, Aug. 12, (via London).—"Central News" despatches received by the Belgian war office this afternoon state that the German forces operating before Liège have withdrawn a few kilometers to the eastward and have assumed defensive positions. Strong German forces, however, patrol the city. General Von Emmich and the other officers of the German general staff are installed in the convent of the Sacred Heart at Cologne, a suburb of Liège. The Belgian commander before Liège, Mr. Payne, J. M. Robinson, F. L. Potts, M. E. Agar, Hon. R. J. Ritchie, Wm. Downie, Dr. H. S. Bridges, C. B. Lockhart, Dr. T. Walker, Senator Thorne, Sir Frederic Barker, Com. Wigmore,

"IF WE FAIL, GOOD NIGHT TO ENGLAND AND TO ALL OF US," SAYS SIR RIDER HAGGARD

Celebrated Author Delivers Note of Warning at Banquet to Members of Dominion Commission—Speaks With Thrilling Earnestness of Crisis Now Confronting the British Empire.

A brief speech by Sir Rider Haggard, which struck a note as sharp and clear as Kipling's Recessional, and brought home in dramatic manner the momentous issues which hang upon the war in which the Empire is engaged was the feature of the Mayor's dinner to the Dominion Royal Commissioners, held in the Union Club last evening. Into the air of festivity which marked the gathering, Sir Rider's speech fell like a bombshell, rebuking all inclination to levity in the face of the struggle which the Empire has entered, a struggle fraught with possibilities of a terrible sacrifice of blood and tears, a struggle upon which hinges the issue of whether Germany shall be master of the world, or whether the British Empire shall endure and Britons remain free.

In response to the request of the Royal Commissioners, the Mayor had decided that there should be no speeches during the evening, but this agreement was not recognized by the prominent citizens who had gathered to do honor to the commissioners, and a number of brief speeches were made. Mayor Frink presided with Lieut. Gov. Wood on his right and Sir Alfred Bateman on his left. The others present were: T. Garnett, W. Lorimer, Sir Rider Haggard, J. Tatlow, D. Campbell, J. R. Sinclair, Sir Jen Laugher, E. J. Harding, Mr. Gleaming, Mr. Bridgman, Mr. Payne, J. M. Robinson, F. L. Potts, M. E. Agar, Hon. R. J. Ritchie, Wm. Downie, Dr. H. S. Bridges, C. B. Lockhart, Dr. T. Walker, Senator Thorne, Sir Frederic Barker, Com. Wigmore,

sell, Hon. A. T. Dunn, Com. Wigmore, T. H. Estabrooks, L. P. D. Tilley, Col. H. H. McLean, Wm. Cruikshank, J. R. Armstrong, G. S. Mayes, Frank Ellis, P. W. Thomson, Dr. Murray MacLaren, J. B. M. Baxter, W. E. Foster, H. C. Schofield, John McAvity, Senator Daniel, W. H. Barnaby, W. E. Scully, Alexander McMillan. Fred McKean and D. B. Pidgeon sang patriotic songs during the evening accompanied by D. Arnold Fox.

Senator Thorne. Senator Thorne after extending a welcome to the Dominion Royal Commissioners, expressed regret at the unfortunate circumstances which had cut short their visit to Canada. He said the war had hit business heavily. Canadians had no doubt about the result, but recognized that the issue involved an enormous sacrifice of blood and tears, and the commissioners must feel anxious, coming as they did from surroundings where the results of the war came closer home. It was to be regretted very much that the commissioners could not continue their trip through Canada, and see the vast country with its scenic beauties and great possibilities of development. Senator Thorne then proposed the toast to the lieutenant-governor observing he was the right man in the right place, especially under the conditions existing today. In a province which was prepared to do loyally its part in aiding the mother country in her time of trial. Continued on page 10.