BIG AIR RAID ON ENGLAND---TWO BROUGHT DOWN

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THE LONDON ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 6, 1917. 96 COLUMNS.

DISASTERATTHE CITY OF HALIFAX

Sir George Gibbons Replies to False and Malicious Attack

To the Editor of The Advertiser:

Notwithstanding the fact that I have not taken any public part in political matters for many years and have had nothing whatever to do with the management of the campaign in Western Ontario during this contest-as falsely stated by the Free Press-that journal has from the commencement of the contest brought my name and my private affairs constantly before its readers. Its latest declaration is: "Sir George Gibbons, father of the Laurier

candidate at London, urges that we drop out of

Anything more false and malicious is inconceivable. I have tried as best I could ever since the inception of this war to give practical evidence of my sympathy with the cause and the men at the front. I have never dreamt of suggesting that "we drop out of the war," and I have never heard any such suggestion from anyone in my life. As far as I am concerned my every endeavor will be consecrated in the future, as it has been in the past, that I may be of some humble service in the cause in which I believe we are all united. Yours sincerely,

GEORGE C. GIBBONS. London, Ont., December 6, 1917.

BYNG ADVANCES MEANS ASSERTS LINE SLIGHTLY AT ONE POINT TO WRECK THE BEFORE CAMBRAI CANADIAN HOUSE

British Move Ahead Near La Alleged Murderer Tells Start-Vacquerie—Withdrawal in the North.

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

On Tueday night, the official statement says, the British troops withdrew to the southwest of Noyemes-Sur-L'Escaut and Bourlon Wood. The withdrawal, it is added, was accomplished without the Gern ris appearing to be aware of it until late yesterday.

BOY SPY CAUGHT. New York, Dec. 5 .- Although he was German subject, Erlc Hoecker, a butcher boy, possessed an air of such | profound stupidity that he was permitted to call daily at Fort Totten in his rounds. Today he was interned on Ellis Island, after army intelligence on Ellis Island, after army intelligence officers discovered after a search of his quarters that he had important papers among his effects, and that he was an expert telegrapher and map-

REPORTED PLOT

ling Story as Hun Agent.

Mexico and the United States and at the same time start a peace propaganda. This information, Means testified, he gathered while working for a private detective agency's German clients, but under the express stipulation that he would report any information of value to the United States Government.

He told Secretary Daniels, he said, of the plot to burn the capitol at Ottawa four weeks before it occurred.

NO VOICE AGAINST U.S. WAR RESOLUTION

Washington, Dec. 6 .- With a formal man Flood the House gave its unan-

BORDEN KNEW OF CONDITIONS, BUT DELAYED SENDING AID, SAYS TORONTO SOLDIER CANDIDATE

Toronto, Dec. 6 .- That the major who | Canadians in Flanders. The Canaabout conscription long before Sir Robert opened his mouth, he said.

Major McCormack said some of his opponents who were working on behalf of Major McCormack, the soldier candidate in Parkdale. The hall was well filled. W. J. Brandon, the chairman, declared that the wise-thinking people in Parkdale were out to shatter the hopes of Major H. M. Mowat K.C., whom he termed the "machine candidate," and who "had never lifted a hand against kaiser-time."

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Major McCormack said some of his opponents who were working on behalf of Major Mowat had accused him of having never reached France. To his critics he desired to say that he had participated in several engagements in which the Canadians had won glor-time the hopes of Major H. M. Mowat K.C., whom he termed the machine candidate," and who "had never lifted a hand against kaiser-time front.

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Sergt.-Major Lowery of the Great Sergi. Alajor Lowery of the Great War Veterans' Association, a returned soldier, contended that the returned soldiers did not intend to be imposed upon by a major who had not been to the front when one of their number who was seeking to represent them in the House of Commons. In his opinion preference should be given Major McCormack, who had been "over the top."

Major Samson dealt at some length with the conscription issue, in the course of which he criticized the action of Sir Robert Borden for his delay in putting the measure through been to the front; he had witnessed conditions there, and the necessity for function of the conditions there, and the necessity for function of the mediate action that would be productive of additional reinforcements to bolster up the somewhat depleted ranks of the various divisions of the

has served in the trenches should be dians in the trenches had talked given the preference over a major "who about conscription long before Sir

the front.

"In this fight we are all Canadians and Britishers," proceeded Major Mc-Cormack. "I am a Conservative, and I would not have been in this fight if the machine had nominated a returned soldier — Grit or Tory — either would have been satisfactory to me."

Intends to Stick. At this juncture some practical joker in the rear of the hall, who had been boosting the arplause of the meeting, sent a card to the chairman, who in turn handed it to Major Mc-

300 LIBERALS **OMITTED FROM VOTERS'LISTS**

Names Deleted by Enumerators in Preparing Roll.

WILL ENTER APPEALS

Hundreds of Demands for the Franchise Will Be Made When Court Opens.

More than 300 Liberals have been omitted from the voters' lists by the enumerators. This is not the whole number, of course, but that is the number reported to headquarters today. It is expected that it will be materially increased before the end of the week. Some sub-divisions are worse than others. Many of the enumerators have done excellent work, and few mistakes have been made. In others, it seems deliberate. For instance, one prominent Tory worker, a machine man London for many years, had charge a sub-division. He left off the mes of 16 Liberals, men known for ars for their Liberal affiliations. This

rters when the lists were turned in man was a Liberal and a traveler, it was thought that he would not in a position to make an appeal. on hand to press his claims for a vote.

It would seem that there will be plenty of appeals for the courts to handle. The men whose names are left off are not in a good humor over the fact and they will make every legitimate effort to get their votes.

IN DYNAMITE CASE

Kaltschmidt's Attorney Is Endeavoring to Shake Chief State Witness.

harbor, as well as bridges and factories throughout Canada. Government at-torneys have declared they will introduce evidence to show that Kaltschmidt was an agent of the German Govern-ment, and had received large sums of money through the German embassy at Washington

FRENCH LOSSES SMALL

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 31; lowest, 19. The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 22; lowest, 18.

TOMORROW-LOCAL SNOW. Toronto, Dec. 6-8 a.m. Forecasts. Fresh northeast and north winds; some light local snowfalls and colder

today and on Friday. Temperatures. The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:
Stations. High. low. Weather. Victoria. 42 38 Cloudy Calgary Winnipeg Port Arthur 8
Parry Sound 20
Port Stanley 28
Buffalo 30
Toronto 30
Kingston 32
Ottawa 22



"Stand by the soldiers at the front and the dear old flag."

OH, IT'S SO DIFFERENT NOW

Concord, Dec. 6.—Testifying in his own defence today at the trial for the murder of Mrs. Maude A, King, Gaston B. Means told the story of his activities as "German agent," and declared that it was he who discovered and reported to the United States Government the German plot to burn the "capitol" at Ottawa, restore Huerta to a dictatorship in Mexico, bring on war between Mexico and the United States and at the same time start a peace propaganda. The court of appeal will sit on Friday and it is necessary that all those destring votes should find out beforehand whether or not their names are on the list. SIR GENGE A GALLANT LEADER.

Paper Which Has Launched Venomous Attacks Against the Victory Loan Chief, a Few 'onths Ago Wanted Him

Washington, Dec. 6.—With a formal report from the foreign affairs committee the resolution to declare war on Austria-Hungary was today brought into the House of Representatives.

There were no dissenting votes in the committee and at the request of Court here. Cross-examination of Respa man Flood the House gave its unanimous consent to take up the resolution tomorrow at the beginning of the
session and pass it before tomorrow

and just begun when court adjourned
the very newspaper which is slandering a citizen whom it has
invited to ASSUME THE MAYORALTY and has constantly referred to his "gallantry zeal and purposed". the very newspaper which is slandering a citizen whom it has ferred to his "gallantry, zeal and purpose" in the patriotic movements to which he has given leadership.

Sir George's masterly and unselfish handling of the last patriotic and Red Cross campaign, and his more recent splendid work in connection with the Victory Loan, have won him the golden opinion of all citizens. He has been a devoted son of London, and the action of his son in entering the lists against the FRENCH LOSSES SMALL.

Paris, Wednesday, Dec. 5 (delayed).

Losses of French ships through submarine attacks in the week ended December 1 were: More than 1,600 tons, 2; fishing boats, 2.

Two vessels were attacked but not sunk.

don, and the action of his son in entering the lists against the people has been heartily acclaimed in the homes of London.

Without further comment, The Advertiser reproduces some of the articles revealing Sir George Gibbons as seen by the same

local newspaper when it is not blinded by its own fury over the prospect of defeat for itself and the Government which it subserviently serves. Some of the extracts printed in the present year

VERY WELL DONE.

(Editorial from the Free Press of February 22, 1917.) The campaign was well conceived and carried into

execution. TO SIR GEORGE GIBBONS, K. C., BE-LONGS THE GREATEST SHARE OF THE CREDIT THAT IS THE DUE OF THOSE WHO INAUGURATED THE CAMPAIGN AND GAVE THEIR ENERGIES TO IT. HE PROVED A GALLANT LEADER, and moreover, one who showed his fellow-canvassers the art of extracting money from the pockets of the people in a worthy cause. HIS RECORD OF ABOUT ONE-HALF OF THE TOTAL SUM SECURED AS REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS PERSONAL ENDEAVORS IS A RECORD ALL BY

A CITY UNITED.

(Editorial from the London Free Press of February 23.) Sir George Gibbons, K. C., has spoken a word for greater unity in London, and the hope that he expresses finds lodgment in the hearts of the people. They would be glad to feel that their interests as a great community Continued on Page Four.

PART OF HALIFAX WRECKED WITH SERIOUS LOSS OF LIFE; MUNITIONS SHIP IS RAMMED WHEN LEAVING HARBOR

St. John, Dec. 6 .- Communication with Halifax was established by the C. P. R. Telegraph Company this afternoon. It was learned that as a result of the explosion of the American munition ship this morning, nearly one-half of the north end of the city is flat, that a great fire is raging, that the dead are lying thick in the streets and that all the hospitals are filled to overflowing, so that many injured are compelled to walk about untreated.

A number of C.P.R. operators are reported injured.

RAID LONDON; **BRACE BAGGED**

Twenty-Five German Airplanes Make Attack on England.

London, Dec. 6 .- About twentyfive airplanes raided England today, it is announced officially. Of these six reached London

Two of the raiders were brought down, the crew of three men on each machine 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 raid occurred on the night of October 31, being made by about thirty airplanes in 7 groups. An official British report on aviation last night said two raids were carried out over Germany on Wednesday by British airplanes, the first which had been possible for more than a month, owing to incessant bad weather.

BEING WAGED ON ITALIAN LINES

Italian Army Headquarters in Northern Italy, Dec. 6 .- (By the Associated Press)-Heavy fighting around Asiago has developed rapidly. The enemy assaults began with intense artillery preparation followed by liquid gas and waves of infantry. The fightgas and waves of infantry. The fighting continued throughout yesterday and last night along the heights back of Asiago marked by the zone between the heights of Monte Sisemol and Monte Meleteta. This line extends nearly ten miles.

Attack and counter-attack are going on, leaving the final outcome still open.

HAND-TO-HAND.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Wednesday, Dec. 5.—By the Associated Press.—The furious enemy attack on the Aslago Plateau has been repulsed with heavy losses, except at the northeastern sector, around Monte Tondarecar, where, after a desperate struggle which lasted until this morning, the enemy succeeded in occupying some of the advanced Italian lines, which were retired to more secure HAND-TO-HAND. which were retired to more secure

positions.

The fighting has been extremely heavy, with masses of infantry engaged in hand-to-hand combat. The first attack on the Italian left was met and repulsed by the 22nd Corps, with large enemy casualties. Many prisoners were taken. The main attack on the Italian right was contested 36 hours by our corps, which inflicted heavy losses before yielding ground.

Scores Reported Killed and Hundreds of Buildings In Older Portion of City Paged Buildings In Older Portion of City Razed By Explosion of Vessel Following Crash.

GREAT FOOD SUPPLIES DESTROYED AND POPULACE FACES STARVATION?

Canada's Eastern Maritime M etropolis Heavy Sufferer From Disastrous Accident This Morning-All Telegraph Companies Report Communication Cut-Other Cities Are Rushing Food and Medical Assistance.

said that the whole city north of the Queen's Hotel is a mass of wreckage, and that fires have broken out in a dozen parts of the city. The

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

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 50, while the number injured is correspondingly great.

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 6 .- Scores of people have been killed and 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 30 miles around Halifax, while it was heard at Truro, 61 miles distant.

HALF OF CITY RUINED?

Halifax, Dec. 6-(Via Havana).-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 today. It is estimated the property loss will run into the millions. The north end of the city is in flames.

OLDER PART OF CITY RAZED.

Halifax, Dec. 6.—The portion of the city affected by the morning's disaster was the older part, many of the buildings being almost as old as Halifax itself. It was very thickly populated. The streets were narrow, and many of the houses were of the frame variety,

ALL OF CREWS KILLED.

It is reported that the American munition ship was movil g 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 waterfront 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 at a distance of nearly two

HELP IS RUSHED.

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.

FOOD SUPPLIES LOST.

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 dispatched at once.

Rockingham is located well within Halifax harbor, at the mouth 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.

MASSACHUSETTS OFFERS HELP.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 6.—Governor Samuel McCall, on learning of the disaster at Halifax today, filed the following telegram, addressed to the mayor of Halifax.

'Understand your city in danger from explosion and conflagration. Reports only fragmentary. Massachusetts stands ready to go to the limit in rendering every assistance you may be in need of. Wire me immediately,"

THE WAR TO THE END"-SIR WILFRID LAURIER ARNPRIOR SPEECH ON MONDAY,