

The Evening Times Star

VOL. X No. 100

ST. JOHN N. B., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1915

TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP C.P.R. BRIDGE AT VANCEBORO PARTLY SUCCESSFUL; GERMAN OFFICER ARRESTED

Dynamite Used at New Brunswick End in Early Hours This Morning

Werner Vanhorn Said To Have Confessed To The Deed

Made Trip From New York Purposely -- Prompt Arrest Follows Outrage and Attorney-General Baxter Begins Proceedings to Lead to Extradition -- City Stirred as War is Brought Near Home--Traffic Continues

The C. P. R. bridge at Vanceboro was dynamited this morning, but the nefarious plot failed of its purpose.

An official C. P. R. statement says:—"The eastern section of the bridge was blown up by dynamite about 2.05 a.m. The explosive was placed between bridge ties and a steel beam, and resulted in damaging one steel beam, six bridge ties, and also the inside upright batter post. Putting passenger cars across. Explosion action of German officer, captured at hotel, in charge of U. S. authorities at Vanceboro. Given name Werner Vanhorn, a German who admits he came from New York on Saturday to destroy the bridge."

The war in Europe was brought still more closely home to the people of St. John and Canada today when news reached the city telling of an attempt to destroy the C. P. R. bridge across the St. Croix river at Vanceboro, and the admission of Werner Vanhorn, who claims to be a German officer, that he was responsible.

The damage to the bridge, while it will inconvenience traffic for a time, is not believed to have been excessive, and in an official C. P. R. statement was given as having "resulted from the blowing up of a part of the eastern end of the bridge by dynamite about 2.05 a. m. causing damage to one steel beam, six bridge ties, and also to the inside upright batter post."

The German under arrest is being held at Vanceboro in custody of United States officials. In a statement which he made this morning he is reported to have said that he came from New York on Saturday last with the purpose of "blowing up the bridge." He waited for what he considered an opportune time and decided upon an hour or two after midnight today. His attempt was made from the eastern side of the bridge.

The explosion caused an awakening of the people living within ear-shot, and in the confusion it is understood that Vanhorn managed to get safely across to the American side. There he was captured this morning, according to an official statement from H. C. Groat, superintendent of the Atlantic division of the C. P. R., who, with George W. Moore, divisional engineer, hurried to the scene on the early Boston train on being informed of the news. He was placed under arrest in a hotel in Vanceboro by the United States authorities, and is being held pending official advice.

The Attorney-General, Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, K. C., today wired the C. P. R. authorities at Vanceboro to lay information as a first step towards extradition.

TRAFFIC CONTINUES.

The damage to the bridge was not so great as to hinder passage of freight and passenger cars today, although no engine was taken across it. A bridge and wreckage crew were immediately sent to the scene to institute repairs, and the cars of the Boston and Montreal trains were pushed across with the aid of engines on either side, being brought to St. John about two hours late.

The bridge is a steel structure, owned by the Canadian Pacific. Up to recently a close watch has been kept upon it by guards, says a despatch from Vanceboro, but they had been taken off.

CAUSED STIR HERE

The news was received in St. John early and quickly spread all over the city. It was received with the most intense interest. As a result of the rumors that were flying around the Times office was bombarded with inquiries for the confirmation of the story. Some inquiries came by long distance telephone and by telegram from outside of the city, showing how widespread was the interest.

Speaking of the matter this morning, Mayor Frink said that he had no doubt that this business would result in a general tightening up of the system, and that the guarding of important places will be looked after more carefully than ever.

ARREST OF VANHORN

Vanceboro, Maine, Feb. 2.—The attack on the bridge caused great excitement on the New Brunswick side, where rumors of a German plot spread rapidly, and resulted in an immediate investigation by the provincial authorities. Inquiry was also begun on this side and this led to the arrest in a local hotel, at a man who gave his name as Vanhorn.

According to the police, the prisoner claimed to be an officer in the service of Germany, but refused to divulge his rank.

The police assert that he admitted that he exploded the dynamite under a section of the bridge, and that a dynamite cap and a plan of the bridge were found in his possession.

Vanhorn, according to the police, described himself as thirty-seven years old, he is five feet eleven inches in height, and weighs about 200 pounds. He is smooth shaven.

The arrest was made by Deputy Sheriff George W. Ross, who was accompanied by a Maine Central railroad detective and two Canadian officers from McAdam Junction, N. B.

When arrested Vanhorn was removed to the United States immigration rooms, where he was closely guarded. Deputy Sheriff Ross notified United States marshals and United States district attorney at Portland asking for instructions. When taken into custody at his room in the hotel, Vanhorn made no resistance but is alleged to have told the officers the circumstances of the dynamiting. He did not appear to be able to speak very good English. There were no papers found to identify him. In a coat he carried was found a German flag. His clothing was found to have been dyed with a dye which he had dyed himself. He had dynamited the bridge the prisoner, the police say, made the simple explanation that his country was at war with Great Britain and that Canada was a part of the enemy's country. He said, according to the officers, that he came from New York having left that city on Friday night and arrived here Saturday. Immediately after discharging the explosive, he returned to the hotel.

As evidence of his experience, he displayed a frost bitten thumb. His clothing had been encrusted with ice and was soaked through.

As to Extradition

The arrest of Vanhorn has aroused special interest because of the fact that he was taken into custody on American soil and was made a prisoner of the

ENGLAND TO FIGHT TO END EVEN IF FRANCE AND RUSSIA GIVE UP WAR

Striking Interview Given To Paris Newspaper By Winston Churchill

For First Time in History England Can Say That the Sea is Free-Germany Like Man Throttled by Gag and Pressure Will Not be Relieved Until Unconditional Surrender Comes

Paris, Feb. 2.—"For the first time in history, England can say the sea is free," declared Winston Spencer Churchill, Great Britain's First Lord of the Admiralty, in an interview with Hughes Louix, editor of the Matin.

"In the days when you and we fought each other," he continued, "our most important victories never brought us security comparable with that which we enjoyed today. Even after Trafalgar, we knew nothing like it. Supposing Germany has friendships and relationships in South America, how can help reach her from them now? There remains the United States. Public opinion there hesitated. Perhaps it is better owing to its sympathies, but at the present moment it is fully aware that we shall arrange to take precaution fully compatible with the rights of belligerents and the respect due to neutrals."

GERMANY THROTTLED

"Our adversary, perhaps, can obtain a few supplies from Turkey and Asia Minor. Germany will continue to receive a small quantity of that whereof she has considerable need, but while you and we breathe freely, thanks to the sea we have kept and can keep open. Germany is like a man throttled with a heavy gag. You know the effect of such a gag when action is necessary. This pressure shall not be relaxed until she gives in unconditionally for EVEN IF FRANCE AND RUSSIA SHOULD DECIDE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE STRUGGLE WE ENGLISH WOULD CARRY ON THE WAR TO THE BITTER END."

"The action of a navy necessarily is slow, but the pressure it exercises on an adversary is unrelenting. Compare it to the forces of nature, to the inexorable grip of winter, and remember that it is stress that nothing can resist."

MORE POLICE CHANGES; PATROLMAN RANKINE BECOMES SERGEANT

Replaces Ross Because of Seniority--Policeman Geo. Clark Resigns and James Moran is Appointed to Force

Changes in the police force have materialized and today sees the first put into effect. Tonight Patrolman Rankine will leave the city beat and will be raised to the rank of sergeant, upon which he will take charge of the night patrolmen of the North End, replacing Sergeant Ross, who was recently placed in charge by ex-Chief Clark. Policeman Rankine has served on the police force for the last nineteen years, while his predecessor has been in the ranks for ten years. It is owing to this that the change is being made and not because Sergeant Ross was not qualified to fill the position.

Commissioner McLellan confirmed the report of the change and said that when he had been consulted regarding the matter he gave his opinion that the senior in the ranks should be first in line for promotion, unless the junior had certain qualifications which would entitle him for consideration. If the senior and junior were both qualified, then the senior should have the preference.

Last night Policeman George Clark's resignation was accepted by Chief Simpson. Policeman Clark was recently

stayed by a Chinese while doing duty in one of the beats at Sand Point. When Commissioner McLellan was asked regarding the matter he said that at the time of the assault by the Chinese Policeman Clark was doing duty for the steamship officials and not for the police department, and therefore they were in no way responsible. He said that no policeman could hold two positions, which Mr. Clark had done, as he was light keeper for the dominion government and at the same time a policeman. Also that at the time of the assault he was doing patrol duty at night, and was working for the steamship officials in the day time, which he did not consider proper.

This morning a new policeman was sworn in, James Moran, Wellington row. He is twenty-five years of age, stands six feet and one-half inch, and weighs slightly more than 200 pounds. He has had experience in police duty, having served for one year in Sydney, C. B. He has a high school education. He is a carpenter by trade. After taking the oath of allegiance the new policeman received preliminary instructions from Chief Simpson. It is reported for duty this evening.

No Bids For Fisheries VILLA'S TROOPS BEATEN AND GUADALAJARA TAKEN

The city commissioners with the city chamberlain and his clerk and R. F. Polita as auctioneer were present in the old council chamber of the court house this morning for the adjourned sale of harbor fishery lots. There was a fair attendance of fishermen but they were not prepared to bid and when the lots were offered there were no takers at even the upset price. The sale was again adjourned until Tuesday of next week, when it will be continued in the committee room at City Hall.

Mexico City, Feb. 2.—Official reports of the capture of the city of Guadaluajara were received at General Obregon's headquarters yesterday. The battle occurred on January 20, and Villa's troops suffered heavy casualties. Five hundred men were killed, including the three generals, and large quantities of material were captured.

Allies Breaking Grip of German Forces on Belgian Coast Line

Warships Do Their Part and Soldiers on Land Pursue Active Aggression--Gallant Work of French Marines

London, Feb. 2.—A correspondent telegraph to the Daily Telegraph from a point on the Dutch frontier:

"Information from Western Flanders indicates that the German hold on the Belgian coast line is becoming more and more precarious. Not only are their positions always subject to a bombardment from the warships off the shore but in the last few days the allies on land have pursued an active aggression, particularly in the neighborhood of Nieuport."

"From this district, which is the extreme point in Belgium held by the Germans, good progress by the allies is reported as a result of the severe fighting toward the end of last week."

"According to these accounts, the principal attacks were concentrated between Nieuport and Lombardsyde, where the fighting, of which three separate bayonet charges were the main feature, resulted in the allies capturing a strongly held position on the dunes."

"There was desperate fighting on both sides, but the most critical part of the storming movement developed upon the body of French marines. Twice they charged up the height and twice were hurled back, but again they dashed forward. This time, though their ranks had been thinned, they gained the top of the ridge and held it after fierce work with cold steel."

"The German casualties in this engagement included 400 dead and 300 prisoners. One important result of this success is that the allies' guns now are able to command Slype and other points on the line almost due south from Casteau."

BOMBARDING FURNACE

London, Feb. 2.—The Daily Mail's correspondent telegraph from Northern France:

"The Germans are continuing to bombard Furness. The allies' aviators discovered two carefully hidden German guns which had damaged the town. The allies' artillery at once destroyed them. So far, no monuments have been destroyed."

GERMANS DRIVE RUSSIANS BACK

Petrograd, Feb. 2.—Renewal of a fierce offensive by the Germans in the region of Soderzow and Bolnovo on the road to Warsaw is admitted in an official statement. The violence of the German attack compelled some Russian units to retire to the second line of trenches.

Petrograd, Feb. 2.—The government has decided in future to take the bombardment of unfortified towns as an act of piracy.

Petrograd, Feb. 2.—An official communication issued by the general staff of the army of the Caucasus says that "There were no engagements of importance at any point on the front on January 31."

MAKE SHELLS IN ST. JOHN

Preparation Under Way at The Phoenix Foundry

An interesting announcement is made today by Messrs. Fleming, of the Phoenix Foundry vigorously proceeding with the changes and additions to their plant required to enable them to handle their share of work on a contract for shell-siphon shells that they have received from the war office.

As soon as these necessary changes and additions are completed and the new equipment, in the way of special tools installed and put in smooth running operation a considerable number of hands in addition to their regular staff will be required. The work will be carried a day and night in order to produce the shells with all possible speed.

This employment for a considerable number of able hands and other mechanics will be very acceptable and the extra work and additional money paid out for wages will be an excellent thing for the community.

TO TRY GRANDSON OF KRUGER ON A TREASON CHARGE

Some Seventy Burglars in South Africa Are to Be Court-Martialed

Pretoria, via London, Feb. 2.—Pieter Grobler a member of the parliament of the Union of South Africa, and a grandson of Paul Kruger, has been committed for trial on a charge of treason.

An official announcement issued here sets forth that seventy-one burglars who declined to serve against the Germans in the southwest have been ordered court-martialed. Five hundred others who professed willingness to join their commands but urged various reasons for exemption will be sent back to their home district, where local boards will inquire into the facts.

Hon. J. J. Fry to Senate?

Toronto, Feb. 1.—For the first time since his illness, Hon. J. J. Fry called to the parliament buildings today. He will take his seat during the coming session. It is again rumored that he will be off-January were \$11,291,993. For January 1914, they were \$13,479,997.

Bank Clearings

Montreal, Feb. 1.—Bank clearings for the month were \$188,434,337, against \$224,324,321 in January 1914.

Quebec, Feb. 1.—Bank clearings for the month were \$11,291,993. For January 1914, they were \$13,479,997.

GENERAL BENSON BACK TO MONTREAL

Here on Remount Business--Three Men From Partridge Island to Fredericton

After a hurried inspection of the remount depot and the remounts here Major General Sir Frederick Benson will leave this evening on his return to Montreal. Speaking of the announcement that the depots at St. John and Halifax were to be closed he said that shipments through these ports would be greatly reduced for a month or more at least, and it was difficult to say at present whether or not the depots would be re-opened in the spring. He said there were about 400 or 500 remounts here and about 700 in Halifax, and that some 85,000 altogether had been shipped to England from Canada.

To Fredericton

Three members of the 8th Regiment C. B., who have been doing garrison duty on Partridge Island--Corporal W. L. Blanchard, Gunner William Stokes, and Gunner J. W. Pilley--will leave this evening for Fredericton to become members of the Divisional Ammunition Column for overseas service. Vacancies were open in this unit for some specialists and Colonel Armstrong was asked to send three men. The result of the selection of the three named. Corporal Blanchard is a civil engineer.

SEIZED PERIODICALS CONTAINING THE POPE'S PRAYER FOR PEACE

Paris, Feb. 2.—Periodicals containing the text of Pope Benedict's prayer for peace, which he had directed should be read in all churches on February 7, were seized on Sunday by the police of the department of the Seine, according to the Figaro. The incident was soon settled. After explanations had been given the authorities by Cardinal Amet, Archbishop of Paris, the embargo was withdrawn.

The motives for the seizure were not announced, but it is believed, the Figaro says, that the government feared the expressions of hope for an early peace might be misinterpreted by the public, and have a depressing effect upon public opinion.

Bank Clearings

Montreal, Feb. 1.—Bank clearings for the month were \$188,434,337, against \$224,324,321 in January 1914.

Quebec, Feb. 1.—Bank clearings for the month were \$11,291,993. For January 1914, they were \$13,479,997.

SAYS DYNAMITE WAS SECURED IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Vanhorn So Quoted By Passengers Here Who Talked to Him at Vanceboro

Vanhorn, the German under arrest at Vanceboro, was described by passengers reaching the city this afternoon on the C. P. R. two hours late, as a military looking man, about middle age, respectably dressed, and very talkative. While they were in the station waiting for their cars to be pushed across the bridge which he says he damaged, Vanhorn conversed quite freely with those who sought speech with him. Among the statements which he made was one to the effect that he had secured the explosives which he used on the Canadian side of the border according to a pre-arranged plan. He arrived in Vanceboro only on Saturday last, and had them in his possession at the hotel. He also had blueprints showing the location of the bridge, its approaches and other features.

Regarding the damage done to the bridge, passengers said that while it had been considerably damaged, the dynamite had not been placed so as to do what was planned. There had also been some damage done to private property nearby from the concussion. A number of glass being broken in houses and a sawmill.

The town was aroused from slumber by the explosion, and while the citizens at once hurried out to find what the cause was Vanhorn quietly sought his comfortable bed at the hotel, and was soon in slumber. A short time later, however, he was aroused and placed under arrest. Just before the train pulled out he was taken from the depot apparently to a police station.

SON OF VON KLUCK KILLED IN BATTLE NEAR MIDDLEBURKE

Berlin, Feb. 2.—The eldest son of General Von Kluck, who was a naval lieutenant, is reported to have fallen in battle near Middleburke on January 28.

A case against Frederick Glover for selling beer in his restaurant, Union street, Carleton, on Sunday, January 24, was continued in the police court this morning. After several witnesses had been examined, Magistrate Ritchie fined the defendant \$50. Leonard A. Conlon appeared for the defendant.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service.

The disturbance is centered to the south of the Great Lakes, and snow or sleet is falling in many parts of Ontario. A pronounced cold wave covers the maritime provinces, while in the western provinces the weather is comparatively mild.

Snow or Sleet

Maritime—Winds increasing to moderate gales from eastward with snow and sleet tonight and Wednesday.

Note—Cautionary signals are displayed in the maritime provinces. New England forecasts—Snow or sleet tonight and Wednesday; slowly rising temperatures, east gales.

A Span of 1200 feet. The bridge is on the direct line of the railroad from Halifax, N. S., and St. John, N. B. (Continued on page 2, fifth column)