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BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY SEVENTH YEAR

THE COURIER, BRANTFORD, CANADA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1917.

TWO CENTS

Death Roll Still Mounting From Maritime Catastrophe

Halifax and Dartmouth Lie in Ruins To-day

WASHINGTON FIXES LOSS Halifax: Feels Blast of War More Poig-SNOWFALL FOLLOWS IN OF LIFE AT FIVE THOUSAND

Belgian Relief Ship Collided With a French Ammunition Vessel in Halifax

Washington, Dec. 7-Five thousand are believed to have been killed in the explosion in Halifax harbor and the fire which swept north Halifax and Dartmouth, N.S., according to advices from a naval commander reaching the Navy department early to-day. The navy despatch said these figures had not been verified, however. The report as given out by the Navy department is as follows

"The following report was received from a naval commander at "While fifty two miles at sea the explosion of a munitions ship was seen and heard. Upon a rival, assistance was offered to the authorities, and the following learned concerning the circumstances leading up to the explosion.

"A Belgian relief ship collided with a French munitions vessel loaded with three thousand tons of P.N.T., and a large quantity of benzine. Due to the collision, the benzine caught on fire, and as soon as the fire started the crew abandoned the ship, reaching shore before the explosion took place.
"'Practically all of North Halifax was destroyed and all of

the windows and doors in Halffax and Dartmouth were demolish-

"It is believed there are five thousand dead, but these fig-ures cannot be confirmed. The explosion sunk three ships and badly damaged many others. The ruins of the buildings are now burning fiercely in North Halifare"

> mediate vicinity of the disaster, for among many theories we

accepted as most plausible the

Towards Citadel Hill we wend-

ed our way and the further we went the more horrible the

aftermath. Improvised stretch-

ers met us on all sides con-

fares from the highways and byways. Blood was every-

where, dripping from hideous wounds still unhid from prying

eyes. But most of these un-fortunates could hobble or

"Our hurry-scurry had led to

the armory. Here the khaki-clad men were already on pa-

rade, many of the soldiers

showing wounds which had not

placed them hors de combat

Wounds which a handkerchief

tightly bound had covered, yet

through which the blood con-

gealed or still flowing, conjured

"As we passed they were already on the march toward

the more devastated area. The order had gone forth, 'Commandeer all vehicles, auto or horse.' A cordon was drawn

across the streets, passengers

forced to alight and resume

their journey afoot. There was

"And now we found our-selves confronted by a tide of motley humanity, wounded, shocked, cut and bruised, ill

clad, if clad at all, hurrying

Washington, Dec. 7—Reports to the Navy indicate there was

no American ship in the harbor

of Halifax at the time of the ex-

plosion, and officials are inclin

ed to think that if American

sailors had been caught in the

blast, as reported from Truro, it would have been announced

in the early despatch from a Naval commander, who went in

to help after hearing the detona

Await Details

Washington, Dec. 7.—American Red Cross officials here to-

day awaited details of the Hali-

fax catastrophe, and prepared to send additional relief to that de-

spatched by special trains from Boston and New York last night

ance from Canada. Word reach-

ing the Navy Department, early to-day that the dead might reach five thousand, caused ef-

forts to meet the situation to be

redoubled.

they knew not whither." No U. S. Ship Lost

grim work ahead.

walk. We kept onwards.

Survivor's Tale. Halifax, N.S., Dec. 7.—William Barton, former telegraph editor of Tae Montreal Garetic and new taxoning auditor for the Imperial Munitions Board, Ottawa, was at breakfast in the Halifax Hotel, when the explosion took place. He relates his

Over Soon. "In ten seconds it was all over. A low rumbling, a quake shock, with everything vibrating, then an indescribable noise followed by the fall of plaster and the smashing of glass. In such moments the human mind up, "A German bomb." A rush for the door headlong down the hallway amid falling pictures, glass and plaster to the swing doors of a few seconds before now ripped from their hinges, through great projecting triangular pieces of glass myself with a burden. How she had come into my arms I do not know, yet here she was hysterically shricking: "Oh, my poor sister, my poor sister."

Was Unharmed.

"Outside overhead a giant smoke cloud was moving northward. Danger seemed over. I crossed the road, laid my feminine burden on a doorstep and returned to the hotel.

"My aid, for I was unscathed, was possibly needed far more there. I made my way upstairs to the rooms of two friends. They were vacant, but undamaged, even the glass unbroken and few panes glass remain unbroken in this area. Once more I was in the street, meeting my companions on the threshold. They, too,

were unscathed. "Our plans were quickly made. We were off to the im-

WEATHER BULLETIN THINK A BATHING SUIT SHOULD B' IT ALL DEPENDS

The disturbance which was on the south Atlantic coast yesterday morning has moved quickly northwith increasing tensity towards Sable Island Very cold weather prevails in

western "Zimmie" Forecasts. Moderate winds, some light local snow, but mostly fair and cold to-

HALIFAX, N.S., DEC. 7.—HALIFAX WAS SHOCKED TO ITS VERY HEART YESTER-MORNING BY AN EXPLOSION WHICH LEFT A TRAIL OF DEATH AND RUIN UN-Harbor, Resulting in a Terrible Dis
Sea and Land

Halliax DAY MORNING BY AN EXPLOSION WHICH LEFT A TRAIL OF DEATH AND ROLL AND A SECOND TONS OF MUNITIONS, A PARALLELED IN THE HISTORY OR THIS OR ANY OTHER CANADIAN CITY. A PARALLELED IN THE HISTORY OR THE PARALLELED IN THE PARALLELED STEAMER, CAME INTO COLLISION OFF PIER NO. 8, JUST AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE BASIN. A DECK CARGO OF BENZINE ON THE MUNITION BOAT IGNITED, AND A FEW MINUTES LATER THE FOUR THOUSAND TONS OF MUNITIONS ABOARD EX-PLODED WITH A TERRIFYING ROAR AND A CRASH THAT MADE THE EARTH QUAKE FOR HUNDREDS OF MILES AROUND.

Scene of Death

Halifax, Dec. 7.—The war has touched Halifax. Sorrow and anguish are left in its trail Where only a few hours ago the most prosperous city in Canada stood secure in her own defences, unafraid and almost apathetic, there are now heaps of ruins. No one can yet estimate the loss of life and property, and words fail to describe the mental anguish of those who have lost home and dear ones by one cruel stroke. The busy thriving North End, from the sugar refinery to Creighton's Corner, is Just a mass of broken, splintered timbers, of powde red brick and stone and human bodies crushed to pulp or charred and blackened by fire.

Many and conflicting were the stories of the origin of the explosion, but the real story was at last learned—two vessels had collided, and one was a munition ship. Although believed to be purely accidental, it was nevertheless due to and caused by conditions the war created. The crash came as suddenly and unexpectedly as the Zeppelin bombs have fallen upon the undefended English towns, and he effect has been the same. Five minutes before the explosion, men were going about their business; women were busy in their homes and children played about the floors or were hurrying to school. Up the harbor steamed a ship laden with munitions, and down the harbor came a ship flying the Norwegian flag. They drew nearer, and in some way the two vessels came into collision. It was 25 minutes after the collision before the explosion occurred. At the first shock, houses rocked, vessels broke from their moorings, bits of shells whistled through the air, buildings fell upon their occupants, shrieks and moans rose for a second above the awful din, and in all parts of the city, men, women and children ran into the streets, many of them insufficiently clad. To add to the horrors, fire broke out in a hundred places, and those who were pinned down by debris met the most horrible death.

Hallfax, N.S., Dec. 6.—Many hundreds of people are dead and thousands are injured and homeless believed and twisted out of shape, one thousands are injured and homeless believed and twisted out of shape, one thousands are injured and homeless believed and twisted out of shape, one thousands are injured and homeless believed and ands are injured and nomeress necause of a frightful explosion and the fire which followed. All the extreme north end of the city is devastated. The city is cut off from

took fire and the crew left her. They landed on the Dartmouth shore, and soon after the ship blew up with 5,000 tons of high explosives. The Belgian ship was beached on the shore of the harbor opposite Halifax. Fragments of the ship and her ammunition were scat-

large cuantities of medical sup-plies, food, clothing and bed-ding left Boston and New York simultaneously, and word of their departure was forwarded to Canadian and Halifax autho-

orities by W. F. Parsons, director-general of the Red Cross

Waterville, Maine, Dec. 7 .-

Relief Delayed.

Civilian Relief.

that part of the city.

Hundreds of Dead.

front and others met death by the crashing structures which made escape impossible. In a few minutes fires broke out in scores of places,

cause of a frightful explosion and the fire which followed. All the extreme north end of the city is devastated. The city is cut off from telegraphic communication with the world, and this message is being sent by special train to Truro, there to be put on the wire.

The disaster was caused primarily by the Belgian relief steamer, the Imo, going out and a French munition steamer, the Mount Blanc, entering the harbor, coming into collision. Then the munitions ship thook fire and the crew left her. the military officers made the esti-mate, which he considers conserva-

MINISTERIAL BRANTFORD **ALLIANCE**

Unanimously Passes a Resolution in Support of Union Government.

The relief train sent to Halifax The National Well-Being is by Governor McCall and the State Public Safety Committee of Massachusetts was delayed for more than hour early to-day by a freight wreck on the Maine Central Railroad at Durnham Contest. Junction, thirteen miles from

Five freight cars had been derailed just ahead of the train and the tracks were piled high with wreckage. Telegraph poles had also been knocked down, cutting off communication between the city and Bangor.

Are Safe. New York, Dec. 7 .-- Word

Involved in the Outcome of Electoral

At a meeting of the Brantford Ministerial Association held yester-dety at the Y.M.C.A., at which the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, and resbyterian pastors were present, the following resolution was un-animously carried:
"Believing that the issues now

before our country are of such mometous and far reaching character as to justify the obliteration of all 'party spirit,' and the direction

BOYS SAFE

Lewis Feeley and James Matthews Came Thru Halifax Disaster.

Two Brantford boys in Halifax had narrow escapes from death at the time of the explosion there yesterday. Lewis Feeley, son of J. C. Feeley, 52 Brant street, had the thrilling experience of being blown off the Niobe, but escaped alive and unharmed, according to word received to-day. Mr. Geo. Mat-thews has heard from his son, James, who was employed as a wireless operator aboard a ship in Halifax harbor, that he came through the explosion safely.

Lance-Corporal Peter Whelap, veteran of the Fourth Battalion, arrived home yesterday. He was me that the passengers and crew of the Holland-Amerika Line steamer Nieuw Amsterdam are safe in Halifax was received at the local offices of the line today.

TOYS

of all sorts, description and prices on display at J. W. Burgess, 44 Colborne Street.

Colborne Street.

Toys

all 'party spirit,' and the direction of all of our national energies to the final overthrow of all German at the station by Secretary George Macdonald of the Soldiers' Aid Commission and taken to his home at 196 Grey street. An interesting coincidence came to light during the drive from the station, when the veteran related to Mr. Macdonald incidents of his life at the front, stating that he had been a member of the Fourth Battalion, arrived home yesterday. He was met at the station by Secretary George Macdonald of the Soldiers' Aid Commission and taken to his home at 196 Grey street. An interesting coincidence came to light during the drive from the station, when the veteran related to Mr. Macdonald incidents of his life at the front, stating that he had been a member of the Fourth Battalion, arrived home yesterday. He was met at the station by Secretary George Macdonald of the Soldiers' Aid Commission and taken to his home at 196 Grey street. An interesting coincidence came to light during the drive from the station, when the veteran related to Mr. Macdonald incidents of his life at the front, stating that he had been a member of the Soldiers' Aid Commission and taken to his home at 196 Grey street. An interesting coincidence came to light during the drive from the station by Secretary George Macdonald of the Soldiers' Aid Commission and taken to his home at 196 Grey street. An interesting coincidence came to light during the drive from the station by Secretary George Macdonald of the Soldiers' Aid Commission and taken to his home at 196 Grey street. An interesting coincidence came to light during the drive from the station by Secretary George Macdonald of the Soldiers' Aid Commission and taken to his home at 196 Grey street. An interesting

ion Has Yet Felt it---Populous City WAKE OF THE HOLDS

Discomfort of Refugees and Work of Rescuers, Impeded by Inclemency of Weather Conditions at Site of Disaster This Morning

Halifax, Dec. 7 .- Following in the wake of death and destruction Halifax, Dec. 7.—Following in the wake of death and destruction in this city yesterday, a heavy snow storm set in early this morning, adding to the discomfort of the homeless, and impeding the work of the rescuers. Fires are still burning in the devastated area, and the fire department is still at work. The fall of snow, however, will assist them in subduing the fires in the ruins. The devastated area extends from North street to Africville on the shores of Bedford Basin, about two miles, and from the water front west to Gottingen street, about three-quarters of a mile. Special trains from Moncton, Truru and Windsor have arrived here, bringing doctors, nurses and medical supplies. nurses and medical supplies.

Special trains with injured have also been sent to Windsor and

Special trains with injured have also been sent to Windsor and other points, where there are large hospitals.

Business is still suspended, and will be for days. All the schools and colleges in the city have been closed and will not re-open until after the New Year.

There is wreck and ruin on every side. There is not a building in the city that did not suffer from damage. All are without glass, plaster is down and windows and doors shattered.

On every side, carpenters and property owners are boarding up their premises to keep out the storm. All the power plants are still idle. No new estimate of the dead and injured was available this morning. Blue jackets from an American warship in port did patrol duty on all the streets of the city last night.

Halifax, Dec. 7.—Up to noon to-day there was no change in the police estimate of the number of casualties in yesterday's catastrophe. There are about 2,000 dead and the same number of injured, two-thirds of the latter suffering cuts from

flying glass.

The Citizens Relief Committee started work early this morning and are making every provision possible for the care of the homeless. The survey is also being made of the devastated area. The Windsor authorities have wired Halifax they can accommodate five hundred injured in the military hospital.

The civic authorities and the

newspapers of Halifax are making every endeavor to secure the names everything is in such a state of chaos that little progress is being made.

Kitchener Gives.

Kitchener, Ont., Dec. 7.—At a special meeting of the City Council this morning the sum of \$10,000 was unanimously voted for relief of sufferers in Halifax. Send Aid.

Washington, Dec., 7.—Ar-

third relif train at 11 a.m. today from New York to carry
supplies and assistance to Halifax were made by the Red
Cross. Railway officials are
assisting and will push the

Boston, Dec. 7.—A special train carrying a Red Cross unit, consisting of fifteen physicians and thirty nurses and a quantity of medical and other sup lies, will start for Halifax this afternoon in charge of Hunt-ington Wolcott. Arrangements for the despatch of the relief train were made by James Jackson, manager of the local division of the Red Cross, after a conference by telephone with officials of the organization at

The boys at the front are busy. Vote for Cockshutt and help keep the munition factories busy to help them.

A MEETING IN THE INTERESTS OF THE UNION GOVERNMENT

AND THE CANDIDATE MR. W. F. COCKSHUTT WILL BE HELD IN * F / F

VICTORIA HALL Saturday Night, Dec. 8th

Commencing at 8 p.m.

The speakers will include two returned soldiers from the firing line-Major Mathieson and Lieut. · 中国的 · 中国中国

LADIES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

The special trains bearing experienced relief workers and Are YOU Going to Vote WITH the Brave Boys at the Front, or Will You Vote AGAINST Them?