

# GIANT U. S. ARMY AIRSHIP PLUNGES THOUSAND FEET TO GROUND, KILLING THIRTY

### Capsize Across High Tension Electric Line and Burst Into Roaring Furnace of Blazing Hydrogen Gas—Those Surviving Fire Jumped as Ship Struck—Others, Pinned in Wreckage, Were Burned to Death.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 21—Flung earthward, presumably by a broken rudder, the giant army airship Roma plunged a thousand feet or more today to strike ground at the Hampton Roads army base, capsize across a high tension electric line and burst into a roaring furnace of blazing hydrogen gas in which at least thirty of her army crew and passengers perished.

Long after dark tonight, many hours after her fall, the ship was still a mass of flames from end to end of her 410 foot mass. The fire was feeding on the million cubic feet of gas that had distended the great envelope for the night.

Scarcely a dozen, of more than two survivors aboard, had been picked up alive. All of those who survived the fire escaped by jumping as the ship struck. The others, pinned in the hull beneath the fallen bag, were burned to death. Most of the fire fought back the rescuers for hours. Three fire departments fought the flames with alcohol, and by 7 p. m. it was out. Derricks began picking up the wreckage, as the flames were driven back. There was scarcely more than the aluminum frame work and the six Liberty motors to move. Many of them charred beyond recognition.

### Thirty Bodies Recovered.

Thirty bodies had been taken out tonight. Three or four more were thought to be still in the charred mass that alone remained of what had been the largest ship of her type in the world.

Accounts of surviving officers as to what happened were available tonight. Every man who escaped alive was burned or bruised, or both. Eyewitnesses, who watched the smash, agreed, however, that the huge, kite-like structure of the stratosphere, itself as large as a bombing plane, had slipped to one side as the Roma drove along 1,000 feet above the army base. She was making a trial flight with a new battery of Liberty motors. They were installed to replace Finnish engines, bought with her in Italy, which had not proved satisfactory. Installation was completed at Langley field two weeks ago.

It was just before 8 p. m. when those below at the army base at Hampton Roads had their attention caught by the approaching thunder of the six motors, and looked up to see the Roma dip down for her straight flight. They agreed that the rudder

seemed to have slipped bodily down and to one side. The ship nosed speedily down. As she came closer, it was seen that her crew were hurling out sand ballast from the ports in the fragile fabric that formed the covering of the space between her keel and back, the living and operating quarters of the ship. The dipping blunt nose of the bag did not respond. On the ship came, unchecked on her glide earthward, head first.

Below ran the high double wires of the high power electric line. It carried a 2,300 volt current. The Roma's nose, shod with its aluminum guard, thrust into the wires, broke them as the ship flattened to earth and rolled over, and the next moment came the noise of an explosion and the flames burst out along the hullspace. There was a rush of men to the rescue from the army post and the navy base beyond.

Just as the Roma neared the wires, two men were seen to leap from high up in her slanting hull. As she struck, flaming monster withered in her first death agony, ten more dropped from doors or ports or through holes they tore in the fabric sides that enclosed them. Some leaped from the platform where the engine stood, far out from the hull.

So swift was the flare of the gas flame that rescuers were driven back before its terrific heat. They watched helplessly as the gas bag shriveled in the fierce blaze of the liberated gas. The Roma was a wall of flame, a city block long, and until the thousand tons of gas and aluminum were checked the holocaust, it was impossible to reach the comrades mangled and dead in that fiery furnace. The ship left no passenger list behind her when she set out for a brief trial run from Langley.

She is known to have carried many officers and men as passengers, how many she did not include on the crew. As she rose from the field her commander leaned out to signal that he had 44 persons aboard. It is believed he did not include on civilian on the ship and that she actually carried 46.

## German Police Serg't Shot By French Officer

Berlin, Feb. 21—A telegram received here today from Breslau reported that a German police sergeant was shot by a French soldier at Gletwitz, Upper Silesia, on Sunday, during the course of an encounter between three French soldiers and a number of civilians.

## LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO GETS DOWN TO WORK

### Caught Its Real Stride Yesterday When Premier and Ferguson Entered Debate.

Toronto, Feb. 21—The Ontario Legislature caught its stride this afternoon when Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, leader of the Conservatives, and Premier Drury joined in the debate. It was a keen and intensely interesting clash between the two leaders. Mr. Ferguson said that the Government was taking credit to itself for many measures which were really all prepared for them by the former Conservative administration. He criticized the Government's road policy, but centered his chief attack on the attitude of the Government on hydro and hydro-electricity. He supported hydro-licensing and claimed the Government had not given the Hydro Commission and Mr. Adam Beck whole-hearted support, and was antagonistic to the Commission and to its chairman.

## COALITION NEARING ITS END IN ENGLAND

National Unionist Association Considers Future Policy of Unionist Party.

London, Feb. 21—(Canadian Press Cable)—The future policy of the National Unionist party, particularly with regard to the question of coalition, was discussed at a meeting of the National Council of the National Unionist Association, held in Central Hall, Westminster, today. The Rt. Hon. Austen Chamberlain, Government leader in the House of Commons, in a speech, said the chief hope of their opponents was in disunion in the National party, particularly with regard to the question of coalition. He stated that while there would be no coalition after the next election, there would be a distinct understanding between the Nationalists and the followers of Lloyd George who had agreed upon all the great principles affecting the Empire.

## ALLEGED CLERGYMAN TURNED TO ROBBERY

He and Pal Indicted for Robbing Mail Truck in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 21—Herbert R. Cox, lately indicted with Herbert Wilson for the robbery of a mail truck here March 3, 1921, pleaded not guilty in the United States District Court here today.

Wilson, who is said to have been a clergyman at one time in his life, and to have occupied pulpits in Oregon and Eastern Canada, pleaded not guilty several weeks ago. Cox is said by Federal agents to have made a confession which implicated Wilson. It is understood the confession had not been signed, however, although officials are said to have copies of it. More than \$200,000 has been recovered, Federal officials said.

## FIRST OF PARTIES IN HONOR OF PRINCESS

Function Held in Ballroom of Buckingham Palace — 800 Persons Present.

London, Feb. 21—Several members of the United States Embassy were among the 800 persons who attended the first of a series of parties given by King George and Queen Mary, this afternoon, in honor of the approaching wedding of Princess Mary to Viscount Lascelles.

Court officials, diplomats, the Earl and Countess of Harewood, the parents of the Royal Household and representatives of various public and philanthropic societies also were present.

The function was given in the grand ballroom of Buckingham Palace, but all the state rooms were thrown open. Some of them contained wedding gifts that have already been received. The King and Queen, Princess Mary and Viscount Lascelles mingled with the crowd.

## ENGLAND PROVIDES FOR U. S. INTEREST

London, Feb. 21—Twenty-five million pounds sterling will be provided for in the next budget estimates for the British debt to the United States. This announcement was made in today's parliamentary papers. It is pointed out that \$200,000,000 will not necessarily be the maximum amount of money in interest to the United States during the next financial year.

## Veregin Confirms Rumor of Contemplated Slaughter

Vancouver, Feb. 21—(Canadian Press)—The statement that Peter Veregin, Doukhobor chief, contemplates slaughter of children and aged and infirm persons, so that the St. Doukhobor may roam about as vagrants in protest against extortionate taxation, is quite true, declared M. M. Kofitoff, manager of the Brilliant, B. C. Christian Community of the Universal Brotherhood, this afternoon, over the long distance telephone. "The statement was given to the press," said Kofitoff, "by the Brilliant Doukhobor community with the consent of Mr. Veregin." Veregin himself could not make your correspondent understand his conversation over the telephone line and delegated Kofitoff to speak for him.

## TWO PLUNGE INTO SEA FROM PACIFIC LINER

Woman Passenger and Colored Waiter Committed Suicide Within Two Hours of Each Other.

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 21—Mrs. Alice M. Hills, Amherst, Mass., a passenger, and Harold Holloway, colored, a waiter, found themselves in the sea from the steamer liner, Backus State, within two hours of each other while the steamer was approximately 300 miles south of Los Angeles yesterday, according to a radio message received today.

The Backus State stopped when Mrs. Hills threw herself overboard, and a lifeboat was sent over the side. No trace of her was found. Apparently the boat had hardly gotten under way again before Holloway leaped into the sea. Another lifeboat was launched, but he had disappeared.

Amherst, Mass., Feb. 21—Mrs. Alice Hills, of this town, who is reported to have been lost overboard from the steamship Backus State, was the widow of the late P. Wright Hills, who died in 1917. She leaves a mother and two sisters in St. Armand, Canada.

## MINERS' CONVENTION AT TRURO TOMORROW

Expected to Prove Most Momentous Assembly in History of Nova Scotia Miners.

Sydney, N. S., Feb. 21—J. B. McLachlan, District Secretary, Louis Mc Cormick and several other local United Mine Workers leaders left on tonight's express for Truro, where on Thursday there will assemble one of the most momentous conventions in the history of the United Mine Workers in Nova Scotia. President Robert Baxter, Vice President Delaney and International Board Member Sibby Carter are already enroute to Truro from Indianapolis where they attended the recent special convention in which the nineteen votes of the Nova Scotia delegation graciously saved the day for President J. L. Lewis in his contest with his rivals, Fairington and Alex. Howatt, the Kansas insurgent.

The Truro convention will consider the Glendon award, recently turned down by a vote of ten thousand to four hundred, and will formulate the wage policy to be followed by the 12,000 miners of Nova Scotia in the troublesome times which seem about to envelop the coal industry of all North America.

## CRAIG RESENTS VAGUE CHARGES LAID BY COLLINS

Northern Gov't Will Not Submit to Any Further Outside Interference.

Belfast, Feb. 21—With reference to the complaints made by Michael Collins, regarding treatment of prisoners in the hands of the Ulsterists, the Ulster Home Office today sent the following telegram to Winston Spencer Churchill, Secretary for the Colonies:

"The Government of Northern Ireland desires it to be understood that they cannot submit to any further outside interference with the administration of justice in Northern Ireland at the instance of persons hostile to our Parliament."

"The Government strongly resents the making of vague charges against its constabulary, unsupported by any evidence. The constabulary has behaved admirably well, under the greatest provocation."

"You stated last week in the House of Commons that the Imperial Government does not recognize, has not recognized and never would recognize an Irish Republic. Our Northern Government, in the same way, cannot recognize an Irish Republic or any other irregular organization which attempts to usurp the functions of the Government of the Crown in any way in our Northern area."

## CANADA'S EXHIBIT AT NEW YORK MOTOR SHOW

Consists of Excellent Views of Trent Canal System and Specimens of Big Fish.

New York, Feb. 21—The Canadian Department of Railways and Canals has an exhibit, depicting the Trent Canal, at the motor boat show in Grand Central Palace.

The exhibit, which is attracting widespread attention, consists of a number of very excellent views of the canal which is proving one of the big fish to be found in the Kawartha lakes through which the canal route passes.

A working model of the largest hydraulic lift lock in the world at Peterboro, is also prominently displayed. There is also a continuous moving picture exhibit of scenes along the canal which is proving one of the popular features of the show.

## SEES END OF UNION GOVT IN ENGLAND

Shattering Blows Have Been Delivered Gov't by Recent By-Elections.

London, Feb. 21—Speaking at Northampton, tonight, Sir John Simon, Minister, said the shadow of death was resting upon the House of Commons, and most of its members were gloomily preparing, like condemned men, to be taken back to the place from whence they came.

Shattering blows, he said, had been delivered by the recent by-elections which had gone against the Government, and showed the way the wind was blowing. The Government, said Sir John, had lost the confidence of the people. The Government resembled a badly constructed cinematograph film; all jerks and jumps with flashes of light and patches of darkness. Nobody knew what would happen.

## NEWFOUNDLAND NAVAL RESERVE TO DISBAND

Comes as Part of Naval Reduction Policy of British Admiralty.

St. John's, Nfld., Feb. 21—As part of the naval reduction policy of the British Admiralty, the Newfoundland naval reserve, which has been in existence for a quarter century and which furnished 3,000 seamen for the British Navy in the world war, is to be disbanded.

Instructions were received, today, by Captain Kerr, in charge of the reserve here, to disband the force, and the obsolete warship Briton, used as a training ship, and return to England with his permanent officers, instructors and other personnel.

## SENTENCE METED OUT TO JOHN BEDARD IN CONNECTION WITH SLAYING JOHN McNAB.

Guelph, Ont., Feb. 21—Twenty years in the Provincial Penitentiary in the sentence imposed today on John Bedard who, with other prisoners, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in connection with the death of John McNab, late governor of the jail here. Bedard and his fellow prisoners were at first charged with murder, but the Crown prosecutor accepted the plea of guilty to the lesser charge.

Bedard was recently apprehended in Jersey City.

## VESSLS ICE BOUND OFF SWEDISH COAST

Stockholm, Feb. 21—The ice wall on the west coast of Sweden is so impenetrable and hundreds of vessels are ice-bound off the coast. All attempts to help, even by airdrops, have failed owing to heavy snow and fog.

## COFFEE CARGO

New York, Feb. 21—The steamer Carfax arrived from Brazilian ports today with 18,000,000 pounds of coffee, valued at about one million dollars. This is said to be the largest shipment of the bean on record. The Carfax, it is said, also brought 15,000 bags of cocoa beans.

## REDUCED RATES

Tokyo, Feb. 21—A reduction in passenger rates at Yokohama, B. C., and Seattle, Washington of approximately thirty per cent was announced today by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

## POSSIBILITY THAT SINN FEINERS MAY AVOID OPEN SPLIT

Sanitary "No Man's Land" to Be Established

Paris, Feb. 21—The League of Nations is organizing a hygiene conference to be held in Warsaw, some time during March, to arrange for the establishment of a sort of sanitary "no man's land" between Russia and bordering states. The object is to prevent infected persons from bringing typhus and cholera westward when the winter breaks up.

## INDICATIONS THAT DIFFERENT TREATY FRACTIONS ARE COMING INTO ACCORD FOR COUNTRY'S GOOD.

RIVAL LEADERS IN TAME DEBATE

Griffith Promises to Defer Elections if De Valera Pledges Not to Obstruct Government.

Dublin, Feb. 21—There is a possibility that a split in the Sinn Fein over the Anglo-Irish treaty will be avoided.

The Ard Phais, the National Sinn Fein convention which met at Mansion House today for the purpose of defining the attitude of the Sinn Fein clubs on the treaty whether for a Free State or a Republic adjourned until tomorrow with instructions to the leaders of the two parties to come together and devise a plan to keep the Sinn Fein organization united. This unexpected outcome was due to the direct initiative of the meeting in general, and was not prompted by the article by either side.

After Eamonn De Valera had presented a resolution pledging adherence to the constitution adopted by the Ard Phais in 1917, looking to international recognition of Ireland as an independent Republic," and stated his objections to the treaty on republican principles, the debate, unlike the discussion in the Dail Eireann, did not settle down into an examination of the merits and demerits of the treaty.

Dail Eireann, replying to Mr. De Valera, raised no new points; he merely reiterated that the treaty gave Ireland the opportunity it needed.

Arthur Griffith, speaking at this evening's session of the Ard Phais, promised that if he received a guarantee from Eamonn De Valera's minority, the Dail not to obstruct the Provisional Government, he would accept Mr. De Valera's proposal to defer the general election until a constitution could be drafted.

## TO SHOW CANADIAN PRODUCTS IN LONDON

Canadian Manufacturers Aroused to Benefits to be Derived from Such Exhibits

Toronto, Feb. 21—(Canadian Press)—Canadian manufacturers are becoming aroused to the benefits to be derived by showing their products in London, England. On the first instant the Department of Trade and Commerce, publishing in their weekly journal a very strong article by A. T. Wilgress, Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, specially assigned to interview the big industrial houses of London, who act as purchasing agents for world markets, he reported at length, to the effect that Canadian goods would be very welcome, but could not be considered unless the permanent representation in London with samples and prices available.

A few Canadian manufacturers and exporters have now completed arrangements for a permanent exhibition in London, with selling services for all departments. All commercial exhibitions are valuable assets to seller and buyer, but for export purposes continuity of effort is the only method of producing permanent results.

An invitation is being extended to all Canadian manufacturers to cooperate by taking space and showing their products. The men behind this national enterprise are planning to eventually show all classes of Canadian products in Capetown, Melbourne, Buenos Aires and other cities.

## FARMER CHARGED WITH SEDUCING HIS NIECE

The Accused is 65 Years Old, and the Girl 15 Years of Age.

Special to The Standard

Amherst, N. S., Feb. 21—The recent sensation at Wallace Station was followed by another one from North Wallace today when Alexander Paton, a well known farmer of that place, was brought to Amherst and committed for trial by Stipendiary Casey, on a charge of seduction of his niece, Freda Thompson. The accused is sixty-five years of age and the niece, who was the chief witness against him today, is about fifteen years. The information was sworn out by the mother, who first heard of the facts from her daughter a few weeks ago. The mother was unable to swear to any definite information herself, but her daughter gave evidence that the first act of seduction had occurred about a year ago, and that there had been a further act since. The accused made no statement further than pleading "not guilty." On being committed for trial, he asked for bail and on furnishing sureties of two thousand dollars, was permitted to leave for his home. The arrest was made by constable Andrew McDonald, and the examination today, was conducted by Crown Prosecutor Hanway. The trial will take place before the Supreme Court in June.

## ONE KILLED, TWO WOUNDED IN RIOT

Providence, R. I., Feb. 21—An early morning riot in Pawtucket, the establishment of National Guard units in three troublesome strike centers and a meeting of the Board of Mediation and Conciliation here were the day's outstanding developments in the tense situation in Rhode Island. The Pawtucket riot, in which one strike sympathizer was killed, two critically wounded and five less seriously hurt by riot gun fire when a crowd came to grips with the police at the Jencks-Spaulding Company plant, led to the immediate dispatch of four coast artillery companies to the Blackstone Valley city from Providence.

With the exception of the disturbance at Pawtucket, quiet prevailed through the Blackstone and Pawtucket valleys today. At Pontiac and Natick, where trouble was experienced yesterday, two troops of cavalry and a coast artillery company were in complete control.

## HONOR MEMORY OF SIR DAVID WATSON

Fine Public Testimonial of Esteem Accorded Distinguished Canadian Soldier at His Funeral.

Quebec, Feb. 21—A signal tribute of affectionate respect and general sorrow was paid here this afternoon to the memory of Major-General Sir David Watson, K.C.B., C.M.G., whose funeral was held with all the dignity which the Military, the Clergy, the Church, and the general public accorded to the occasion. It was unquestionably one of the finest public testimonials of esteem ever accorded to a Canadian soldier, and was participated in by thousands of prominent Canadians, from all parts of the country, while at least twenty thousand citizens lined the Grande Allée as the gun-carriage bearing the remains, draped with the Union Jack, wended its way to Mount Hermon cemetery, and the salute of thirteen guns thundered at regular intervals from the heights of the Citadel.

## LABOR MINISTER DEFIED BY DOMINION POWER CO.

Hamilton, Feb. 21—The Dominion Power and Transmission Company is defying the ruling of Hon. James M. Macdonald, Minister of Labor, that it must not enforce a wage reduction upon its employees until a Board of Conciliation has investigated and reported. The company has notified him that the reduction went into effect on February 16, and will not be suspended, claiming that the agreement with the unions expired before the Conciliation Board was appointed and therefore, the act does not apply. It also cites the Supreme Court's decision in a similar case concerning the Nova Scotia Coal and Iron Company.

## CONSERVATIVE ASSN. FORMED IN WINNIPEG

Declares Itself True to the Traditions of the Party and National Policy.

Winnipeg, Feb. 21—Declaring themselves true to what were described as the traditions of the party and the national policy which was stated to have been instrumental in the development of Canada, and disdaining the tag of any "right-winged apostates," the Conservative Association of Winnipeg was formed here last night.

Hon. Robert Rogers, former Minister of Public Works, declared the Conservative party was defeated and handicapped on Dec. 8, the day of the Federal election, because of "political patronage mongers" in the Union Government.

## BARON BYNG TOUCHES ON MONTREAL SORE SPOTS

Criticized Lack of Playgrounds and Disregard of Sufferings of Dumb Animals.

Montreal, Feb. 21—Baron Byng, of Vimy, addressing the Women's Canadian Club here this afternoon, placed his finger on three social sore spots in this city. His Excellency referred to some of Montreal's slum properties, and pointed out that there was evidently small reason for their existence in a young country. Then he touched on the lack of playgrounds for children here, and said that it was the duty of the living who were allowed to utilize the city's great playgrounds. Finally he spoke of the sufferings of dumb animals as evidenced by the number of latrine houses he had noticed in and around the city.

His Excellency said he was trying to develop a "Montreal conscience" and that in doing so it had suffered three little pinpricks from what he had seen during his stay here.

## FUNCTION HELD IN BALLROOM OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE — 800 PERSONS PRESENT.

London, Feb. 21—Several members of the United States Embassy were among the 800 persons who attended the first of a series of parties given by King George and Queen Mary, this afternoon, in honor of the approaching wedding of Princess Mary to Viscount Lascelles.