

HALIFAX WRECKED BY EXPLOSION

The Disaster is the Most Awful Catastrophe Which Has Befallen Any City in the World.

Harrowing Details of the Explosion Which Wrecked the Northern Section of the City and Caused Death and Injury of Thousands—Collision in the Harbor Between French Munitions Ship Mont Blanc and Belgian Relief Steamer, The Imo.

Many hundreds of people are dead and thousands are injured and homeless because of a frightful explosion and the fire which followed it on Thursday last week. All the extreme north end of the city is devastated. The city is cut off from telegraphic communication with the world.

The disaster was caused primarily by the Belgian relief steamer, the Imo, going out and a French munitions steamer, the Mont Blanc, entering the harbor coming into collision. Then the munitions ship 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 scattered all over the northern part of the city, and the violence of the explosion wrecked all the buildings in that part of the city.

"The most awful catastrophe which has befallen any city in the world." Such is the opinion of all officers and men who have returned from the front since Canadians went into action. And they are right. The men from the trenches, the men behind the trenches or in the rear, and the man who has been through the times of distress in London and the southeast coast when Zeppelins and enemy airplanes bombed the Capital of the Empire and the coastal towns, they know that they never met with such dire casualties as befell the city of Halifax on Thursday last week. At nine o'clock on Thursday of last week the city was enjoying its usual period of calm and the streets were crowded with people wending their way to work, little thinking of that which in a few minutes was to befall them.

Suddenly, like a bolt from the blue, there came an explosion. From one end of the city to the other glass fell, and people were lifted from the sidewalks and thrown flat into the streets. In the down-town offices, just beginning to open, men and heads alike covered under the shower of falling glass and plaster which fell about them. The collision was a terrific one, and the munitions boat being pierced on the port side almost to the engine-room. The relief vessel, which was practically unharmed, kept going ahead with the wounded craft, and when the fire was seen to break aboard her, backed away, and the crew started to abandon her.

The Mont Blanc drifted away, a burning wreck, while the relief boat beached near Tuff's Cove on the Dartmouth side of the harbor. Seventeen minutes after the collision the explosion occurred. Under the force of the explosion houses crumpled like decks of cards, while the unfortunate residents were swept to death in the debris.

The main damage was done in the north end of the city, known as Richmond, which was opposite the point of the vessels' collision. Here the damage was so extensive as to be totally beyond the field of description. Street after street is in ruins and flames swept over the district.

Five minutes after the explosion occurred the streets were filled with a terror-stricken mob of people, all trying to make their way as best they might to the outskirts in order to get out of the range of what they thought to be a German raid.

Women rushed in terror-stricken mobs through the streets, many of them with children clasped to their breasts. In their eyes was a look of terror as they struggled in mobs through the streets with blood-stained faces and endeavored to get anywhere from the falling masonry and crumbling walls.

Among the hundreds who were killed by the explosion was one particularly sad case of a Canadian Government employee named MacDonald, who, on rushing to his home after the explosion, found that all his family consisting of his wife and four children, had perished. Before him on the roadway were the mangled remains of his little two-year-old child, who had met death while playing on the roadside.

Many of those composing the crews of ships in the harbor were killed and injured. The damage along the waterfront is very serious.

The munitions ship, after the crew left her, veered in towards the Halifax side of the harbor, and the city received the full force of the explosion.

CONFUSION OVER WHISTLES BLAMED

Pilot Frank Mackie, who was on the munition ship, declares that the accident was due to a confusion of whistles, sounded by the Belgian Relief steamer.

In addition to her cargo of munitions, the Mont Blanc carried a deckload of benzine, and this caught fire, following the explosion. The Captain of the Mont Blanc ordered his crew to take to the boats. The men hastily left the ship in two boats and rowed for the Halifax side of the harbor, which they reached in safety.

The men ran for refuge, as they felt that an explosion was inevitable. Twenty minutes later the explosion occurred, and the men were hurled flat on the ground.

will be jailed as fast as they can be found.

All the survivors of the Norwegian steamer Imo, which collided with the French munition ship Mont Blanc were made prisoners by the British naval authorities to-day. Captain Lamedoc, of the munition ship Mont Blanc, and Pilot McKay, who was bringing the vessel in when it was rammed by the relief ship Imo, are also to be placed under arrest. The pilot on the Belgian boat is dead.

When the official Government investigation of the munitions ship explosion begins here it will be testified that the Mont Blanc carried 4,000 tons of TNT, the highest explosive ever known, and a deck load of benzine.

The estimate of material required for the temporary repairs to be done in Halifax so as to make damaged houses available, and which have been prepared by the reconstruction section of the Halifax Relief Committee, follows:

Class, 1,000,000 lights or panes, assorted sizes.
Putty, 50 tons.
Sashes, 18,000.
Doors, 2,000; scantling, 250,000 b.m.
Boards (matched), 1,000,000 feet b.m.
Roofing paper, 5,000 square feet.
Wall board, 300,000 square feet.
Nails, 1,000 kegs, 2 1/2 to 4 inches.

The above does not include any materials which may be required for dwellings which have been completely demolished, nor for public buildings, railway terminals, manufacturing, industrial buildings or walls. All desiderous of forwarding material should communicate with Col. Robert S. Low, Chairman Reconstruction Committee, Halifax Hotel, Halifax, so as to avoid overlapping.

Dartmouth, N. S., Dec. 9.—This town, on the opposite shore to Halifax, caught the edge of the destructive blast from the munition ship Mont Blanc. A number of manufacturing plants were destroyed and several rows of houses blown down. The loss of life was one hundred and fifty.

An appeal for \$25,000,000 was made to the people of Canada by the Mayor of Halifax and Dartmouth to-day, and this figure is taken as representing only a part of the material damage done by the explosion of the cargo of the Mont Blanc last Thursday.

Sir Robert Borden announced that pending a full consideration of the needs of those who have suffered by the calamity the Dominion Government had made a preliminary appropriation of \$1,000,000 for immediate relief. The amount will be immediately at the disposal of the local relief committee.

BRITISH GAIN AGAINST TURK

Russians Aid to Mesopotamia Success.

London, Dec. 9.—The following official statement concerning operations in Mesopotamia was issued to-day:

"After securing Sakaltutan Pass Tuesday the Turks were pursued to the village of Karak Tepe, 25 miles north of Dell Abbas, through which the enemy was driven after a sharp engagement. The pursuit was made over difficulties over bogs and intersected by numerous watercourses. The British and Russians fighting on our right flank showed great powers of endurance, overcoming all obstacles.

"Friday our aeroplanes bombed Tuz Kurmatli with good results. It is reported the Turks have set fire to the Kifri coal mines, as fires were observed burning there Thursday.

"The total captures between Monday and Wednesday were 227 prisoners, including the commander of the 158th Regiment and six other officers, two field guns and one machine-gun."

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs
Toronto, Dec. 11.—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$2.24; No. 2 do, \$2.04; No. 3 do, \$2.17; No. 4 do, \$2.10; in store Port William, including tax, \$2.10; Manitoba oats—No. 2 white, \$1.75; No. 3 do, \$1.65; No. 4 do, \$1.55; No. 5 do, \$1.45; No. 6 do, \$1.35; No. 7 do, \$1.25; No. 8 do, \$1.15; No. 9 do, \$1.05; No. 10 do, \$0.95; No. 11 do, \$0.85; No. 12 do, \$0.75; No. 13 do, \$0.65; No. 14 do, \$0.55; No. 15 do, \$0.45; No. 16 do, \$0.35; No. 17 do, \$0.25; No. 18 do, \$0.15; No. 19 do, \$0.05; No. 20 do, \$0.00.

Country Produce—Wholesale
Butter—Creamery, solids, per lb. 42c; printing, per lb. 43c to 43 1/2c; daisy, per lb. 44c to 44 1/2c.
Eggs—Fresh gathered eggs, 47 to 48c; 49c; 50c; 51c; 52c; 53c; 54c; 55c; 56c; 57c; 58c; 59c; 60c; 61c; 62c; 63c; 64c; 65c; 66c; 67c; 68c; 69c; 70c; 71c; 72c; 73c; 74c; 75c; 76c; 77c; 78c; 79c; 80c; 81c; 82c; 83c; 84c; 85c; 86c; 87c; 88c; 89c; 90c; 91c; 92c; 93c; 94c; 95c; 96c; 97c; 98c; 99c; 100c.

Provisions—Wholesale
Smoked meats—Hams, medium, 30 to 32c; do, heavy, 28 to 30c; breakfast bacon, 28 to 30c; rolls, 27 to 28c; breakfast bacon, 28 to 30c; compound, 28 to 30c; plain, 40 to 41c; boneless, 43 to 44c.
Cured meats—Long clear ham, 27 1/2 to 28 1/2c; clear ham, 28 to 29c; Lard—Pure lard, tierces, 28 to 29c; do, tubs, 28 to 29c; compound, 28 to 29c; tubs, 24 to 24 1/2c; plain, 24 to 24 1/2c.

Winnipeg Grain
Winnipeg, Dec. 11.—Cash prices—Oats—No. 1, \$1.24; No. 2, \$1.14; No. 3, \$1.04; No. 4, \$0.94; No. 5, \$0.84; No. 6, \$0.74; No. 7, \$0.64; No. 8, \$0.54; No. 9, \$0.44; No. 10, \$0.34; No. 11, \$0.24; No. 12, \$0.14; No. 13, \$0.04; No. 14, \$0.00.
Winnipeg, Dec. 11.—Oats—Canadian, No. 1, \$1.24; No. 2, \$1.14; No. 3, \$1.04; No. 4, \$0.94; No. 5, \$0.84; No. 6, \$0.74; No. 7, \$0.64; No. 8, \$0.54; No. 9, \$0.44; No. 10, \$0.34; No. 11, \$0.24; No. 12, \$0.14; No. 13, \$0.04; No. 14, \$0.00.

United States Markets
Minneapolis, Dec. 11.—Corn—No. 1, \$1.14; No. 2, \$1.04; No. 3, \$0.94; No. 4, \$0.84; No. 5, \$0.74; No. 6, \$0.64; No. 7, \$0.54; No. 8, \$0.44; No. 9, \$0.34; No. 10, \$0.24; No. 11, \$0.14; No. 12, \$0.04; No. 13, \$0.00.
Chicago, Dec. 11.—Corn—No. 1, \$1.14; No. 2, \$1.04; No. 3, \$0.94; No. 4, \$0.84; No. 5, \$0.74; No. 6, \$0.64; No. 7, \$0.54; No. 8, \$0.44; No. 9, \$0.34; No. 10, \$0.24; No. 11, \$0.14; No. 12, \$0.04; No. 13, \$0.00.

CIVIL WAR IN RUSSIA.
London, Dec. 9.—A proclamation by the Russian Government announcing that "Kaledines and Korniloff, assisted by the Imperialists and Constitutional Democrats, have raised a revolt and declared war in the Don region against 'the people and the revolution.'"
The proclamation adds that "the Constitutional Democrats and bourgeoisie are supplying the revolting generals with scores of millions."
"The Workmen's and Soldiers' delegates have ordered the necessary movements of troops against the counter-revolution and issued decrees authorizing the local revolutionary garrisons to attack the enemies of the people without awaiting orders from the supreme authorities and forbidding any attempts at mediation."

PORTUGUESE REBELS OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT.
Madrid, Dec. 9.—A telegram received here from Oporto says that the revolution in Portugal has ended with the success of the revolutionaries, and that the Government has resigned.
Dr. Afonso Costa, former Premier and Minister of Finance, has formed a Provisional Government, including Dr. Sidonio Pass, formerly Portuguese Minister to Germany. It is reported that all is quiet in Lisbon and Oporto.



The 7,000 ton steamer Porsanger shown in the picture was launched Nov. 29 by the Canadian Vickers Company at Montreal. The Porsanger is the largest ocean-going vessel constructed in Canada. Inset is a portrait of Mr. P. L. Miller, manager of the Canadian Vickers Co.

BRITISH AND FRENCH TROOPS REACH FRONT ITALIAN LINES

Enemy Drive in Asiago Sector is Checked—Italians Can Now Hold Passes.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Dec. 9.—British and French troops have taken up their positions in the front Italian lines on this front. It will be cheering news to the allied world that allied reinforcements have now definitely taken their place on the actual Italian front and are to-day occupying trenches in the battered positions held by the Italian troops, now relieved for a needed respite.

The British position is around the heights of Montello, on the upper plain, where the batteries on the heights are already in action, and rifle fire answers the steady sniping from across the river. The French position is in an equally important sector.

THREE MONTHS' TRIP TO ARCTIC
Expedition Will Leave Dawson Soon To Get Mail.

A despatch from Dawson says: A Canadian R.N.W.M.P. expedition is being formed here to leave Dawson about the first of the year for the Arctic coast. The party will go directly across the Rocky Mountains through Seely Pass to Fort McPherson, 500 miles, all in the wilderness, using dog teams. Corp. Richardson will have charge, with three other officers and Indian guides making up the party.

BRITISH CAPTURE OLDEST TOWN IN THE WORLD, ANCIENT HEBRON

Situated 20 Miles South-West of Jerusalem—Site of the Tombs of Abraham and Other Patriarchs.

A despatch from London says: General E. H. Allenby reports that he has occupied the town of Hebron, in Palestine, the British War Office officially announces to-night.

Ancient Hebron, to-day called by the Arabian name El Khull, is situated about 20 miles south-west of Jerusalem, with approximately 15,000 inhabitants. Although the British forces are nearer to Jerusalem on the west and the north-west, the taking of Hebron is of interest because tradition identifies it as the site of the tombs of Abraham and other patriarchs. It is a hill of shining white houses banked about a noble mosque, and set between hills rich with olive, fig and pomegranate trees. In the mosque is the reputed tomb of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to which the 20,000 Mussulmans and the 2,000 foreigners alike do reverence.

One of the oldest towns in the world, Hebron, in the days of Joseph, was believed to have existed for 2,500 years. According to legends of the Jewish and Samaritan writers, the "field of Damascus," near the town, is that stretch of red earth from a handful of which God created Adam.

There is a grotto pointed out as the place where Adam and Eve hid after their expulsion from Paradise—the spot where they mourned for "Abel, murdered by Cain. The Mussulmans even mark the place, three miles to the south-east, where the murder occurred, and have a tomb which they believe to be Cain's.



They Should Worry.
John Bull and Uncle Sam have their own troubles, but they are little ones compared to Kaiser Bill's.

HAIG ADJUSTS CAMBRAI LINE

British Slightly Advance Lines Southwest of La Vacquerie.

A despatch from London says: The British have slightly advanced their line southwest of La Vacquerie, on the Cambrai front, it was announced officially on Thursday.

On Tuesday night, the official statement says, the British troops withdrew to the southwest of Noyelles-sur-Escout and Bourlon Wood. The withdrawal, it is added, was accomplished without the Germans appearing to be aware of it until late yesterday.

Minor hostile attacks south of Bourlon Wood were repulsed with severe loss to the enemy.

BIG HARBORS NEEDED WHEN GREAT WAR IS OVER.

A despatch from London says: Improvement in sea transportation was discussed at the London Chamber of Commerce, when Lord Dabernon emphasized the need of bigger ships of great speed after the war. He suggested the Government should start the provision of big harbors. About \$20,000,000 would provide for vessels of 38-foot draughts at practically all the leading harbors from Great Britain to the furthest dominions.

The report of the Dominion Royal Commission just issued gives memoranda and tables as to harbors throughout the Empire.

TO SURVEY RESOURCES OF ONTARIO'S FORESTS.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The Commission of Observation hopes soon to undertake a survey of the forest resources of Ontario similar to the investigations it has already made in British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Only the most fragmentary data respecting the forests of Ontario are now available, although there is a vast amount of detailed information in the possession of timber owners, Government officers and railways, which could probably be secured. The Commission is handicapped in undertaking such an investigation by the scarcity of competent foresters.

CANADA'S WAR OUTLAY NEARLY 152 MILLIONS.

A despatch from Canada says: Canada's war expenditure during the month of November totalled \$18,714,472, making a grand total of war expenditure to November 30 of \$151,969,271. The total net debt on November 30 was \$958,000,700, as compared with \$776,128,082 on November 30, 1916. Revenue for the month on Consolidated Fund account was \$24,222,946, and expenditure for the month \$12,922,635. Revenue for the eight months' period to November 30 was \$170,042,006, and expenditure \$79,566,862.

BAKERS MUST SAVE WHEAT FOR ALLIES' NEED.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Hon. W. J. Hanna, Food Controller, has sent a message to the bakers' convention in Toronto urging upon the delegates the necessity of considering by what means the consumption of wheat in this country might be reduced. He states in his message that owing to the distance of Europe from Argentina and Australia the allies will be dependent during the next three or four months on Canada and the United States for wheat supplies, and every effort should be made to see that that need is met.

AMERICAN RED CROSS SENDS AID

A despatch from Washington says: Aid for the stricken city of Halifax was started forward on Thursday night by the American Red Cross. On the special train sent from Boston by the Governor of Massachusetts were six experienced disaster relief workers with quantities of surgical supplies, bedding and clothing, and a special Red Cross train from New York carried food, mattresses, blankets, sweaters, overcoats and a large quantity of clothing for women and children.

CEREAL FOOD IN PACKAGES.

Food Controller Announces Change in Regulations.
A despatch from Ottawa says: Announcement is made by the Food Controller that licenses would be issued, permitting the manufacture and importation of specific cereal foods in packages of less weight than twenty pounds, under certain regulations. Dealers, other than those manufacturing or importing packages of cereals, will be exempted from the provisions of the order-in-Council of October 19.

CANADIAN SHEEP ARE PRIZE-WINNERS.

A despatch from Chicago says: Canadian sheep again came to the front on Thursday at the International Live Stock Exposition and carried away most of the honors in the South-down division. The sheep of Robert McEwan, of London, Ont., took the majority of the prizes. Many of the animals from these pens are of pure Scottish breed, and their importation has tended to keep the stock high.