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Giant Dirigible Explodes in Midair.

14 of Crew Killed when Crash Came--British and Americans Died Together--Sinn Fein Reply Being Considered--Prominent Canadian Dead.

AIR TRAGEDY.

HULL, England, Aug. 24.

Seventeen officers and men of the United States Navy, and twenty-seven officers and men of the British Navy, met death to-day in the collapse of the great dirigible ZR—2 over the city of Hull. Everyone of the United States men on board the ill-fated craft perished, as far as could be ascertained at midnight to-night. The disaster occurred while the ZR—2 was on what was intended to be her final trip before being turned over by the British builders to the United States navy for her flight across the Atlantic. The airship set out from Pulham early yesterday, but was prevented by storm from landing last night, and was cruising about to-day making further tests before proceeding to Pulham, in Norfolk, where it was intended to moor her. The dirigible was floating easily over this city shortly after 5 o'clock this afternoon, all being seemingly well with her when, according to survivors, a sharp turn was given her rudder and she swerved to toward the Humber. Apparently the strain of the turn was too much for her. Crowds gathered in the streets of Hull, intently watching the movement of the air monster, saw a sudden flash and heard a report of tremendous explosions, violent enough to shake the buildings beneath and break the windows in the city storefronts. Then the airship appeared to break in two and burst into flames, the crowds beneath, meanwhile running panic-stricken in all directions to escape the wreckage of the falling monster, which, it seemed, would drop directly upon the city. The fall of the dirigible, however, was into the river close to the shore and its piers, where it settled into the water. The following British officers are known to have been on board for the flight: Commodore Sir E. M. Maitland, Lieut. A. H. Swan, Lieut. I. C. Little, Lieut. R. S. Montague and Flight Lieut. Thomas. The United States officers on board were: Commander Louis H. Maxfield, Washington; Lieut-Commander Valentine N. Bieg, of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania; Lieut.-Commander Emery Coil of Marietta, Ohio; Lieut. Marcus H. Esterly, Washington; Lieut. Henry W. Hoye, Clearwater, Florida; and Lieut. Charles C. Little, Newburyport, Mass. Air Commodore Maitland, who is reported to have been lost with the ZR—2, was one of the foremost of British air pioneers and his loss, if confirmed, will be felt by all. Many rumours have been afloat for the past few days concerning the stability of the airship, and Commodore Maitland was quoted, whether rightly or wrongly is not known, as saying that the future of lighter-than-air travel largely depended upon the results this airship showed. (The ZR—2 has hitherto been known as the R38.—Ed.)

SINN FEIN'S REPLY.

DUBLIN, Aug. 24.

Eamonn De Valera and his cabinet began to-day what promises to be a final consideration of the Sinn Fein reply to Great Britain's terms for settlement of the Irish question. It was expected that the work would be expedited and that the complete draft of the reply would be ready for submission to Dail Eireann at to-morrow morning's session. It was apparent yesterday that Mr. De Valera and his colleagues wish to bring Sinn Fein bodies into accord on the subjects to be covered in the reply to Great Britain, and it seemed that differences of opinion had developed over the nature of the note. The reply will be delivered at No. 10 Downing Street on Thursday night or Friday morning, it is expected here.

REFUSAL PREDICTED.

DUBLIN, Aug. 24.

Belief was expressed here to-night that Dail Eireann's answer to the proposals of Premier Lloyd George for peace in Ireland will be refusal of the terms, but that the refusal will be followed with arguments seeking to continue negotiations. This belief was considered to be substantiated by the fact that two of the Under Secretaries from Dublin Castle, Messrs. Cope and McMahon, had talked to-day with Robert C. Barton and Eamonn J. Duggan, two prominent members of Dail Eireann. The conference lasted several hours, and is thought to have concerned the continuation of the truce in the event of the rejection of the Government terms.

KING FEISAL ENTHRONED.

BAGDAD, Aug. 24.

In the courtyard of the Government buildings at six o'clock this morning, Prince Emir Feisal, formaly ascended the throne of the Irak region. A great assemblage witnessed the ceremony. Sir Percy Scott, British High Commissioner for Mesopotamia, read the proclamation, declaring British recognition of Feisal as King, and handed him a personal message of congratulation and greeting from King George. This message announced the approaching conclusion of a treaty "to consecrate the Alliance into which we entered during the dark days of the war."

SIR SAM HUGHES DEAD.

LINDSAY, Ont., Aug. 24.

Sir Sam Hughes, former Minister of Militia and Defence in the Federal Government, died early this morning at his home here.

(Sir Sam Hughes, M.P., ex-Minister of Militia and Defence under the Borden Government, was born at Darlington, Ontario, on January 8th, 1853, and was therefore 68 years of age at decease. Educated at Toronto Normal and Model Schols and Toronto University. Elected M.P. (Canada) for Victoria and Haliburton Counties, 1904, 1908, 1911, 1917. Sworn in as Minister Militia and Defence 1911. Took part in Fenian raids of 1870. Served in South African War, 1899-1900, and was several times mentioned in dispatches. Knighted by His Majesty the King at Buckingham Palace and made a K.C.B., 1915. Resigned portfolio of Militia, November, 1916. Was twice married. Prominent in Masonic and Orange Societies and a member of the Canadian Conservative Club, his political affiliations being with that party. In religion Sir Sam was a Methodist. He has been ill for some time and though a robust constitution made several rallies, yet the end was not entirely unexpected. An active and aggressive personality in the national affairs of Canada, Sir Sam Hughes will be missed in Conservative circles.—Editor Telegram.)

U.S. PEACE WITH AUSTRIA.

VIENNA, Aug. 24.

The treaty of peace with the United States was signed at one o'clock this afternoon.

WARSHIPS FOR BLACK SEA.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Aug. 24.

A British airplane, which was making a practice flight on Saturday last, was brought down within the Turkish lines at Geiveh, thirty-five miles southeast of Ismid. Its pilot and observer were made prisoners by the Turks, who affirmed they were making a reconnaissance in it for the Greeks. The Turks also declared that the flight was proof that the British were assisting the Greeks. As the Turks are refusing to liberate the pilot and observer, the British are expected here to make reprisals against the Turks. British warships have been dispatched to the Black Sea.

BRITAIN'S POPULATION INCREASE

LONDON, Aug. 23.

The population of England, Wales and Scotland according to the new census, made public to-day is 42,767,530 as against 40,831,896 in 1911, representing an increase of 1,936,134 or 4.7 per cent. greater. London's population is 7,476,168, an increase of 3.1 per cent.

WILL STARVE RATHER THAN PAY DEBTS.

LONDON, Aug. 24.

Russia will be compelled to decline British and French famine aid, said the Pravda of Moscow, because these countries have agreed to assist only on condition that the Soviet Government recognize the debts of the former Russian regime, amounting to several million gold roubles. The newspaper, which is quoted in a Reuter despatch from Riga, declared the Soviet Government would prefer to purchase the necessary food itself at a cost of one hundred million roubles, rather than pay even the interest on these debts, amounting to about 500,000,000 roubles.

BAD RAILWAY SMASH.

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo., Aug. 24.

Two persons are dead, two are believed to be dying, from 25 to 35 others are injured, as the result of a wreck on the Rio Grande and Western Railway near Gale, Colorado, early to-day.

SUICIDE IN GROUPS.

RIGA, Aug. 24.

The number of peasants, threatened with starvation in the Volga region, is now placed at thirty million, by a Moscow wireless despatch. Of this number 9,500,000 are children. Several instances of hungry families committing suicide in groups are reported from Tartar villages, where, according to the despatches, peasants seal up their rooms, light fires in stoves, close up the chimney and await asphyxiation. Moscow announces that in the Government of Stavropol and in the Tartar Republic the Government's situation is becoming very serious and threatens to become even worse than that in the Volga region.

LEVIATHAN ON FIRE.

HOBOKEN, N.J., Aug. 24.

Fire broke out late to-day on army pier No. 5 near which the giant liner Leviathan is docked. The flames spread rapidly and soon enveloped the structure. The bodies of several hundred soldiers, dead, brought from France, are on pier No. 4. The mast and some of the woodwork in the forward part of the Leviathan also caught fire. Fanned by a strong southeast wind the flames soon spread to piers 4 and 6 and the evacuation of all movable property was begun. (Later: All the bodies escaped the flames.—Ed.)

WINSTON CHURCHILL BEREAVED.

LONDON, Aug. 24.

Marigold Frances, three year old daughter of Winston Spencer Churchill, Secretary for the Colonies, died last night at Broadstairs.

PANAMA WILL NOT RESIST.

PANAMA, Aug. 23.

The Panama Government has notified the State Department in Washington that Panama will not resist by force the demands of the United States that Costa Rica be permitted to occupy the disputed territory. President Parras of Panama made this statement to the Associated Press to-day.

MUTINY ON HIGH SEA.

NEW YORK, Aug. 23.

Two water tenders and firemen one of them a negro from the Steamship Alliance, which arrived to-day from Christobel, were held in $1,000 by United States Commissioner Stanton in Hoboken on a charge of threatening the ship's officers, and inciting to mutiny. The Alliance arrived with twenty Marines on board, transferred at sea from the battleship Connecticut, at the request of Captain Stone who feared open mutiny among the crew, which he said had been disorderly during a large part of the voyage.

THE SQUIRES HOLIDAY.

NORTH SYDNEY, Aug. 23.

Sir Richard Squires, Premier of Newfoundland, and family arrived on the Kyle this morning and left immediately for a holiday trip to Upper Canada.

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