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RUSSIANS ENTER ARMISTICE

FOUR THOUSAND KILLED, HURT SHATTERING OF HALIFAX; STORM ADDS TO MISERIES

Almost Entire North End Scene of Devastation and Death—Relief Being Hurried to the Stricken City From Many Points—First Detailed Story of the Disaster.

Halifax, Dec. 7.—Up to noon today there was no change in the police estimate of the number of casualties in yesterday's disaster. There are about 2,000 dead and the same number of injured, two-thirds of these suffering from 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. A 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 civil authorities and the newspapers of Halifax are making every endeavor to secure the names of the dead and wounded, but everything is in such a state of chaos that little progress is being made.

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 defenses, 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 powdered brick and stone, and human bodies crushed to a pulp or charred and blackened by fire.

How It Started.
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 caused by the explosion and caused conditions that were created. The crash came as suddenly and unexpectedly as the pain of a blow. Five minutes before the explosion men were going about their business, women were busy in their homes, and children played in the streets. The harbor steamed a ship laden with munitions, and 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. The first shock houses rocked, vessels broke from their moorings, bits of shell whistled through the air, buildings fell upon their occupants, shrieks and moans rose for a second above the awful din, and in the next moment the women and children ran into the streets, many of them insufficiently out in a hundred places, and those who were plucked down by debris met the most horrible deaths. Every variety of order was at first given that everybody should flee to the south of the city, and in a short time Barrington street, which was the main thoroughfare, was a scene of confusion. The vehicle was pressed into service for the sick and injured. Men, women and children hurried to the pavement and blocked the streets. Stores were deserted, houses forsaken, and the entire city was a scene of confusion. Groups were rushing anxiously back and forth like ants when the bombs had been crushed. There were blanched faces and trembling hands; a few had tears pouring down their cheeks, but there was no undue excitement and no disorder.

Wildest Rumors.
The wildest rumors were in circulation, and every variety of things was immediately surmised. The stories "let" nothing in the telling, until the brain reeled and the heart grew sick trying to picture the horror and devastation. When the flying automobiles brought the good word that the danger was under control and the people might return to their homes, the crowd tumbled back. Many, relieved of immediate fear for themselves, beheld themselves of relatives and friends in the North End, and started to walk there. Most of them returned heart-sick from the sights they saw.

Horror of Wreckage.
From North street on the horrors and wreckage grew. On the one side the King Edward Hotel stood a practical wreck. On the other the central portion of the railway station no longer existed. But the wreckage up to and including this point was nothing to that beyond. Houses were simply Continued on Page Eleven.

FRENCH FIRE DRIVES
OFF ENEMY ATTACKS

Paris, Dec. 7.—Two attempts were made by the Germans to attack the French lines east of the Meuse in the Verdun region last night after a heavy bombardment. The attacking forces, the war office announced today, were driven off by the French fire.

THE UNSEEN FORCES BEHIND UNION GOVERNMENT

(From the Toronto Globe of September 22, 1917.)
"In a sense far more tragic, far more terrible than Taft could have dreamed six years ago, Canada has been crowded by unseen forces to the veritable 'parting of the ways.' The fierce light flashed back by the experiences of these days upon the developments of the past half-dozen years reveals the secret and stealthy growth of alarming power of a hydra-headed monster, industrial, economic, social, and political, A MONSTER RUTHLESS AS ANY PRUSSIANISM, DEADLY TO THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL AS ANY DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS. It is the invisible Imperium of organized and selfish Money Power. It is the grasping hand of hard-featured Special Privilege, with its interlocked businesses, that plays both political parties, milks the blood of both, but is loyal to neither. It is the calculated patriotism of lip, that overtops all other voices in singing 'God Save the King,' but whose itching fingers plunder the pockets of the people.

A vote for the Borden Government is a vote for the 'hydra-headed monster'—'organized and selfish Money Power'."

DEATH LIST AT HALIFAX

Halifax, Dec. 7.—The following have been reported dead: Isaac Creighton, Dr. Murdoch Chisholm, Hogan, hotel-maker; John Harris, son of George Harris, who is also missing; David Whiston, West Young street; William Fairbridge; Mrs. Charles Stockhill, wife of the foreman of the Dominion Atlantic Railway, South street, and child; Mrs. J. Sweetman, wife of Rev. J. F. Sweetman, of Kay Street Methodist Church, and child; Mrs. Meyer, 55 Union street; Mrs. William Beaton, 55 Union street; Hazel, 55 Union street; Mrs. S. E. Rost, next of kin, Mrs. S. E. Rost, Nahoon, B. C. S. Noble; John Maloney, 1 C. R. watchman, Richard Station; Mrs. Gladys Kennedy, stenographer, Gunn's Mills, daughter of John Kennedy; Lebaron Coleman, Canadian Express Company; I. C. R. Policeman Burchell, North Street station; Edward Condon, chief of the Halifax Fire Department; Peter Broderick, captain Halifax Fire Department; Theo. Burgess, inspector Nova Scotia Trains and Power Company; Alexander Continued on Page Thirteen.

RUMANS JOIN RUSSIAN REDS

Troops of Rumania Have Agreed to Armistice Proposal.

Jassy, Rumania, Thursday, Dec. 6.—It has been decided that the Rumanian troops shall associate themselves with the Russians in the proposed armistice, though the Rumanians have rejected every attempt at fraternization, says an official announcement here today. Hostilities were suspended today and on Saturday.

AMERICAN SENATE FOR WAR AGAINST AUSTRIA

Washington, D. C., Dec. 7.—With less than one hour's debate the Senate today passed the resolution declaring war on Austria-Hungary.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.
Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 37; lowest, 18. The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 23; lowest, 16.

TOMORROW—FAIR AND COLD.

Forecast.
Moderate winds, some light local snow, but mostly fair and cold today and on Saturday.
Temperatures.
The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:
Stations. High. Low. Weather
Victoria. 38. Fair
Vancouver. 44. Clear
Calgary. 6. Clear
Winnipeg. 6. Clear
Port Arthur. 6. Cloudy
Port Stanley. 26. Cloudy
Buffalo. 24. Cloudy
Toronto. 23. Fair
Kingston. 20. Fair
Ottawa. 15. Fair
Montreal. 14. Fair
Quebec. 14. Cloudy
Father Point. 22. Fair
Minus (—) means below zero.
Weather Notes.
The disturbance which was on the south Atlantic coast yesterday morning has moved quickly northward, with increasing intensity toward Sable Island. Very cold weather prevails in the Western Provinces.

HUNDREDS OF VOTES SAVED BUT 600 LOST

Work of Gibbons Organization Insured Franchise.

APPEALS HEARING ON

600 Claims Entered for Place on Lists So Wilfully Depleted at Machine Behest.

The Labor-Liberal organization of George S. Gibbons saved the votes of hundreds and hundreds of Londoners. By constant warnings and urgings many who were inclined to let the matter go by default, believing that their names were certain to be on the list, who did not realize the possibilities for crooked work, were made to put up a fight for their ballot rights which will become historic.

There has never been such a desperate attempt made to steal an election. Candidates have permitted a campaign to be conducted which for mendacity, brow-beating and intimidation has no equal in the whole history of London.

Hundreds of appeals will be heard today in the appeal court opening at 2 o'clock, and at subsequent sessions. Many of these people are of liberal faith or their politics is not known, but with grim resolution they mean to demand their rights and to ascertain if possible why their names were left off the lists.

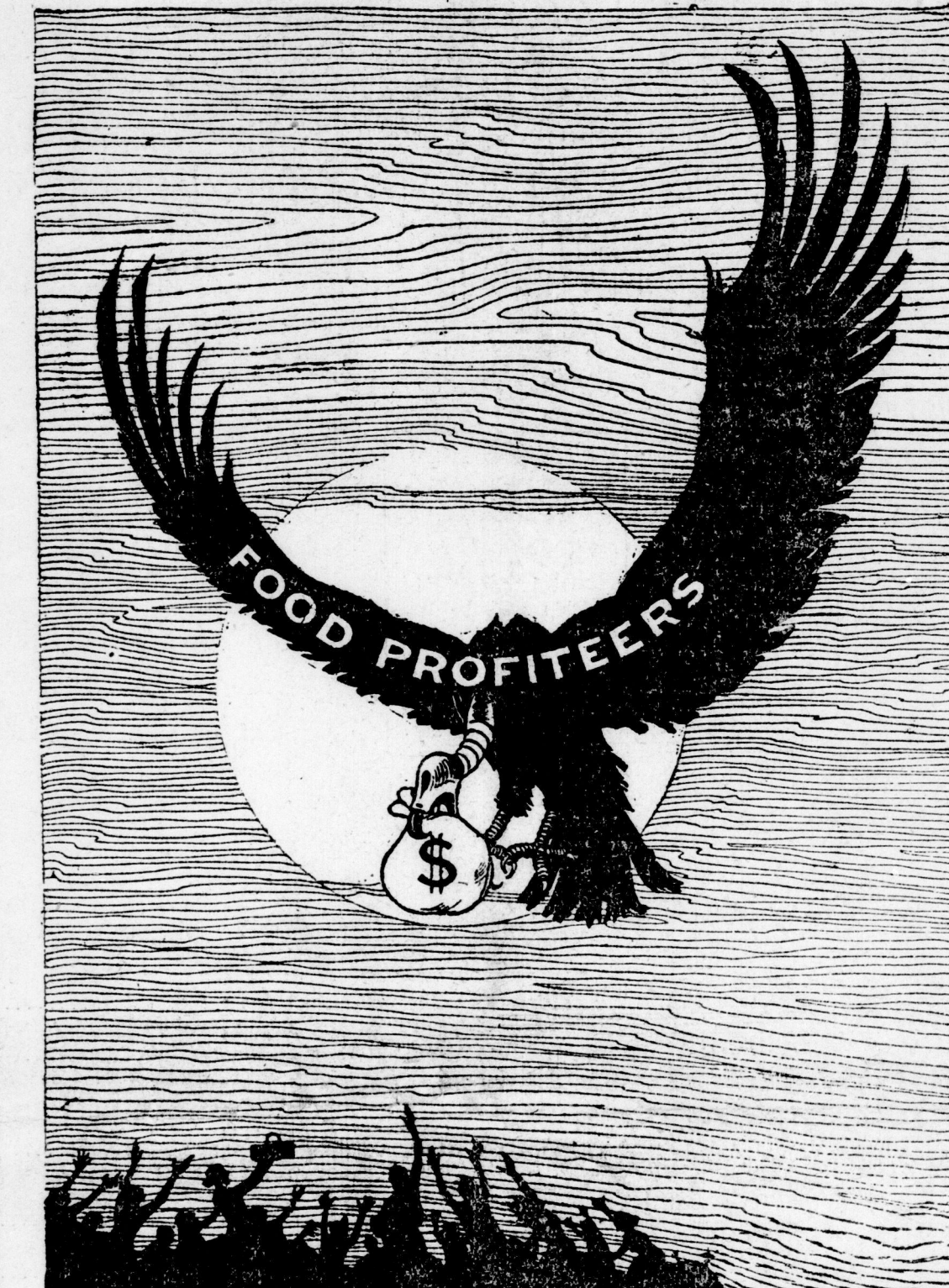
It is estimated that about 600 names have been omitted. Reports are coming in by the hundreds at the Labor and Liberal headquarters. It is striking that the large majority are known Laborites and Liberals, and it would not seem possible that they were left off accidentally.

A complete list of the men cut off has been made out, and they will appear before the appeal court on Saturday. Continued on Page Thirteen.

THOUSANDS AT TORONTO WILL BE ROBBED OF THEIR VOTES

Appeal Court Cannot Possibly Handle Vast Number Who Seek Hearing.

THE ENEMY AT HOME



LT.-COL. WELCH DECLARES HE IS TELLING WHAT HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS WOULD LIKE TO SAY

First Battalion Officer Who Resigned Command to Enter Campaign for Laurier Caused Violent Shock to the Unionist Party in Windsor.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Windsor, Ont., Dec. 7.—After firing a thunderbolt in the political campaign here last night, Lieut.-Col. T. B. Welch rested on his oars and stated this morning that he did not wish to elaborate further for the present the charges he made against the Borden Government and its administration. Before the campaign is over he would have something more to say, and he would make further statements in due time, he told The Advertiser, but for today he only wished to say that he was prepared to stand by all he had said at the meeting in the interests of W. C. Kennedy, Liberal candidate, Thursday night.

Today Windsor is still gasping to recover from the shock it has received, and Col. Welch's defection from the Unionist cause is the one chief topic of discussion. Consternation holds full sway in the Unionist circles.

"I want it clear that my address was not prejudiced. They gave me a good reception and a thoughtful hearing at the Liberal meeting. I have resigned my command, and entered the campaign to say what I believe hundreds of other military officers would like to say. But they are prevented by military etiquette and their sense of duty. I merely made a frank expression of my views last night. I do not wish to cause any sensation, and I have nothing more to say this morning than I said at the meeting. But when I am ready to speak further I will do so."

That it was a physical impossibility for Canada, with a population of seven and half millions, to maintain five divisions at the front indefinitely under any system of recruiting, voluntary or compulsory, that these five divisions were only being kept up to provide high commands for ambitious officers; that the Borden Administration had deliberately disrupted the voluntary enlistment system; and that the military service act, supposedly replacing it, was not being enforced, were points in Col. Welch's address which he declared would be used to substantiate and stand by today.

"Canada has a wonderful little army for Canada, with a population of seven and half millions, given to us through the courtesy and kindness of the British Government. But in the combined British forces, the C. E. F. is a mere bagatelle.

LONDON SENDS \$2,000 AS AID TO HALIFAX, N.S.

Controllers Pass Grant For Sufferers Today.

ALDERMANIC 'PHONE VOTE

Remaining Council Members Indorse Act and Money Goes Without Official Sanction.

The board of control has decided to send \$2,000 immediately to the city of Halifax to relieve the distress there, following that great disaster of yesterday.

At the board meeting today, Controller E. S. Little brought the question up, expressing belief that London should do something in view of such a calamity.

"The hearts of Londoners go out in sympathy with the stricken city," he declared. "We should do something, either in money or in goods. I feel sure that the citizens would be unanimously in favor of us doing this kind and sympathetic thing under the circumstances."

"I think money will be needed more than goods," said Controller Shaw. "I am heartily in favor of it. London should show the way."

It was decided to wire \$2,000. This will require the sanction of the aldermen, and a special meeting was suggested. However, it was decided, in view of the urgency of the occasion, to poll the aldermen by telephone and wire the money at once. The account will be officially named at a meeting to be held later.

City Clerk Baker called up the members of the council and found them unanimously in favor of the grant.

If the citizens of Halifax want goods from London, the money will be expended here. If not, the cash will be forwarded.

TORONTO DOCTOR GIVEN FOUR YEARS IN 'PEN'

For overnight reports of the Halifax disaster see pages 17 and 19.

CONSCRIPTION ARMY WILL BE TOO LATE SAYS GENERAL CURRIE

Commander-in-Chief of Canadian Force Declares Reinforcements Will Not Arrive In Time To Fill the Depleted Ranks.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 7.—The Vancouver Sun had the following yesterday:

"Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, commanding the Canadian forces in France and Flanders, states in a letter to J. R. Seymour of this city, his private opinion that the men now being massed in Canada will not arrive in time on the firing line to prevent an acute pinch, owing to dearth of reinforcements.

"Following personal matters, the general's letter from the Canadian corps headquarters says:

"I am glad to hear you speak encouragingly of what results may be expected from the enforcement of the conscription bill. I do sincerely hope that your expectations are not too sanguine, because I assure you that the question of men is a very serious one indeed. We have not felt the pinch as yet, but I know the time is coming soon when we shall feel it very acutely. I also know that the men being got together in Canada will not arrive in time. There has been a delay in this matter which is not only regrettable, but is unjustifiable."

VOTE GIBBONS AND SIR WILFRID LAURIER

My dear friend Advertiser, I am trying to get wiser—Is conscription the main issue after all? Or is it one of Borden's dodges, fathered by our friend (?) Bob Rogers.

To be used in this campaign as Battle-Call? To line up next door Quebec, or to save the Borden neck, To make him boss again, our lives and all.

Is conscription of man power the question of the hour, Or just election music for the song To be sung while Joe Flavelle lets the profits go to hell? (Someone else's—not his own—that would be wrong), And Quebec to war is sent, well, that is, say, three per cent, While the wealth conscription gets the go-along.

Will conscription of the graft that flourished fore and aft Under Premier Sir Robert be renewed? Or under Laurier, will there come a happy day When the people of our land, with faith imbued, Down the profiteers and hoarding, rotten Government and Borden, "Carry on" to unity and common good?

If this Union Government exempts the great per cent Of eligible Que-beckers, as they say, People of this province better recall a certain letter Mr. Rainville sent his followers one day. If Canada would unite to use her force and might To treat our boys half white who fight the valiant fight, Vote Gibbons and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

BERLIN CLAIMS LABOR RALLY IN 15,000 CAPTURED MASONIC HALL FROM ITALIANS THIS EVENING

Monte Sisemol Carried in Head of Dominion Trades and Other Leaders Will Give Addresses.

There will be a Labor meeting in the Masonic Hall this evening, to be addressed by J. C. Watters, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress; John Kennedy, Toronto, organizer for the Sheet Metal Workers of Canada; T. A. Stevenson, secretary of the Toronto District Trades Council; and George S. Gibbons, the Labor-Liberal candidate. Mayor H. A. Stevenson will preside.

PUBLIC FUND TO AID SUFFERERS

Subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers in the Halifax disaster will be received at the office of The Advertiser and also at the city hall, and the citizens are asked to give as liberally as possible to this worthy cause.

Mayor Stevenson announced today that subscriptions would be taken up and the city had headed the list with a contribution of \$2,000. The various chapters of the I. O. E. E. are also, it is understood, about to assist the work with a large contribution.

Those who wish to contribute may do so at The Advertiser office or at the city hall, where the subscription lists have been opened.

VICTORY LOAN TOTAL REACHES 411 MILLIONS

Ottawa, Dec. 7.—The Dominion executive committee, which had charge of the Victory Loan has been advised of a total number of subscribers of over 750,000 and a total subscription of over \$411,000,000. Until practically all the subscriptions have been received the minister will not be in a position to make a final allotment. In the meantime, however, he has decided to allow in full all subscriptions of amounts up to and including one million dollars.

Flavelle? Rogers? Allison? Mackenzie-Mann? Or a Clean Sweep?