

HUNDREDS DEAD IN HALIFAX; GERMANS DRIVE HAIG BACK

NOVA SCOTIA CITY AFLAME; U. S. ARMS SHIP RAMMED IN HARBOR; FULLY 400 PERISH

Frightful Explosion, Following Collision, Destroys Both Craft and Demolishes Docks and Warehouses—Fire Sweeps Nova Scotian Port

Heavy Toll of Life Taken, but Wire Communication Is Broken Off and Exact Estimates Are Lacking. Freight Cars Blown From Tracks—Many Buried in Ruins of Station

MONCTON, N. B., Dec. 6. Latest reports reaching here say the death toll of the terrific explosion at Halifax will probably reach more than 400 at the least.

AMHERST, N. S., Dec. 6. Hundreds are dead in Halifax, many buildings are destroyed and sections of the city are in flames as the result of a collision between an American munitions steamer and another ship, said to be a British cruiser, in the Narrows near the suburb of Richmond today.

SCORES BURIED IN RUINS The force of the explosion blew freight cars off the tracks, partly destroyed all the buildings from the Queen Hotel, on Hollis street, to the North Street Station, smashed the station roof and is believed to have buried scores in the blazing debris.

Communication with Halifax is very irregular. For a time all wires to the city were lost. Efforts are now being made to get more information. One of the last messages to come through declared the loss of life was appalling.

A private dispatch said virtually all the telegraph operators in Halifax had either been killed or wounded. The Great Northwestern telegraph company offices are opposite the Queen Hotel.

Richmond, near where the collision occurred, is directly across the harbor from Halifax. Reports here said the American munitions vessel was rammed broadside by the other ship, scattering death and destruction broadcast.

TORONTO, Ont., Dec. 6. "Halifax City is on fire," said a message received this afternoon by J. D. Field, Minister of Railways, from Division Superintendent of the Inland Department at Moncton, N. B.

The fire is spreading, declared the superintendent, and every city with an apparatus is also being called on. He is also picking up reports from Moncton and Sydney and richly laden with doctors and hospital attendants on their way. An arrangement for food supplies and to send coaches Halifax to take people away.

TIRO, N. S., Dec. 6. Twenty-five corpses of railway employees were found between Deep Water and Richmond following the explosion of an American munitions ship in the harbor. George Graham, manager of the Dominion Atlantic Railway, reported, latest reports received here place the dead at 300.

According to advices, the munitions ship was struck by a west-bound steamer, which was firing at the vessel. A crew remained bravely at work making strenuous attempts to sink her before the explosion.

Doctors and nurses, fire-fighting equipment and supplies are being rushed to the Canadian naval port from every city within eighty miles. The northwestern portion of the city is burning. From messages received here is evident the explosion came when

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ROMANIAN SHELLS MEET ENEMY'S "PEACE" MOVE Artillery Fires on Teutons Near Hihalestir—Gives Lie to German Stories

JASSY, Dec. 6.—Enemy attempts to alternate with Rumanian troops in the line of Hihalestir were met with artillery fire, an official statement declared today. In the region of Baltavodeni enemy batteries shelled Rumanian trenches. The Rumanian statement indicates no loss in the Rumanian fighting which has led to recent German-inspired

U. S. TO MERGE INDUSTRIES IN BIG WAR MILL

Factories Making Non-essentials to Turn Out Needed Products THOUSANDS AFFECTED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6. One-half of the industrial plants of the United States must be converted from producers of non-essentials into producers of essentials. With the appointment of George N. Peck, of Moline, Ill., as head of a special board under the War Industries Board, work has commenced upon the enormous task of turning the United States into one gigantic mill for the turning out of goods essential to the winning of the war.

Action on the new program began today. It is a part of the general war program of bringing every activity of the nation under centralized Federal control to insure against lost motion and waste of effort.

Thousands of factories throughout the United States, which now are engaged in manufacturing articles for which there is wide popular demand, but which do not contribute to the war machine, over night may be changed into factories in which the machinery of war will be turned out.

Establishments which have been making certain kinds of hatters will be turned into shops for rough forging. Factories which have been manufacturing toys will make gun parts.

Factories which have been manufacturing machinery for production of non-essentials will turn out shells. Tannin powder plants will make gunpowder.

FOE MASSES 15,000 GUNS ALONG PIAVE

Enormous Concentration of Troops Indicates Big Attack to Come ITALY HAILS U. S. MOVE

BERLIN, Dec. 6. Capture of 11,000 prisoners and sixty guns in the renewed Austro-German drive in Italy was announced by the War Office this afternoon.

"The 'Seven Communes' in the Meletta mountains were stormed and strong positions there maintained," the statement declared.

Under tremendous pressure from the enemy, Italian troops strongly defended positions around Meletta until order came to retire, today's official statement declared. Fighting on a scale of almost unprecedented violence was reported as attending the renewed Austro-German drive.

WITH THE ITALIAN ARMIES, Dec. 6. Fifteen thousand Teutonic guns concentrated over a front of fifty miles and enormous movements of enemy troops gave indication today that the Austro-German army was preparing its biggest push against the Pieve line.

Great guns have been moved up to strategic points in the line, Italian army reported. Some of these are already in action. All along the front the artillery is increasing its roar. The enemy is mixing gas shells with heavy explosive missiles.

The enormous concentration of reserves reported by aviators indicated the enemy is about to exert his supreme strength in another drive before winter slows up the fighting.

ROME, Dec. 6.—Italy is overjoyed that America is to declare war on Austria-Hungary. A nationwide demonstration of gratitude for America was being planned today.

News of President Wilson's recommendation to Congress, transmitted immediately to Italian soldiers at the front, has been sent by them to the enemy. Great signs were erected in the trenches, so that the Austrians opposite might read. Italian aviators dropped hastily printed messages by the thousands over the Austrian lines, informing them of America's decision.

A notable celebration is being planned in Milan to mark that city's gratitude to America. Rome is also planning a demonstration of students and civilians. It has already been decided here to serenade Ambassador Page.

RUPPRECHT'S ARMY SWEEPS FORWARD 2 MILES ON 6-MILE FRONT; FOUR TOWNS STORMED

Graincourt, Anneux, Cantaing and Noyelles, on Northern Side of British Salient, Captured in Powerful Drive of Teutons

Berlin Claims Capture of 9060 Men, 148 Cannon and 716 Machine Guns—English Commander Admits Withdrawal "for Short Distance"—Reports Gain Near La Vacquerie

BERLIN, Dec. 6. Capture of Graincourt, Anneux, Cantaing and Noyelles, as well as the wooded heights north of Marcoing, from the British forces was announced in today's official report.

"We advanced against the British to a depth of four kilometers (about 2 1/2 miles) and on a width of ten kilometers (6 1/4 miles)," the official statement declared.

"Between Moeuvres and Marcoing the enemy withdrew from the heights to the north to east of Flequiuries. "In the Cambrai area our prisoners were increased to more than 9000 men, 148 guns and 716 machine guns."

LONDON, Dec. 6. British lines southwest of La Vacquerie were "advanced slightly," Field Marshal Haig reported today.

The British commander-in-chief, however, announced another withdrawal "for a short distance" from a salient in the neighborhood of Royelles-sur-Lescaut and Bourlon Wood. The move was accomplished without interference from the enemy. Until late yesterday, Haig said, the Germans were not aware of the withdrawal. Prior to this readjustment of the British lines the enemy's field works area was systematically destroyed.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE, Dec. 6. Crown Prince Rupprecht continued his everlasting pressure on General Byng's salient today.

Heavy fighting was occurring on the northern and southern sides of the British "bulge" in the German lines. The weather is exceptionally clear. The cold, however, is covering the plain in shell craters with ice.

Bourlon is a pocket of hell. The trees of Bourlon heights are splintered away. The ground is evilly pockmarked by the dread disease of war.

Pools of slimy, suggestively red water stretch everywhere. Corpses are scattered about thickly. The defenders are too busy to bury them.

Overhead boche shrapnel bursts in an everlasting barrage. Gas shells mushroomed over the front and their deadly vapors about. Defenders must wear their masks virtually every minute of the day and night. Scouring around in the horse's of the wood, they fit into the picture sadly. They look like some Dantean fiends of the inferno in their scolding masks.

All roads in this hell spot are badly cut up. The German artillery is doing its best to concentrate on the British engineers, who are working day and night to keep the line of communication open.

Bourlon's hilltop is difficult of access. The enemy retains the high ground on both sides. He dominates Ametz and Graincourt valleys. The situation in this particular section is certainly not easy.

Scolded in School, Boy Hangs Self LANCASTER, Pa., Dec. 6.—After being reprimanded by his school teacher this morning when he failed to recite his lesson properly, Parke Reifensperger, aged eleven years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Diller Reifensperger, of Christiana, went to the barn at his father's home and hanged himself. He was found dead several hours later by his mother.

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Havana Results FIRST RACE, two-year-olds, purse \$400, 5 1/2 furlongs. Marauder, 112, Clamuel, 5 to 2 even 1 to 2. Grandeur, 108, Pot, 10 to 1 4 to 1 2 to 1. Udale, 100, Clear, 10 to 1 3 to 1 3 to 1. Time, 1:07 3/4. Tom Tit, Zuzus, Little Menard, Saver, Marguerite, Tipper, Watson, Laburnum III, Kala and Fossidon also ran.

New Orleans Results FIRST RACE, 3/4 furlongs. Hummer, 105, Wain, 5 to 1 8 to 5 7 to 10. Time, 1:00 3/4. Wain, 5 to 1 8 to 5 7 to 10. Wain, 5 to 1 8 to 5 7 to 10. Wain, 5 to 1 8 to 5 7 to 10.

QUICK NEWS

TILE WORKERS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERS INDICTED

Twenty-one members of the Philadelphia Tile Mantel and Grate Association, who do business in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, were indicted on charges of conspiracy to restrain trade in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law this afternoon by the Federal Grand Jury.

TOWN MEETING PARTY CONTESTS 43D WARD ELECTION

A petition contesting the election of William T. Scargle to Select Council from the Forty-third Ward was filed in Quarter Sessions Court late today by James J. Breen in behalf of Frank J. Schneider, the Town Meeting party and Democratic nominee. Schneider was elected on the face of the returns, but defeated by eighteen votes on the recount.

CHRISTMAS PACKAGES FOR TROOPS TOTAL 600,000

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—Approximately 600,000 Christmas parcels for American troops in France were received at the port of embarkation when the time for accepting packages expired.

STARVING FINNS IMPLORE AID FROM SCANDINAVIA

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 6.—The Finnish food committee publishes an appeal to Scandinavian countries to save Finland from starvation. The Bolsheviks have stopped all traffic between Russia and Finland.

ELLA FLAGG YOUNG TO AID LIBERTY LOAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Appointment of Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, former head of the Chicago public schools, and Mrs. A. S. Baldwin, of San Francisco, as members of the National Women's Liberty Loan Committee was announced by the Treasury Department today. Both women are on their way to Washington to attend the conference December 10.

CITY TREASURY HAS \$17,343,486.17 BALANCE

Exclusive of the sinking fund account there is a balance of \$17,343,486.17 in the city treasury, according to the weekly statement of City Treasurer McCoach. During the week the receipts amounted to \$1,630,359.26 and the disbursements to \$995,884.55.

TROLLEY FARES BOOSTED IN NEW YORK STATE

ALBANY, Dec. 6.—In addition to the decisions to permit six-cent fares on the Huntington Railroad Company, the Northport Traction Company, the Ithaca Traction Corporation and the Newburg-Orange County Traction Company, the State Public Service Commission has allowed the Hornell Traction Company to advance its charge to six cents and has permitted the Hudson River Eastern Traction Company to charge seven cents.

GERMAN AUXILIARY CRUISER BLOWN UP

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 6.—A large German auxiliary cruiser, probably the Russian steamship Bothnia, which was seized and armed by the Germans, was blown up in the sound, according to word received here today.

ALIEN ENEMY WARNINGS ARRIVE IN CITY

Posters and signs warning all alien enemies to keep outside of the 100-yard limit and smaller placards notifying aliens to keep off all wharves and docks, were received by the United States Marshall's office today. Marshal Frank J. Noonan will personally post the first card this afternoon.

P. R. R. DISCONTINUES PITTSBURGH-N. Y. EXPRESS

The discontinuance of the 1 o'clock P. M. express train from Pittsburgh to New York for the purpose of releasing motive power and crews and clearing trackage for the movement of necessary freight for war purposes, was announced by the Pennsylvania Railroad today. The order will take effect on December 11.

COTTON ESTIMATE SHOWS SLIGHT DECREASE

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—H. F. Bachman & Co. estimate the cotton crop of the United States this season at 10,838,000 running bales, excluding linters, against 11,363,915 running bales, excluding linters, in the previous season. The yield of lint cotton per acre this year is placed at 152.5 pounds, the per cent picked to December 1 is placed at 94.2, and the per cent ginned to that date at 89.3.

INSTALL ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS ON HUDSON

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—Two anti-aircraft guns will be installed on the Hudson Palisades, in West Hoboken. The guns will be in Ellsworth Park.

NEW MASKS ROB GAS ATTACKS OF MENACE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Apparatus affording complete protection against poisonous gases has been perfected by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, the Navy Department announced today. Under direction of the bureau chiefs for instruction of officers of the navy and the marine corps have been formed. In these classes the men are exposed to the gases under conditions simulating those in service. All of the appliances are used. In every instance the demonstration has been successful and the protection complete.

BIG INCREASE IN U. S. MONEY CIRCULATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The total money in circulation in the United States on December 1 was \$5,085,370,352 against \$4,924,928,348 on November 1 of this year, and \$469,398,308 on December 1, 1916. This makes the per capita circulation on December 1 \$48.05, as compared with \$41.73 on December 1 of last year.

BRAZILIAN WAR COMMISSION REACHES U. S.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Dec. 6.—A Brazilian commission has arrived here. It was met by a Brazilian consul. After conferences at this port it will proceed to Washington. It will remain for several months. The commission includes Colonel Alito Gama, Major Borges Fortes, Captain Alexander Bueno and Lieutenant Markidono Froguendes, the latter the secretary.

COMMISSION CUTS LIVE STOCK RATES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Reduction in the freight rate on live stock from ordered today by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The present rate favors intrastate shipments to St. Louis, it was held, and a schedule of new charges, ranging from 5 1/2 cents per 100 pounds for five miles or less, to 18 1/2 cents per 100 pounds for 350 miles, was established.

H. C. OF L. DRIVES OFFICE SEEKERS FROM CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—It is reported that the high cost of living at last has developed a useful purpose—it scares office seekers away from Congressmen. Representative Lee, of Georgia, got a hundred-dollar-a-month job for a constituent as an assistant doorkeeper in the House. The constituent arrived, looked over the hotels and boarding houses, which fairly bulge with occupants, gasped at the prices, and returned home.

POLICE DRIVE REBEL 'COPS' FROM PLAZA

Councils' Doors Closed in Patrolmen's Faces

STRIKE TONIGHT POSSIBLE RESULT

Men, Demanding Better Conditions, Start Meeting to Decide on Action

FIREMEN MAKE DEMAND

Increase of \$150 a Man, \$318,000 for 1918, Asked of Councils

Demands for an immediate strike were made by policemen at a meeting at Grand Fraternity Hall, after the doors of Councils had been barred to the discontented bluecoats this afternoon.

The doors of Councils were closed in the faces of nearly 500 city policemen when they marched in uniform to City Hall to demand an increase in wages, release from political work and other reforms with the alternative of a strike tonight.

Fearing a demonstration, Acting Superintendent of Police McCosch ordered squads of mounted policemen, reserves and City Hall guards to the north plaza of City Hall. Here a crowd of nearly 2500 citizens cheered the "rebels" as they witnessed the unusual spectacle of uniformed policemen ordering other uniformed policemen to "keep moving" and nearly riding down scattered groups of the "revolutionists."

FIREMEN ASK MORE PAY

A third demand on the city for more money—in addition to those from the police and water bureaus—was read this afternoon in Common Council while the mounted police were dispersing the crowds. The demand came from employees of the fire bureau, who asked an increase of \$150 a year for each employee.

When the portals of Councils were closed to the policemen there was a hurried consultation among officials of the Patrolmen's Benevolent and Fraternal Association, followed by a general meeting for Grand Fraternity Hall, 1628 Arch street. It was decided to call off the demonstration to avoid trouble. But the "rebels" may strike tonight at another meeting in the hall.

The scenes on the north plaza of City Hall in the spectacular march on Councils were unique in the history of the city. Harry M. Dickerson, financial secretary of the policemen's association, was nearly run down by a mounted policeman when he appeared in uniform. He was cheered as he dodged the charger of his brother officer.

CROWD CHEERS 'REBELS'

Prolonged applause from the crowd greeted Harry F. Johns, president of the association, recently "fired" as a policeman. The policeman ordered to prevent the "rebels" followed from holding a demonstration performed their duty with an apologetic air.

"This is the dirtiest piece of work in my life," the policeman said. "I will remember it to my dying day." Then he stepped forward and told a "rebel" to move on.

"That fellow was a general optimistic air among the 'rebels,' quiet determination to 'see the thing through' was evident on their faces. Here and there a more aggressive spirit was to be found. "What will you do if you are ordered away altogether?" a strapping bluecoat was asked.

"Clubs are trumps," he said significantly. "And we've got our jacks with us, too," chimed in another.

A flurry of excitement was caused when Lieutenant Buchler, of the mounted police, galloped by and ordered a group of six of the "revolutionists" to disperse.

"There goes Von Hindenburg," shouted one of the "rebels" as the military figure urged his horse on. A general laugh went up.

No objection has been made up to this time against the plans the police members of the association have arranged to appear in the chambers of Councils where an ordinance will be introduced providing for an increase in wages.

The communication from the city firemen, asking for increases in salary which would cost the city \$218,250 next year, was read in Common Council. A small delegation of firemen brought in the communication quietly and it was read aloud by Dr. Edward B. Gleason, president of Common Council. It was received without comment and will be referred to the Finance Committee.

The communication asked for a sufficient appropriation from Councils to give all employees of the Bureau of Fire, from battalion chiefs down, an increase of \$150 a year, starting January 1. As there are now 1055 employees of the bureau this would mean an added expense to the city of \$158,250, and, as it had been planned to increase the force by 400 employees on January 1, the city's fire bureau bill for 1918 would then be \$218,250 greater than had been expected.

"FRAME-UP" ALLEGED

The communication was signed by James M. Simister, president of the Firemen's Protective Association, who was

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THE WEATHER

THE FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity: Generally cloudy and continued moderate cold tonight and Friday; moderate winds, mostly northeast.

LENGTH OF DAY Sun rises 7:08 a. m. 1 Sun sets 4:29 p. m. DELAWARE RIVER TIDE CHANGES CHESTNUT STREET

300 AUSTRIAN MINERS SWEAR LOYALTY TO U. S. SHAMOKIN, Pa., Dec. 6.—Gathered at a religious fest, 300 naturalized and alien Austro-Hungarian miners swore allegiance to the United States. These men, about 200 Austro-Hungarian miners, in