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## HALIFAX BOOSTING SPIRIT OVERCOMES ALL OBSTACLES

### A Visit to Nova Scotia's Capital Gives Some Idea of the Extent of the Disaster and of the Spirit of the Haligonians in Counteracting its Effects.

"This is surely not devastated Halifax," remarked a Philadelphia visitor on arrival at the Halifax Hotel the other day. He had been to Boston and thought he might as well take a run through and see the ruins of Halifax. His first impressions were those of almost every new arrival. With the exception that one sees a roofless and windowless station, many barricaded windows and dilapidated buildings, the route from the North Street station to the chief hotel centres in the south end, would hardly indicate that Halifax had six weeks previously lost \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000 of property, from 2,000 to 3,000 of her population by violent death, about 4,000 more or less seriously injured, and about 3,000 who had quit the city, temporarily it is hoped, from fright and fear of a recurrence of the disaster.

Halifax is as busy, if not busier than ever. Her people are as optimistic as, if not more optimistic than ever. The streets and places of business bustle with life and stir. Halifax is already rising on the ashes of her dead self to be a better busier, more beautiful city than was ever dreamed of by the former town planning enthusiasts.

An auto drive through the devastated area under the personal guidance of Mr. G. Fred Pearson, Chairman of the Reconstruction committee and Col. Low, the reconstruction officer, who placed his services at the disposal of the Eastern Press Association, gives one some idea of the extent and effect of the disaster. The whole of the waterside section of the North end of the city has been practically wiped out. Nothing remains save debris, and as this, for the most part, is enveloped in a shroud of snow, it does not produce the effect on the sight-seer it otherwise inevitably would. One is told "there stood a row of tenements, there a factory, and there a busy thoroughfare." All one sees is a snowscape with here and there industrious workers delving with spade and pick axe for something they hope they will not find.

Leaving the waterside and proceeding towards the higher elevation of the city the immensity of the catastrophe is more forcibly impressed upon one's mind. Houses in collapse, like a pack of cards, others with frontage or rear bulging out and roof caved in, still others split in two as though a circular saw had halved them. Everywhere windows and doors are gone. Nowhere any sign of life, except in the passer by. Whether the inhabitants had been killed on the spot or had been carried out injured is left to conjecture, for most people have forgotten, if they ever knew, what happened to anybody or anything except themselves and their immediate surroundings on that never-to-be-forgotten morning of Thursday, December 6, 1917.

The ruins of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church and school, and St. John's Presbyterian church are two of the chief centres of melancholy interest in the residential quarters, for these are standing memorials of, if not the greatest, at least the most pathetic loss of life. Scores of little children, besides 400 adults, met their death at or near St. Joseph's, and over 400 members and adherents of St. John's were suddenly swept to eternity. Only a shattered shell remains of another infant death trap, viz: Roome St. School; here the school children were gathering for morning lessons when the end of the building was blown out, the roof fell in, and the entire interior was gutted, twenty children thereby losing their lives.

How did the disaster occur? Could it have been avoided? some one asks. In order to explain the situation the mournful sightseers turn their steps once more in the direction of the waterside. There they view the Narrows, an area of water about 400 yards wide, with ample space for three steamers to pass one another without risk. On Dartmouth side the Imo, the Belgian Relief ship, which was the immediate cause of the explosion, has anchored, a sadly battered wreck.

On the other side of her a steamer is seen lying ashore, while at a distance of a quarter of a mile inland another vessel is visible, carried thither by the force of the "tidal wave" which followed in the wake of the explosion.

"But couldn't the collision have been avoided?"  
Yes, easily enough by the observance of harbor regulations and the enforcement of precautionary measures. This was not done; vessels, irrespective of their cargo or classification were allowed to move inward and outward in the basin almost without restriction. Evidence at the inquiry now being held showed that the naval authorities who control the harbor knew two days in advance that the Mont Blanc with her deadly cargo was due in the harbor; and knew furthermore that the Belgian Relief ship Imo intended sailing the first thing the same morning. But no action was taken to prevent the possibility of an accident to the munition laden steamer. Not only so, but since the inquiry has opened, another munition laden steamer was allowed to pass an outgoing oil tank in the identical part of the Narrows, without any supervision by the naval authorities notwithstanding that special regulations forbidding this have been passed. The disaster might have been avoided by the enforcement of regulations and may be repeated if the present lax policy is permitted to continue. Halifax perpetually on a smouldering volcano is the present condition according to the evidence at the commission.

It is with pleasure one leaves the scenes of desolation and destruction for the hives of industry and reconstruction now in progress. The citizens have risen nobly to the occasion, and the work of providing for the homeless and planning for future rebuilding is going on apace. The work is under the direct supervision of Colonel Low and a better or more efficient officer could not have been selected. He has mastered the situation, and has reduced chaos to a semblance of order, and is now speeding ahead at a tremendous pace providing temporary dwellings for the thousands who are homeless living in tents and outhouses, or wherever shelter can be found for themselves and children.

On the Common a series of rooming houses have been erected with all the necessary conveniences of a kitchen-living room, and these rooms are rented at two dollars per month. In another section two streets or avenues of four-room tenements are almost completed. These are exceedingly comfortable and up-to-date in their construction, with bathroom and all modern conveniences, and can be rented at \$12 per month, providing 15 per cent, on the investment. They should form a model for similar dwellings in Charlottetown and other cities where houses at reasonable rent are greatly in demand.

In connection with the reconstruction work, over 2,200 men are already employed, and temporary barracks for them, with feeding and sleeping accommodation, have been constructed, and completed with a speed which indicates the driving force behind. Only seven days were required to build equip and make ready for use two barracks capable of accommodating 500 men. Colonel Low has his whole work thoroughly systematized, and can discover at a glance at any time the progress being made. In his office is a map plan of the city, studded with over 4,000 pins. Each of these pins indicates where repairs have been done. The area covered is about ten miles, and alas the Waterside is not included for its buildings have been wiped out. By a card filing system, ready access is obtained to the particulars of each building repaired, so that an instant and effective check is kept on both work and expenditure.

The conclusion of a tour of inspection leaves three distinct impressions on the mind.  
First, the utter inability of mere words to convey an adequate idea of the appalling nature of the disaster.  
Second, the spirit of the Haligonians in counteracting its effects.  
Third, the progress being made in reconstruction.

(Continued on page two)

## GREAT BREAD FAMINE SPREADS IN RUSSIA

### Political Upheaval Followed by Actual Scarcity of Foodstuffs, Soldiers and Sailors Peddling Food at Exorbitant Prices.

PETROGRAD, Jan. 25.—Since the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly and the disappearance of any immediate hope of reconciling the striving political parties, public attention in north Russia is centered on the bread shortage, the lack of practically all foodstuffs, the breakdown of transportation, and the commercial stagnation as the result of the closing of the banks. Moscow, Petrograd and all the larger cities of north Russia have little bread.

The bread allowance in Petrograd today has been reduced to a quarter of a pound daily, and the Food Commission has limited eggs to children under three years, each child to have four eggs a month. But eggs are not obtainable at any price. The commission also has limited fresh meat to children between the ages of three and twelve, with a half pound monthly to each child. Potatoes have been substituted for bread at Novgorod and many other places in North Russia, but the cost is equivalent to eighteen cents per pound in Petrograd, and consequently the masses of the people cannot buy them.

A general suspension of passenger trains began today in an effort to speed transportation of foodstuffs from Siberia and south Russia to the north. Members of the Railway Men's Union are remaining at their posts trying to maintain the transportation, but locomotives and cars are badly disabled and traffic is hindered by the masses of foodstuffs and soldiers from all sections of the country who insist that their trains have precedence over freight. Practically all trains arriving at Petrograd are crowded with soldiers, the windows in many of the passenger coaches having been broken by the passengers to get air.

Former bank employees in Moscow and Petrograd still refuse to work under the direction of the Smolny Institute. Withdrawals of cheques are limited to 500 rubles to each depositor daily, and long lines form at the banks because of the long delays and difficulty in getting money. Bolshevik agents are opening safe deposit boxes and confiscating hoarded gold and silver for the Government and turning hoarded paper money in to current accounts for the owners.

Street cars and lighting plants have suspended operations frequently in Petrograd because of the lack of fuel, and car lines when operating are so crowded by soldiers and refugees that much of the rolling stock is broken down. In Moscow the car lines are in a worse condition than here.

Soldiers and sailors have become peddlars throughout North Russia and are making excursions into the country and bringing back to the cities with bread, meat and tobacco and sugar. Although the city shops are without stocks, the streets are lined with soldiers offering supplies at high prices. Illuminating oil is unobtainable in Petrograd, and candles are selling at 75 cents per pound. One pound of sugar is allowed each person monthly by car at 22 cents per pound, but sugar bought without a card costs 75 cents a pound. Flour is unobtainable at any price and black bread when bought with cards costs five cents a pound, when available. Despatches from any points in the vast, largely unexplored districts report starvation conditions.

Thousands marched yesterday in a peaceful demonstration following the funeral service for M. Lovinov, a Siberian member of the Constituent Assembly, and the other victims of last Friday's demonstration. The city was quiet during the day. A holiday anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," January 9, 1905.

PARIS PREPARING FOR AIR RAIDS  
The Dominion Government is developing to the utmost the resources at its command for the building of modern steel cargo steamers, for which there is a pressing need. Three types of vessels, ranging from 3,000 to 10,000 tons in capacity, are being considered. One of the first and most important difficulties to be overcome is the providing for a supply of the necessary ship plates and shingles. At present builders are experiencing great difficulty in securing these articles, owing to the export priority regulations enforced in the United States, the market upon which Canada is largely dependent. Negotiations with responsible parties are now pending, with the object of establishing mills for the rolling of the necessary material for our maximum requirements.

During 1917 there was a remarkable development in shipbuilding in many points of the Dominion, due largely to the orders placed by the Imperial Munitions Board. At the close of the year these orders involved an outlay of \$90,000,000 on over one hundred steel or wooden craft with a total carrying capacity of 350,000 tons. Orders from Norwegian shipping companies have been placed for twenty-two steel vessels of 3,500 tons dead weight each. In addition to the foregoing many smaller vessels are being built for private account.

In every case, however, shipbuilders are seriously handicapped by the lack of skilled labour and of supplies. As to the former, in some localities unskilled labour is being turned to good account under the direction of skilled workmen, many of whom were trained in the days when wooden shipbuilding was an important industry in Canada. While this difficulty is likely to continue it is not so great as that of procuring supplies; the United States permits the export of the latter when intended for war vessels, but even then the restrictions are "red tape" and such as to cause long and frequent delays, but it is hoped that these may eventually be overcome by the plans now being formulated. The chief difficulty in the construction of wooden vessels in eastern Canada is to obtain British Columbia fir and Oregon pine, but this will be obviated to a great extent, it is hoped, by securing heavy timbers from the forests tapped by the Transcontinental Railway between Quebec and Moncton. Canadian Bank of Commerce Monthly letter.

### ANNUAL MEETING ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL

The adjourned annual meeting of St. Peter's Cathedral congregation was held in the guild room, last night with the Rev. Canon Simpson in the Chair. The meeting opened with prayer by the Priest Incumbent, after which Mr. L. W. Watson was appointed Secretary and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Church Warden in making his report showed that the total receipts from all sources during the past year had been \$6,635.91, of which nearly \$2,000,000 were for special purposes, including \$363.00 for Prisoners of War, \$229.00 for the Red Cross \$503.00 for Missions, \$97.00 for Armenian Relief and \$22.00 for Belgian Relief. All these amounts were raised by free will offerings, and no sales, teas or concerts, were held. The receipts, exclusive of the Hodgson Bequest, showed an average contribution of \$11.30 per capita of the congregation.

The Graveyard Committee made their report, and were congratulated on the great improvement made in St. Peter's Cemetery during the past year.

The Chairman referred to the departure of the Rev. Edwin Jukes, and a committee was appointed to secure another assistant.

The election of officers resulted as follows:  
Church Warden—Fred R. Foster, L. E. Brecken, J. O. Hyndman.  
Delegates to the Synod—W. L. Cotton, L. W. Watson.  
Substitutes—J. O. Hyndman, Lieut. H. M. Simpson.  
Treasurer—Mr. R. V. Longworth, Envelope Clerk—Miss Lily Fairclough.  
The usual votes of thanks were passed and the meeting adjourned.

der the direction of the Smolny Institute. Withdrawals of cheques are limited to 500 rubles to each depositor daily, and long lines form at the banks because of the long delays and difficulty in getting money. Bolshevik agents are opening safe deposit boxes and confiscating hoarded gold and silver for the Government and turning hoarded paper money in to current accounts for the owners.

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### INEFFICIENCY OF U. S. WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Standing firmly by his charge that the United States military establishment is enmeshed in inefficiency, Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon, chairman of the military committee, replied in the senate today to President Wilson's denunciation of his recent New York speech, by repeating the statement which drew the president's fire, and declaring that the president himself does not know the truth.

Senator Chamberlain declared he would show that the deaths of the hundreds and thousands of men at Cantonnets and camps were due to the war department and "that all epidemics could have been prevented if the war department had been effective."

## 10,300 IN DRAFT UNDER M. S. ACT

OTTAWA, Jan. 25.—The Military Service Act has thus far put 10,300 men into khaki. The figures are not complete in every detail, but they are based upon returns received by the military authorities here and are substantially correct.

These figures, however, do not represent the total number of men who have joined the Canadian forces since the Military Service Act came into force. They do not include men who have volunteered who were not affected by the draft, nor do they include those who have joined special units such as the Naval and Army Flying Corps.

No statement showing the number of men secured by the draft in the several provinces is yet available. The figures, in this connection, however, will be issued in a day or two.

## UNFORTUNATE RUSSIA

"If you lived here you would feel in every bone of your body, every fibre of your spirit the bitterness of it all."—Harold Williams in Petrograd correspondence of the New York Times.

How monstrous is the cataclysm of Russia! Try as we will to penetrate the black cloud that enshrouds that lost land, we succeed only in understanding a little of the reason of it. We cannot appreciate its reality. We could feel the bitterness of it, as the correspondent does, only by being there. Writing cannot describe the agony of Russia it can only vaguely indicate it.

A flood is loose that no dams can stay. It is rolling on and surging more wickedly every day. Its strength is uncontrollable, its devastation seems endless. And the great pity of it is its beginning, for it was unleashed to drown out a great evil—the evil of oppressing, treacherous, betraying, czarism—and it has become more appalling than the evil. There can be no going back, there seems to be no line to escape, and the end is hidden.

The beginning: Czar-crowned bureaucracy, betraying Russia, and the armed Russian millions for German promises and German gold, and planning a mock revolution as an excuse to openly leave its allies in the lurch, and the armed millions providing a real revolution in place of the mock one, the leaders of this hoping to free Russia at once from the oppression of the old rule and the danger of the German enemy. And then, the thing taken out of their hands by the great Russian hordes, ninety per cent, of whom are absolutely illiterate, their ignorance the fertile soil for blind anarchical Bolsheviki.

It is the ignorance on the part of the multitudes—the ignorance of what it means, and where they are being led, is most appalling, most pathetic. The Times correspondent indicates a little of the tragedy of the ignorance.

Red Guards and sailors are patrolling the town today, and a certain amount of shooting is heard, but who is shooting, or why, it is difficult to discover. A snowstorm is raging in this season of all winters, and it is as though all the powers and elements of darkness were rushing and roaring in the whirlwind that envelops this city of gloom. Who knows what tomorrow will bring?

And the heedlessness on the part of the ignorant! A sailor interrupting the Constituent Assembly struggling with the problems of all the nations, and demanding an adjournment because the guard was tired! Children in the midst of a holocaust. And all the while there is "robbery, plunder and the cruelest forms of murder" forming a very part of the atmosphere.

"The tyranny of today is worse than the tyranny of Nicholas II, yet it would be the extreme of folly to wish Nicholas back, for if he was, combined with the long, long, past Russian tyranny that is crowding down on Russia today in new wild despotism of chaotic revenge for the wrongs of many generations."

It is all without intelligent aim as far as the illiterate millions go, but the blind instruments of this new tyranny have an aim. The correspondent gives it thus:  
The Bolsheviki are emphatically not pacifists; their object is to substitute for war between nations, war between classes. The class line is to cut across the national line, and in a new violent war, calling the revolution of the proletariat of all countries, is to possess itself of its accumulated wealth of civilization. They glory in all the violence directed against ruling classes; they despise the laws and the deonencies that they consider effete; and they trample on the arts and the refinement of life. It is nothing to them that if in the throes of a great upheaval the world relapse into barbarism.

An example of this is in the killing in their beds of Shingoroff and Korkoskin, two former ministers. What did it matter to the blind Bolsheviki that Shingoroff was a "democratic" and through, absolutely devoted to the interests of the people, never wavering from his principles, or that Korkoskin was a social leader of the world!

How black and terrible is it all! Ottawa Journal.

## MILITARY DECISION NOT YET IN SIGHT

### American Thinks Decision will not be Secured Before 1919 or 1920. Americans at Present Burden Rather Than Help to Allies.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Army men in England and France believe that a military decision cannot be reached before 1919 or 1920, when America will contribute her real military strength, said Representative George H. Tinkham, of Massachusetts, in a speech in the House of Representatives the other day. He said:

"Much evidence shows that although Germany is very short of food, she is not starving. There is also much evidence that Germany today has a larger number of men under arms than at any other time during the war; although their quality is not as good as formerly.

"The results in France of American efforts up to the 1st of December, in a strictly military way, have been practically negligible. The number of men there is much smaller than the American public believes; and although food and clothing were good in quantity and quality, the lack of general supplies has a most demoralizing effect upon all preparations and efforts. Neither France nor England has these supplies in sufficient quantities to spare them to America, and unless, with any new troops that are sent across, general supplies accompany them in sufficient amount, their presence in France will be a burden rather than a help."

## LABOR PARTY FAVOR WILSON POLICY

NOTTINGHAM, Jan. 26.—Preliminary to the annual conference of the Labor party, which opened today, a joint conference of the Trades Union Congress and Labor party was held yesterday, and adopted a resolution to erect, or select in London a suitable building, where the two organizations can meet together, as a national Labor memorial to freedom and peace, commemorating the heroic deeds and unselfish devotion of their comrades in the war.

The Right Honorable Arthur Henderson, leader of the Labor party in the House of Commons, who moved the resolution, in the course of his speech said that he hoped they were taking today a stand in the field of international politics from which they would never recede, and he favored a great Labor Temple, where international delegates could assemble with a feeling of pride and ownership.

"We are expecting to get into a conference that will result in a peace settlement," he said, "and I know no section of the community to whom the intimation of peace will come with greater satisfaction and delight."

Welcome Six Main Principles.

Mr. Henderson has sent a circular to all the delegates enunciating the Labor party's peace aims, as previously published, and welcoming the six main principles laid down by the de facto Russian Government. The circular declares that all the Socialist parties in Europe are now in accord in essentials, and agree with the Bolsheviki. It adds: "So, also, judging by his published statement, does President Wilson. We and our Russian comrades do not believe that the imperialistic British press is representative of the British soldiers or civilians. If we had met at Stockholm we should have learned to understand one another better. The British Government's refusal of passports for Stockholm was among the capital blunders of the war."

## THE WEATHER. TEMPERATURE TIDE, MOON, ETC.

TODAY IS THE 127th DAY OF CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR.  
TORONTO, Jan. 29.—Easterly gales, snow.

The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 1 degree above. At 10 a. m. it was 5 below, at 9 p. m. it was 3 above. The lowest the previous night was 7 below.

The tide will be high this afternoon at 12:43 and tomorrow at 1:12; it will be high tomorrow morning at 12:20 and Thursday a 1:02.

The sun sets this afternoon at 5:24 and tomorrow at 5:26; it rises tomorrow morning at 7:38 and Thursday at 7:37.

The moon rises this evening at 8:17.

The moon was full on Saturday, January 26th at 10:14 p. m.

The last quarter of the moon will be on Monday, Feb. 4th at 2:52 a. m.

The length of today will be nine hours and forty five minutes.

### COMING EVENTS. ANNOUNCEMENTS. MEETINGS, ETC.

\*\*REV. E. P. CALDER will lecture on the Ministry of the Sword in the Baptist Church, Friday night, Feb. 1st at 8 o'clock for patriotic purposes. Silver collection.

## SOCCER GAMES IN THE OLD COUNTRY

LONDON, Jan. 25.—Severe frost and a heavy fall of snow caused a cancellation of the whole of the Scottish league games on Saturday. Ten inches of snow fell, while the frost was so severe that the Tay, Dee and Loch Lomond were frozen over.

## Minard's Liniment Cures Distemper

A FIGHT TO A FINISH AGAINST SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON

LONDON, January 23.—The big fight is on against Sir William Robertson and the imperial general staff. Evidently it is a finish fight. Colonel Repington, famous military critic and war office critic is accused of hiding the truth about Cambria disaster and blocking officers' advancement.

## Minard's Liniment Cures Rheumatism

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CONDENSED SPECIALS:  
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## BRIGHT BOY IS WANTED AT Guardian Office. 1841-12-22Mtr

JOHN A. MacDONALD, LAND SURVEYOR, HERMANVILLE, 2357-1-25E16lpd

FOUND A SUM OF MONEY, APPLY Rankins Drug Store. 2393-1-29M3I.

WANTED—TO PURCHASE, SECOND-HAND typewriter, Apply Guardian Office. 2289-1-23Mtr.

WANTED—COUNTRY BOY FOR STORE. Address Active, Guardian. 2378-1-28M2I.

LOST FRIDAY NIGHT 25th BETWEEN 195 Kent St. and People's Theatre, or in Theatre district, FINDER leave at 196 Kent St. 2400.

WANTED—SHINGLE MACHINE. State cash price. E. E. Warren, North River, P.E.I. 2375-1-28M6lpd.

FOR SALE ONE COW NEWLY CALVED, Ashby grade. Apply Trainor, Bedford. 2344-1-25M4lpd.

WANTED—A MIDDLE AGED housekeeper. Apply Guardian. 2369-1-28M2lpd.

TO LET A MODERN SEVEN ROOM house at Brighton immediate possession, Ring 240. 2341-1-26M6I.

WANTED TO RENT HOUSE WITH modern conveniences, on or before first of March. Apply at this office. 2300-1-23Mtr.

WANTED—DRESSMAKING BY THE day in the City. Charges reasonable. Apply "A" Guardian Office. 2372-1-28M2lpd.

WANTED—A GIRL FOR GENERAL housework. Apply Mrs. P. C. Brown, 196 Richmond St. Dtt. 2152-1-14M3pdt.

POTATOES—I AM NOW OPEN TO buy potatoes and turnips every day. Geo. S. McLure, Elliotts, P. E. I. 2374-1-28M3I2E2I.

NURSE WOULD LIKE WORK BY the day or week, will do housework also. Apply Ernest, Melniss, Southport. 2333-1-29M6lpd.

REV. E. P. CALDER WILL LECTURE on the Ministry of the Sword in the Baptist Church, Friday night, Feb. 1st at 8 o'clock for patriotic purposes. Silver collection.

A concert will be held in the Hall at Vernon Bridge on Thursday, Jan. 31st. Proceeds in aid of Red Cross. Coffee and cake served. Admission 25 cents. 2370-1-28M2lpd.

Entertainment and basket social in Rustico Hall, Wednesday, Jan. 30. Admission 25 cents, reserved seats 30 cents. Ladies with baskets free. Proceeds in aid of Red Cross. Mr. Chas. Earle will sing. If not fine on Wednesday will be held on Thursday evening. Doors open at 7. Programme begins at 7.30. 2366-1-28M3lpd.

WANTED—TEACHER FOR CAMPBELLTON School, No. 92, Supplement \$100.00. Apply to H. B. McKay, Sec. of Trustees, New London, P. O. 2384-1-29M3lpd.

WANTED—Highest prices paid for silver, cross and red foxes, mink Muskrat and other furs. B. Roy Holman, Confederate Life Chamber, 158 Richmond St. City. 2395-1-29M3I.

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.