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WARSHIP BLOWS UP

French Fighting Machine Shattered by Explosion. THREE HUNDRED ARE KILLED

Fire Breaks Out In Battleship Liberte and Spreads to Magazines—The Crew Fight Desperately to Stem the Disaster But Are Finally Permitted to Escape When It Is Too Late—Other Warships Suffer.

Toulon, France, Sept. 26.—The battleship Liberte was torn apart and totally destroyed by an explosion of her magazine yesterday. Three hundred officers and men were killed.

This is the greatest disaster that has ever fallen upon the French navy, and in magnitude is almost without precedent in the annals of the world's fighting ships.

Late last night the naval authorities declared that the number of victims is greater than at first supposed. The official estimate is now given as between 350 and 400 dead or missing.

At 5:35 the first explosion occurred. It was followed by three others at one-minute intervals. Then came the final explosion, the terrific reverberation of which shattered the windows of the whole city and was heard for a radius of many miles.

The Liberte was rent asunder. Her bows were thrown high in the air and then the vessel slowly settled down, and in nineteen minutes nothing was visible but the top works.

Those still on deck were hurled skyward amid a shower of iron and steel. The boats of the rescuers were sunk and serious damage was done to the Republic, which lay at anchor close by.

Two of her decks were stove in, and one of the Liberte's armor-plates were hurled against her port side and demolished the cabin of an absent engineer.

For a few minutes after the final explosion an intense black cloud of smoke hovered over the harbor. When it shifted, a horrible spectacle met the eyes of the people of Toulon, who, awakened by the first explosions, had hurried to the shore.

The twisted upper works of the battleship were protruding from a mass of formless wreckage, among which struggled the seamen from the rescuing boats that had been sunk by the flying debris or sucked down in the maelstrom.

The explosion, which wiped out one of France's newest and most powerful battleships, occurred at 5:53 o'clock in the morning. It was preceded by and was the result of an outbreak of fire. The flames spread rapidly in spite of all efforts to master them, and reached the magazines before there was time to flood them.

The magazines exploded with tremendous violence, sowing death and destruction in every direction.

The fire was first discovered at four a.m., and the bugles immediately sounded the alarm. The crew rushed to quarters and fought desperately the spreading flames, but it was soon evident that the fire had obtained a firm hold.

Signals of distress, and these despatched steam pinnaces and launches at full speed to assist in the work of extinguishing the flames and rescuing the men. But their services were of little avail.

The position of the fire made it impossible to flood the magazines at this time; nevertheless, efforts to do so were made, and finally the commanding officer, realizing that the ship was doomed, ordered the bugler to sound the "Sauve qui peut" (Let him save himself who can), and shouted to the men to jump for their lives.

GOVERNMENT'S AIM.

Sir James Whitney Speaks at Prison Corner-Stone Laying.

Guelph, Sept. 26.—Sir James Whitney's speech at the laying of the corner-stone of the administration building at the new provincial prison near Guelph yesterday was brief. He made no reference whatever to the political situation, though it was the great topic of discussion all day among the party which gathered for the ceremony.

Sir James was handed a silver trowel by Hon. W. J. Hanna to "well and truly lay the stone." The stone was inscribed: "This corner-stone was laid by the Hon. Sir James Pliny Whitney, Prime Minister of Ontario, the 25th September, 1911." The box placed in the stone contained coins of the realm, the current newspapers of Toronto and Guelph, and a Canadian Almanac, which latter, as Dr. Gillmour blithely remarked, "contained the names of those who were members of Parliament."

Sir James pointed out that, while the idea being worked out by the Government at this institution was not a new one, it was with a desire to ameliorate the conditions of those who had come within the criminal law because of small infractions.

"As regards these men, the infliction upon them of that just and necessary punishment which our law, and the law of all civilized nations requires, and which is required by God's law, shall be inflicted with due regard for their future welfare and happiness," said Sir James, who then pointed out that it was the aim of the Government to see to it that these people who had been the victims of misfortune, should, when they regained their liberty, carry as slight a handicap as possible.

Ordinary considerations of common sense and elementary fair play required that their lot should not be made any harder than necessary for them to redeem themselves.

The Prime Minister then called on Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary, and father of the new provincial prison scheme, to review the history of the movement, and to give the gathering some idea of the progress that had been made.

Lunchon was served in the new Trades Building, at the conclusion of which further inspection of the big estate was made.

The Strike in Ireland. Dublin, Sept. 23.—The first fruits of the declaration of a general strike of the railroads of Ireland by the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants were not particularly promising from the standpoint of the union. Only about thirty of the local staff of the Great Northern Railway responded to the call and the local men of the Midland Great Western refused to quit.

The trains of the Great Northern system were being operated as usual yesterday. The strike on the Great Southern & Western Railway continues to be the mainstay of the general movement. Queenstown has been cut off from railway communication with the interior.

The fact that the executives of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants are Englishmen has not tended to make the strike order popular among Irishmen.

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TWO MORE RIDINGS

Conservatives Carry Gaspe and Chicoutimi-Saguenay.

HON. R. LEMIEUX DEFEATED Minister of Marine Will, However, Still Have His Alternative Seat In Rouville and Will Sit In the House For That Riding—Vincent Talks of Contesting Hon. Chas. Murphy's Election—Earl Dined.

Montreal, Sept. 26.—The two deferred elections in Quebec those in Gaspé and Chicoutimi-Saguenay, took place yesterday and resulted in the return of two members who may be added to the majority against the Government.

In Gaspé the latest returns indicate the defeat of Hon. R. Lemieux, Minister of Marine, by Dr. C. P. Gauthier, who is leading by 558. Mr. Lemieux will, however, be a member of the new House, as he was elected last Thursday in Rouville.

In Chicoutimi-Saguenay there were four candidates in the field, the victor being J. Girard, the late member, who was first elected as a Conservative, but who supported the Government in the late Parliament. Mr. Girard's majority so far as heard from is given as 1,200.

Russell's Majority. Ottawa, Sept. 26.—The majority of Hon. Chas. Murphy in Russell County is 1,108. There is talk of his election being protested by J. W. Vincent, Conservative candidate, on the ground of irregularities. The majority of Hon. Achin in Labelle is 98.

Neely Is Safe. Winnipeg, Sept. 26.—Latest bulletin from Humboldt gives Neely, Liberal, 4,000, with twenty poll's still to hear from.

Leaders Meet. Ottawa, Sept. 26.—R. L. Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier met for the first time since the election last night at a dinner tendered the Governor-General by the Rideau Club. Both leaders supported the toast to His Excellency.

The possibility of the appointment of a royal commission to investigate the spending departments is being discussed in Ottawa. The Conservative opposition moved repeatedly for such a commission and it was refused. Another suggested move by the incoming Government is the rearrangement of portfolios with the Departments of Commerce and Labor amalgamated, and the census added.

Prairie Laurier's Decision. London, Sept. 26.—The Pall Mall Gazette says the cancellation of Laurier's ultimatum, reciprocity or retirement, was doubtless prompted by his chivalrous regard for the plight in which his followers would otherwise find themselves. With a leader like Laurier, Canadian Liberalism will be far from being an ineffective critical force.

The Westminster Gazette says: "For our part we never saw in reciprocity any danger to the Empire, because that would mean the Empire depended on a tariff wall which is the keeping of the United States."

The Sheffield Independent says with the Conservatives in power "there will be such a tightening of the grip around Canada's throat as will prevent her from breathing. Laurier's policy brought prosperity; his rival's will inevitably cause a revulsion, ultimately meaning the free exchange of natural products."

Steamer Ramm'd and Sunk. Port Huron, Mich., Sept. 23.—The steamer Joliet was ramm'd and sunk by the steamer Henry Phipps early yesterday morning in the St. Clair river. The crew got away on pieces of wreckage. A heavy fog prevailed.

BRIEFS FROM THE WIRES.

Snow fell at Montreal yesterday morning. Capt. Bernier and the steamer Arctic have arrived at Quebec. The Methodists of Canada raised \$650,000 last year for missions.

A movement is on foot by American manufacturers for reciprocity with countries other than Canada. Sir Donald Mann expects to see the completion of the Canadian Northern transcontinental line in two or three years.

The front of the building at 134 King street west, Toronto, fell to the street as one man narrowly escaped death.

Mr. John Waldron, returning officer at Washago, was brutally beaten in his house and the ballot-box was stolen.

Hon. Sir Lomer Gouin predicts the early return of the Liberals to power, in an interview given in Montreal yesterday.

Hon. S. N. Parent announces his resignation of the Chairmanship of the National Transcontinental Railway Commission.

Three thousand Jews who left Kiev following the assassination of M. Stolypin, fearing that they might be the victims of racial riots, have returned.

A. E. Shank leaped in front of an engine and knocked eight-year-old Wm. Hayes out of the way. Shank's escape from being struck was almost miraculous.

Dr. J. C. Clarke, an amateur aviator of New York, who was to try for his license today, fell 260 feet in his Queen Blériot monoplane, sustaining such injuries that he died at 7:50 o'clock last night in the Nassau (Long Island) Hospital.

Twenty-three of the Vienna food rioters were condemned to serve jail terms amounting to ten years and seven months. Stone-throwing was penalized with a year at hard labor, while persons accused of tripping up police men got two years.

Chinese Conditions Better. Toronto, Sept. 23.—Conditions in West China are improving, according to a telegram received at the Methodist Mission rooms yesterday from Chungking. The message also reported the arrival of W. B. Albertson, R. E. Taylor and C. W. Baldorf from Chengtu.

Another message from Chungking, received late yesterday afternoon, reported the arrival from Chengtu of Rev. A. C. Hoffman and family and Miss Hall Spens. "Serious disturbances here; communication with Chengtu very uncertain; excitement abating; government efficient; all are well," read the message.

Mr. Shore feels very much relieved, as the responsibility of the missionaries in China during the recent riots worried him very much.

Killed by Street Car. Montreal, Sept. 23.—Antoine Croteau, a boy of sixteen, met death under the wheels of a street car at the corner of St. Denis and Ontario streets yesterday afternoon, when employees of the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Co. rolled a pole, which they were about to erect, against the wheels of the wagon which he was driving, throwing him from his seat on to the tracks.

London Woman's Suicide. Rochester, N.Y., Sept. 22.—Nellie O'Kane, 31 years of age, of London, Ont., committed suicide yesterday afternoon by taking carbolic acid in the yard of a residence on East avenue.

An empty carbolic acid bottle was found on the ground near her. In her purse was a letter written by her, addressed to Jim Downes, 527 Greggs street, London, Ont., Can. A note was found which read as follows: "These letters to be mailed. They don't know I am in Rochester, and if you send a message do it quietly, for my sister is not strong and they will tell you what to do, if they want my remains sent or not."

ANXIOUS FOR PEACE

Germany Endeavors to Pacify Italy and Turkey.

ITALIANS WANT 'TRIPOLI' Country Is Now Roused and Demands a Speedy Occupation of North African Province—Germany's Effort to Stem Tide of Hostility Is Caused by Fear of Resultant Disturbances in the Balkans.

Berlin, Sept. 26.—Although Germany has not offered formal plans it is known that she is exerting her best efforts at Rome and Constantinople to bring about a peaceful settlement of the controversy between Turkey and Italy over Tripoli. Germany regards hostilities between those two countries as a menace to European peace, since it would probably be followed by an outbreak of the Balkans, into which Austro-Hungary and the other powers might be drawn.

Germany advocates as a solution of the question Turkish recognition of Italy's special interests and her abandonment of opposition to the economic development of Tripoli by Italy and also of the recognition by the latter country of Turkish sovereignty.

Germany's position is a delicate one as she is bound by an alliance to Italy and by friendship to Turkey.

Italy Is Aroused. Chiasso Sept. 26.—According to the latest advices received here the whole of Italy, with the exception of a section of the Socialists now demands the speedy occupation of Tripoli. The Socialists argue that Italy is not sufficiently prepared to stand the heavy expenses to enter colonial competition.

In the meantime the Italian Government is taking the present opportunity to experiment in the partial mobilization of the troops. The entire fleet is now ready for war, including the smallest and the oldest ships. The coast fortifications have been strengthened to meet any attack. Sixty steamers have been chartered for the transport of 35,000 soldiers, war material, aeroplanes and dirigibles and Red Cross workers.

The contingent of soldiers kept in service after their time had expired, with the reserve called up, bring the standing army to 80,000 above normal. The troops intended for Tripoli are chiefly in the Naples, Sicily and Taranto Barracks.

King Victor Emmanuel has expressed a chance to review the troops before they leave for Tripoli, but definite decision has not yet been reached.

A Narrow Escape. Parry Sound, Sept. 22.—Edward Savage of Toronto, aged 23, had a narrow escape from drowning while swimming in a creek near Bolger. He had dived off a boat and became entangled in the weeds. Inspector McClelland of the provincial police and J. C. McMullin of Toronto were standing on the bank and noticed his distress. The former cut the rope of a canoe which was near and Mr. McMullin jumped on and went to the rescue. He was just in time to haul Mr. Savage in by the hair of his head as he was going down for the last time.

CANADIAN PACIFIC SPECIAL RATES TO THE COAST Vancouver Victoria Seattle Portland Spokane FROM LINDSAY Second Class, Sept. 15th to Oct 15th Proportionate rates from Ontario Points. Through train Toronto to Vancouver 10 20 p.m. daily. I.C. MATCHETT, City Agent of J.W. ANDERSON, Depot Agent

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