

# FOUR THOUSAND INJURED AND 1,100 KILLED AT OPPAU, GERMANY

## Series of Explosions in the Badische Anilinfabrik Chemical Plant in the Rhine Palatinate Lays Flourishing Town in Ruins—French Army Corps to the Rescue.

A despatch from Mannheim, Germany, says:—Desolation and ruins alone remain of what was once the flourishing town of Oppau. The town had 6,500 residents, of which a majority of the men engaged in the chemical works were killed or wounded by a series of explosions in the Badische Anilinfabrik chemical plant at Oppau, in the Rhine palatinate, 40 miles from here. Soldiers in French uniforms are clearing away the wreckage, picking up the dead and injured as after a big battle.

Eleven hundred dead and four thousand injured is the latest estimate of the disaster, which caused a greater number of casualties in the Mannheim-Ludwigshafen district than the four years of war. The desolation around Oppau equals anything seen at Verdun or in Flanders over a similar area. Hundreds of persons are digging in the ruins for the bodies of relatives or friends, nearly a thousand of which have been recovered thus far.

Thirty-six hours after the explosion, from the gaping, funnel-like hole where the Badische works formerly stood, there are still to be heard moaning and cries of the wounded, while the soldiers search for possible survivors.

Twenty-five hundred of the injured are reported to have passed through the hospitals of the surrounding cities.

The vast crater is slowly filling with water, and it may never be known how many victims found a grave there. All mutilated but still living animals crawling amidst the twisted girders and blocks of concrete are being put out of their misery. The firemen and relief workers have not yet been able to discard their gas masks.

The Thirty-Second Army Corps of the French Army is in complete charge of the area and every available French medical officer had arrived early Thursday morning to co-operate with the German physicians and surgeons. The French and German Red Cross are co-operating and a big German sanitary train has brought large quantities of medical supplies. The German officials thanked General Degoutte for the prompt manner in which the French Army came to the assistance of the victims.

The French High Commissioner on the Rhine, M. Tyrard, and his entire staff, took charge of the relief work. The members of his staff were sent to all the surrounding towns to enlist the mayors and people in the relief plan, in which the labor unions are uniting. Several of the funds have already assumed large proportions.

Several French soldiers were killed and many wounded when the force of the Oppau explosion wrecked the French barracks at Eisenheim. A train which had just left that station was blown off the tracks, plowing through the wooden sheds where French soldiers of occupation were quartered.

General Degoutte personally decorated a Moroccan soldier who rescued eleven wounded from the wreckage, the African being severely burned about the hands and neck.

Primarily, it is reported, the disaster was caused by the explosion of fifteen tons of ammonium sulphate in the preparation of a new gas, in which the pressure of 300 atmospheres and a temperature of between 500 and 700 degrees Centigrade were needed.

French military authorities were represented by General Lenetz and Dandand. Both these officers brought wreaths and expressed condolence to President Ebert and Premier Lorchfeld. Herr Ebert, replying, said he was touched by the manifestation of human sympathy which had set aside the barriers arising from the war.

### FRENCH AID OPPAU EXPLOSION VICTIMS

#### Relief is Now Organized by Germany for Relief of Stricken Town.

Oppau, Germany, Sept. 25.—The German talent for organization is beginning to show itself, but none too soon. In the early days of confusion following the explosion at the Baden Aniline Company's works, it was overlooked that the sudden stamping out of a town renders the population that survives utterly helpless. A vast throng of sightseers from neighboring cities devoured the foodstuffs that were left after the accident, and but for French assistance the people of Oppau would have had to endure famine. Now all roads leading to the town are barred and a well-organized relief expedition is at work.

Efficiency is revealing itself even in voluntary efforts. Every hotel and restaurant in Western Germany has its relief fund to which every guest contributes willingly, usually at least to the extent of the amount of his bill. The problem, however, still remains of providing work for the survivors. According to the statement of the labor minister, who was visiting here to-day, it is hoped to reopen the one remaining erect building for the manufacture of ammonia.

There is still no satisfactory theory for the explosion. The fertilizer being made was regarded as unexplosive and under prolonged tests had behaved like an inert mass of rock. Chemists agree, however, that a rise in temperature acting on the free nitrates in the fertilizer must have been the cause. A scientific commission is at present engaged in investigating.

It is estimated that 70,000 persons to-day attended the funerals of the victims of the Oppau explosion at the Ludwigschafen cemetery. The

### SERIOUS SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE

#### Hungary Has Army of 200,000 to Fight for Strip of Land.

A despatch from Vienna says:—The West Hungarian question is nearing a crisis. Hungary is determined to resist evacuation, with an army estimated at 200,000 concentrated along the Austrian-Czecho-Slovak and Jugo-Slav frontiers. The Austrian Chancellor, Schober, went on Saturday to the frontier town of Marchegg to meet the Czecho-Slovak Minister Benesh, to decide the question of the armed intervention which the little entente has offered Austria. The situation is fraught with grave possibilities.

#### Thanksgiving Day Fixed for November 7th

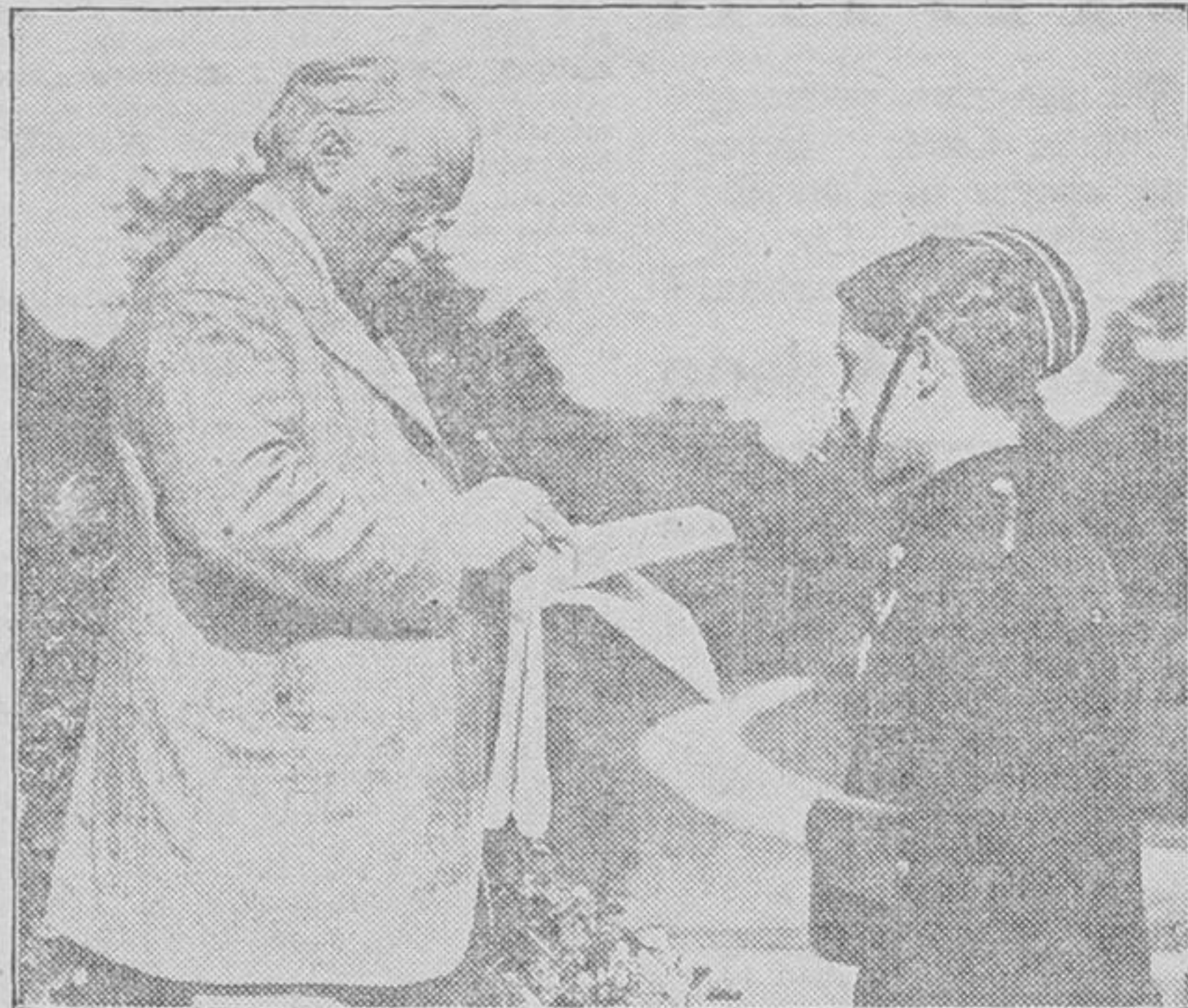
A despatch from Ottawa says:—Legislation passed at the last session of Parliament provides that the Monday of the week November 11th, the anniversary of Armistice Day falls, shall be Thanksgiving Day. Thanksgiving Day this year will thus be Monday, November 7th.

Kerosene lamps are generally of from ten to twenty-five candlepower. The brightest run up to about 100-candlepower.

## ELEVEN NEW MEMBERS IN PREMIER MEIGHEN'S CABINET

Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs—Right Hon. Arthur Meighen.  
Railways and Canals—Hon. J. A. Stewart, Lanark (new).  
Trade and Commerce—H. H. Stevens, Vancouver (new).  
Justice—R. B. Bennett, Calgary (new).  
Postmaster-General—L. deG. Belley, K. C., Quebec (new).  
Secretary of State—Rodolphe Monty, Montreal (new).  
Health, Immigration and Colonization—Dr. J. W. Edwards, Frontenac (new).  
Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment—R. J. Manion, Fort William (new).  
Customs and Excise—J. B. M. Baxter, St. John, N.B. (new).  
Public Works—Hon. F. B. McCurdy (no change).

Finance—Sir Henry Drayton (no change).  
President of the Privy Council—Dr. L. P. Normand, Three Rivers (new).  
Agriculture—Hon. S. F. Tolmie, Victoria, B.C. (no change).  
Labor—Hon. G. D. Robertson (no change).  
Marine and Naval—Hon. C. C. Balfantyne (no change).  
Interior—Sir James Loughheed (no change).  
Militia and Defence—Hon. Hugh Guthrie (no change).  
Without portfolio—E. K. Spinney (no change); Sir Edward Kemp (no change); James Wilson, Saskatoon (new), and Edmund Bristol, K.C., Toronto (new).  
The portfolio of Solicitor-General remains to be filled.



A UNIQUE PHOTOGRAPH OF BRITAIN'S PRIME MINISTER D. Lloyd George, at Inverness, signing a message boy's book after receiving a parcel from London. He is using the gold pen which he used to sign the peace treaty.

## FRANCE'S MOST FEARLESS AVIATOR KILLED NEAR ETAPLES

A despatch from Paris says:—Bernard de Romanet, one of France's foremost air pilots, was killed Friday morning near Etaples while trying a monoplane for use in the international air championship for the Deutsch de la Meurthe cup. Romanet was runner-up for the world's speed record last fall, being beaten by a small margin by Sadi Lecoq. They are the only two men who have flown at a speed of over 300 kilometres an hour, Romanet making 309 and Lecoq's 313. This record was attained after a thrilling duel lasting nearly a month, in which the two airmen continually outstripped each other, victory ultimately going to Lecoq.

The aeroplane Romanet was flying on Friday morning was transformed from a biplane. During the war a machine with a convex wing was tried

by Gilbert, but abandoned because it was considered too dangerous. Recently the lower plane was removed. Romanet himself said a few days ago: "The machine is terribly rapid and dangerous. It would be impossible to use it for military or commercial purposes. But it will help us on the road to the discovery of a wing which, while giving greater security for the pilot and the passengers, will have the speed qualities. It will enable us to attain a normal average speed of 300 kilometres an hour, instead of only 180 to 200 as at present, but without added danger."

Although well aware of the danger, Romanet was willing to fly the machine in the coming speed trials. He never refused to fly anything. After the race was over he intended to try out a new metal aeroplane, and also a helicopter.

### SINN FEIN CHIEF MUST EXPLAIN STAND

#### British Cabinet Ask De Valera to Make Definite Statement of His Position.

A despatch from Gairloch, Scotland, says:—A copy of the draft of the British Cabinet's reply to de Valera will be sent to every member of the Irish Cabinet. This means that all will be held responsible for the final draft of de Valera's answer. It is expected that this will delay the Irish reply for a week or more.

It is learned that the present draft is likely to be the Government's final letter. The ministers are debating the capacity in which the Irish representatives will attend the conference, as well as the "basis" for the conference. It is felt by the members of the British Cabinet that de Valera's letter admits of more than one interpretation on these points, and de Valera will be asked to make a plain and definite statement as to the basis on which he is willing to confer.

The attitude of the Government is that the only possible basis is the continuance of Ireland as a part of the British Empire. Those hoping for peace gather little consolation from the Gairloch meeting, as a strong section of the Cabinet wishes to sternly insist upon the abandonment of de Valera's sovereignty claims as an essential preliminary to any conference. They are pressing the view that the

Government cannot bandy words indefinitely. They complain that de Valera is making no concessions whatever, and profess alarm that he will bring up the question of sovereignty as soon as the conference meets, and nullify everything. On the other hand appeals to the Cabinet not to break off the negotiations do not fall on deaf ears. The present time is, therefore, a period of suspense, and things are not nearly so hopeful after the Gairloch meeting as they were before.

### Manitoba Has a Large Hemp Crop

A despatch from Winnipeg says:—The hemp crop of Manitoba for 1921, the first year that it has been cultivated extensively, will be large, according to a local company under whose direction individual farmers in the province seed and grow the hemp. Five hundred tons of fibre will be realized, it is estimated, and cutting of the crop has been started at Portage la Prairie, where 200 acres are under cultivation. More than 400 acres have been sown to hemp in the Swan River area.

### Has Significant Bearing on Irish Situation

A despatch from Belfast says:—Sir James Craig, the Ulster Premier, announced here on Friday that the Northern Irish Parliament would adjourn, not until February as had been expected, but to the end of November, with the special provision that the Speaker should, on the advice of the Ulster Cabinet, be authorized to call an emergency sitting when necessary. The Premier's announcement is considered here to have a significant bearing on the Irish negotiations.

New Zealand has 4,391 registered apiaries, representing more than 50,000 colonies of bees.



Major-General Griesbach M.P. for West Edmonton, who has been appointed to the Senate.

## EIGHT PERSONS PERISH WHEN BOAT UPSETS IN LAKE SUPERIOR

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Sept. 25.—Eight persons lost their lives in a squall that swept over Lake Superior two weeks ago, it became known last night, when the disappearance of a party of berry-pickers was reported to the authorities here by Adam Lewis. The party set out in a sailboat from Shell Drake, north of here, for Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. Investigation showed that the sailboat capsized about a mile off the beach between here and Shell Drake. The victims were Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis, Mr.

## The Leading Markets.

Toronto.

Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.55, nominal; No. 2 Northern, \$1.51, nominal; No. 3, \$1.47, nominal. Manitoba oats—No. 2 CW, 55c; No. 3 CW, 53c; extra No. 1 feed, 53c; No. 2 feed, 49½c. Manitoba barley—No. 3 CW, 77½c, nominal.

All the above track, Bay ports. American corn—No. 2 yellow, 69c, nominal, Bay ports.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 43 to 45c. Ontario wheat—No. 2 Winter, per lots, \$1.25 to \$1.30; No. 3 Winter, \$1.22 to \$1.27; No. 1 commercial, \$1.17 to \$1.22; No. 2 Spring, \$1.20 to \$1.25; No. 3 Spring, nominal.

Barley—Malt, 65 to 70c, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—No. 2, nominal. Rye—No. 2, \$1.00.

Manitoba flour—First pats., \$9.85; second pats., \$9.35, Toronto.

Ontario flour—\$6, old crop. Millfeed—Del. Montreal freight, bags included: Bran, per ton, \$27; shorts, per ton, \$28; good feed flour, \$1.70 to \$1.80.

Baled Hay—Track, Toronto, per ton, No. 1, \$24; No. 2, \$22; mixed, \$18.

Cheese—New, large, 21 to 21½c; twins, 21½ to 22c; triplets, 23 to 23½c. Old, large, 28 to 29c; twins, 29 to 29½c; triplets, 29½ to 30c; Stilltons, new, 24 to 25c.

Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 33 to 35c; creamery, prints, fresh, No. 1, 42 to 43c; No. 2, 39 to 40c; cooking, 22 to 24c.

Dressed poultry—Spring chickens, 35 to 40c; roosters, 20c; fowl, 30c; ducklings, 35c; turkeys, 60c.

Live poultry—Spring chickens 20 to 25c roosters, 16c; fowl, 16 to 20c; ducklings, 35c; turkeys, 50c.

Margarine—22 to 24c. Eggs—No. 1, 44 to 45c; selects, 50 to 51c; cartons, 52 to 54c.

Beans—Can. hand-picked, bushel, \$4 to \$4.25; primes, \$3.50 to \$3.75.

Maple products—Syrup, per imp. gal., \$2.50; per 5 imp. gals., \$2.35. Maple sugar, lb., 19 to 22c.

Honey—60-30-lb. tins, 14½ to 15c per lb.; 5-2½-lb. tins, 14 to 17c per lb.; Ontario comb honey, per doz., \$3.75 to \$4.50.

Choice heavy steers, \$7 to \$8; butcher steers, choice, \$6 to \$7; do, good, \$5 to \$5.50; do, med., \$4.25 to \$5; butcher heifers, choice, \$6 to \$6.50; do, med., \$4 to \$5; butcher cows, choice, \$4.50 to \$5; do, med., \$2.50 to \$4; canners and cutters, \$1 to \$2; butcher bulls, good, \$3.50 to \$4; do, com., \$2 to \$3.50; feeders, good, 900 lbs., \$5.50 to \$6; do, fair, \$4 to \$4.50; milkers, \$75 to \$95; springers, \$80 to \$100; calves, choice, \$12 to \$13; do, med., \$9 to \$10; do, com., \$3 to \$5; lambs, good, \$8.50 to \$9; do, com., \$6 to \$7; sheep, choice, \$3.50 to \$4; do, good, \$2 to \$3.50; do, heavy and bucks, \$1 to \$2; hogs, fed and watered, \$9.50 to \$9.75; do, off cars, \$9.75 to \$10; do, f.o.b., \$8.75 to \$9; do, country points, 8.50 to \$8.75.

Montreal.

Oats, Can. western, No. 2, 60½ to 61c; do, No. 3, 59½ to 60c. Flour, Man. Spring wheat pats., firsts, \$9.50. Rolled oats, bag, 90 lbs., \$3.10 to \$3.20. Bran, \$27. Shorts, \$29. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, \$28 to \$29.

Cheese, finest easterns, 16½c. Butter, choicest creamery, 36c. Eggs, selected, 45c.

Good butcher steers, \$6.50 to \$7; good fat cows of dairy type, \$5 to \$5.50; light thin heifers, \$3; green calves, \$3 up; good veal calves, \$10 to \$12; lambs, \$8; sheep, \$2 to \$4; hogs, \$10.

### CANADA'S CENSUS LESS THAN EXPECTED

#### Wonderful Advance Made if Figure Reaches Eight and Half Million.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—If Canada gets a population of 8,500,000 it will be considered to have made a wonderful advance in population in the past ten years.

In the 10 years from 1901 to 1911, the increase was about 30 per cent., but in the previous ten years the percentage of increase was only about 10 per cent. In 1911 the population was about 7,200,000, and if it were 8,500,000 now, that would be a gain of 18 per cent., which is considered too high in view of the stoppage of immigration on account of the war and the exodus of many people of foreign birth after it.

It is not expected that the preliminary estimate of the census of the Dominion will be given before November 1.

and Mrs. Simon Lewis, George Field and three children. Harry Brooks, a lumber camp worker, declared he saw the craft in trouble about five miles north of here. It labored for some time in the heavy sea, he said, and finally turned over. Adam Lewis, in reporting the disappearance of his relatives, who lived on the Indian reservation at Garden River, 10 miles from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., said he had not worried about their continued absence until a few days ago.