

# THE DAILY NEWS

VOL. VIII. NO. 288.

PRINCE RUPERT, B. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## SAVAGE FIGHTING ON ITALIAN MOUNTAINS

### GERMANS ENDEAVOUR BREAK THROUGH--HELP RUSHED TO STRICKEN HALIFAX

#### THE DEATH ROLL IN HALIFAX IS STEADILY MOUNTING UP

RESCUE WORK PROGRESSING SLOWLY IN BLINDING SNOW-STORM AND FREEZING COLD--INDESCRIBABLE SCENES--CONDITIONS IN DARTMOUTH ACROSS THE HARBOR ARE EVEN WORSE

(Special to The Daily News.)  
Halifax, via telephone to St. John, N. B., Dec. 7.—The appalling death toll here as the result of the explosion of the French munition ship *Mont Blanc*, when she was rammed by the Norwegian vessel *Imo*, which was carrying supplies for the relief of Belgium, was steadily increasing early today, with the relief work of rescuing the bodies progressing very slowly. Conservative estimates made by the city officials at 9 o'clock this morning placed the number of dead close to twenty-five hundred.

The scene as dawn broke over the city was indescribable. Here and there about the smoking ruins of what had been their homes were seen men and women scantily clad, clawing at the wreckage frantically with bleeding hands in an effort to find their lost relatives. Freezing cold and a heavy snowstorm added to the sufferings of the wounded and shelterless, while fires which were believed extinguished broke out again. So far there has been no reliable account of the dead, and two thousand is the lowest estimate.

**At Dartmouth.**  
Even worse conditions than in Halifax have turned Dartmouth, the town across the bay, into a place of death and suffering. The heavy snowstorm which set in early in the day impeded the work of relief and rescue, but it helped the firemen to fight the flames. The devastation extends from North Street to Afriville on the shores of Bedford Basin, and about two miles from the waterfront to Gotingen Street to a depth of three-quarters of a mile. There is not a building in the city that did not suffer, while the hospitals are filled with the injured. Women separated from their families are to be seen going around panic-stricken. Many of the crews of the ships in the harbor have also been killed. On one steamer, out of a crew of sixty-two men, twenty three were killed.

A very large number of people are missing, among whom are many of the leading citizens. The fire chief and his deputy are dead. The operator sending the press left his key on hearing the news that his wife was dangerously injured.

#### The Latest.

Halifax, Dec. 8.—Five thousand casualties, two thousand dead and three thousand injured, is last night's official estimate of the toll exacted in human life and suffering by explosion and fires. Some of these found dead yesterday

evidently had died of wounds by their postures. Apparently they had made desperate attempts to crawl into the open before losing consciousness. Many of the injured are dying. The police are attempting to round up the lost children who are wandering through the appalling wilderness of wreckage weeping bitterly or calling for mothers. Doctors, nurses, medical and food supplies have arrived from Truro, Windsor and Moncton. A special train was sent from Boston by Governor McCall of Massachusetts which is expected to arrive this evening with further aid. All business is suspended and the schools closed, while the inhabitants are turning their attention to relief work. The military hospital at Rockland was not destroyed, nor anyone there seriously injured.

#### How It Happened.

It was the detonation of four thousand tons of tri-nitro-toulin, one of the most powerful explosives manufactured, more commonly known as T. N. T., which caused the explosion. The French munition ship *Mont Blanc*, with her deadly load was on her way up the harbor from New York for Bedford Basin when she was struck on the port side by the Belgian relief ship *Imo*, which was downward bound. A misunderstanding of whistles is blamed for the collision. The *Imo* struck the French ship with great force. The *Mont Blanc* had a deck load of benzene and this caught fire. The *Imo* herself was practically uninjured and kept pushing ahead with the wounded craft until fire broke out, and then she backed away. The *Imo* drifted over to the Dartmouth side of the harbor and was beached near Tuft's Cove while the *Mont Blanc* drifted towards the Halifax side. The captain immediately ordered the crew from the ship, who made shore in safety. The explosion came seven minutes after the collision. Telegrams have been received today from the mayors of Canada's largest cities expressing sympathy and offering aid.

#### Will Investigate.

Ottawa, Dec. 8.—A searching enquiry will be instituted to investigate the cause of the Halifax catastrophe. Reports from Halifax received today declare that the surgical workers there are overwhelmed. Emergency hospitals are springing up everywhere. The city is one great morgue. Awful scenes of suffering have been witnessed as the casualties come in. Many of the victims were beyond human aid when rescued. Federal aid will be granted by the government to the sufferers.

#### Help from U. S.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Aid for the stricken city of Halifax has been started forward by the American Red Cross. On a special relief train from Boston are six experienced disaster relief workers, with great quantities of surgical supplies, bedding and clothing, while a special Red Cross train from New York carried food, blankets, sweaters, overcoats and large quantities of clothing for the women and children.

#### Details.

Halifax, Dec. 8.—The Wellington and other barracks have been seriously damaged, and twelve soldiers have been killed. The naval vessels in the harbor have escaped. The naval college was in the danger zone, but only three

#### THE RED HERRING

When conscription was made the law of the land, the boast was made that it was done to MAKE QUEBEC DO HER DUTY. The province of Quebec is composed of 80 per cent farmers, but an order in council has recently been passed exempting farmers, from the provisions of the Military Service Act. This lets Quebec off very easy. This apparently was prearranged, as months ago Deputy Speaker Rainville sent out letters to his Quebec constituents, advising them of this fact. Sir Robert Borden, when confronted with this letter on the floor of the House of Commons, would neither deny nor confirm it. Subsequent events prove that the conscription bogey was a win the election movement first, and a win the war movement second. Conscription never was the real issue in this campaign. It simply was the red herring.

#### RUSSIAN SITUATION IS STILL OBSCURE

(Special to The Daily News.)  
Petrograd, Dec. 8.—All Russia's diplomatic officials have been formally asked by Foreign Minister Trotsky, whether they support the Bolshevik general peace plan. The alternative is dismissal. A temporary independent government has been organized in Siberia. Kerensky has been elected Minister of Justice. He is determined to complete a coalition cabinet.

General Korniloff who recently escaped from the Buikoff prison has joined the Cossacks under General Kaledines. An armed Maximist force has occupied the Marie Palace, expelling those in charge of the elections for the constitutional assembly.

#### BUT ONE VOTE AGAINST WAR WITH AUSTRIA

(Special to The Daily News.)  
Washington, December 8.—The United States has declared war upon Austria-Hungary. Congress passed the resolution with one dissentient vote.

#### LLOYD GEORGE INDISPOSED

(Special to The Daily News.)  
London, Dec. 8.—Premier Lloyd George is slightly indisposed, having contracted a chill.

of the cadets were injured. The building was not destroyed. The freight sheds at Richmond were wrecked like paper houses. Hundreds of the injured lay out all night in the cold. A number of bodies have been recovered from the bay. The list of dead at Dartmouth is between eighty and a hundred.

#### Prominent Citizens Killed.

An unconfirmed report is that Major J.C. Holmie is killed. Among the other prominent persons listed with the dead are Lieut.-Commander James A. Murray, Captain J. H. Brennan, Fire Chief Edward Condon, Deputy Chief Wm. Brunl, Mrs. W. J. Sweetman and son, wife of the Rev. Sweetman; Dr. Murdoch Chisholm, Lebaron Coleman, manager of the Canadian Express Co., John Roynane, reporter for the Chronicle. There is a long list of other citizens reported killed and missing.

#### Assistance.

Washington, Dec. 8.—A joint resolution to appropriate five million dollars for relief work among the stricken people of Halifax was introduced yesterday by Representative Tague of Massachusetts.

#### From Canada.

Toronto, Dec. 8.—The city of Toronto has telegraphed fifteen thousand dollars to Halifax for relief work. Kitchener also sends ten thousand dollars.

Ladysmith Wellington Coal reduces your fuel bill and gives satisfaction. Phone 15. P. R. Coal Co.

#### WHAT THE VOTERS HAVE TO CONSIDER

There is more in this election than the personality of the two candidates. Remember who and what each stands for. Peck is the nominee of the local Tories, who, upon their own admission, had been in communication with him for months past. He stands for Borden, the man who had done his best to freeze out Prince Rupert, the man who takes off the 25 per cent. war profits tax on corporations and puts on a tax of 4 per cent. the man who gives a vote to those women whom he thinks might vote for his party and refuses the vote to all other women, the man who has done his best to split Canada by racial strife, the man who uses national issues for party ends.

Stork is the nominee of the Skeena Liberals and Labor men. He has been in the field for the last two years. He is not running against Peck. The Tories are running Peck against him. He won't stand for Borden and profiteering any longer. He supports Laurier, the greatest of all Canadians, which even his enemies admit in their sane moments, the man who gave a preferential tariff for British goods, which the loyal Borden took off Laurier stands for free speech and freedom of conscience. He wants Canada to be placed upon a war basis, and her full force exerted in the war against Germany, which Borden declines to do. He wants conscription all round, and that the burdens of the war be placed where it can best be borne.

The fact that the exemption tribunals of Quebec were exempting as high as 96 per cent. of the applicants is another evidence that the Borden government is using conscription as a "win the election" movement only. The electors will do well to think this over carefully, and vote for Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who is really sincere in his policy and who is a real statesman, and not a mere politician.

Laurier started the Prince Rupert drydock. Borden stopped it. It will need Laurier to get it going again.

It is many, many moons ago since Borden declared the urgency for more men at the front. He said he believed so, then. The urgency is so great that there is not a man in uniform yet as the result of the Military Service Act.

All Fishermen are invited to attend meeting in Col. Peck's committee rooms, Saturday evening, Dec. 8th, at 8 o'clock and hear what Laurier did in fifteen years for independent fishermen in British Columbia.

For Sale—Remington No. 14 typewriter in first-class condition. Apply Daily News Office.

For New Wellington Coal and Lumber of all dimensions. Phone 116.

#### "WHO WOULD THE KAISER VOTE FOR?"

What contemptible and concentrated egotism—what characteristic Toryism! "Why, Certainly we own the flag. All you Liberals are traitors. Haven't we been heard to boast of our patriotism ever since there was Toryism? Why, That's one of our earmarks.

Insult the Labor men, the Socialists, the Liberals? Oh, well, we can't help that. We own the flag." And the Kaiser smiles at the smirk of complacency of his Tory friends. Would the Kaiser vote for the white plumed leader who has given forty consecrated years of his life to welding Canada into a happy and united country—who has given his every effort to cultivating the "bon accord" between his compatriots of Quebec and the English-speaking people of the rest of Canada—who won the admiration of the mother land as the greatest of the statesmen of Great Britain—who preferred the mother land with a preferential tariff, which Borden has since removed—who publicly on the floor of Parliament pledged the whole support of his party to the government of the day at the outbreak of the war—who for three long years restrained his fellows in the criticism due a profiteering and profligate government—who approved of the extension of the parliament's life for a year to assist in the prosecution of the war and would have done so again, had not the rottenness of its acts begun to smell to heaven—who delivered more recruiting speeches in eastern Canada, despite his 75 years, than the Prime Minister, or any of his ministers—who now in the evening of his life devotes his being to crushing forever the discord bred of the unholy alliance of 1911, between the Nationalists who love to shoot holes in the British flag, and the Tories who love to boast of their loyalty to the same old flag—who alone can unite this young nation into a solid whole—would the Kaiser vote for him? Not for a moment! He loves confusion among his enemies.

The fathers of that unholy alliance—Borden, Rogers and Cochrane—are better friends of his. And White—do not omit the man of the profiteers—appointed to the Cabinet by Flavelle! The Kaiser remembers with gratitude the government which sent the Methodist parson to Quebec to recruit—the Government which sent the first French-Canadian battalion to Bermuda instead of to France—the government which broke up so many French-Canadian units—which relegated the distinguished French-Canadian General Lessard to the shelf—the government of the Garlands, the Fosters, the Wesley Allison, the Mackenzie-Manns and the Flavelles—the government of the paper shoe fame, binocular fame, spavined horse fame, Ross rifle fame, trench shovel fame, drug fame, Oliver equipment fame and bacon fame. And of PRINCE RUPERT DRYDOCK FAME.

How the Kaiser must smile when he hears Lloyd George and Northcliffe tell the United States that their men are useless if they don't build ships and he sees the magnificent plant at Prince Rupert. Sure! But don't turn a wheel in Rupert. It's a Laurier town. Tear up the Grand Trunk Pacific track—hundreds of miles of it and send it down to Levis to rust. It's a Laurier road. Win the war, Borden. Yes! But tear Canada asunder. Win the war, Borden. Yes! But don't touch Flavelle. I like you, Borden, you sound good, "mein freund." I'll vote for you

#### HUNS STRIVING TO BREAK THE ITALIAN LINE

Savage Struggle Amid Mountain Peaks on Northern Front—Two Thousand Fall Before British.

(Special to The Daily News.)

Rome, Dec. 8.—A most violent and sanguinary battle is being fought upon Italian soil, in which the Germans yesterday wrested from the Italians strong positions on the Asiago front. Von Bulow's prodigious offensive, developing from the mountain strongholds on Sette Comuni which he previously captured, forced the defenders to withdraw their lines along a front of about six miles, from the slope south of Monte Castelgombert to the Froza spur. This region is directly north of Asiago village, and is midway between the upper Brenta and Asiago rivers, where the invaders are striving to break through the mountain barriers to Vincenza and the Venetian plains. Great stress is laid in the Italian war office reports on the savage nature of the struggle now in progress and the herculean efforts of the Italians to check the enemy's onrush.

#### British Front.

London, Dec. 8.—Two thousand Germans perished in two fruitless attempts to break the British lines around Vial wood today. The Germans have at least 375,000 men massed there. North of La Vaquerie in the Cambrai sector, Ulster troops have captured the enemy trenches and have advanced their lines. South of Ypres British patrols successfully attacked the enemy, inflicting many casualties.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that under the provisions of the Dominion Elections Act, the following gentlemen have been duly appointed official agents for the candidates at the coming election:

For Col., C. W. Peck, W. E. Fisher, barrister-at-law, Prince Rupert, B. C.  
For Alfred Stork, Fred. G. Dawson, merchant, Prince Rupert, B. C.

JNO. FLEWIN, Returning Officer for Skeena Electoral District.

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and Rogers and Cochrane and White and Flemming "und mein gut freund" Flavelle.

"INDEPENDENT."

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