

BLIZZARD CLOUTCHES TORTURED HALIFAX

Frigid Gale Forces Burial and Relief Parties to Desist From Labors.

6000 PERSONS WOUNDED

Known Dead Now Number 1280 With 1920 Unaccounted For Homeless Number 25,000. Newcomers' Influx Stopped.

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 10.—A roaring blizzard, the third to strike this sorely afflicted city since the blast from the exploding munition shipment made 25,000 persons homeless four days ago, burst from the northeast late today, raging with all the fury for which these northern winter storms are noted, it all but crushed the hearts of the brave band of workers struggling against overwhelming odds to alleviate suffering.

For a while contingents of the Canadian army tolled doggedly amid the ice-shrouded ruins for the unrecovered dead, but were obliged to withdraw. Sleighs bearing hospital supplies and food to the emergency relief parties were stymied. The crippled lighting system broke down again, leaving the city in darkness.

Burial parties routed by cold. Burial parties which had volunteered their services when the medical authorities announced that the recovered dead must be disposed of at once were driven to cover. From the devastated area hundreds of men and women patiently seeking their dead gave up their task and sought shelter. Relief trains reached the city in the height of the blizzard, but the workers found themselves helpless.

In tents, barracks, private homes and public buildings, the homeless have shelter. Reports from the 6000 wounded state that for them at least the storm brought no added danger, so well had they been provided for. A total of 1280 persons are now known to be dead, 1920 are unaccounted for.

So serious is the problem of housing and feeding those who remain in the city that a strict embargo was issued tonight against the admission of all persons not connected with relief or constructive work. Military guards were detailed to stop newcomers at Truro. Among the first to feel this stringent but necessary step were many Americans, who were halted at St. John.

Accommodations Are Short. The citizens and the authorities generally recognize that the influx of visitors who have been flocking in since railway communication was re-established are moved by the best of intentions. The city appreciates their generous desire to help. But there are simply no accommodations for them. In a community of 45,000 inhabitants 25,000 have been made suddenly homeless. These must first be provided for, as well as the army of workmen needed to clear away the debris and rebuild the city.

The numerous relief agencies organized today by the city, headed by A. Handfield Whitman, a prominent business man, as chairman. All the work, both on the ground here and in obtaining supplies from the provinces, has henceforth be systematized, with Halifax people themselves in control of the situation.

Munitions Ship Sunk. Taking stock tonight, the general committee in charge of relief found that while the storm had upset plans and greatly delayed reconstruction, conditions were by no means hopeless, provided relief continued to come forward in a substantial way.

A great nervous strain was lifted from the city today when the munitions steamer Picton was towed to sea and sunk. Almost hourly rumors have been flying about the city that munitions ships were afloat in the harbor and the Picton has been regarded with much apprehension.

Twice yesterday fire started on her decks. In the vessel's hold was enough explosive to cause considerable damage.

It was announced tonight that the Admiralty court hearing as to the cause of the collision between the Mont Blanc and the Imo, which was to have begun tomorrow, had been put over until Wednesday. Failure to obtain the services of a competent interpreter made the postponement necessary.

Nothing has been more cheering to the city than the receipt of substantial aid from the United States. There was applause with each announcement at headquarters that money, food and supplies were on the way from various American cities. But, while deeply appreciative and grateful, Halifax wants the word accepted as official that it is best not to start shipments until the general committee has been advised as to their nature.

HALIFAX FUND IS STARTED

Local Red Cross Awaits Instructions as to Needs.

STEEL ENOUGH IN SIGHT

Supplies for All Government War Needs Assured. Manufacturers See No Reason for Fearful Interruption or Delay in Production.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—Revision of steel prices was taken up today by manufacturers conferring with the War Industries Board. Prices were agreed upon several months ago with the provision that they would be reviewed at this time and adjustments made if found necessary.

Ample supplies of steel for all the Government's war needs were assured by the War Industries Board by representatives of the Nation's largest steel mills. They proposed, however, a different system of allotting orders to take into consideration idle capacity, the fuel supply and transportation conditions.

In line with this suggestion, hereafter, placing of orders will be centralized in the hands of J. L. Replogle, the board's chief expert, and it is believed that deliveries will be expedited. Labor problems arising from the draft and the dismissal of alien enemies are being worked out promptly, well, and the steel men foresee no reason to fear interruption or delay in turning out war necessities.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—Utilization of prison labor for manufacturing Government war materials will be discussed at a conference here tomorrow. Prison reform advocates and labor leaders.

A bill to remove present restrictions on Government purchase of prison-made goods already has been introduced by Senator Smith, of Georgia.

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DEATHS DURING COLD WAVE'S SWAKE

Scores Die in Middle West When Thermometer Fails to Get Away From Zero.

FUEL FAMINE HITS CHICAGO

Twentieth Century Limited Limp in Nine Hours Late—Theatrical Troupe Lost—Rich and Poor Suffer From Intense Cold.

CHICAGO, Dec. 10.—(Special)—Death began taking heavy toll today in the intense cold wave that now envelops the country east of the Rocky Mountains, and ending with unusual severity to the Mexican border to the southernmost tip of Florida. In Chicago, three persons were frozen to death or died of exposure, and there were scores of cases of frozen hands, feet and ears.

Some of these cases were serious and many deaths from pneumonia contracted during the siege are expected. Dispatches from other cities announce six deaths and temperature of 10 degrees below zero at Peabody, Mo.

Youngstown, O., reports four dead and three fatally frozen. Advances to-night from the inland states include death of eight persons, and from widely scattered points through Iowa, Southern Wisconsin, Minnesota and Northern Illinois come reports of persons freezing to death. There is much suffering in Michigan, where a fuel famine exists. Cincinnati reports a degree below zero, a remarkable figure for the Ohio Valley.

North Dakota Coldest. Chicago is experiencing the coldest weather for this season of the year in the last 25 years. Temperature of 7 degrees below zero has not been recorded here since 1882, and no relief is promised by the Government for several days.

North Dakota appears to lead the cold column. Devil's Lake, in that state, shows 24 degrees below zero, and Pierre, S. D., reports 21 degrees below zero, the coldest weather in 20 years in December.

Minnesota points tonight shows 20 degrees below zero, but it is a dry atmosphere and is not felt as severely as in districts where there is high moisture in the air and only at the zero mark or slightly lower.

All trains were again late today, the engineers being unable to make time. The Twentieth Century, crack train from New York, crept in nine and one-half hours late and had to refund \$1 per passenger for the delay. It was behind schedule. It was held up by severe snowstorms in the vicinity of Buffalo.

Theatrical Troupe Lost. The "Love o' Mike" theatrical company, coming to Chicago from Providence via Buffalo, is lost somewhere in the snow storms east of here and the opening, scheduled for tonight, has been postponed until the company is located.

Chicago was warned today to Hooverize its coal supply, as it would be exhausted in 48 hours if the present weather continuing. Yesterday it was said there was a 10-day supply on hand, but this estimate was a "flat" when the yards were searched. Great apartment-houses and the homes of wealthy were cold because of lack of fuel and suffering in the tenement districts was acute for the same reason.

UNIFIED ROADS WANTED (Continued From First Page.) more efficient, Mr. Harrison suggested, would be an increase in rates, priority for transportation of new material, appointment of a traffic manager for Government freight, and exemption from the draft for railroad employees.

Pooling Is Suggested. The railroad opposition to Government operation is well understood among officials who have followed the situation, but some surprise was expressed tonight at the suggestion of suspension of provisions against pooling traffic and profits. In the opinion of many officials a complete re-organization of railroad systems could be accomplished until the roads pool their traffic, which of itself involves a pooling of profits.

The advantages in pooling have been pointed to as the chief argument for Government operation, since the Government, directing the movement of traffic without violating prohibitions imposed now for the protection of the public.

Two Courses Outlined. In its special report to Congress made public a few days ago the Interstate Commerce Commission held out two alternatives for relief of the transportation situation. One was the suspension of anti-trust laws and the other Government operation. Commissioner McChord, in a supplementary opinion, which it has been said since is approved by other members, emphasized that Government operation as the only remedy.

Those within the Government who believe the railroads themselves can handle the situation, however, do not oppose legislation to make a full pooling compulsory. If such a course were pursued, they add, it might be advisable to name a Government railroad administrator who would see that the wishes of the Government were carried out.

Statement Is Issued. Before seeing the President today Senator Newlands held a conference with members of the Railroad War Board, at which Mr. Harrison's letter was delivered to him. Later Senator Newlands gave out a statement in which he said:

"The Interstate Commerce Commission and the Railway War Board, composed of railway executives, differ as to the necessity of legislation in order to meet the urgent requirements of the war. The Commission insists that unification of operation should be conducted either by the carriers or by the President.

"The railroads, on the other hand, contend that there is no necessity for legislation; that the unification of the railroads already arranged for under the Railroad War Board is proceeding successfully and will be further perfected; that they do not ask for the repeal of the anti-trust and anti-pooling laws as relating to the Government or anybody else."

Collapsae Is Denied. Mr. Harrison's letter to Senator Newlands follows: "The American railroad system has not broken down. On the contrary, it has in recent months handled 20 per cent more business than in 1915 without material enlargement of plant.

Some misconception seems to exist as to the immediate requirements of the railroads in their present situation. Their chief operating troubles are a volume of traffic greater than the capacity of the plants in certain United States territory, and the use of preference orders and their now serious malady or "dilation" of labor,

NO MONEY IS ASKED

What the railroads do not ask: 1. They do not ask one billion dollars from the Government or anybody else at the moment; they could not immediately invest with plant and equipment if they had it, because of the difficulty in getting materials and labor. That figure represents, in four figures, the amount of money spent in every year for several years to bring the American railroad plant up to capacity to handle the growing traffic and to invest \$900,000,000 per annum on the average has been spent for a number of years for road and equipment, which, at present prices, would be equivalent to about \$1,000,000,000 for need any more equipment.

2. They do not at this time, ask for laws relating to them, or for they do not consider such relief immediately necessary to their unification. The co-operative use of facilities will be continued in such way as to obtain maximum efficiency.

The present system of voluntary unification adequate for this. No interest has declined, or will decline, for the transportation of the present co-operative organization.

Requests Are Set Forth. What the railroads do ask: 1. The immediate appointment of a traffic officer to coordinate all important Government departments in transportation matters with plant and equipment if they had it, because of the difficulty in getting materials and labor. That figure represents, in four figures, the amount of money spent in every year for several years to bring the American railroad plant up to capacity to handle the growing traffic and to invest \$900,000,000 per annum on the average has been spent for a number of years for road and equipment, which, at present prices, would be equivalent to about \$1,000,000,000 for need any more equipment.

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An Unlimited Variety of Patterns and Colorings in Men's Holiday Neckwear

At 25c, At 50c, At 65c and \$1.00

Reliable Qualities in Men's Kid Gloves at \$2.00 and \$2.50

Practical Gift Suggestions for the Men HANDKERCHIEFS ALWAYS ACCEPTABLE.

Beautiful and Gorgeous Exclusive Novelties in Ribbons for High-Grade Gifts

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Included are 4 1/2-inch Novelty and Hair-Box Ribbons in both light and dark patterns—also Warp Print Fancies especially desirable for fancy work—pillow ruffles, caps, coat hangers, bags, etc., etc. The assortment includes every desirable plain shade and the most beautiful color combinations.

A Complete New Stock of Christmas Slippers

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Unforgettable Gifts—authentic in style and superb in quality, while their prices are most moderate.

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Gifts That Any Housekeeper Will Appreciate

Robert's Bros. THIRD & MORRISON The Most in Value—The Best in Quality

in the penitentiaries, and I want to see them there, for we must deal relentlessly with all the enemies of America." The Secretary added he hoped it would be unnecessary to raise more taxes during the next six months than are now provided by law, but said that this question must be determined by Congress.

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is always best for coughs is that it peculiarly soothes the tender membranes while its rich, creamy food rebuilds the tissues to avert bronchitis and lung trouble.

BELL-ANS

Absolutely Removes Indigestion. Druggists refund money if it fails. 25c

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25c WEEKS' All Druggists BREAK-UP-A-COLD TABLETS

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Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE TABLETS. W. GROVES' signature is on each box. 50c.—Adv.

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This is not only one of the best and most efficient medicines for coughs, colds and croup, but is also pleasant and safe to take, which is important when medicine must be given to children. Many mothers have given it their unqualified endorsement.—Adv.