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CANADIAN MUNITION FACTORY BLOWN-UP

MANY SLAIN UNDER RUINS OF BIG PLANT

Series of Terrific Explosions Wreck Great Mmunition Factory at Rigaud, Quebec—Death List Estimated as High as 250—Loss Runs Into Millions—Buildings Mile Away Destroyed—Copper Colored Smoke Covers Country.

RIGAUD, Quebec, Aug. 18.—The great plant here of Curtis & Harvey, Ltd., explosive manufacturers, was wrecked today by a series of terrific explosions and buried beneath the ruins of a dozen or so structures that comprised the factory are an unknown number of dead.

Several thousand male and female workers employed at the plant were in the danger zone for hours. An early estimate, based on first reports, placed the number of killed at about 250, but indications were this afternoon that there were comparatively few casualties.

A relief train arrived from Montreal at noon, bringing doctors and nurses, but owing to the fierce heat from the burning ruins of the plant, they were unable to approach. No death list can be obtained until the ruins cool.

Loss Reaches Millions. The loss in the value of buildings and stock will reach well up into the millions of dollars.

The first explosion was caused by the over-heating of the machinery in the nitric acid building. The flames leaped along thru the building and another explosion occurred. Most of the workers, however, are believed to have had ample time to escape.

Other explosions occurred every five minutes or so, shaking the surrounding country like a series of earthquakes. Altogether fifteen designations were counted.

One of the explosions blew down a number of houses in Dragon, where most of the workers lived, and farm houses in the vicinity also caught fire. Provision was made by the people of Rigaud for caring for the homeless workers.

Loss Estimated at 250. MONTREAL, Aug. 18.—A terrific explosion at the powder plant of Curtis & Harvey, Ltd., at Rigaud, Quebec, today is believed to have caused heavy loss of life. Five thousand men and women are employed at the plant, which covers an area of five square miles.

From points near Rigaud it was learned that three explosions took place. The first, at 9 o'clock, was heard in Yaudreuil, 20 miles away. It was followed by two others in quick succession.

The explosion disrupted telephone and telegraph communication with Rigaud. Traffic on the Canadian Pacific railway's Ottawa-Montreal line, which passes close to the plant, has been suspended.

Trainmen who got away from the scene of the explosion reported that forty houses at Dragon, a little village near the powder plant, occupied by workmen, were razed by the force of the explosion.

The whole countryside was covered at 10 o'clock with a dense copper-colored smoke.

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FORMER CZAR ON WAY TO SIBERIA

PETROGRAD, Aug. 17.—Telegrams from Viatka, on the northern route to Siberia, report the passage of two special trains with lowered blinds, which no one was allowed to approach. The trains, which are going eastward, are assumed to contain the former emperor, Nicholas, and his family.

FIGHTING ALONG FLANDERS FRONT MOST DEPERATE

German Barrage Inadequate to Stop Advancing French and British—Quick Work in Crossing Steenbeke—Londoners Forced Back From Advanced Positions.

BRITISH FRONT IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Aug. 18.—The fighting Thursday at Polygon was unusually desperate. Wave after wave of the enemy came surging up against the London troops, who held on determinedly with rifle and bayonet until two simultaneous counter-attacks from different directions forced them to retreat.

Gradually they withdrew, fighting all the way. Some few of them, indeed, were surrounded, and fought until forced to surrender. One young officer, in command of ten men, found himself encircled by the enemy and his men being swept by machine gun fire. The last heard of him was contained in a message he signalled back to his division, saying his men were facing death and that he saw no way but to surrender and save their lives.

Along most of the French front it was comparatively quiet, altho a hard local battle was continuing about a strong German redoubt known as Les Lilas, which lies about a thousand yards southwest of the St. Jansbeek river.

Pocket German Positions. In their advance the French surged forward on either side of the position, making a sort of a pocket about it, and it was said the small German garrison would be compelled to surrender shortly. The Germans delivered a counter-attack on the French extreme right flank, but this was repulsed by artillery fire.

The contact between the French and British armies was excellent. The prisoners accounted for to date total more than 370, and this figure represents considerably more than the entire French casualties along their whole front in Thursday's offensive. The remarkably small number of casualties was due to the fine work of the French artillery. Preliminary bombardment of German positions was very effective and the advance was made under a perfect barrage.

Barrage Inadequate. As was the case on the British front about Langemarek, the German barrage was totally inadequate and the counter battery work, upon which so much depends, gave no trouble. The French counter battery firing resulted in silencing a large number of enemy guns, and as a result the French have been little troubled by gun fire in carrying out consolidations.

The work of the French engineers (Continued on page six.)

ENEMY WARSHIP REPEATEDLY HIT IN NAVAL FIGHT

British Scouting in German Bay Open Fire on Destroyer and Mine-Sweepers, Which Escape, Crippled, Over Mine Field—None of British Vessels Damaged.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—The admiralty announces that a hostile destroyer and two mine sweepers were damaged severely by British naval forces on Thursday. The British warships were not damaged.

The announcement follows: "Some of our light naval forces scouting a German bight on August 16 sighted an enemy destroyer at 9:45 a. m. Fire was opened and the enemy destroyer was chased. She was seen to be repeatedly hit and to be on fire, but she escaped thru the mist over the mine field.

Mine Sweepers Hit. "Enemy mine sweepers were sighted shortly after the sighting of the destroyer and a heavy fire was opened on them. At least two of the mine sweepers were seen to be very severely damaged, but similarly with the destroyer, our ships were unable to follow them, owing to the proximity of the mine fields.

"During the engagement our vessels were attacked by a submarine. After the action a second submarine attacked, in both cases without result. Our vessels suffered no damage."

German Account.

BERLIN, Aug. 18.—An official statement issued at the German admiralty today regarding the naval clash between British and German light forces on August 16, says:

"On Thursday a German guard patrol in the North sea encountered enemy cruisers and destroyers on the fringe of the English barred zone and attacked them. The enemy, who had a large superiority, turned away under the well-placed German fire and withdrew from the engagement with all possible haste. We suffered no losses."

GERMANY FORBIDS PUBLIC MEETINGS

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 18.—The military commander at Stettin, Germany, has forbidden, "in the interest of public safety," meetings in Stettin and in the district of Rantow. The socialist organ, Vorwaerts, says the executive committee of the socialist party sent to Chancellor Michaelis a protest against such prohibitions, which are reported in all parts of Germany, and a request for the abolition thereof.

GENERAL SCOTT IN THE RUSSIAN TRENCHES



General Scott and Colonel Naviesky of the Russian army are here seen in the trenches on the Galician front.

SENATE BILL TO STOP INSULTS BY WOMEN PICKETS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—Continued disorders this week in front of the white house, as a result of the picketing by militant suffragists, today caused the Washington police to put into effect an order prohibiting further demonstrations.

Assailing the militant pickets in unsparring terms, Senator Myers of Montana today introduced a bill to prohibit white house picketing. "Proceedings have been outrageous, scandalous and almost treasonable," he said. "I think people are disgusted with the women. The president, out of the generosity of his heart, pardoned the women recently sentenced to the workhouse for sixty days. I think he erred; they ought to have been compelled to serve out their sentences. It is time congress acted to stop these insults to the president."

J. J. Voepel of Van Wert, Ohio, is a week end tourist visiting in the city.

ONLY HARD BLOWS CAN WIN THE WAR STATES PERSHING

PARIS, Aug. 18.—Major General Pershing told the Associated Press today that the war can be won only by hard and forceful blows delivered by a well trained American army, working in conjunction with the allied armies.

Deploring the lukewarmness of the American people in regard to the war, General Pershing added:

"Every man, woman and child should support the administration in its determination to arm and equip the American army and to keep up its morale and that of the allied armies. This war will not be won by talk or by subscribing to the Red Cross. The American people must come to a full realization of what the war means.

"It can be won only by striking hard and forceful blows, not otherwise."

The general was very emphatic in the interview, which lasted but a few minutes.

WILSON PLANS TO REDUCE COAL PRICES TO PUBLIC

President Goes Over Figures on Cost of Production and Plans Cut Not Only at Mines, But of Jobbers and Retailers—Government Likely to Take Over Supply and Distribution

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16.—President Wilson went to the food administration today for a personal conference with Herbert Hoover, and later went to the federal trade commission. It was believed the president discussed the coal situation and the extent to which he would assume the powers to control distribution vested in him by the food bill.

Under the law the president may fix the price of coal, operate the mines or commandeer stocks and sell to the public. Some decision of which course he will pursue is expected as the result of today's conferences, which were based on the federal trade commission's new completed report on the coal situation.

Take Over Supply.

At the federal trade commission the president went over the figures gathered on costs of producing coal. The trend of the commission's report on the subject was to urge the president to take over the supply and its distribution.

The president will take some action in the coal situation early next week. He carried back to the white house from the trade commission a mass of statistics on coal production costs and will go over them tomorrow. His decision probably will be announced Monday.

To Cut Present Prices.

The president's intention, it was learned authoritatively, is to reduce the present prices not only at the mines, but of jobbers and retailers. The trade commission's report indicates that operators can sell their bituminous at a price far below the maximum of \$3, fixed at a recent conference between mine managers and government officials, and still make a handsome profit.

Evidence was given the president that operators have failed to abide by the \$3 a ton agreement and that they have been selling their product for any amount they could get. Shortages in some parts of the country have made it possible, it is said, for them to obtain extortionate prices.

The trade commission negates to the president specific recommendations as to its ideas for handling the situation. It was suggested, it is understood, that the president immediately put into operation provisions of the food control bill which give the government authority to take over and resell to the public all coal mined.

Mrs. John E. McDonald is spending the week end visiting friends at Grants Pass.

ALLIES WIN NEW POINTS IN FLANDERS

Germans Admit Loss of Langemarek—Efforts to Retake Lens Positions Fail—French Make Further Progress Along Steenbeke River and Recapture All Positions Recently Lost on Verdun Front.

BERLIN, Aug. 18, via London.—The war office announcement of today says the Germans occupy positions in front of Langemarek. They lost Langemarek after a strong local attack by the enemy in the afternoon, the statement says.

The Belgian town of Langemarek was captured by the British in their recent attack and yesterday the Germans announced that they had retaken it. The British official press bureau denied this claim.

Germans Repulsed.

BRITISH FRONT IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Aug. 18.—German troops delivered another sharp but futile counter-attack against a section of the new Canadian positions northwest and west of Lens early this morning. The Germans succeeded in penetrating the British trenches but were driven out immediately as the result of strenuous hand-to-hand fighting which cost the attackers a considerable number of dead and a few prisoners.

PARIS, Aug. 18.—The French last night made further progress in Belgium north of the road between Bixchoote and Langemarek, it is announced officially. They captured a strong point of support east of the Steenbeke river. German attacks on the Aisne front were repulsed.

On the Verdun front the French, in a brilliant attack, recaptured positions recently taken by the Germans, completely re-establishing their lines. The announcement follows:

Official Statement.

"In Belgium our troops continued to make progress north of the road from Bixchoote to Langemarek and carried a strong enemy point of support east of Steenbeke.

"North of the Aisne we repulsed several attacks, especially east of the Froidfont farm. In the Champagne our artillery fire prevented an attack which the enemy was preparing in the sector of Massiges.

"On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) our troops made a brilliant counter-attack at Caurires wood and recaptured elements of trenches taken by the enemy on August 16 and 17. Our line was re-established completely. Heavy artillery fighting continues in this sector.

"In Alsace a German attack near Steenbeke was repulsed by our fire. Elsewhere the night passed in quiet."

Russian Offensive.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 18.—The Russians have taken the offensive on the Caucasian front and have occupied a series of villages, the war office announced.

SAN DIEGO WATER MAIN IS BLOWN UP

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Aug. 18.—More than 20 feet of the 46-inch water main connecting the San Diego water impounding system with the distributing system, was blown out by an explosion at 11 o'clock last night, according to announcement shortly before noon today by City Manager F. M. Lockwood. That a deliberate effort was made to cripple the San Diego water supply system is the announced belief of Manager Lockwood, who says that shortly after the explosion two men were seen running from the scene.

RETURNING AMERICAN COMMISSION BRINGS PICTURES FROM THE RUSSIAN WAR FRONT



To Left: Nine thousand prisoners were taken by General Korniloff from the Austrians on the Galician front during the American party's visit. Here are part of them being taken to the rear under guard. To Right: Russian women are doing their share of the heavy work back of the new democracy's trenches. Here is shown a group of them repairing a railroad track to expedite transportation of the army.