

URGED TO TAKE OVER RAIL LINES

L. C. C. RECOMMENDS GOVERNMENT OPERATION AS WAR MEASURE.

ACTION WOULD AVERT CRISIS

Disregard of Anti-Trust Laws and Federal Lease Are Favored—Two Alternatives Placed Before Congress.

Washington.—The alternative of uniting the railroad systems of the country into one aggregate force, under their own operation, or of government ownership, so as to solve the perplexing problem of adequate railroad transportation during the war, was urged by the interstate commerce commission in a report to congress.

The commission does not indicate which policy it favors, but impresses the point that one or the other is essential if a grave crisis is to be avoided.

As a means of enabling the railroads to organize so as to operate conjointly under their own management, the commission suggests that congress—if this scheme appears advisable—must pass legislation repealing the anti-trust and anti-pooling laws.

In no other way could it be done, the commission says, since both federal and state laws stand in the way of such a combine of railroad interests as would be necessary to carry the plan out.

The only other course open, the commission says, is for the president to take over the railroads under the act of congress of Aug. 29, 1916, which empowered him to assume control of all systems of transportation in war exigency.

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GUN THAT RIPS BARBED WIRE DEFENSES



This French gun throws an anchorlike projectile into the barbed wire defenses of the enemy. The missile is attached to a cable and is hauled back to be fired again and again.

SEEK MISSING ENGINEERS

WAR HOSPITALS SEARCHED FOR ZEALOUS AMERICANS.

Contingent Who Assisted British in Repelling Germans Unaccounted For.

American Field Headquarters in France—Search of British hospitals is being made with the hope of finding some of the missing American army engineers caught in the German advance around Cambrai.

The official announcement regarding the armistice on the eastern front said:

The munition ship, bound from New York, had almost passed through the Narrows leading from the outer harbor into Bedford basin, when the collision occurred.

The weather was clear and the two ships had room in which to pass. Because of a misunderstanding of signals, however, they headed for each other.

Witnesses of the disaster who escaped reported that the crew of the Mont Blanc began to work desperately to check the flames, knowing their own lives, at least, were at stake.

Men on the water front and on ships in the harbor within sight of the Mont Blanc saw the crew driven back step by step by the flames, until finally they abandoned hope and rushed for the boats.

Seventeen minutes after the collision the munition ship blew up. The harbor at this point is less than half a mile wide.

The relief ship which collided with the Mont Blanc was the Norwegian freighter Imo of Christiania, which left New York about eight days ago with a cargo of 8,000 tons of grain for Rotterdam and called at Halifax for examination.

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ROUMANIA SEEKING PEACE

BERLIN SAYS NATION IS INCLUDED IN ARMISTICE.

War Office Announces That Balkan State Is Ready to Quit War.

Berlin.—The negotiations between the Germans and Russians for an armistice are extending to the Roumanian troops, the war office announced.

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HALIFAX DESTROYED BY EXPLOSION IN HARBOR

STEAMER RAMS MUNITION SHIP AND BLAST FOLLOWING BRINGS DEATH AND DESTRUCTION IN ITS WAKE.

MORE THAN 2000 DEAD AND OVER 3000 INJURED

Hardly One Building Left Standing in Two-Mile Stretch—Shock Breaks Windows 60 Miles Away—Telegrapher Killed at Key Four Miles From Scene—Water Terminals Completely Wiped Out.

Halifax, Nova Scotia.—Three thousand tons of munitions on board the French steamship Monte Blanc exploded in the harbor as the result of a collision with the Belgian relief steamship Imo, killed 2,000 persons, injured 3,000 or more others, and laid waste a wide area of this city, causing millions of dollars' damage.

Practically all the northern and older part of Halifax, known as Richmond, was shattered by the terrific concussion or wiped out by the fires that started at once.

The monstrous energy suddenly released by the blast swept irregularly over the country about Halifax, did vast damage in Dartmouth, across the bay; broke windows 61 miles off, and by the force of its concussion killed a telegrapher at his desk four miles from the bay.

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one steamer, the Picton, it is reported that 33 of the crew of 42 were killed. Bodies of many seamen have been picked up in the harbor. Rescue parties working among the ruins of buildings are removing the bodies.

In the main part of the city, where the buildings are chiefly of stone or concrete, the damage was confined to the shattering of windows, and most of the casualties in this section were caused by flying glass.

In the west and northwest ends the damage was more extensive, and there the walls of many houses were blown to bits. It was in Richmond, however, opposite the scene of the explosion, that the havoc was greatest.

Whole blocks of dwellings, mostly of frame construction, were leveled. Many stood in ruins and the structures which were left standing after the explosion were destroyed by fires which broke out simultaneously in a score of places.

The great loss of life was in the Richmond district. This is built up for the most part of small wooden houses on narrow streets. Because of their situation on a slope the roofs of the houses were lifted above those nearer to the water front so that most of the dwellings were exposed to the full violence of the blow.

Much of this section was flattened to the ground. Women at home, children at school and men at work were caught and crushed in a twinkling when their buildings sprang down on them like traps.

The dead will probably never be more than approximately known because of the many families of whom no trace except burned bones are left.

At first the magnitude of the disaster was not credited. Incredible inquiries began to filter in. Then, as the truth began to dawn and further details were sent out, it was apparent the significance of the catastrophe was being felt outside.

Boston was the first to send a message of help, the governor of Massachusetts rushing a carte blanche offer to the mayor.

The holocaust was rendered all the more extensive by the fact that it was the older portion of the city that had received the full force of the concussion and many of the buildings affected were as old as Halifax itself, with narrow streets and houses of frame variety.

Vast quantities of food were in storage on the docks and in the sheds, and these were all consumed, as were also tremendous supplies of munitions and war material awaiting shipment to Europe.

The railway station was buried beneath its own roof. The big Canadian government railway depot, also used by the Canadian Pacific railway, collapsed and the great repairing plant at Willow Park was wrecked.

The shock seemed to have missed nothing worth while in its path. It spread out in an extraordinary manner.

The Mont Blanc was owned by the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique. She was built at Middlesboro in 1899 and her gross tonnage was 3,121. She was 320 feet long.

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AIRSHIP FLEET RAIDS ENGLAND

25 MACHINES COMPOSE RAIDING PARTY AND TWO ARE LOST.

FIRES STARTED IN LONDON

Reports Say Seven Were Killed and 24 Injured and Much Property Lost—Three Men in Each Crew.

London.—After several weeks of reports, London experienced another German air raid—one of the most determined, but the most futile, yet attempted.

The first warnings were received from the outlying districts when a group of Gothas crossed the coast of Kent. Apparently their intention was to make for London, but, after dropping bombs along the coast, they made off seaward again.

It transpired that these were only preliminary attacks, made with the object of drawing forth gunfire and disclosing the location of the defenses, for an hour later five groups of machines crossed the Essex and Kent coasts and flew directly to London, attacking the city from two directions.

There are no reports of any bombs having been dropped in the center of London. Several fell in the suburbs, but without doing any great damage. The casualties are reported to have been light. Unlike the previous raids, the Germans relied more upon incendiary than explosive bombs, with the result that a number of fires broke out.

It was known before the official report was issued that two of the raiders had been brought down and their crews of three men each captured and that others of them were damaged.

According to an announcement made in the house of commons by the chancellor of the exchequer, seven persons were killed and 21 injured as the result of the raid. Three persons were killed and 10 injured in London. The other casualties occurred in the outlying districts.

"HELLO" GIRL SAVES LIVES

Sticks to Post at Powder Plant When Explosion Comes—Called Hospitals.

Pittsburg.—The explosion which wrecked a powder plant of the Actna Chemical Co. at Heidelberg, near here, caused the death of eight men and injuries to 25. Two employees are missing.

The damage is estimated at \$250,000. Many of those injured owe their lives to prompt medical aid which was summoned by Grace Lyons, a telephone operator, who stayed at her switchboard in the rear of the wrecked plant and telephoned hospitals and physicians.

CHICAGO BANKERS ORGANIZE

Increasing Number of Hold-ups Cause Financiers to Take Drastic Action.

Chicago.—A reversion to the days of '49 in the matter of law enforcement is predicted as a result of the increasing number of robberies here, especially bank hold-ups.

The South Side Bankers' club has planned to organize a company of "vigilantes" who will be armed with rifles and riot guns to protect the city's outlying banks. They will work independently of the police.

The five motor bandits who robbed the Stockmen's Trust and Savings bank of \$10,000 are still at liberty.

NEW REVOLUTION IN CHINA

Shanghai.—Another revolution has broken out in China.

Rebels, reinforced by mutinous troops, have captured the city of Chung King, in the province of Sze Chuen.

The revolt is reported to be spreading, and Japanese marines are being rushed to the scene to protect property.

Chung King has a population of 300,000 and is a prominent center of commerce.

Van Rappard's Successor Named.

The Hague.—It is officially announced that August Phillips, an Amsterdam lawyer, has been appointed to succeed Chevalier W. L. F. C. Van Rappard as minister of the Netherlands in the United States.

London.—Sixteen British merchantmen of more than 1,600 tons were sunk by mines or submarines in the past week, according to the admiralty statement. One vessel under 1,400 tons and four fishing vessels also were sunk.

Had To Give Up Was Almost Frantic With the Pain and Suffering of Kidney Complaint. Doan's 'K' Her Well.

Mrs. Lydia Hunter, 1235 Margaret St., Frankford, Pa., says: "A cold started my kidney trouble. My back began to ache and get sore and lame. My joints and ankles became swollen and painful and it felt as if needles were sticking in to them. I finally had to give up and went from bed to work."

"My kidneys didn't act right and the secretions were scanty and distressing. I had awful dizzy spells when everything before me turned black; one time I nearly fainted. I couldn't see for twenty minutes. Awful pains in my head set me almost frantic and I was so nervous, I couldn't stand the least noise. How I suffered! Often I didn't care whether I lived or died."

"I couldn't sleep on account of the terrible pains in my back and head. Nothing seemed to do me a bit of good until I began taking Doan's Kidney Pills. I could soon see they were helping me; the backache stopped, my kidneys were regulated and I no longer had any dizzy spells or rheumatic pains. I still take Doan's occasionally and they keep my kidneys in good health."

"Sworn to before me." F. W. CASSIDY, JR., Notary Public.

Get Doan's at Any Store, Or a Box of Doan's 'K' Kidney Pills. FOSTER-MILBURN CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

New York poor are lessening use of milk because of price.

The Outlook That Does Not Effect Had... (Text partially obscured)

Extremes. "What is to be done with all these bills on hand?" "Why, foot 'em."

SOAP IS STRONGLY ALKALINE and constant use will burn out the scalp. Cleanse the scalp by shampooing with "La Creole" Hair Dressing, and darken, in the natural way, those ugly, grizzly hairs. Price, \$1.00.—Adv.

USED HERCULEAN STRENGTH

Sir William MacGregor Years Ago Gained Distinction by Saving Many Lives From Wreck.

Sir William MacGregor, G. C. M. G., is a man of Herculean strength—indeed, until he took part some years ago in the rescue of some Indian coolies from a shipwrecked vessel, he stated that he had not previously realized the value of his great strength, says a correspondent.

A broken mast was the only connection with the stranded vessel, and over this, again and again, Sir William clambered with a man or woman on his back, and more often than not a child also between his teeth, held by the clothes.

On a reef below was a woman, who had fallen overboard, having got at the ship's spirits and become mad drunk. Two men who went after her were in the act of being swept out to sea, when Sir William slid down a rope, seized the woman's hair between his teeth, grasped the two men and brought all three to a place of safety.

For this he received the Albert Gold Medal from Queen Victoria, and the Clark Gold Medal from Australia.

A Touch of Nature.

The scene is a crowded bus. A soldier, back from the trenches, sitting in a corner near the entrance, put his hand into his pocket for his fare, and pulls out a shilling and some coppers. The bus jolts violently and, to the soldier's dismay, the shilling slips from his fingers just as the lights go out, as they always do in London, in these days, when a bridge is being crossed. The passengers with one accord begin to grope for the soldier's shilling.

"Fraid it rolled off, mate," says the conductor. Then lights go up again, and discover three passengers each holding out the shilling.—Christian Science Monitor.

An Average Load.

"There goes what you might call the average suburbanite."

"How do you place him?" "He's carrying home something his wife asked him to get at a department store, a steak, a head of lettuce and a new record for his phonograph."

Henrietta, Okla., women are working in a coal mine.



Instant Postum

fits the spirit of the times perfectly. It is Purely American Economical (without loss of pleasure) Convenient (ready for instant use)

and is a pleasing, wholesome, drug-free drink good for both young and old.

"There's a Reason"

South Bend, Ind.—William M. Allison, Notre Dame quarter back, given credit by eastern critics for the victory scored by Notre Dame over West Point, has left school to enter the Aviation Corps.

Four Autoists Drown in River. Utica, N. Y.—Pinned under their automobile in three feet of water, after their car had crashed through a four-inch crust of ice, after going over a bridge railing, four Utica men were drowned.

Literally Underfoot. "It's a cold world!" sighed the melancholy citizen. "Yes," replied Miss Cayenne. "But don't you think that now and then we ought to talk about something besides the weather and the cost of fuel?"