



TERRIFIC POWDER EXPLOSION KILLS AND MAIMS MANY

5,000 Persons in Quebec Munitions Plant When Three Blasts Rock Buildings; Telephone and Rail Connections Cut Off; Village of 100 Houses Nearby Razed; Flames Complete Work of Destruction

Montreal, Aug. 18.—A terrific explosion at the powder plant of Curtis and Harvey, Limited, at Rigaud, Quebec, to-day 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.

Flames Raging

Reports received here soon after the explosion said the plant was nearly all in flames.

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

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

Village Is Razed

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.

Rigaud is a post village in Vaudreuil County, Quebec, on the riviere A La Grasse, 45 miles southwest of Montreal. It had a population prior to the war of about 1,000 persons.

Relief Trains on Way

The whole countryside was covered at 10 o'clock with a dense copper colored smoke. A special train of doctors and nurses left here at 10.30 o'clock for the scene of the disaster.

Passengers on a Canadian Pacific Railroad train which passed the scene of the disaster, placed the number of dead from the first explosion at 20.

OTTAWA HEARS 250 ARE DEAD IN POWDER EXPLOSION

Ottawa, Aug. 18.—First reports received here from the scene of the powder explosion to-day at Rigaud, Que., state that in the neighborhood of 250 persons have been killed.

The passengers said it was impossible to obtain definite figures as hundreds rushed into the open country when the first explosion occurred and few had returned when their train left for Montreal.

The extent of the explosion may be judged by the fact that two farm houses over a mile from the plant were blown down. At noon the village of Dragon was blazing and it looked as if it would be destroyed.

The officials here of the Curtis and Harvey Limited, lacked information as to the cause of the explosion. It was said that probably three hundred persons were working in the section of plant where the first explosion occurred. It was believed by the officials the two other explosions were caused by fire which spread from the first.

THE WEATHER

For Harrisburg and vicinity: Fair to clear; a shower; not much change in temperature. For Eastern Pennsylvania: Fair, continued cool to-night and Sunday; light northwest wind.

Alderman Confiscates Musical Instruments

Alderman DeShong and Constable Hodge, of the Tenth ward, confiscated a large cabinet of musical instruments last night at the home of John Willis, 1707 1/2 Seventh street. According to information in the hands of the authorities, they were placed there by G. G. Glace, recently arrested in Danville for speeding.

MILK BEING THROWN AWAY

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 18.—Dairy-men in Northeast Ohio are throwing away milk because of a dispute over prices with Pittsburgh buyers. Governor Cox has been asked to suggest some means for preventing the waste, according to a statement given out at that executive's office. The Ohio war defense council has taken up the question.

JAPANESE SHIP ASHORE

San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 18.—The Japanese freighter Koto Hira Maru went ashore in the eastern Pacific on July 27 and vessel and cargo, valued at \$1,000,000, will be a total loss, according to a message received here to-day by the Chamber of Commerce. No details regarding the fate of the crew were received. The vessel was owned and operated by Mitsui & Co., of San Francisco. The vessel sailed from a Japanese port for San Francisco and previously had been reported fourteen days overdue.

CATHOLIC DIGNITARIES HERE MAKE PLEA FOR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL

Bishop Philip R. McDevitt, of the Harrisburg diocese of the Catholic church, gave the following statement to the Harrisburg Telegraph, voicing his hope for the careful consideration of Pope Benedict's plea for peace.

ARCHBISHOP PRENDERGAST

The peace message strikes a responsive chord in the hearts of a vast majority of all the people in the civilized world. For more than three years there has been a constant daily account in the newspapers of terrific battles and the slaughter and maiming of thousands. The cries of the victims and the moans of widows and orphans are always in our ears.

God grant that the appeal of the Holy Father may help to bring to an end the saddest chapter in the history of the Christian world.

BISHOP McDEVITT

Different judgments may be formed of the wisdom and the efficacy of the appeal of Pope Benedict XV for peace. Nevertheless, no one questions that his letter to the warring nations expresses the longings and hopes of the masses of the people, the world over, for the end of the appalling conflict in Europe.

No other individual is in the same position, as is the Holy Father, in speaking to the Allies and the Central Powers. Singular and apart from all secular rulers he is accorded unqualified loyalty, in spiritual matters by millions in every nation engaged in the present struggle. Hence his words on behalf of the holy cause of peace will find cordial approbation among his spiritual children in Europe and America.

No doubt the radicals on both sides will endeavor to enforce extreme terms upon their adversaries. But in this time of suspense—the prayer of every heart should be that God will guide aright the rulers of the nations as to the proper decision in regard to a proposal made wholly and solely to bring sweet peace to a suffering and distracted world.

R. R. STRIKE THREATENING BRITISH ISLES

40,000 Engineers and Firemen Want Eight-hour Day Recognized; Long Brewing

AFFECTS THE WOUNDED

Walkout Would Hinder Their Transportation as Well as Movement of Supplies

London, Aug. 18.—There is considerable danger of an immediate strike involving about half the engineers and firemen employed on British railroads. The main point at issue being the recognition of the principle of an eight hour day although the demand does not necessarily include making the principle effective during the war.

PARADE MONDAY AFTERNOON FOR COMPANY D MEN

To Move at 4.30 O'clock; Will Have Three Divisions; Route Announced

The farewell demonstration for Company D, Eight regiment, which will leave Monday night for Camp Hancock, Augusta, Ga., will be held Monday afternoon. Final arrangements for this affair were made at a meeting held last night of the general committee in the City Gray's Veteran Association armory.

All organizations participating will report at their respective designations at the ringing of the fire bells in order to be in position to move at 4.30 o'clock. An invitation has been extended to all the members of training camps as well as soldiers of any rank in the city to participate. E. C. Humer will be the chief.

American Forces to Train For War in Cuba

Washington, Aug. 18.—Cuba's offer to provide a mobilization and training camp for some American forces has been accepted. The number or description of the forces to be sent cannot be disclosed for military reasons.

The State Department to-day issued this statement: "The government of Cuba has offered in a most friendly spirit to the government of the United States the use of training grounds in that republic for the American forces."

"This generous offer has been accepted by this government with great pleasure and careful consideration has been given to the question as to which of the American forces would be most benefited by training on the island of Cuba."

"This question has now been determined and American forces will proceed to this eastern end of Cuba for training at an early date."

The action on the part of President Menocal in making this friendly offer is considered as a further proof of Cuba's desire to give cordial cooperation to the United States of America and to be of every assistance to it in the war which both countries are now waging for the rights of humanity against the imperial German government."

Killed on Way to Visit Middletown Relatives

While on his way to visit relatives at Middletown, E. K. Budd, aged 35, Philadelphia, was instantly killed when his automobile turned turtle on a newly oiled road at Bamford, near Lancaster. His wife and 5-year-old son were seriously injured in the accident. They were taken to a hospital in Lancaster.

Former Senator Kern Is Dead, Aged 68

Asheville, N. C., Aug. 18.—Former Senator John W. Kern, of Indiana, and Democratic nominee for vice president in 1908, died here last night of uremic poisoning. He was 68 years old. He came here a week ago to recuperate. Up to the time of his retirement from the Senate in March last, Mr. Kern was majority floor leader and chairman of the Democratic conference committee. He was a native of Indiana.

GERMANS MAKE ANOTHER FUTILE ATTACK AT LENS

Are Completely Repulsed in Sallies Against Positions Northwest of City

BIG GUNS ARE ACTIVE

But Fail to Dent Allied Lines; Light Sea Forces Clash

Another effort was made early to-day by the Germans to recapture the ground taken by the British in their successful attack in the vicinity of Lens, giving them control of dominating positions. The British war office reports that sharp fighting occurred northwest of Lens and that once more the attack of the Germans was repulsed completely.

Twelve Missionaries From U. S. Rescued by Marines

Peking (Thursday), Aug. 16.—Twelve American missionaries and a dozen other foreigners, mostly women and children, who were besieged by Chinese bandits at Tabul, a town about 160 miles northwest of Peking, have been rescued by marines of the United States marine corps.

Captain Calvin B. Matthews and Lieut. Thomas M. Luby, of the marine corps, who are attached to the Peking legation, left Kalgan early this month, accompanied by a detachment of Chinese soldiers, to bring out the besieged missionaries. Word was received here to-day that the American officers and the missionaries had arrived at Kalgan from Tabul.

Hostile Destroyer and Two Mine Sweepers Are Shelled by the British

London, Aug. 18.—The Admiralty announces that a hostile destroyer and two mine sweepers were damaged 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 through the mist over the mine field."

"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 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 and after the action a second submarine attacked, in both cases without result. Our vessels suffered no damage whatever."

REICHSTAG TO DISCUSS POPE'S PEACE EFFORT

Will be Taken up Tuesday; Central Powers Seek to Reconcile Views

JOINT ALLIED MEETING

Washington Announces Message May Hasten End of War

London, Aug. 18.—Pope Benedict's peace proposals and the general political situation will be discussed by the main committee of the German Reichstag when it is convened August 21, according to a Berlin dispatch transmitted through Copenhagen to the Exchange Telegraph Company.

Copenhagen, Aug. 18.—The German foreign office is not yet ready to announce the government's standpoint on the Pope's peace proposals and an answer probably will be delayed considerably while the four central powers are endeavoring to reconcile somewhat divergent views and interests regarding peace.

An article in the Cologne gazette perhaps presages the German viewpoint by declaring it is the duty of all governments to support any effort at honorable mediation and pointing out that the Pope's action is in line with previous efforts of Germany.

It is evident that Austria-Hungary will throw its full weight in favor of an affirmative answer to the Pope's welcome proposal. Just as Bulgaria which recently has been manifesting extreme sensitiveness upon Austro-German discussion of the future of Macedonia will flatly and vehemently oppose any acceptance.

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KOENIG, RELATIVE OF DEUTSCHLAND CAPTAIN, ENLISTS

Father of New Company D Recruit Is Cousin of German U-boat Commander

IS SWORN INTO SERVICE

Harrisburg Boys Leave For Camp Hancock Monday Night; Plans Complete

Company D, just on the eve of departure for Camp Hancock, at Augusta, Ga., has particular cause for elation. Last night a new recruit was secured. The young man successfully passed the test and was sworn in. His name is Koenig, and thereby hangs the tale.

For several generations the Koenig and navy circles—but not in America. The family tree is located in Germany, and Paul Koenig was selected to command the Deutschland when that now famous submarine surmounted all obstacles and brought to this country a cargo valued at millions.

The new recruit to Company D is Fred Koenig, Jr. His father, Fred Koenig, Sr., and Captain Koenig, of the Deutschland, are sons of brothers and are consequently first cousins.

Young Koenig was born at Enslin, Dauphin county, and is a printer by trade. For some time he has been employed in the State Printery. Despite the fact that he will in all likelihood have an opportunity to clash with some of his cousins, he is an American through and through and looks forward to the day when he will be able to obtain information on the movements of all the ships during the night.

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GERMAN LEAK IS PLUGGED BY MANY ARRESTS

Lloyd Line Auditor Taken Into Custody; From Home Saw Sailings

OTHERS TO BE INTERNED

Three Chemists Are Taken Into Custody by Secret Service

New York, Aug. 18.—The arrest of Heinrich S. Ficke, the auditor in this city of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, as an alien enemy was expected to be followed to-day by the detention of numerous other men, all of whom probably will be interned until the end of the war.

Ficke was arrested last night by United States Marshal Power, who said to-day that through his arrest and others to be made soon, the leak to Germany will be stopped. The marshal added that he was satisfied with the facts in his possession and that he had ample authority to act under President Wilson's proclamation relating to dangerous aliens.

The Ficke home on Staten Island is only a short distance from Fort Wadsworth, one of the main fortifications guarding the harbor approach to New York City. From the house, it was said, all ships leaving New York during the day can be seen and a short journey to St. George or Stapleton would make it possible to obtain information on the movements of all the ships during the night.

The mystery surrounding the arrest here yesterday of several German chemists had not been cleared to-day. The men were still confined in a police station where it was said they were being held on orders from the Department of Justice. Two of the men under arrest are Dr. John Hrabak and Robert Sterne. The police refused to make known the identity of a third man who was arrested by a secret service agent.

COMMERCE CHAMBER

Bethlehem, Pa., Aug. 17.—Definite steps were taken to organize a Chamber of Commerce for the new city of Bethlehem, which will have at least 800 members. A campaign will take place in September similar to the one which raised one million dollars for the bill-to-bill bridge. A secretary will be secured from out of town and also a city manager.

STRIKE OUT ONE CENT BANK CHECK TAX

Washington, Aug. 18.—In disposing of a dispute of the war tax bill, the Senate to-day by a vote of 23 to 22, struck out the provision inserted by the Finance Committee for a one cent stamp tax on bank checks, drafts and certificates of deposit, designed to raise \$10,000,000 in revenue.

AIR ALARM IN PARIS SOUNDED NEEDLESSLY

Paris, Aug. 18.—Official announcement was made by the Paris authorities at noon to-day that the alarm given last night for supposed enemy airplanes approaching the French capital was occasioned by a French airplane whose motor could plainly be heard but who failed to send out the customary signals announcing his nationality.

AMERICANS NEEDED TO WIN WAR

Paris, Aug. 18.—General Pershing told the Associated Press to-day that the war can only be won by hard and forceful blows delivered by well trained American troops working in conjunction with the allied armies.

TRANSFER MEN FROM EIGHTH REGIMENT

Sunbury, Aug. 18.—Brig. Gen. W. G. Price, Jr., of Philadelphia was to-day ordered to assume command of division headquarters here in the absence of Major General Clement, who leaves for Camp Hancock, Monday. Thirty-five enlisted men from each of the Eighth and Tenth infantry were to-day detached and permanently assigned to the 149th machine gun battalion.

RUSSIANS START OFFENSIVE

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

FRENCH MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS

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

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Norman Strobe, soldier, Mt. Gretna, and Alda Leigh, Philadelphia; Maurice Vener, soldier, and Louise K. Blaine, city; Henry Lemminger and Christian Laws, city; William A. McCarthy and Lillian E. Wertz, city; Ernest H. Sullinger and Gertrude V. Berry, city.