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Notice to Advertisers.  
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In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements, copy must reach this office not later than 9 a.m. on the day of publication.  
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# The Daily Mail

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The Weather.  
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Maritime: Fair and cold today. Winds increasing to gales from eastward, with snow late tonight and Sunday.  
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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1917

TWO CENTS PER COPY

## NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN ARMISTICE HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED FOR A WEEK

### Trotsky to Notify Allied Embassies in London---Postponement Made at the Instance of Russia---Report That the Ex-Czar Has Escaped.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, Dec. 8.—A Russian government despatch, dated Thursday and received here by wireless, announces that Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, has sent to all the Allied embassies and legations in Petrograd a note intimating that the armistice negotiations with the Central Powers have been suspended for a week at the initiative of the Russian delegation for the purpose of providing opportunity of informing the peoples and the governments of the Allied countries of the existence of such negotiations.

The note adds that the armistice will be signed only on condition that troops will not be transferred from one front to another, and that German troops are cleared from the islands in Moon Sound. It generally indicates the points of the negotiations in accordance with the wireless statement received from Petrograd on Thursday, and concludes:

"The period of delay thus given in the existing disturbance, of international communications, is amply sufficient to afford the Allied governments opportunity to define their attitude toward the peace negotiations; that is, their willingness or refusal to participate in negotiations for an armistice and peace. In case of refusal, they must declare clearly and definitely before making the aims for which the peoples of Europe may be called to shed their blood during the fourth year of the war."

#### BRITISH GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO RELEASE TWO RUSSIANS UNDER ARREST IN ENGLAND

LONDON, Dec. 8.—A note from the British government refusing to release Tchitcherin and Petroff, Russian citizens under arrest in England, the Petrograd correspondent of the Times says he understands was delivered at the Smolney Institute, the Bolshevik headquarters, on Thursday. The correspondent adds that the uneasiness of British citizens in Russia is increasing daily, and that the consulate in Petrograd is crowded with persons asking for protection and advice. Official protection, however, he says, counts for nothing, as an attempt to exercise it probably will increase the danger.

Leon Trotsky late last month demanded that the British government release Tchitcherin and Petroff, as well as others under arrest in England. It was later announced in Petrograd that Tchitcherin had been appointed Russian ambassador to London by the Bolshevik government.

#### A Temporary Armistice.

Petrograd, Dec. 7.—The text of the temporary armistice agreed upon between the Germans and Russians, as received here by telegraph from M. Karakhan, a member of the Russian delegation who remains in Brest-Litovsk, agrees generally with previous official statements. The telegram adds, however, that the Germans will make only such transfers of troops as were ordered before Dec. 5. The suggestion of the Russian delegation that the next conference meet at Pskoff, was rejected by the Germans.

#### Hun Delegate was Indignant.

London, Dec. 7.—A Reuter despatch from Petrograd today says: "When General Hoffmann (Von Hoffmeister?) the chief German delegate to the armistice conference, heard the Russian terms for an armistice, he became indignant and said: 'If you repeat that we will fight.'"

## NEW YORK STOCK MARKET TODAY

New York, Dec. 8.—Lower quotations ruled at the opening of the day's market, rails, industrials and metals yielding substantial fractions to a point on extremely light offerings.

**Political Meetings.**  
Last night the Unionists in York-Sunbury held meetings as follows: French Lake, speakers, Messrs. J. B. Daggett and C. D. Richards; Meductic, J. D. Palmer and W. S. Tompkins; Blissville, Mr. R. B. Hanson and others; North Lake, Mr. S. B. Hunter, M. P. P., Mr. David Hipwell and others. A women's Unionist meeting in North Devon was addressed by Mrs. Havelock Coy and Mrs. John Harvey. The Liberals had the following meetings: Magaguadavic, Messrs. N. W. Brown and W. P. Lawson; Waasiss, Messrs. E. C. Atkinson and T. C. Burpee; at Temperance Vale, P. J. Hughes and Mered Brewer; Middle Southampton, Messrs. R. W. McLellan and P. S. Watson.

## TO BE TRIED FOR HIGH TREASON

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Brockville, Ont., Dec. 8.—George Mason, editor and proprietor of the Prescott Journal, who is awaiting trial in the high court of the United Council, stands charged "that he did willfully and knowingly publish false news and a false tale whereby injury or mischief is likely to be occasioned to a public interest by writing and publishing in the Prescott Journal the following paragraph:

"Will a farmer cast his vote for a government which takes his son by the back of the neck and yanks him out of the plow-handles, ships him to the trenches and then, after he has done his best, lets him dig up the price as best he can to bring him back to his native land?"

Mr. John E. Booth, of Burlington, is at the Queen.  
Mr. August Kopp of Boston, is in the city.

## RELIEF FOR HALIFAX IS UNDERTAKEN

Nurses and Goods Sent Last Night—Carload of Supplies Goes Tonight, Another Later.

Fredericton is making every effort today to secure sufficient goods and necessities to afford some measure of relief to the stricken people of Halifax. The first instalment of the contribution from this city went forward last night as the baggage of the party of nurses which left for Halifax. One carload will go forward tonight via C.G.R. under the direction of Mr. Charles FitzRandolph. Mr. G. N. C. Hawkins accompanied the nurses' party last night being anxious to hear from his brother. On his arrival there he will inform the committee in this city what the urgent necessity is.

**Citizens' Meeting Yesterday.**  
Deputy Mayor Walker presided yesterday afternoon at the meeting of citizens held in the City Council chamber. There was a large attendance. Mr. R. H. Simonds was elected secretary. After discussion on the matter of aid for Halifax, on motion the following committee was appointed: F. B. Edgecombe, J. S. Neill, W. G. Clark, J. J. McCaffrey, C. F. Chestnut, W. S. Hooper, Charles FitzRandolph.

On the motion of Mr. W. E. Farrell, seconded by Mr. J. S. Neill it was decided that the City Council be asked to appropriate \$5,000 to provide necessities for Halifax. That sum was voted last night by the City Council.

**Committee Active.**  
The Citizens' Committee has been active all day. Early this afternoon one car had been loaded and a start made on the other. The Edgecombe store, King street, has been allotted as headquarters and all contributions are to be received there. The telephone is 361. What is wanted is clean bedding and second hand clothing in good condition. All who contribute are asked to give these to the committee at once. Cash donations are to go to Deputy Mayor Walker. The goods secured by the committee are as follows. Half a ton of putty, 200 boxes of glass, one carload of lumber, 600 rolls of tar paper, one-half carload of beaver board, two tons of provisions. Messrs. Edgecombe and McCaffrey are to buy \$1,500 worth of clothing, bedding and mattresses. Boots and shoes may be bought. Mr. R. B. VanDine has donated one case of overshoes.

**In Neighboring Places.**  
Neighboring places also are active. Mayor Henry and the town council of Devon met last night and considered the matter. This evening a relief fund was started in the town. Warden Neill and members of the municipal council met this afternoon to decide on action toward assistance. Maryville has wired for instructions concerning the urgent necessities and will act as soon as the information is received.

**Daughters of Empire.**  
The Daughters of the Empire have contributed the following:  
13 cases, 1st case, 6 pillows, 7 quilts, 1 1/2 dozen pajamas, 4 hospital shirts, 5 dozen towels, 500 mouth wipes. 2nd case, 40 dozen towels. 3rd case, 1 dozen flannelette hospital shirts, several hundred yards of linen for dressings, 42 dozen hospital handkerchiefs, 108 dozen triangular bandages. Ten cases are being prepared today to be shipped at 6.30 via C. G. R.

## FIRST DRAFT UNDER THE M. S. ACT CALLED FOR JAN. 3

### Postponement Due to Fact That Work of Registrars is Not Sufficiently Advanced---Notices Coming Soon.

OTTAWA, Dec. 8.—The first draft of men under the Military Service Act will be called to the colors on January 3. It was originally hoped, as stated in the proclamation calling upon the first class to register, to put the first draft in active service December 10, but owing to the fact that a very large proportion of the men in the first class postponed reporting for service or claiming exemption until the last days of the period fixed by the proclamation of Oct. 13 for compliance with the law, it is found that the work of registrars and tribunals has not yet advanced sufficiently to make it practicable to call a draft to the colors on the date indicated.

It would probably be possible, it is pointed out here, to make a call about December 24 or 25, but it is felt that the members of the draft should be accorded the opportunity of spending the Christmas season with their families and friends. It has therefore been decided to fix January 3 as the date upon which the first members of the draft will be required to join the depot battalions. Notice will be sent in due course by registered mail to the men affected. How many men will be actually called to the colors on Jan. 3rd has not yet been determined. Between 20,000 and 25,000 have been generally indicated, and it is probable that this will be about the number. How the first draft will be selected from among the men in the class has also not yet been determined.

## The Casualties at Halifax Are Estimated at 5000

### GOVERNMENT STEAMER MAY HAVE BEEN LOST

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Quebec, Dec. 8.—Since the government steamer Simcoe sent out her S. O.S. yesterday evening, off the Magdalen Islands, not a bit of news has come about the vessel, which carries a crew of 43 men. Fears are entertained here at the local agency of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, that the ship has gone down with part of her crew. What little of the men could find room in the lifeboats are liable to have suffered excessively from the intense cold through the blinding snow storm that is raging down the Gulf. The vessel is in command of Capt. Dalton, of Halifax.

Help was sent to the vessel the moment her S.O.S. was picked up, but nothing has been heard from the rescue vessels so far. All further attempts to raise a signal from the Simcoe's wireless have so far been to no avail.

Later—There is no doubt as to the loss of the ship. The chief officers of the vessel were: Captain, W. J. Dalton, St. John; Pilot, Wm. Sencalbaugh, Georgetown, P. E. I.; 1st officer, M. Brickley; second officer, Kenneth Kerr; third officer, W. Ring; wireless operator, W. E. Ward; chief engineer, Wm. Pitt; second engineer, W. Lockhart; third engineer, Geo. F. Johnson; fourth officer, A. F. Bennett; steward, J. Dally, all of St. John.

### U. S. WARSHIP HAS BEEN SUNK

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Washington, Dec. 3.—An American naval vessel in the war zone has been lost with loss of life.

#### Candidate Withdraws.

A telephone message from Bathurst this afternoon state that Mr. DeGrace, the Unionist candidate in Gloucester, had withdrawn, and Mr. Turgeon had been declared elected.

#### Sent Last Night.

Last night the following were sent: 30 sheets, 42 dozen hospital handkerchiefs, 1,200 roller bandages, 4 1/2 dozen knitted face cloths, 2,000 mouth wipes, 17 cotton helpless shirts, 1 flannelette shirt.  
Donated by Mr. Alonzo Staples—15 lbs. absorbent cotton, 5 lbs. of gauze bandage, 40 yards adhesive plaster.  
Donated by Mr. A. W. Coombes, adhesive plaster, absorbent cotton, gauze.  
Case, containing 42 suits pajamas, 34 dozen towels, a variety of small articles useful in hospitals. Case of pillow slips and 34 dozen triangular bandages.

### Heavy Snow Storm Adds to Horrors of the Great Tragedy---Another Dispatch Says Orders Have Been Placed For Four Thousand Coffins.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

HALIFAX, Dec. 8.—Five thousand casualties, two thousand dead, three thousand others injured, this is the latest official estimate of the toll exacted in lives and suffering by the explosion and fires on Thursday. If anything were needed to add to the horrors of the tragedy, it was the heavy fall of snow which began early yesterday morning and continued all day, reaching the proportions of a blizzard last night, with the wind blowing forty miles an hour. It was a heavy, damp snow that clung to the clothes, blinded the eyes and impeded the movements. Relief automobiles were progressing by inches merely, and those still working among the ruins suffered intensely from the cold, and at times were forced to cease work entirely.

#### STATE OF MAINE SENDS BLANKETS, COT BEDS, AND CAN FURNISH OTHER RELIEF TO HALIFAX

Augusta, Me., Dec. 8.—Ten thousand heavy wool blankets, one thousand cot beds, and a corps of staff and medical officers and assistants from the Penobscot County Committee of Public Safety, left today for Halifax. Governor Milliken sent the following telegram to the Governor General of Canada, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, and the headquarters of the American Red Cross at Washington:

"The State of Maine is awaiting word to send aid to Halifax. Several score of doctors and several hundred nurses offer their services. An abundant supply of groceries is on hand. The state can furnish at once four hundred thousand square feet of beaver board, ten tons of putty, 200,000 lights of glass, and ten thousand rolls of tarred paper and roofing paper. Crews and carpenters and other volunteer workers are ready for any emergency. On advice just received I am sending two thousand blankets and one thousand cots from the state military store, and 8,000 other blankets from Bangor, with staff and medical officers and other assistants. Notify me of other needs."

#### Baron Shaughnessy's Offer.

Montreal, Dec. 8.—Lord Shaughnessy telegraphed last night to Sir Robert Borden at Halifax, offering to place at the service of the Halifax sufferers the Victory Loan committee of this city, which would do anything that the premier suggested in the way of assisting the people affected by the great disaster. This action of Lord Shaughnessy's telegram is a follow-up to the conference between Chairman W. J. McConnell and other prominent members of the Victory Loan committee and Mayor Martin yesterday on the question of helping Halifax.

#### Montreal Takes Action.

Montreal, Dec. 8.—Mayor Médéric Martin yesterday afternoon, after a conference with the leading members of the Victory Loan committee, asked the Royal Bank of Canada to place \$100,000 immediately at the disposal of the sufferers in Halifax, the Victory Loan committee having undertaken the work of raising the funds. His Worship wrote to Lord Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, who headed the Victory Loan campaign, requesting him to act in a similar capacity in connection with the raising of this \$100,000.

#### Message from Manitoba.

Winnipeg, Dec. 8.—The following wire was sent today by the provincial cabinet to Hon. G. H. Murray, premier of Nova Scotia:

"In the absence of Premier Norris, I am instructed by the other ministers of the government to convey to the people of the Halifax district the heartfelt sympathy of the citizens of our province. If any assistance from us will be necessary, please communicate with Premier Norris.

(Sgd.) "THOS. H. JOHNSON,  
"Acting Premier of Manitoba."

#### Indescribable Scenes.

Halifax, Dec. 7.—A terrible north-east blizzard adds horror to the Halifax holocaust. The dead are being taken out crusted with snow and charred by fire. The estimate of 2,800 is believed to be correct. The death list possibly is higher. A child was found living today in the ruins, today, unharmed, and it is feared this means that many have been buried alive. Two hundred children's bodies remain in the Dartmouth school. There are indescribable scenes at the morgue. One man saw all that remained of two beautiful daughters, twenty-two and eighteen, in one small box; also his gallant son recently home from the

front after three years' fighting, and his wife, with bodies terribly mutilated, legs, arms and heads missing. A soldier on the train coming to the city was crying over the picture of his sweetheart taken two weeks ago, and who now has both eyes gouged out by the awful concussion. There are many cases like this.

#### Seven Dead in One Family.

A man coming in by train from New Glasgow was informed that his wife, mother and five children are dead.

A colored woman sent to Truro for treatment was discovered clasping the body of her babe—quite dead.

The once beautiful city is like a wilderness at night. There are no lights, the car service is again paralyzed after being resumed today. All the trains are cancelled tonight. One telegraph wire is working. The devastated area is two square miles, and property damage \$20,000,000. There is a great shortage of bread today, but the small shops are open with appetizing foods.

The S.S. John relief party was eighteen hours on the way.

F. C. Colborne, manager of the C. P. R. telegraph office here, a former St. John man, was slightly injured in the knee. His wife and two children also were cut up. Their servant, Gerlie Levine of Bathurst, N. B., lost one eye and will probably lose the other. Dr. Murdoch Chisholm, last night reported missing, is safe.

#### All in Orphans' Home Perish.

The matron and all the children of the Protestant Orphans' Home perished. One thousand families are homeless and some spent last night in the open. Some are now in bell tents on the commons. The Academy of Music, the Y. M. C. A., and the C. G. R. terminals are all turned into temporary hospitals and many people have died since the explosion.

No. 6 pier was destroyed. No. 2 is not seriously damaged. The new terminals to the south are untouched. The business section can be quickly restored. The greatest need is putty and glass. The outgoing trains for the day were crowded with refugees, with hopeless faces and snow-wet clothing. The suffering under the storm surpasses description. The St. John relief committee met the Halifax emergency organization at city hall to night and were warmly welcomed. Arrangements were made for opening the cars of provisions and clothing in the morning. Mayor Hayes and the

(Continued on page 4.)