

# THE HALIFAX CATASTROPHE DISCUSSED IN THE HOUSE

**Hon Mr. Ballentyne Says That Strict Regulations Governing the Handling of Explosives are Now in Force—Amount of Federal Assistance to Halifax is Limited to Twelve Million Dollars.**

Ottawa, May 18. — The House of Commons this morning went into committee on a bill respecting the Halifax Relief Commission. The purpose of the bill, Sir Robert Borden explained was merely to confirm an act of the legislature of the province conferring certain powers on the Halifax Relief Commission. The bill also provided that the accounts of the commission shall be audited by such persons as the governor-in-council may appoint upon the recommendation of the auditor-general. It further empowered the commission to make certain alterations in the streets of the city, the idea being that better grades would be secured. Hon. Mr. Lemieux observed that town planning would mean many appropriations and asked if the commission had reached any final decision, the matter would be reported to the governor-in-council. Sir Robert Borden replied that before taking any important steps involving considerable expenditure, the commission had always reported to the government. So far as exportations were concerned, the opinion was that very little expenditure would be occasioned. The changes proposed would mean a decided improvement to the appearance of the city and to the committee for the people.

## A LIST OF NON-ESSENTIALS.

(New York Sun.)

The second man on the box.  
Coat-room boys.  
Furs in May.  
William Hohenzollern.  
The names on children's hatbands.  
Multi-millionaires.  
Frederick Hohenzollern.  
Ermine in Russia.  
Whiskey.  
Hyphenated Americans.  
The German peace proposals.  
The Kaiser's tears.  
The treaty at Brest-Litovsk.  
The rest of the Hohenzollerns.  
Austria's influence with Berlin.  
Bulgaria.  
Nine-tenths of our "patriotic" songs.  
A considerable proportion of our war fiction.  
The word "camouflage."  
Literary editors.  
Politics.  
Statements about what we are going to do in the war.  
Little men with large conception of their individuality.  
Von Hindenburg's address to the German people.  
The German people.  
Cloth topped shoes.  
Swagger sticks.  
Spurs in Washington.  
The pronunciation of Ypres.  
Spinach.  
The self-appointed boss.  
The sultan of Turkey.  
The cost of gasoline to John D. Rockefeller.  
Chancellor von Hertling.  
Sea serpents.  
The perpetual knocker.  
Overcoats for dogs.  
Colored collars.  
Civilization.

## BRAZIL WILL SOON TAKE AN ACTIVE PART

(New York Sun.)

Brazil is planning to take an active part in the war against Germany within a short time, possibly by the end of this summer, declared Sir John Aird, head of the Canadian Bank of Commerce of Toronto, Canada, who arrived at an Atlantic port today with Lady Aird from South America. Sir John Aird has been in South America for several months. He went to Rio de Janeiro and crossed by rail to Montevideo. There is a great improvement in conditions in South America, he said. Finances are 100 per cent. better than they were a year ago.

"The people of Brazil are strongly pro-ally," he said. "They realize there are thousands of young men in the country who could fight. They are asking in an increased clamor, 'Why, if we have declared war on Germany don't we go over and do something?' Throughout Brazil the opinion prevails that before the summer is over the country will certainly take some active part in the war."

"At present ships of the Brazilian navy, including submarines, are guarding a great deal of the South American coast."

## TELEGRAPHERS ON G. N. W. MAY GO ON STRIKE

Toronto, May 18.—Leaders of organized telegraphers here today declared that a strike of Great North-western telegraph operators all over the system is likely. This is a result of the refusal of the company to reinstate Thomas Taylor and Geo. Thompson, two operators, the former general chairman of the union, who were yesterday acquitted by a jury of charge of conspiracy in regard to divulging telegrams relating to racing. Telegrams have been received by the deputy international president of the telegraphers' union demanding reinstatement of the men with full pay for lost time.

## WILL STAMP OUT GERMAN PLOT

London, May 17.—Chief Secretary Shortt, says a press association despatch from Dublin, referring to the proclamation authorizes the statement that the measure for which he accepts full responsibility rests considerably with the Lord Lieutenant, Viscount French, and is directed solely against a dangerous German intrigue of which they have knowledge. The Irish government he added are fully aware that the number of Irishmen and Irish women in active co-operation with the German enemy is very small, but many might unknowingly become involved and they believe, therefore, they can rely upon the support of the Irish without regard to creed or political views in the measures they have taken. The Irish are determined to take every necessary step to stamp out the German plot. The proclamation will be posted throughout Ireland today and the arrests of the supposed leaders are expected to follow immediately.

### Joined Flying Corps.

St. John Globe: Mr. Cecil D. Fitzgerald, a popular member of the N. B. Telephone Co. staff, has enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps and will leave this evening to spend a few days at his home in Fredericton before going to Toronto, where he will take up his studies. While in St. John Mr. Fitzgerald has been a resident of the Y. M. C. A. and has made many friends here who wish him every success.

### A Big Round-up.

Truro Sun: The two Dominion policemen who have been in Truro for several weeks in the interests of the Military Service Act, have rounded up about thirty-five men as defaulters under the Act. These men have been secured in Truro and at various points in Colchester county. For the most part they are not residents of the county.

### Will Return Home.

Word received from across seas says that Lieut. Col. G. W. Merser has been in poor health for some time and was about to be returned to Canada. He has been in command of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division Base in France since the 132nd New Brunswick Battalion which he took over to England was broken up.

Toronto Globe: They're coming, the flower of the youth of French Canada, to supply cadets for the air service. La Presse, of Montreal, publishes pictures of groups of Quebec lads recruited by Capt. J. E. McKay. Many of the names are those of well-known French-Canadian families—Boisvert, Boudreau, Drouin, Roy, Asselin, Leduc, Parent, Vaillancourt, Duhamel, Bissonnette, Papiere, Lachance, Dorion, Groulx and others. They are very welcome, and we want them to know it.

## Slants of Humor

### SOLDIERETTES.

When the last debutante has gone nursing.  
And the last "parasite" ceased to shirk.  
And the last "clinging vine" is a farmer,  
And the last "slackerette" is at work,  
We shall labor with brain and with body,  
We shall labor from early till late,  
No longer a plaything, or burden,  
But Woman, man's partner and mate!

### AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.

"Where's your uncle, Tommy?"  
"In France."  
"What is he doing?"  
"By his letters we think he has charge of the war."

### MUSIC IN THE CELLAR.

Husband—Mary, stop the pianola! Great Scott, woman, where is your appreciation? Don't you hear our half ton of coal rattling down the chute?

### GIVE CREDIT WHERE DUE.

During a military church service in Boston some British recruits were listening to the chaplain saying: "Let them slay the Huns as Moses slew the Egyptians," when a recruit whispered to his companion: "Say, Bill, the old bloke is a bit off; don't 'e know it was Kitchener who swiped the Egyptians?"

### JUNKERISM.

Egomaniac theology:  
Says the kettle to the pot,  
"Kneel and sing a new doxology  
To meinself and Gott!"

### PROHIBITION DRINK.

Hurrying to the side of the conductor, a passenger eagerly inquired, "Do you think that I will have time to get a soda before the train starts?"  
"Oh, yes," answered the conductor.  
"But suppose," suggested the thirsty passenger, "that the train should go on without me?"  
"We can easily fix that," promptly replied the conductor: "I will go along and have one with you."

## Y. M. C. A. MEN MEET ALMOND

Ottawa, May 18.—Representatives of the National Council of the Y. M. C. A. met today in conference with Col. Almond, director general of chaplain services overseas, and mutually agreed on a working basis in religious work for enlisted men. Certain misunderstandings which appeared to exist were happily cleared away.

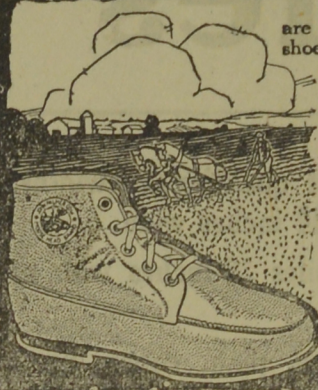
### Creditable Record.

From Friday, May 3rd till Monday, the 13th, the county jail in Charlottetown was without an inmate. This is the second time, says the Charlottetown Guardian, since the jail was built in 1911 that we have had an entirely empty jail, the other occasion being four years ago and lasting only one day, and yet, as the Guardian points out, the jail would not be empty if all the miscreants had their deserts, as a burglary and a highway robbery have been reported, the perpetrators of which have not yet been apprehended by the police.

### FARMERS TO HAVE LOBBY.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
Ottawa, May 18.—The farmers have decided to establish a lobby at the capital. They think that if they can keep a committee at Ottawa which will watch legislation and use their influence with the members they can get more concessions.  
They are proposing to place every member on record as to his position on the exemption of farmers, and where answers are unsatisfactory they will circulate petitions asking for their resignation.

## Palmer's Summer Packs



are sometimes called plough shoes or harvest shoes because they are especially designed for wear in the ploughing and harvesting seasons.

You will not be troubled with tired, aching feet after doing a hard day's work in Palmer's Summer Packs, because they are light in weight, durable, roomy, comfortable and waterproof.

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Offering the Newest and Best Plays

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