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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: Westerly gales. Sleet or snow at first, then clearing. Turning decidedly cold again by night.  
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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1918

TWO CENTS PER COPY

## MONT BLANC'S CAPTAIN AND PILOT MCKAY ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE

### Judgment Handed Down This Morning in Halifax Enquiry---Criminal Prosecutions Recommended--- Captain and Pilot Immediately Arrested.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

HALIFAX, Feb. 4.—That the collision between the French munitions ship Mont Blanc and the Norwegian Belgian relief ship Imo, which took place in Halifax harbor on December 6th last, resulting in the explosion of the Mont Blanc's cargo and the loss of fifteen hundred lives and the great destruction to property in Halifax city and county, was caused by violation of the rules of navigation, and that Pilot Mackay and Captain Lamedec, of the Mont Blanc, were wholly responsible therefore, was the finding of the court of inquiry here this morning. The court recommends the dismissal of Pilot Mackay by the pilotage authorities and calls the attention of the law officers of the crown to the evidence with a view to criminal prosecution. The court also recommends to the French authorities consideration of this evidence with a view to cancelling Captain Lamedec's license and dealing with him according to the law of his country.

### FULL TEXT OF FINDING SIGNED BY JUSTICE DRYSDALE AND WRECK COMMISSIONER DEMERS

The following is the text of the judgment:  
Sir,—Having been directed by the Honourable the Minister of Marine to hold a formal enquiry into the cause of the explosion on the steamship Mont Blanc on December 6th, 1917, I have to report as follows:

That, as directed, I had associated with me as nautical assessors, Captain Demers of Ottawa, Dominion Wreck Commissioner, and Capt. Walter Hose, R. C. N., of the city of Halifax. I began the enquiry on the 30th day of December, 1917, and having heard all the witnesses that could throw any light on the situation, and having conferred with the nautical assessors, I have reached the following conclusions and desire to report as follows:

1. I find the explosion on the Mont Blanc on December 6 was undoubtedly the result of a collision in the harbor of Halifax between the S. S. Mont Blanc and the S. S. Imo.

2. Such collision was caused by violation of the rules of navigation.

3. That the pilot and master of the Mont Blanc were wholly responsible for violating the rules of the road.

### PILOT MACKAY'S DISMISSAL URGED AND FRENCH AUTHORITIES ASKED TO DEAL WITH CAPTAIN

4. That Pilot Mackay, by reason of his gross negligence, should be forthwith dismissed by the pilotage authorities and deprived of his license.

5. In view of the gross neglect of the rules of navigation by Pilot Mackay, the attention of the law officers of the crown should be called to the evidence taken on this investigation, with a view to criminal prosecution of such pilot.

6. We recommend to the French authorities such evidence, asking to have Captain Lamedec's license cancelled and the captain dealt with according to the law of his country.

7. That it appearing that the pilotage authorities in Halifax have been permitting Pilot Mackay to pilot ships since the investigation commenced and since the collision above referred to, we think the said pilotage authorities deserving of censure. In our opinion the authorities should have promptly suspended such pilot.

### COMMANDER WYATT, CHIEF EXAMINATION OFFICER, IS CENSURED BY COMMISSIONERS

8. The master and pilot of the Mont Blanc are guilty of neglect of the public safety in not taking proper steps to warn the inhabitants of the city of a probable explosion.

9. Commander Wyatt is guilty of neglect in performing his duty as chief examination officer, in not taking the proper steps to ensure the regulations being carried out, and especially in not keeping himself fully acquainted with the movements and intended movements of vessels in the harbor.

10. In dealing with the chief examination officer's negligence in not ensuring the efficient carrying out of traffic regulations by the pilots, we have to report that the evidence is far from satisfactory that he ever took any efficient steps to bring to the notice of the captain-superintendent, neglect by the pilots.

11. In view of the allegations of disobedience of the chief examination officer's orders by pilots, we do not consider such disobedience was the proximate cause of the collision.

12. It would seem that the pilots of Halifax attempt to vary well known rules of the road, and in this connection we think Pilot Renner, in charge of an American tramp steamer on the morning of the collision, deserving of censure.

13. That the regulations governing the traffic in Halifax harbor in force

## MANY LAVAL STUDENTS NOT PHYSICALLY FIT

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Montreal, Feb. 4.—Le Pays, of this city is exercised because of the medical examination of 177 students of Laval University having shown only thirteen for military service overseas, flat feet having been the least serious of the defects among the rejected students. Le Pays says the cause of this state of affairs was ignorance on the part of the mothers of these students in raising children. "The time has come," says the paper, "for the clergy in this province to call a spade a spade. They should tell the mothers that the salvation of souls does not depend upon bringing a little being into the world every year whose body goes to the cemetery and the soul to Heaven, but that their duty is to give healthy children to their country."

Le Pays says the situation at Laval should be regarded "as a cry of war for the French race to awaken and avoid the disaster which is at hand."

## HON. MR. OLIVER NOT TO PROTEST

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Edmonton, Feb. 3.—It was unofficially announced here Saturday that Hon. Frank Oliver has decided not to proceed with his protest against Brigadier General Griesbach, C. M. G., D. S. O., in West Edmonton. The expected protest against H. A. MacKie, member elect for east Edmonton, will also be dropped.

## B. C. HAS A NEW PARTY

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 4.—A new political party was born Saturday, when the federated labor party was formed at a conference of delegates, following the conclusion of the eighth annual convention of the British Columbia federation of labor. The new party will be a working class political organization and not confined to union men, but unorganized workers as well.

## FRENCH TROOPS CARRY OUT SUCCESSFUL RAID

### Captured a German Position and Some Materials---Enemy Batteries Silenced--- Naval Air Craft in a Bombing Raid.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

PARIS, Feb. 4.—The War Office announcement issued tonight says: "One of our detachments this morning carried out in the sector northwest of Courtecon, in the region of the Ailette, an attack on a small German position, which it brought back in its entirety to our lines, taking thirty prisoners and capturing much material. Supplementary reports show that the enemy attack repulsed by us last night north of Bures was carried out by a detachment of about 1200 men. The enemy losses were particularly heavy."

"There was reciprocal artillery activity in the region of Doiran and west of the Vardar. On the Serbian front there were several encounters with Bulgarian patrols."

### BELGIAN OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

PARIS, Feb. 4.—The Belgian official statement on military operations issued last night reads: "During the last two days our artillery has silenced several enemy batteries and has carried out plans of destruction and reprisal against enemy organizations and trenches in reply to artillery fire and bomb firing before Dixmude. An enemy aviator was brought down within our lines by British airmen yesterday."

### SUCCESSFUL BOMBING RAID.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—"Yesterday naval aircraft carried out a bombing raid on the enemy airfield at Houthave, Belgium," the Admiralty reports. Many bombs were dropped on the objective. During the day, in the course of aerial fighting, one enemy aircraft was destroyed and two were driven down out of control. Two of our machines failed to return."

## DOMINION COUNCIL OF THE NAVY LEAGUE HAS A BIG PROGRAMME

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

MONTREAL, Feb. 3.—The Dominion Council of the Navy League of Canada concluded its first annual meeting on Saturday, when arrangements were made for a campaign to get 250,000 members, each paying \$2 a year. In addition to a grant of \$100,000 to the Nova Scotia division of the Navy League for the purpose of building and equipping a Sailors' Institute in Halifax, the Dominion Council made an appropriation of \$30,000 for the British Columbia division; \$25,000 for the relief of dependents of seamen in the navy and mercantile marine not aided by the Patriotic Fund, and \$10,000 a month to the Navy League of England for the dependents of disabled and wounded sailors now in the British Isles. In the appeal of December 8th last, the Canadian subscriptions amounted to \$25,000. The committee went to Ottawa today to wait on the government tomorrow with a request for a grant.

The next annual meeting will be held in Victoria, B. C.

## The War Will be Prosecuted With the Utmost Vigor

### SIR P. GIROUARD FOR GOVERNOR OF EAST AFRICA

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Nairobi, British East Africa, Feb. 3.—A mass meeting of the residents enthusiastically and unanimously passed a resolution requesting the Imperial government to appoint former governor Sir Percy Girouard, military governor of British East Africa, and to proceed with the war with powers to organize the colonies efforts in the direction of "utilizing such a portion of its population as is unavailable for military service to develop its immense potential energies and resources in the immediate production of commodities which are urgently required."

E. S. Grogan, Lord Delamere and others emphasized the urgent necessity of organizing the entire resources of the protectorate in order to provide for the immediate requirements in Mesopotamia and Palestine, thereby saving shipping and subsequently contributing food and other necessities. It is said there are millions of acres of the finest land in the world available in East Africa for the empires war worn soldiers. Sir Percy Girouard is a son of the late Hon. Desire Girouard, justice of the supreme court of Canada.

## BRITISH RAID HUN TRENCHES

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

London, Feb. 4.—"Early last night a party of our troops raided the enemy's trenches east of Hargicourt," says today's official announcement. "The hostile artillery was active during the night in the neighborhood of Lens and northeast of Gavrelle."

Mr. W. L. Stewart of St. John, is in the city.

## A Complete Agreement Arrived at by the Delegates to Supreme War Council at Versailles---Will be Closer and More Effective Co-ordination.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, Feb. 4.—The text of the official statement on the Versailles conference follows:

"Meetings of the third session of the Supreme War Council, were held at Versailles, January 30 and 31 and February 1 and 2. In addition to the members of the Supreme War Council, namely, Messieurs Clemenceau and Pichon, for France; Lloyd George and Lord Milner for Great Britain; Prof. Orlando and Baron Sonnino for Italy, and the military representatives of the Supreme War Council, Generals Weygand, Wilson, Cadorna and Bliss, there were also present for the greater part of the purely military discussion, the French and British chiefs of general staffs, Generals Foch and Robertson; the Italian Minister of War, General Alfieri, and the commanders in chief on the western front, Petain, Haig and Pershing. Mr. A. H. Fraser, first secretary of the United States Embassy at Paris, was present during the political discussions."

### A GENERAL MILITARY POLICY TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ALL THE PRINCIPAL THEATRES OF WAR

"The decisions taken by the Supreme War Council in pursuance of this contingent, embrace not only a general military policy to be carried out by the Allies in all the principal theatres of the war, but more particularly a closer and more effective co-ordination under the council of all the efforts of the powers engaged in the struggle against the Central Empires."

"The functions of the Council itself were enlarged and the principles of unity of policy and action initiated at Rapallo in November last, received still further concrete and practical development. On all these questions a complete agreement was arrived at after the fullest discussion, with regard both to the policy to be pursued and to the measures for its execution."

### PROSECUTION OF THE WAR WITH THE UTMOST VIGOR ONLY IMMEDIATE TASK BEFORE ALLIES

"Under the circumstances the Supreme War Council decided that the only immediate task before them lay in the prosecution of the war with the utmost vigor, and the closest and most effective co-operation of the military efforts of the Allies until such time as the pressure of that effort shall have brought about in the enemy governments and peoples a change of temper which would justify the hope of the conclusion of peace on terms which would not involve the abandonment, in the face of an aggressive and unresponsive militarism, of all the principles and freedom, justice and respect for the law of nations which the Allies are resolved to vindicate."

"The Supreme War Council gave the most careful consideration to the recent utterances of the German Chancellor and the Austro-Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, but was unable to find in them any real approximation to the immediate conditions laid down by the Allied governments."

### CIVILIZATION WILL BE DEFENDED AGAINST AN UNSCRUPULOUS ATTEMPT AT CONQUEST

This conviction became all the more pronounced by the impression made by the contrast between the professed idealistic aims with which the Central Powers entered upon the negotiations

## KING ALBERT VISITS PARIS

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Paris, Feb. 4.—King Albert of Belgium, passed through Paris yesterday for the south of France, where he will spend a few days with friends. He called on President Poincare who asked the Minister to hand to the Queen a newly created medal "Francis gratitude" on behalf of the French government.

## SERIOUS FIRE AT HARVARD

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 3.—Dane Hall, one of the oldest buildings of the quadrangle in the Harvard Yard was burned today. Thirty thousand rounds of the ammunition in the basement were removed by men of the Naval Radio and Ensign School under the direction of their officers. Valuable records belonging to the University and the government schools were also saved.

Mr. R. Max McCarthy of St. John, is at the Barker House.

at Brest-Litovsk, and their now openly disclosed plans of conquest and spoliation.

The Allies are united in heart and will, not by any hidden designs, but by their open resolve to defend civilization against an unscrupulous attempt at conquest. This unanimity is confirmed by a unanimity no less complete both as regards the military policy to be pursued and as regards the measures needed for its execution, which will enable them to meet the violence of the enemy's insults with firm and quiet confidence, with the utmost energy and with the knowledge that neither their strength nor their steadfastness can be shaken.

"The splendid soldiers of our free democracies have won their place in history by their immeasurable valor, and their magnificent heroism and the no less noble endurance with which our civilian populations are bringing their daily burden of suffering to the strength of those principles of freedom which will crown the military successes of the Allies with the glory of a great moral triumph."

## DEMANDED PEACE AND FOOD

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Amsterdam, Feb. 3.—A Trieste despatch received by way of Berlin reports that a general strike, including the shipyard workers, was declared there, demanding peace and food.

After hearing the governor's reply, which dwelt especially on the recent speech of Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, the strikers held a further meeting and decided to resume work, which they have already done.