

FOUR THOUSAND REPORTED KILLED

BEUGIAN RELIEF SHIP RAMS FRENCH MUNITION SHIP AND EXPLOSION TAKES PLACE IN HARBOR WHICH DESTROYS THOUSANDS.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 9.—No official report was made here today to check or revise the long list of dead and injured resulting from Thursday's disaster when a munitions ship's cargo exploded in the harbor.

The morgue officials held to their estimate of 4,000 dead, but other report by half.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 7.—With the toll of death steadily mounting, it was believed early this morning that more than 2,000 persons perished in the explosion and fire which followed the collision yesterday morning in Halifax harbor between a munitions-laden French ship and another vessel the *Imma*, loaded with supplies for the Belgian relief commission.

The disaster which has plunged the Dominion into mourning, probably will rank as the most fearful that ever occurred on the American continent. Residents of Halifax and thousands of volunteer relief workers who have come into the city have been almost dazed at the extent of the horror.

Temporary morgues have been established in many buildings to which a steady procession of vehicles of all kinds have been carrying for hours the bodies of men, women and children. Most of them were so charred that they were unrecognizable. Thousands of persons seeking trace of relatives and friends have passed by the long, silent rows, attempting, by the flickering light of lamps and lanterns, to identify the ones they sought.

Virtually every building in the city which could be converted into a hospital is filled with wounded, many of them so desperately injured that there is no hope of their recovery. Scores already have died in these temporary hospitals. An ever-increasing number is being taken from the completely devastated Richmond district to the relief station.

The city was in darkness tonight except for the flames from the fires still burning in the wrecked buildings in the north end. Kerosene lamps furnished the illumination by means of which surgeons and doctors toiled heroically throughout the night caring for the injured.

Soldiers sailors and police patrolled the streets tonight, and upon them fell the major portion of the burden of searching among the ruins for the dead and wounded. The Canadians were assisted in this work by sailors from an American warship in the harbor.

The flame-swept area covers approximately two and one-half square miles. It begins at what is known as the North street bridge extending south to Pier 8 on the Richmond waterfront and back to a point running parallel with Gettysburg street. Nothing has been left standing in this section of the city. Only a pile of smoldering ruins marks the spot where the great building of the American Sugar Refining company stood. The dry dock and all the buildings which surrounded it were destroyed. The Richmond school, which housed hundreds of children, was demolished and it is reported only three escaped.

Canadian officers who have seen long service in France characterized the catastrophe as "the most fearful which has befallen any city in the world."

Chief of police Hanrahan late last night estimated the number of killed at 2,000 and other city officials expressed belief that it would exceed that number.

Eggs Stock is Large.

The perishable food division of the food administration at Washington has announced that the stock of eggs now in storage is very large in excess of that at this time last year and all the handlers and consumers of eggs are urged to keep these facts in mind and govern their purchases accordingly. The surplus of cold storage eggs now above the supply at this time last year, is more than 20 per cent, or in definite terms 757,711 cases. The excess of frozen eggs is 7,193,751 pounds or 114 per cent greater than the supply last year at this time.

Dealers are being requested to cooperate in bringing this supply to the market to the end that this large supply of eggs may be used before it deteriorates and to counteract the recent tendency of egg prices to run wild.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

On account of the lack of coal, there will be no prayer service Wednesday evening. Coal will be in the latter part of the week, in time for Sunday's services.

NEWS OF CURRENT EVENTS

Incidents Gathered From All Parts Of the Country.

Thirteen convicts, six of them murderers, overpowered two guards and escaped from the Illinois state prison at Joliet. Most of them were recaptured.

Surgeon Bland Williams, of the United States navy, committed suicide in a hotel at Norfolk, Va., Monday night. Despondency over physical condition assigned as reason. He shot himself with a pistol. Wife and two children survive.

An informal understanding of vote in the house on nation-wide women suffrage and nation-wide prohibition constitutional amendment bills, December 19 and 20, respectively, has been reached by leaders the house of congress.

Eight men were killed and more than 25 injured, many of them seriously, by an explosion that wrecked the plant of the Aetna Chemical company, at Heidelberg, a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pa. The property damage is estimated at \$250,000.

General Duhanon, who took over the post of commander-in-chief of the Russian armies after the overthrow of Premier Kerensky, was thrown from a train and killed as the result of lynch law, according to an official announcement from Petrograd.

Within the last month 77,500,000 one-cent pieces have been coined to relieve the penny shortage caused by imposition of war taxes. The usual swollen demand for small coin for holiday shopping has been anticipated in the coining of 18,700,000 dimes and 11,000,000 nickels.

Five deaths among the American expeditionary force in France was reported to the war department Tuesday by General Pershing. Four were from natural causes. The fifth, that of Sergeant J. H. Houston of Garland, Ala., was accidental. Houston was killed in a railroad accident.

Rear Admiral Charles Custis Rogers, U. S. N., retired who was constructor of the naval station at Guantanamo, Cuba, 1904-1906, and commandant of Norfolk navy yard in 1910-11, died in a hospital in Washington Tuesday night. He was 61 years old, a native of Virginia.

Infant Buried.

The dear little child of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Saunders of Dravo was buried at Mt. Sinai church on Friday after Thanksgiving. Mrs. Saunders was Miss Ida Putnam.

The infant of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wright of No. 6 was buried at Beaver Dam on Nov. 18. The child was two days old.

Wedding.

Miss Belle Grant, daughter of Mr. Amos Grant, a popular local druggist and Mr. Ed Lee, son of Mr. Lee, late owner of the Shelby Mill were happily married on Wednesday evening at the home of Square M. P. McJannet, at the home of the couple will live with Mr. Lee as Lee of the Shelby Mill were the best wishes of their many friends.

Two Mills at Forest City.

It is understood that a cotton mill has been organized at Forest City and that a Shelby man, well versed in the textile industry has taken stock and will manage the same. The mill will be known as the Alexander Manufacturing company.

Also Forest City is to have a knitting mill which has been organized with an authorized capital stock of \$20,000. Mr. W. P. Leister, formerly superintendent of the Shelby Cotton Mill, who has been living in South Carolina for some time will be manager.

Sugar Outlook Brighter.

New York, Dec. 8.—Prospects are bright for an early return to normal conditions so far as sugar is concerned, according to a statement by Jas. H. Post, chairman of the American Refiners' committee, today. The availability of crops from the West Indies soon after new year, he said, would tend to eliminate the existing stringency, and the situation might be expected to approach normal by February.

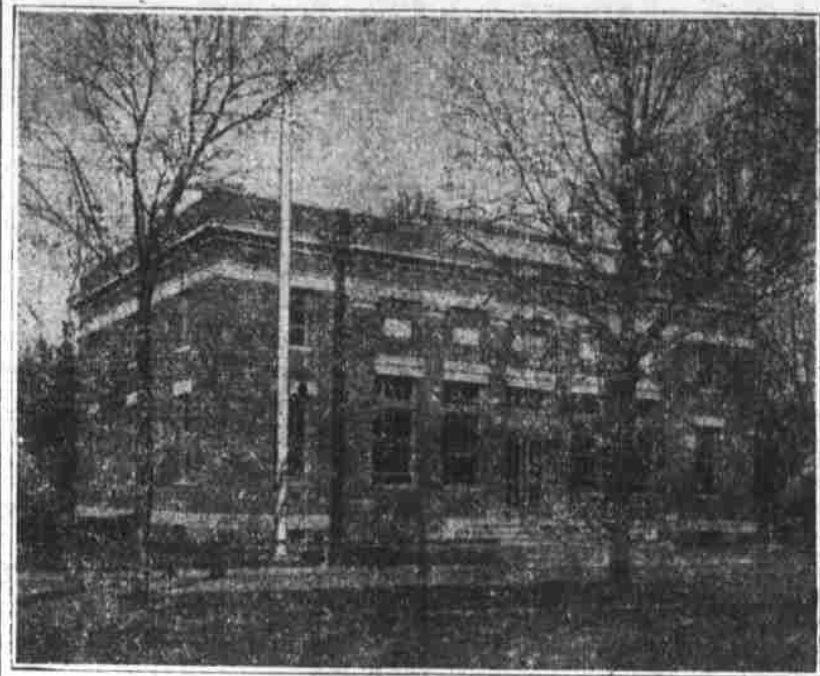
TWO BALES WITH SEED BRING FARMER \$553.68

Gastonia, Dec. 8.—W. G. Hughes, a farmer of the mountain section, sold two bales of long staple cotton to the Flint Manufacturing company here today for which he received \$463.93. He sold the seed for \$87.75, making a total for the two bales of \$553.68. The bales weighed 1,242 pounds and the price paid was 41 1-2 cents per pound. Raising cotton like this is on the face of it profitable business.

Play at Piedmont.

A play entitled "Valley Farm" will be given at Piedmont high school Saturday night of this week, beginning at 7:30 o'clock. Those who will take part are members of the expression class. The program will be a most interesting one.

SHELBY'S NEW POSTOFFICE IS 'OCCUPIED TODAY FOR FIRST TIME



NEW POSTOFFICE BUILDING

Shelby's new government building was occupied last night and is open today for the receipt and dispatch of mails. Don't forget and go to the old location through force of habit. The Federal building has been completed at cost of \$67,000 and stands on the corner of Washington and Warren streets. It was begun 21 months ago and encountered considerable delay in construction on account of the contractors, Messrs. Candler and Campbell going broke on another job which necessitated the bonding Company finishing the work. Delay was also encountered by delayed shipments of material. But now the building is finished and has been officially turned over. It is a magnificent structure, simple in exterior architecture, but handsome and substantial in every respect with every convenience for patrons and employees and the safe-keeping of the records, mail and money. The body of the building is of white pressed brick with stone steps, a concrete courtyard in the rear and terraced lawn in front and on the south side.

The lobby is spacious and costly with marble terrazzo floor, marble border, marble wainscoting and columns. There are four sections of lock boxes, a double window for general delivery of mail and sale of stamps, three windows on the left side for money orders, registry and parcel post. The building has two large burglar proof vaults, one for the postmaster who is now the central accounting postmaster for 14 postoffices in the county, which necessitates his keeping on hand valuable supplies and considerable money.

The building is equipped with secret passageways for postoffice inspectors who might wish to investigate the conduct of any employes without their knowing he is in the building.

Up stairs will be found shower baths, toilets, carriers' and clerk's rest room and a civil service room where civil service examinations will be held.

Mr. John Young of High Point has been the efficient supervisor of the construction of the building for the government. He has been in the government service for 20 years and during the erection of this building, kept in constant view everything to see that the material and workmanship were the best and were put in according to specifications.



W. J. ROBERTS, POSTMASTER

Fifteen Men Operate in the New Federal Building.

Mr. W. J. Roberts has been the courteous postmaster for over two years, having received the endorsement for the office in a very flattering vote from the public. Since taking charge he and his assistants have done their utmost to give satisfactory service and in this they have pleased the patrons in a most gratifying manner. Under an executive order affecting all offices of this class, Mr. Roberts can hold his position as long as he wants to and his services are satisfactory to the postoffice department. The others attached to the office are: J. B. Mauney, assistant postmaster, Wilbur H. Baber, senior clerk, Russel G. Laughridge, junior clerk, Chas. W. Washburn auxiliary, Carr E. Cline fireman laborer and Georgia Stewart (colored) char woman. Rural carriers from the Shelby office are: Route No. 1 George Elam; No. 2 G. V. Hawkins; No. 3 George Dover; No. 4 Charles M. Carson; No. 5 Fred E. Green; No. 6 Walter Hartgrove; No. 7 Charles H. Wells; No. 8 J. Forest Lutz; city carrier No. 1 W. R. Putnam; city carrier No. 2 John A. Weaver.

Mr. Roberts expects to throw the building open to the public for his inspection one night soon after affairs are straightened out.

Card of Thanks.

Although far away in the west, I want to thank the kind friends and neighbors for their kindness and help during the illness and sad death of my dear old father, Mar. God bless you all. ELIZABETH GREGG, Santa Rosa, Calif., Nov. 23, 1917.

HORRIBLE SCENES AT HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Tells of Seeing Bodies of Dead Men, Women and Children Under The Wrecked Buildings.

The battlefields of Europe do not provide a parallel to the scenes witnessed at Halifax, Nova Scotia in the opinion of Duncan Grey.

He was engaged in inspecting shells in a shed on the water front and barely escaped before the building collapsed.

This is his story:

"A few seconds after the roar of the explosion a gust of wind swept through the shed and then down came pillars, boards and beams. I rushed to the open and the sight that met my gaze was the worst that I hope ever to see.

"I have been in the trenches in France, I have gone 'over the top', friends and comrades have been shot in my presence I have seen scores of dead men lying upon the battlefield, but the sight that greeted me yesterday was a thousand times worse and far more pathetic.

"I saw people lying around under timbers, stones and other debris; some battered beyond recognition and other groaning in their last agonies.

"Rushing here and there, I struggled to assist them and as near as I can remember pulled 22 men and children from under the wreckage. As I was right in the effected district, I witnessed the full horror of the situation. Partly blinded by the smoke from burning dwellings, I groped around assisting some of the poor mothers and little ones who were running around screaming and searching vainly for lost ones, in many instances never to be seen by them again.

"I struggled on, coming across more and more bodies of dead men, women and children. Death was everywhere.

"Flames were sweeping a wide pathway for themselves. Doomed structures were belching forth great volumes of smoke from doors and windows. The district was a living hell.

"Half strangled by the smoke, I kept pulling out bodies from under beams and fallen chimneys and under wreckage. Some of the bodies were without clothing. Many were so mutilated that it was difficult to realize that they were human. Some men were virtually demented. Thinking only of their wives and children, they dashed about in the burning debris, hazarding their lives with the single thought of rescuing their own.

"I shall never forget how I felt in that hour. I saw little children running along, some with blood streaming from them. All were crying for their parents while fathers and mothers raced about in frenzy. I have never seen anything so pathetic, even on the battlefield."

Right Rev. E. A. Leblanc, the Catholic bishop here, received word that all the children of the Sacred Heart convent and at St. Mary's school in Halifax escaped.

ITALIANS HARD PRESSED

By the German Troops

Saturday's Dispatch.

That the Italians are being hard pressed by the enemy in greatly superior numbers and in gun powder is indicated by the latest official communication. Additional gains have been made by the invaders in the Asiag plateau region, but again a heavy price in men killed or wounded was paid by the attacking forces. At last accounts the Italian line still was intact and the way barred against the enemy debauching on the Venetian plain.

The Berlin-war office in an announcement of fresh victories achieved against the Italians asserts that 4,000 additional men have been made prisoners, bringing the total since the new offensive began, up to 15,000.

Only minor operations are in progress on other fronts.

Blacksburg Man Injured.

Gaffney Ledger. A. J. Goforth a prominent citizen of Blacksburg, sustained a serious injury Thursday when the team which he was driving became frightened by the falling of a piece of furniture from the wagon. Mr. Goforth fell from the wagon after vainly trying to stop the team and was very painfully injured, his face and head being cut in a number of places. Fortunately no bones were broken and it is hoped that he will have a speedy recovery. The accident occurred in Blacksburg.

Mrs. Austell Stricken.

Gaffney Ledger. Mrs. Susan Austell was stricken Thursday afternoon with apoplexy and her condition at the time of going to press is very serious. Mrs. Austell is the widow of the late Hon. Wm. Austell, who represented Spartanburg county in the general assembly when this territory was a part of Spartanburg county. She is the mother of Messrs. W. N., Charles and Lloyd Austell.

U. S. DESTROYER SUNK BY U-BOAT

AMERICAN DESTROYER IS SUNK IN WAR ZONE BY GERMAN SUBMARINE—MOST OF THE CREW PROBABLY LOST.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Lieutenant Commander David Worth Bagley and Lieutenant Norman Scott were among the survivors rescued after the sinking of the American destroyer, *Jacob Jones*, by a German submarine in the war zone Thursday night. The navy department was so advised late tonight by Vice Admiral Sims.

These two officers, two warrant officers and two enlisted men were named in the admiral's dispatch as survivors in addition to the 37 previously reported saved. It is now established that the fire line officers on the destroyer were rescued. Gunnar Harry R. Hood and 63 men are missing.

Admiral Sims' report said that Commander Bagley and the five other men saved with him got away in a motor boat and were picked up and landed uninjured at the Scilly islands.

The *Jacob Jones*, one of the largest and newest American destroyers operating in the Atlantic, was the first American warship to fall victim to a German submarine, but was the second American destroyer to be lost in foreign waters. The *Chauncey* sank with her commander, Lieutenant Commander Walter E. Reno, two other officers and 18 enlisted men, after being cut in two by the transport *Rose* early on the morning of November 20th.

MISS PATSY WALSER AND LIEUT. TURNER TO MARRY

Popular Lexington Girl to Become the Bride of Army Officer in January.

Mr and Mrs. Zeb Vance Walser announce the engagement of their daughter, Patsy Adderton, to Hiram Barricklow Turner, lieutenant in the United States army, the marriage to take place January 5th at Lexington. Lieutenant Turner is a member of a prominent family of Indianapolis, Ind., and a graduate from Wabash college in the class of 1915. He received his appointment at Fort Benjamin Harrison and has been assigned to the United States army, being now stationed at Louisville, Ky. Miss Walser is a graduate of Peace institute Raleigh, and a student of the Cincinnati conservatory. It was while a student there several years ago she met her fiance. The wedding has been put forward on account of the uncertainty of the date when Lieutenant Turner will receive sailing orders.

This announcement will be of interest to a wide social circle throughout the state. The family of the bride have long been prominent in this section and Miss Walser is a wide social favorite and a musician of decided ability. For two years she was in charge of the musical department of Boiling Springs high school, in Cleveland county, and has this year been teaching music in the Shelby public school.

RECRUITING OFFICERS HERE.

Naval Men Say the Navy Needs Men For all Branches—Negroes Wanted Especially.

Our correspondent had a lengthy conversation yesterday with B. T. Beck Jr., chief electrician U. S. navy, who has with him Mr. H. L. Belles, boatswain's mate first class forming a traveling recruiting party under the command of Lt. Comd. John J. London of the Raleigh recruiting station.

The navy needs electricians, wireless operators, machinists, firemen, seamen and mess attendants. All of the positions are wonderful opportunities for young men starting with good pay and having very good advancements to positions of high rank. Some four hundred men from the ranks have been made commissioned officers in the navy in the past five months. Any man in the naval service can take the examination for a commission at any time he cares to and a man going in the service now has a fine chance of making the commissions.

The position of mess attendant is a great opportunity for ambitious young negroes, pay to start is \$37.00 per month and all expenses. There is advancement to \$72.00 per month and additional.

Anyone interested is cordially invited to call on the recruiting party at the postoffice for any information on the service.

There is a wonderful moving picture on at the Princess Theatre tonight "Life and Training in the Navy" Here mothers and fathers can see just how their sons will be treated and cared for by Uncle Sam.

Men who are in the draft can enlist prior to December 15th, 1917. So there is no time to lose.

See those silk and linen handkerchiefs also fancy and initials at Evans E. McBrayers.