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More Than Five Thousand Lives Lost By an Explosion of Cargo of Munitions

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 7.—With the toll of dead steadily mounting, it was believed early this morning that more than 5,000 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 *Loma*, 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.

The city was in darkness to night 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

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Congress Adopts Resolution Declaring War Exists With Austria-Hungary

Washington, Dec. 7.—War between the United States and Austria-Hungary was formally declared today.

Congress, with one dissenting vote in the house, adopted and President Wilson approved a resolution declaring existence of a state of war between the "imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government and the government and people of the United States," authorizing the President to employ the nation's armed forces and pledging its resources to victory.

The resolution, the response of Congress to the President's requests in his address Tuesday, is similar to that passed April 6 declaring war with Germany. It became effective at 5:03 p. m. today when it was signed by the executive proclamation will follow shortly.

After one hour's debate the resolution was unanimously adopted by the senate with an affirmative vote of 74. It was approved by the house, 363 to 1. Representative London, the New York socialist, casting the only dissenting vote. A few minutes later Vice President Marshall and Speaker Clark had signed the document and sent it to the white house where President Wilson attached his signature with Secretary Tumulty and Assistant Secretary Forester as the only witnesses.

American Destroyer Victim of Submarine

Washington, Dec. 8.—Lieutenant Commander Bagley and Lieutenant 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.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Three officers and 73 men were believed tonight to have gone down with the American destroyer *Jacob Jones*, torpedoed and sunk in the war zone by a German submarine at 8 o'clock last Thursday night.

Vice Admiral Sims, up to a late hour, had been able to supply only meager details in reply to urgent messages from Secretary Daniels, whose brother-in-law Lieut. Commander David W. Bagley, commanded the last vessel, and was reported among the missing. Three officers and 34 men were picked up by other vessels from life rafts to which they clung, but the names of only ten of these had been transmitted to Washington.

The *Jacob Jones*, one of the largest and newest American submarine chasers of her type 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* went down with her commander, Lieut. Walter E. Reno, two other officers and 18 enlisted men, after being cut in two by the transport *Rose* early in the morning of November 20.

ESCAPED TURKISH PRISONER THRILLS PAGELAND AUDIENCE

Man Who Spent 18 Years in a Turkish Prison Tells of Cruelty of His Captors.

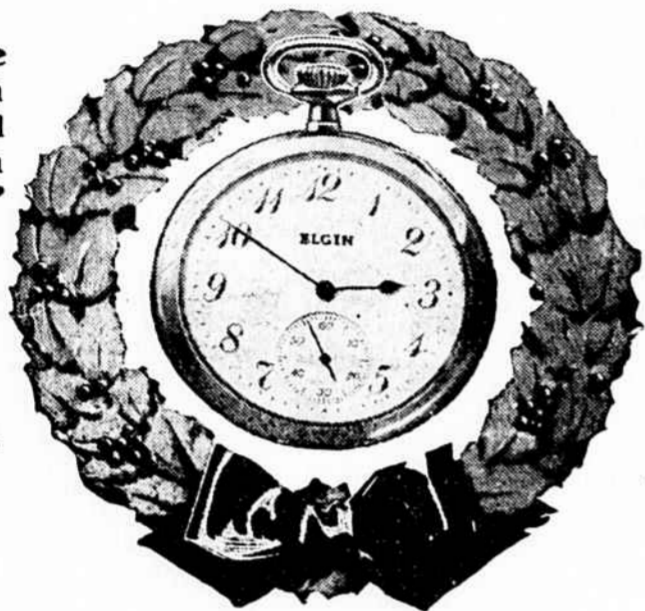
For nearly two hours Sunday afternoon Captain H. M. Laurene, an escaped Turkish prisoner, held his audience in the school auditorium here spellbound with his thrilling story of his capture by the Turks in 1896, his eighteen years suffering and humiliation as a prisoner of these lustful fanatics, his release by General Lemaire in December 1915, his return to civilization and his vain search for his wife and child he left in France when he enlisted in the French army. Such a vivid and firsthand account of Turkish atrocities had never been given in this town, and the people sat during the long address without evidence of tiring. The auditorium was packed to overflowing, and seldom has an audience given such rapt attention to a speaker.

The man's features bore the marks of suffering and sorrow, and his physical condition was such that he dropped to a stool exhausted at the end of his lecture. His hair was down to his shoulders, his face was emaciated, and his appearance was that of an old man. He is only 47, however, according to his story. He is well educated, has command of excellent English, as well as French and Turkish. His words came in an easy, flowing manner. His eloquent recital of the bloody crimes of the blind and fanatic followers of Allah and Mohammed brought tears to the cheeks of many strong men. His story was told in a calm and dispassionate way, but as he told of the heartless murder of innocent and unoffending women and children

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"And the Wise Men Presented Unto Him Gifts of Gold"

Mat. 2:11



The First Christmas Was a Jewelry Christmas.

A Jewelry Christmas A. D.--1

A Jewelry Christmas A. D.--1917

Just Received the nicest line of Jewelry ever shipped to Pageland. Don't wait till the last day Come early and get the choice pieces yourself.

B. B. Eubanks

Are You a Patriot or a Slacker?

"If this war lasts as long as I think it will, we will have to stand up against the fence to gobble.

"The time is coming when we will need money and will not have it. We are spending too fast, and that for the things that do not sustain life nor win battles."

The above observations were made by one of our oldest and clearest thinking men. They express our sentiments, because they are not pessimistic utterances but a plain statement of facts.

In attempting to tax everything to raise revenue, the government wisely left off the provision taxing bank deposits.

Uncle Sam says it is every man's duty to save.

First, to save money and supplies to support himself and family in any emergency.

Second, to deposit his money in the banks where it will be kept safe and will make known to our enemies the stern strength of our nation. This is a time when dollars must fight as well as men.

The BANK of PAGELAND