

E X P L O S I O N D E C E M B E R 6 t h , 1 9 1 7 .

M o r n i n g M e e t i n g .

City Collector's Office,

City Hall, Halifax, N. S.,

December 6th, 1917.

As a result of a collision off Richmond this morning between the Belgian Relief Ship "Imo", and the French Tramp Ship "Mont Blanc", the latter loaded with a large quantity of high explosives, an explosion occurred which totally wrecked all the district bounded by the South by a line drawn through the Admiralty House Property, on the West by Gottingen Street, and on the North and East by the waters of the Harbour, and similarly destroyed all buildings in the North End of Dartmouth. It also extensively damaged all buildings in other parts of Halifax and Dartmouth and nearby districts in the Municipality of Halifax County.

Following the Explosion in Halifax the buildings at once took fire, which fires are raging at this time, and it is reported that there are a large numbers of people killed and many injured persons in the ruins.

The following members of the City Council who were in the City Hall at the time assembled at the above place at 11.30 o'clock, a. m., it being the only room in the building not so badly wrecked by the Explosion as to be unfit for the purpose:-

Deputy Mayor H. S. Colwell, Controller John Murphy, Controller George A. Taylor, Alderman Robert B. Colwell, Alderman Frank A. Gillis, Alderman John E. Furness.

The Deputy Mayor stated that in the absence from the City of His Worship the Mayor he had instructed the City Clerk to summon an Emergency Meeting of the City Council

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for three o'clock this afternoon, it being absolutely impossible to notify the members of Council earlier owing to existing conditions, but that he felt the present attendance of so many members of Council afforded an opportunity for the immediate, though of course informal, consideration of the situation and any steps which should be taken at once.

He further stated that he realized it was necessary that an Executive Committee and various Sub-Committees should be organized forthwith to carry on the work of rescue and relief, and that, therefore, he proposed that this meeting should be turned into a joint meeting of those Members of the City Council who are in attendance and of such citizens as are present - being all he could speedily convene.

The following citizens among others were present:-

His Honor Lieutenant Governor McCallum Grant, Mr. Justice Harris, Mr. G. S. Campbell, Mr. A. E. Jones, Mr. J. Norwood Duffus, Mr. W. A. Black, Mr. J. L. Hetherington, Mr. R. H. Metzler, Mr. Geo. Henderson, Mr. I. C. Stewart, Mr. R. T. MacIlreith, K. C., Mr. A. S. Mahon.

The Deputy Mayor thereupon moved that the Meeting be constituted as a joint meeting of the Members of the City Council present and Citizens in attendance, and that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor be appointed Chairman of the Meeting.

This motion being seconded by Controller Taylor was carried unanimously.

^{motion}
On/the Deputy Mayor was appointed Secretary of the Meeting.

LIST OF HEADLINES.

Military Assistance.
Medical Assistance.
Fire Apparatus.
Organization.
Committees - Appointment of.

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MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

The Deputy Mayor reported that accompanied by the City Clerk and Chief of Police he had shortly after the Explosion waited on the Military Authorities with a request for men to aid in the rescue of the injured and assist in their removal to Hospital, to recover the bodies of the dead, and to help in the work of extinguishing fires.

He further stated that he had also asked the Military Authorities for Mattresses, Blankets, Tents, etc., and that the Military Authorities readily acceded to all his requests and that Col. W. E. Thompson, A. A. G. had issued immediate instructions to have the aid asked for speedily supplied.

Col W E Thompson

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

The Deputy Mayor further reported that he had caused messages to be sent to Towns of the Province and elsewhere calling for Doctors and Nurses.

FIRE APPARATUS.

The Deputy Mayor further reported that he had sent out calls to nearby towns for fire apparatus.

ORGANIZATION.

A short discussion then took place as to the matter of the organization of Committees, after which it was unanimously decided that such Committees should be formed at once under the name of the HALIFAX RELIEF COMMITTEE, and the following were thereupon appointed:-

COMMITTEES - APPOINTMENT OF.

Executive Committee.

Mr. R. T. MacIlreith.
Hon. R. G. Beazley.
Alderman R. B. Colwell.
Mr. J. L. Hetherington.
Controller Murphy
Mr. W. S. Davidson.
His Worship the Mayor - ex officio.

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Transportation Committee.

Alderman F. A. Gillis.
Controller Finlay.
Mr. J. Norwood Duffus.
Mr. W. A. Black.

Food Committee.

Mr. J. L. Hetherington.
Mr. H. G. Bauld, M. P. P.
Mr. Clifford Parwood.

Shelter Committee.

Controller Murphy.
Mr. W. S. Davidson.
Alderman J. E. Furness.

Finance Committee.

Mr. Justice Harris.
Mr. G. S. Campbell.
Mr. R. H. Metzler.
Mr. George Henderson.

Mortuary Committee.

Alderman R. B. Colwell.
Controller Taylor.

It was on motion resolved that the Committees above named should have power to add to their numbers.

It was further decided that Citizens should be invited to attend the Emergency Meeting of the City Council called for three o'clock this afternoon.

Meeting adjourned at 12. 15 p. m.

H. S. Currell

ACTING SECRETARY.

*Received
December 6th 1917
H. S. Currell*