

BATTLE OF THE SOMME WAS A SWEEPING VICTORY

German Armies Only Saved From Complete Collapse and Decisive Defeat by Protracted Period of Unfavorable Weather.

A despatch from London says: "The Battle of the Somme is pictured as a sweeping triumph for allied forces which the allies are fighting in a detailed report by General Sir Douglas Haig, which was issued on Friday night, and which covers battle has placed beyond doubt the operations from July 1 to Nov. 18, ability of the allies to gain those objectives. The German army is the mainstay of the Central Powers, and a full half of that army, despite all advantages of the defensive and supported by the strongest fortifications, suffered defeat on the Somme this year. Neither victors nor vanquished will forget this, and although bad weather delays the offensive, the battle has given the enemy a respite, there are undoubtedly many thousands in Germany "when the time comes." The British commander shows himself the ability to resist our assaults or overtake in the doctrine that a battle can win the war on the western front.

"I desire to add a few words as to future prospects," he says at the close of the despatch, which covers 16 closely-printed pages. "The enemy's power is justified."

BRITAIN PLACES LARGE ORDERS FOR HUGE CARGO STEAMERS

Much of The New Tonnage Available for Use of State in Six Months.

A despatch from London says: The problems of labor and material can be solved a considerable amount of shipping correspondent will be available for service within six months.

"Very considerable orders are being placed for new cargo steamers to assist in the provision of labor arrangements, it is understood, have been made whereby no men will be taken from the shipyards and engine works for military service without the sanction of the Admiralty and the Shipping Controller."

GREAT DRIVE AGAINST ITALY

Turks to Attempt to Crush Italy Much as Serbia Was Crushed.

A despatch from Rome says: Gen. Morrone, the Italian Minister of War, admitted in the Chamber on Friday that the Austrians and Germans are preparing a great offensive against the Italian front for next Spring. A Deputy in the course of a speech alluded to the forthcoming offensive, and turning to the Minister of War expressed the hope that the necessary preparations were being taken to support it, and sufficient artillery, ammunition and troops being concentrated where necessary. The Minister tacitly admitted that the offensive was expected.

400 BRITISH TRAINS OFF TIME TABLE

A despatch from London says: With the New Year it is calculated that 400 passenger trains will disappear from the British railway timetables. Many of the remaining trains will run more slowly and with a larger number of stops. Long distance non-stop expresses will be as rare as they were thirty years ago. The Daily News says, so far as comfort and speed are concerned, the clock will be put back a quarter of a century.

SOLDIERS' VOTE GIVES "WETS" A MAJORITY

A despatch from Vancouver, B.C., says: Private cables received in Vancouver claim that the "wets" have received sufficient votes cast by British Columbia soldiers overseas to overturn the majority of 6,000 secured for prohibition in the home vote of the province on Sept. 14th last. The "wets" claim to have voted nine out of ten thousand men. The ballots are not yet counted.

OVER \$150,000,000 DAMAGE OCCASIONED IN OIL FIELDS

British Military Mission to Rumania Rendered Stock and Property Utterly Useless to Germans.

A despatch from London says: Speaking on Friday at a meeting of the Rumanian Consolidated Oil Fields, William W. Rutherford, member of Parliament from the West Derby Division of Liverpool, said that probably the value of the oil fields destroyed by the allies in the Rumanian retreat amounted to £30,000,000. It was a wholesale destruction, he remarked, carried on by a British military mission acting under the instruction of

BRITISH FRONT IS EXTENDED

Haig's Troops Take Over Further Section of the French Line.

A despatch from London says: The continuation of the British offensive along the Somme front is impossible as long as the present weather lasts, Major-General Frederick B. Maurice, chief director of military operations of the War Office, so informed the Associated Press on Friday.

"I told you some time ago," he said, "that our offensive would not cease during the winter, but it must be apparent from the daily reports that no battle has been offered in that sector since October. In the first place we underestimated the effect of the shelling on the terrain. The country over which the advance will have to be made is thickly sprinkled with holes filled with water. Also never having held the same line in any other winter, we underestimated the effect of the fog in the valley of the Somme."

"Our new armies entered battle with a determination to win and confidence in their power to do so. They have proved to themselves, to the enemy and to the world that this confidence is justified."

"I desire to add a few words as to future prospects," he says at the close of the despatch, which covers 16 closely-printed pages. "The enemy's power is justified."

IMPORTANT RUSSIAN TOWN HAS FALLEN TO THE INVADERS.

A despatch from London says: The net of the Teuton allies apparently is fast closing in upon Braila, Rumania's oil and grain centre, on the Danube. Having taken Filipechi, 30 miles to the south-west, Field Marshal von Mackensen's troops have now captured the railroad town of Rimnik Sarat, relatively the same distance to the east, while the guns of the Dobruja army are still hammering the Russo-Romanians at the bridgehead of Matchin, on the east bank of the Danube, opposite Braila.

Prior to the fall of Rimnik, Sarat the Teuton allies defeated the Russians on a front of 10½ miles southwest of the town, while the Teutonic army captured several fortified villages, according to the Berlin War Office. Petrograd admits that the Russians and Romanians have been forced to fall back north of Megura, but says elsewhere the invaders were defeated with heavy casualties.

"Germany is feeling that her complete defeat is near, and near also is the hour of retribution for all her wrongdoings and violations of the moral law. As in the time of her strength she declared war, so now, feeling her weakness near, she openly offers to enter upon peace negotiations before her military talents are exhausted."

"At the same time she is creating a false impression about the strength of her army by utilizing her temporary success over the Romanians who lack experience in the conduct of modern warfare."

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