BATTLE OF THE SOMME WAS A SWEEPING VICTORY

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

British commander shows himself a ability to resist our assaults or over firm believer in the doctrine that the come our defence. allies can win the war on the western front.

ly-printed pages. "The enemy's pow- is justified."

A despatch from London says :- | er has not yet been broken, nor is it The Battle of the Somme is pictured yet possible to form an estimate of as a sweeping triumph for allied the time the war may last before the armies in a detailed report by General objects for which the allies are fight-Sir Douglas Haig, which was issued ing have been attained, but the Somme 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 ob-General Haig terms the battle a jects. The German army is the maintriumph in which the German western stay of the Central Powers, and a full armies were only saved from com- half of that army, despite all advanplete collapse and a decisive defeat by tages of the defensive and supported a protracted period of unfavorable by the strongest fortifications, sufferweather, which prevented the Anglo- ed defeat on the Somme this year. French forces from taking full ad- Neither victors nor vanquished will vantage of their successful advance. forget this, and although bad weather He declares that nevertheless it was a has given the enemy a respite, there triumph which proved beyond doubt are undoubtedly many thousands in the ability of the allies to overthrow his ranks who will begin the new cam-Germany "when the time comes." The paign with little confidence in their

"Our new armies entered battle with a determination to win and confidence "I desire to add a few words as to in their power to do so. They have future prospects," he says at the close proved to themselves, to the enemy of the despatch, which covers 16 close- and to the world that this confidence

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

Morrone, the Italian Minister of War, Patriotic Fund. The prompt and gen- been successful, and I will be glad to admitted in the Chamber on Friday erous response on each occasion tell you the exact extent of the line preparing a great offensive against the debt which she owes to her sons mans know the point of junction. the Italian front for next Spring. A who are fighting for the Empire. "In Rumania the first Rumanian Deputy in the course of a speech al- Heavy as the sacrifices have already army, which has borne the brunt of luded to the forthcoming offensive, been, the Dominion is as determined the fighting, has been entirely withand turning to the Minister of War as ever to carry the war to a success- drawn, and is now re-forming in Molexpressed the hope that the necessary ful conclusion and, however onerous davia, while its place has been taken preparations were being taken to re- the burden may be, she is equally de- by the Russians. In Dobrudja the line sist it, and sufficient artillery, am- termined to help the families of those has been moved back in alignment munition and troops being concentrat- who are serving in the army and in with the battle-front north of the ed where necessary. The Minister the navy. The administration of the Danube. In this region both our al- Sir H. Rider Haggard in a letter to the Rumania. tacitly admitted that the offensive fund has been most successful and lies and the enemy are suffering from was expected.

HON. MR. CASGRAIN DIES OF PNEUMONIA.

Postmaster-General Passes After Brief Illness.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Hon. T. Casgrain, Postmaster-General of Canada, who has been ill with pneumonia for several days, died here on Friday morning. Mr. Casgrain contracted the disease following a chill on his way home from New York ten days ago. His condition, however, was not considered alarming and his physicians say he passed a good night. At 7 o'clock on Friday morning, however, he took a sudden turn for the worse and sank rapidly.

TO SECURE ALCOHOL FOR MUNITION SUPPLY

A despatch from London says: It was officially announced on Friday that owing to the constantly increasing requirements of alcohol for the production of munitions and for other war purposes the Minister of Munitions had appointed a committee representing the distillery interests, as well as the Government departments, to consider the best means to adopt to secure adequate supplies.

CONSTANTINE'S ARMY BEING DEMOBILIZED.

A despatch from London says: The Foreign Office has received advices that the Greek Government is carrying out its promise to demobilize the Greek army. The work is proceeding satisfactorily, the advices indicate.

CANADIAN PATRIOTIC FUND.

New Year's Message From the Governor-General.

A despatch from Ottawa says: His Excellency the Governor-General as president of the Canadian Patriotic Fund has issued the following New Year's appeal on behalf of the Fund:

of Connaught appealed to the people A despatch from Rome says: Gen. of Canada in support of the Canadian that the Austrians and Germans are proves how truly Canada appreciates taken over when I am sure the Gereconomic and subscribers can be fully adverse weather conditions." assured that their contributions are being expended to the best advantage.

Fifty-five thousand families, comprising one hundred and fifty thousand individuals, are to-day dependent upon the fund and it is estimated that twelve million five hundred thousand dollars will be required to meet the requirements of the next twelve

The sum is a large one but when the circumstances are fully realized am confident that the people of Canada will willingly contribute the amount necessary for the fund to continue its patriotic and beneficent work. (Signed) DEVONSHIRE

SOLDIERS' VOTE GIVES "WETS" A MAJORITY

A despatch from Vancouver, B.C., says:-Private cables receives in Van- 400 BRITISH TRAINS couver claim that the "wets" have received sufficient votes cast by British Columbia soldiers overseas to overprohibition in the home vote of the province on Sept. 14th last. The "wets" claim to have voted nine or ten thousand men. The ballots are not yet counted.

GREAT BRITISH

MEAT PURCHASE

A despatch from Washington says: -The British Government has contracted for the entire exportable supply of New Zealand meat until at least three months after the close of the European war, according to reports reaching the Commerce Department from its agents abroad. Higher prices will be paid than the Dominions'

OVER \$150,000,000 DAMAGE

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

Speaking on Friday at a meeting of rendered the property and the stock William W. Rutherford, member of similar fate, he said. sion acting under the instruction of the kind during the war.

A despatch from London says :- headquarters. This work, he added,

Parliament from the West Derby The Volks Zeitung of Cologne re- the financial year ended March 31 Division of Liverpool, said that prob- produces the narrative of an officer last to £38,445,856, according to a ably the value of the oil fields destroy- of the German general staff in re- white paper issued on Friday. The ed by the allies in the Rumanian re- gard to the Rumanian campaign, in total capital of the national debt,

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 so 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 real 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 shell-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.

"There have been frequent frosts, not severe enough to harden the ground, but sufficient to form fogs, makin- artillery observation fire practically useless, and also preventing the drying of the ground.

"The French arrived at the same decision, and transferred their attention to Verdun, with results which you know. We may be able to resume in March, as we found the ground at Neuve Chapelle in fairly good shape in March, 1915, although it had been very bad during the Winter. Unable to continue the offensive for the present, we have done the next best thing. Twice his Royal Highness the Duke The taking over of a section of the French line has kept us busy during the past ten days. The operation has

CANADIAN BOATMEN TO GO TO MESOPOTAMIA

A despatch from Prince Albert, Sask., says:-A commission has been forwarded by the British Government to Capt. J. M. Macleod, of this city, to recruit fifty boatmen, to be employed on the river transport service on the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in carrying up supplies to British troops fighting the Turks. Capt. Macleod was a adian division. pioneer in steam navigation on the Peace River, and he has operated boats on practically every large river in Canada. It is understood five hundred river men from all over Canada please." are to be asembled at Montreal to go to England for training.

OFF TIME TABLE.

turn the majority of 6,000 secured for With the New Year it is calculated the man who can't keep his temper erican Committee for Armenian and that 400 passenger trains will disap- during a political discussion. pear from the British railway timetables. Many of the remaining DD 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.

MAN-POWER INVENTORY PRODUCING RESULTS.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The Times' man-power inventory being made by writes: the National Service Board is already producing results. The cards sent out by the board are coming back filled in with the information asked for. Five thousand are in already well in advance of the time when it was expected the first returns would be made. There are indications that the information asked for by the board will be readily and quickly forthcoming.

IN NATIONAL DEBT.

the Rumanian Consolidated Oil Fields, utterly useless to the foe. The oil A despatch from London says: The wells of German companies met a interest on debt created under the war loans of 1914-15 amounted during shows.

BERLIN'S STARTLING ADMISSION OF SHORTAGE OF PROVISIONS

Officially Stated That Government Will Have Difficulty in Supplying Food to People in 1917.

Regulation Board, to the Federated Von Batocki, would only bring a slight commodities, and he advises municause the scarcity of food is world- than previously in their placing con-

A despatch from Berlin says: A work animals, foodstuffs, fertilizers circular has been issued by Adolph T. and transportation facilities, cities Von Batocki, president of the Food and industrial communities will be compelled to keep a careful watch over the food problems. The system Governments, in which it is pointed of fixing maximum prices and preout that next year generally there will epmting commodities for public conbe difficulty in the way of the Govern- sumption, says Herr Von Batocki, has ments supplying food for the people. only worked well as regards grain. It Even the end of the war, says Herr has proved a failure with perishable change in the situation at first, be- cipalities to proceed on a larger basis tracts for the future delivery of meat, Owing to a shortage in laborers, vegetables, milk, butter and cheese.

FOR THE PAST YEAR

Decreased Wheat Yield of 25 Per Cent.

A despatch from Rome says:-The International Institute of Agriculture harvest estimates continue to indicate It is now the poor world crops. able for the first time, through new reports just received, to forecast the wheat production of Argentina. The Argentine wheat crop is estimated at 70,000,000 bushels, one-half that of

Australia's wheat crop is estimated at 135,000,000 bushels, which is four per cent. better than the yearly aver-

For the world's eighteen most important countries, including the United States, Canada, British India, Japan and all Europe the estimated total wheat crop is placed by the institute at 2,500,000,000 bushels, which is 25 per cent. less than for 1915.

40,000 AMERICANS IN THE BRITISH ARMY

Times quotes an American correspondent, as writing: "In your next book FOOD SHORTAGE why not let us have something about the thousands of Americans who have gone to a strange land and given their least I hope so." There are said to this regard. be about 40,000 Americans in the British army, including those in the Can-

Viewed With Pleasure.

"I find lady customers very hard to

to give eminent satisfaction."

"What line?" "Mirrors."

Victoria Crosses are cast from can-

non taken by the British. A despatch from London says :- We always lose our patience with here on Thursday night by the Am-

Important Countries Show Important Rumanian Town Has

Fallen to the Invaders. A despatch from London says: The

net of the Teutonic allies apparently is fast closing in upon Braila, Rumania's oil and grain centre, on the Danube. Having taken Filipechti, 30 miles to the south-west, Field Marshal von Mackensen's troops have new captured the railroad town of Rimnik Sarat, relatively the same distance to the east, while the guns of the Dobrudja army are still hammering the Russo-Rumanians at the bridgehead of Matchin, or the east bank of the Danube, opposite Braila.

Prior to the fall of Rimnik Sarat the Teutonic allies defeated the Russians on a front of 101/2 miles southwest of the town, while the Teutonic Danube army captured several fortified villages, according to the Berlin War Office. Petrograd admits that the Russians and Rumanians have been forced to fall back north of Megura, but says elsewhere the invaders were defeated with heavy casualties.

Since December 22, says Berlin, more than 8,900 prisoners and 27 ma-A despatch from London says :- chine guns have been captured in

SERIOUS FOR FOE

A despatch from London says :-lives for liberty and humanity, putting Gen. F. B. Maurice, Chief Director of these above everything else in the Military Operations of the War Office, world?" Sir Rider Haggard con- in a statement issued on Friday, said tinues: "My public work and other he had relable reportis indicating that reasons prevent my acting on the sug- the problem of food for the German gestion, but there are qualified writ- army was extremely bad, as well as ers to whom the letter may appeal, at the situation of the civil population in

50,000 ARMENIANS STARVING.

All of These Deported Now in Vicinity of Aleppo.

A despatch from New York says: Fifty thousand deported Armenians "I can't say that. My goods seem are starving in the vicinity of Aleppo, Asiatic Turkey, as a result of a recent temporary suspension of relief appropriations, according to a cablegram from American Ambassador Elkus, received through the State Department at Washington, and made public | Serbian relief.

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

reason to believe that provided the Shipping Controller."

shipping correspondent be solved, a considerable amount of new efficient tonnage will be available for service within six months. In or-"Very considerable orders are, it is der to assist in the provision of labor believed, being placed for new cargo arrangements, it is understood, have steamers to be built for use of the been made whereby no men will be State. They will probably carry 80,000 taken from the shipyards and engine tons deadweight, planned on the sim- works for military service without plest possible lines. There is every the sanction of the Admiralty and

FIGHT IN GERMAN RANKS

Little Time Will Be Spent in Their Training, It is Announced From Berlin.

A special despatch to the London amination in January. After a short Times from Copenhagen says that, training those fit will be sent to the treat amounted to £30,000,000. It was which it is said the destruction which on March 31, 1915, was £1,104,- according to Berlin newspapers, all front. The fact that it is expected a wholesale destruction, he remarked, wrought in the Rumanian oil fields was 967,076, had increased by March 31, youths in Schleswig who have complet- they will be in the fighting line within carried on by a British military mis- "terrible," surpassing everything of 1916, to £2,133,147,644, the statement ed their seventeenth year have been three months indicates how short of summoned to undergo physical ex- reserves the Germans are.