

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 armies in a detailed report by General Sir Douglas Haig, which was issued on Friday night, and which covers operations from July 1 to Nov. 18. General Haig terms the battle a triumph in which the German western armies were only saved from complete collapse and a decisive defeat by a protracted period of unfavorable weather, which prevented the Anglo-French forces from taking full advantage of their successful advance. He declares that nevertheless it was a triumph which proved beyond doubt the ability of the allies to overthrow Germany "when the time comes." The British commander shows himself a firm believer in the doctrine that the allies 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 pow-

er has not yet been broken, nor is it yet possible to form an estimate of the time the war may last before the objects for which the allies are fighting have been attained, but the Somme battle has placed beyond doubt the ability of the allies to gain those objects. 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 has given the enemy a respite, there are undoubtedly many thousands in his ranks who will begin the new campaign with little confidence in their ability to resist our assaults or overcome our defence.

"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."

GREAT DRIVE AGAINST ITALY

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

A despatch from Rome says: Gen. Morone, 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 resist it, and sufficient artillery, ammunition and troops being concentrated where necessary. The Minister tacitly admitted that the offensive was expected.

HON. MR. CASGRAIN DIES OF PNEUMONIA.

Postmaster-General Passes Away 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.

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

headquarters. This work, he added, rendered the property and the stock utterly useless to the foe. The oil wells of German companies met a similar fate, he said.

The Volks Zeitung of Cologne reproduces the narrative of an officer of the German general staff in regard to the Rumanian campaign, in which it is said the destruction wrought in the Rumanian oil fields was "terrible," surpassing everything of the kind during the war.

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 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, making 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. The taking over of a section of the French line has kept us busy during the past ten days. The operation has been successful, and I will be glad to tell you the exact extent of the line taken over when I am sure the Germans know the point of junction.

"In Rumania the first Rumanian army, which has borne the brunt of the fighting, has been entirely withdrawn, and is now re-forming in Moldavia, while its place has been taken by the Russians. In Dobrudja the line has been moved back in alignment with the battle-front north of the Danube. In this region both our allies and the enemy are suffering from adverse weather conditions."

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 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 are to be assembled at Montreal to go to England for training.

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.

MAN-POWER INVENTORY PRODUCING RESULTS.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The man-power inventory being made by 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.

IMMENSE INCREASE IN NATIONAL DEBT.

A despatch from London says: The interest on debt created under the war loans of 1914-15 amounted during the financial year ended March 31 last to £38,445,856, according to a white paper issued on Friday. The total capital of the national debt, which on March 31, 1915, was £1,104,967,076, had increased by March 31, 1916, to £2,133,147,644, the statement shows.

BERLIN'S STARTLING ADMISSION OF SHORTAGE OF PROVISIONS

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

A despatch from Berlin says: A circular has been issued by Adolph T. Von Batocki, president of the Food Regulation Board, to the Federated Governments, in which it is pointed out that next year generally there will be difficulty in the way of the Governments supplying food for the people. Even the end of the war, says Herr Von Batocki, would only bring a slight change in the situation at first, because the scarcity of food is worldwide.

Owing to a shortage in laborers,

work animals, foodstuffs, fertilizers and transportation facilities, cities and industrial communities will be compelled to keep a careful watch over the food problems. The system of fixing maximum prices and pre-empting commodities for public consumption, says Herr Von Batocki, has only worked well as regards grain. It has proved a failure with perishable commodities, and he advises municipalities to proceed on a larger basis than previously in their placing contracts for the future delivery of meat, vegetables, milk, butter and cheese.

POOR WORLD CROP FOR THE PAST YEAR

18 Important Countries Show Decreased Wheat Yield of 25 Per Cent.

A despatch from Rome says:—The International Institute of Agriculture harvest estimates continue to indicate the poor world crops. It is now 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 1915.

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

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

A despatch from London says:—Sir H. Rider Haggard in a letter to the Times quotes an American correspondent, as writing: "In your next book why not let us have something about the thousands of Americans who have gone to a strange land and given their lives for liberty and humanity, putting these above everything else in the world?" Sir Rider Haggard continues: "My public work and other reasons prevent my acting on the suggestion, but there are qualified writers to whom the letter may appeal, at least I hope so." There are said to be about 40,000 Americans in the British army, including those in the Canadian division.

Viewed With Pleasure.

"I find lady customers very hard to please."
"I can't say that. My goods seem to give eminent satisfaction."
"What line?"
"Mirrors."

Victoria Crosses are cast from cannon taken by the British.

We always lose our patience with the man who can't keep his temper during a political discussion.

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 Times' shipping correspondent writes:

"Very considerable orders are, it is believed, being placed for new cargo steamers to be built for use of the State. They will probably carry 80,000 tons deadweight, planned on the simplest possible lines. There is every reason to believe that provided the

problems of labor and material can be solved, a considerable amount of new efficient tonnage will be available for service within six months. In order 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 Shipping Controller."

YOUTHS OF 17 CALLED OUT TO FIGHT IN GERMAN RANKS

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

A special despatch to the London Times from Copenhagen says that, according to Berlin newspapers, all youths in Schleswig who have completed their seventeenth year have been summoned to undergo physical ex-

amination in January. After a short training those fit will be sent to the front. The fact that it is expected they will be in the fighting line within three months indicates how short of reserves the Germans are.