

## BRITISH TAKE COMMANDING POSITION ON SOMME

More Than 350 Prisoners Taken by Gen. Haig's Troops, All the Objective Attacked Being Gained With Slight Losses, While German Casualties Were Very Heavy.

With the British Armies in France, Jan. 28.—In spite of the hard weather conditions, a gallant attack was made Saturday by British troops against a strong German point on the Somme, resulting in its capture with three officers and more than 300 men. The Germans apparently did not anticipate an attack and were somewhat off guard, owing perhaps to the heavy frost and strong blizzard sweeping over the snow-covered field. The Germans remained snugly in their dugouts, probably believing that the British would do the same.

Outwardly there was no movement within the British lines, but in the trenches the troops were waiting for a sudden attack, which had been well prepared for and organized beforehand. Suddenly, the ordinary desultory fire of the British batteries was concentrated in a terrific drumfire, flinging shells of enormous destructive force upon the German trenches and defensive works.

The barbed wire before the German positions was cut as though by sharp shears. Following the curtain of fire, the English troops went briskly out into "No Man's Land." The breath of the men looked like a smokecloud as they went across the field of hummocky snow and shell craters filled

with solid ice.

The British troops had been cold but fresh with the heat of battle they moved forward like a machine and carried out the operations with precision and self-control.

### Trapped in Dugouts.

The Germans were trapped in their dugouts. The English boys were over and around the position before the Germans could get up to bomb them or fire upon them with machine guns. The whole garrison of the strong point surrendered almost without a fight, seemingly thinking that resistance was useless. The British troops suffered few casualties and sent back the prisoners in triumph.

Meanwhile, the German gunners had seen signals of distress and presently they became aware of the fact that the strong point had been captured. They came out of their dugouts and began firing at the captured position, but the visibility was bad, owing to the whitish fog and the German drumfire was not so intense as in former days on the Somme front.

The British troops had taken possession of the deep underground rooms within the German position. In this way, the officers laughingly said, they celebrated the German Emperor's birthday.

## PREPARING DRIVE FOR FARM HANDS

Two Thousand Workers Will Be Secured in the United States.

A despatch from Toronto says: Another "drive" for farm hands is to be made in the United States this Spring by the officers of the Ontario Department of Colonization and Immigration. Arrangements have just been completed to send five agents into the states, three into New York State and two into Michigan. The start is being made over a month earlier than last year and the work will be continued for three months.

In that time, it is confidently expected, from fifteen hundred to two thousand farm hands will be secured to meet the pressing scarcity in Ontario. The department's agents will travel all over the two States, advertising in local papers and using any method that suggests itself to attract men. They are authorized to guarantee farm work at \$35 to \$40 a month for experienced men and \$15 to \$25 for inexperienced men. Last year about six hundred men were brought into the province as a result of a six weeks' campaign.

Although but Winter work is being done on the farms now—the demand for workers is so large that two hundred applications have been received from farmers anxious to get first call on the men gathered up. Most of them are prepared to sign good men on at once.

## BRITAIN BUILT 510 SHIPS IN 1916

World's Tonnage Reduced by About Two Hundred Thousand Tons.

A despatch from Washington says: Loss to the world's merchant shipping in 1916 through war causes exceeded the total tonnage constructed, according to estimates prepared on Friday by the Federal Bureau of Navigation. Vessels sunk are put at 1,149, of 2,082,683 tonnage, and those built at 2,506, of 1,899,943 tons. The net reduction was about 200,000 tons, or one and one-half per cent. of the world's total. The figures were gathered from many unofficial sources, but are declared to be approximately correct. Great Britain led in ship building with 510 vessels of 619,000 tons. The United States was second with 1,213 vessels of 560,000 tons. Ships built by all other countries are given as 782 in number, of 720,368 tons. German construction of 26,000 tons is admittedly a low estimate.

## ARSENAL AT DRESDEN REPORTED BLOWN UP

1000 German Women and Young Girls Said to Have Perished.

Paris, Jan. 28.—The Dresden arsenal has been blown up and 1,000 women and young girls killed, according to a letter taken from a German soldier dated December 30.

The letter was written from Dresden and the writer said that all the windows within a radius of twelve miles were broken by the explosion. He added that the authorities were keeping the news secret, and that no railroad tickets were being issued for Dresden except for urgent reasons.

## PARIS IS IN THE GRIP OF ARCTIC WEATHER.

A despatch from Paris says: France is in the grip of the severest cold weather for many years. The thermometer in Paris registered 17 degrees Fahrenheit on Friday and even in southern cities like Marseilles and Bordeaux there were several degrees of frost. The number of deaths from cold and the sufferings of the Parisians have been aggravated by the coal shortage. Edouard Herriot, Minister of National Subsistence, has taken energetic charge of the situation, co-operating with the city authorities. M. Herriot has decided to sell a large part of the reserve stock of fuel to the public and has lent military auto wagons to carry coal to the small dealers who have no conveyances. The cold has brought packs of wolves into the department, and bears are ravaging the fields in the Loir Valley.

## RATION SYSTEM NEAR IN UNITED KINGDOM.

London, Jan. 28.—William C. Anderson, Labor M.P., speaking to-day at Leicester, said he was giving away no secret in stating that the population of the United Kingdom would at a very early date be put under a ration system.

## PART OF OTTOMAN SECOND LINE SEIZED BY BRITISH AT THE KUT

Turk Losses Were Very Heavy, Four Furious Counter-Attacks Which They Launched Being Repulsed.

A despatch from London says: Eleven hundred yards of Turkish first line trenches south-west of Kut-el-Amara and portions of the Turkish second line trenches in Mesopotamia have been captured by the British forces in severe fighting, in which the Turks suffered heavy losses, according to a British official communication issued Friday night. The communication says:

"By a determined assault Friday morning, under cover of an intense bombardment, we seized and consolidated 1,100 yards of the enemy's first line trenches on the right bank

of the Tigris south-west of Kut-el-Amara and a considerable length of the second line, sustaining only slight losses.

"The Turkish forces west of the Hai River thereupon delivered four furious counter-attacks, the first and third being broken up by our artillery and machine gun fire. The second and fourth attacks gained momentary successes, but our troops, returning to the offensive, regained much of the ground from which they had been temporarily dislodged. Throughout the day the Turkish losses were extremely heavy. Seventy prisoners were taken."

## VERDUN BATTLE A VIOLENT ONE

At Some Points Was in Nature of Hand-to-Hand Combats.

A despatch from Paris says:—According to late reports of the attack launched by the Crown Prince's forces in the Verdun region recently, several German regiments participated, and at some points the two forces fought hand-to-hand. Altogether the engagement appears to have been the most important offensive movement undertaken on the Franco-Belgian front in several weeks. The movement was launched along a rather wide front, being delivered at four points between Avocourt wood, on the extreme left of the French lines about Verdun, and Dead Man Hill, a distance of more than 3½ miles. The Germans gained some ground, but next morning as the result of a desperate counter-attack most of the positions captured by the enemy on Hill 304 were recaptured.

## IRISH-CANADIAN RANGERS ARE CHEERED IN DUBLIN.

A despatch from Dublin says: The Duchess of Connaught's Own Irish-Canadian Rangers, 700 men and 28 officers, arrived in Dublin Thursday afternoon and marched through the principal streets to Wellington Barracks. Crowds of workers watched them march along the quays. When the battalion turned into Westmoreland Street the music of the bands brought large numbers of people from shops and warehouses. The fine appearance of the men created a favorable impression. Also at College Green and Great George Street crowds collected. From here until Wellington Barracks were reached the men were heartily cheered.

## DIET OF PRUSSIA BOASTS OF FUTURE.

A despatch from London says: The President of the Prussian Upper House, in a speech at the opening of the session, expressed hope that the present year, "despite its disappointing beginning, might bring peace, according to a Berlin despatch to Reuter's by way of Amsterdam. After commenting on the rejection of Germany's peace proposal by the Entente, the President said: "The fateful hour of the German Empire is approaching. For the second time war has been declared on us and to-day we, a more serious and matured people, accustomed to victory, are standing behind the Emperor. Our iron will shall turn to deeds and the sharp steel of a clean sword in our hand shall hew the way to a more prosperous future."

## GREAT BRITAIN TO REQUISITION NECESSARY FOREIGN SECURITIES

Voluntary Mobilization Scheme Having Failed, Compulsion is to be Applied to Holders.

A despatch from London says: The Official Gazette announces that by a new order-in-Council the Treasury is empowered under the Defence of the Realm Act to requisition any foreign securities which may be required to strengthen Great Britain's financial position and also to require holders of such securities to make a return on them to the Treasury.

The order further forbids the transfer or sale of such securities outside the United Kingdom. The order does not apply to securities owned by per-

sons not ordinarily residents of the United Kingdom.

The list of securities required by the order will be published within a few days, and at an early date all holders will be required to make a full return of their holdings. The terms and conditions under which the securities are requisitioned will be identical with those existing in the voluntary mobilization scheme, which, despite the extra two shillings income tax levied, apparently failed to bring in sufficient securities, and hence the application of compulsion.

## LAURENTIC SUNK OFF IRISH COAST

British Auxiliary Cruiser Hit a Mine or Was Submerged.

London, Jan. 28.—The British auxiliary cruiser Laurentic, of 14,892 tons gross, has been sunk by a submarine or as a result of striking a mine, according to an official statement issued to-night by the British Admiralty. Twelve officers and 109 men were saved.

The Laurentic before entering the British naval service was in the service of the Ocean Steam Navigation Company of Liverpool. She was 550 feet long, and was launched at Belfast in 1908.

The Admiralty statement adds that the vessel went down off the Irish coast last Thursday.

## GERMAN U-BOAT FOUNDERS OFF THE NORWEGIAN COAST.

London, Jan. 28.—The crew of 34 of a German submarine, which foundered off the Norwegian coast, was landed yesterday near Hammerfest, Norway, by a Norwegian motor-boat, according to the announcement of the Norwegian Minister of Marine, transmitted by the Reuter correspondent at Christiania. As the Germans were transported on a neutral boat, they will be liberated.

## MOUNTAIN IS NAMED AFTER YPRES VICTIM.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The Geographic Board of Canada has given the name of Carthew to a mountain in Alberta, after Lieut. William M. Carthew, an Edmonton surveyor, who fell at Ypres.

## RUSSIANS SMASH THROUGH TEUTON LINES IN MOLDAVIA

Many Prisoners and Much Booty Taken From the Invaders of Roumania and Austro-German Forces Compelled to Withdraw on Golden Bystritza River Front.

London, Jan. 28.—Russian forces after artillery preparation assumed the offensive yesterday against the Austro-German fortified positions on both side of the Kimpolung-Jacobeni road, near the north-western frontier of Moldavia, and after stubborn fighting broke through the Teuton lines along a front of nearly two miles, says the official statement issued to-day by the Russian War Department. Prisoners and booty were taken by the Russians, the extent of which has not yet been ascertained.

The Russian War Office report reads:

"Rumanian front: Our detachments after artillery preparation assumed the offensive on both sides of the Kimpolung-Jacobeni road, and after a stubborn fight broke through

the enemy's fortified positions on a front of three versts. Prisoners and booty were taken, the extent of which is being ascertained."

"On account of superior Russian pressure directed against the Teuton lines in the Meste Canesce sector on the Golden Bystritza river front, in Rumania," says to-day's German official statement, "the Austro-German forces yesterday were compelled to withdraw to positions nearer the east bank of the river."

The Rumanian War Office report said:

"In the Kasino valley our troops attacked the enemy, and, in spite of severe cold and heavy snow, succeeded after 11 hours of desperate fighting in driving him south of the Kasino and Suchitza valleys."

## MANY AUSTRIAN SOLDIERS FROZEN TO DEATH IN TRENCHES

Vienna, Jan. 28.—Heavy snows and intense cold have resulted in a slackening, and here and there a total cessation, of the military operations on all the war fronts where Austro-Hungarian troops are engaged. Blizzards prevail in East Galicia, Bukovina, the wooded Carpathians and Rumania, the snow being several feet deep. The temperature is the lowest known in years, which is true also of the northern sectors of the Italian front and the Balkans.

On all these fronts both sides appear to be finding the Winter their worst enemy. It is almost impossible to use artillery owing to the great cold, while cases of men frozen to death are plentiful.

## BRITISH PENSIONS \$250,000,000 A YEAR

London, Jan. 28.—When the new British Pensions Minister, G. N. Barnes, unfolds his new pensions scheme next month, it will be found that it will cost the country not less than £50,000,000 a year. According to Mr. Barnes' forecast of his scheme, there will be a minimum of £1 per week to widows of soldiers and sailors who are unable to do any wage-earning work, while adequate sums will be paid to disabled and crippled men, irrespective of their ability to return to active civilian life.

## 100 RUMANIANS DEAD IN WRECK OF TRAIN.

Berlin, Jan. 28.—More than 100 Rumanians of high rank lost their lives in a train wreck near the Rumanian station of Tshura, according to a despatch said by the Overseas Agency to have been printed in the Russki Slovo. The locomotive of a train carrying the Rumanians to Russia jumped the track and the cars took fire.