

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT URGES CESSATION OF WAR

Wilson Suggests Peace Parleys—Says Neutrals' Position is Intolerable.

A despatch from Washington says President Wilson has appealed to the belligerents to discuss terms of peace.

Without actually proposing peace or offering mediation, the President has sent formal notes to the Governments of all the warring nations suggesting that "an early occasion be sought to call out from the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guaranty against its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future as would make it possible frankly to compare them."

Wholly without notice and entirely contrary to what Administration officials have described as his course, the President on Tuesday night despatched the notes to all the belligerents, and to all the neutrals for their information.

This latest development in the rapidly-moving world events toward a discussion of peace was not permitted to become known until Wednesday night when the notes were well on their way to the American Ambassadors in the belligerent capitals, and probably already in the hands of some of them.

Surprise to Washington.

It was a most distinct surprise to all official Washington, which had been led to believe that with the formal transmittal of the proposals of the Central Powers the offices of the United States would await further moves between the belligerents themselves, and that certainly, in view of

the speech of Premier Lloyd George and the announcements in Russia, France and Italy, further action by neutrals would depend upon the next careful and delicate moves of the belligerents.

Nowhere on the surface appears any indication of the history-making events which diplomatists generally are convinced must have transpired, since the German allies brought forth their proposals, to dispel the general prevalent belief that such an action on the part of President Wilson would be unacceptable to the Entente Powers.

British Embassy officials declared they were utterly taken by surprise, were wholly unable to explain it, and were emphatic in their statement that no exchanges whatever had passed through the Embassy here as a preliminary.

The wish and hope of the German powers that President Wilson would intercede in some way has long been well known, and has been conveyed in different ways to the White House.

The attitude of the Entente allies as expressed by the statesmen, and certainly until recently in official advice to the American Government has been that a peace offer by the United States would be considered almost the next thing to unfriendly.

Diplomatists consider it incredible that the President would bring forward such a proposal at such a time unless he had reason to believe it would receive respectful consideration at the hands of all the belligerents, and, above all, would not prejudice the position of the United States as a possible mediator.

It was a most distinct surprise to all official Washington, which had been led to believe that with the formal transmittal of the proposals of the Central Powers the offices of the United States would await further moves between the belligerents themselves, and that certainly, in view of

REPARATION IDEA SCOUTED IN BERLIN

German Newspapers Find Lloyd George's Peace Basis Unacceptable.

A despatch from Amsterdam says: Commenting on Premier Lloyd George's speech, the Tagesschau Rundschau of Berlin says: "Reparation could be demanded by England only if Germany had declared war on England, if we were to blame for the war, if we had committed crimes against international law and if we had been defeated."

The Lokal Anzeiger takes the view point that the remarks about reparation are of no value, inasmuch as they have been said thus far about peace conditions. It continues: "If Lloyd George means to postpone satisfying Europe's desire for peace until the time when the Entente is successful in conquering Germany's armies and those of her allies, then the whole of Europe, as well as Lloyd George, knows full well that this announcement means eternal war, unless it is in the power of the German command to bring it to an earlier termination than Lloyd George supposes."

The Tagblatt says it prefers to await the promised reply of the Entente, adding: "For the present it appears that the gulf is very great between Lloyd George's standpoint and that described from the German side as the basis for peace."

The Socialist newspaper Vorwaerts says: "Lloyd George says that whoever wantonly prolongs the war will have a crime upon his soul. Do not these words imply strong self-condemnation if England rejects the negotiations offered by the Central powers?"

Foolish to Try.

"He threatened to blow his brains out."

"And what did you say to him?"

"I told him he'd be foolish to try it, as he had never been successful shooting at small targets."

BELGIANS DEPORTED TO SOMME KILLED BY FRENCH GUNNERS

Thousands of Citizens of Ghent Compelled to Build Fortifications on the German Front.

A despatch from Amsterdam says: Of twenty Belgians who had been sentenced to death by a German court-martial at Hasselt, eleven were shot last Saturday, says the Maas-tribune Les Nouvelles. Forty-four other persons were sentenced to various terms of penal servitude and sixty-four others ordered deported to Germany. The newspaper adds that another court-martial was begun to hear the cases of 192 Belgians who were charged with espionage.

The frontier correspondent of the Amsterdam Telegraaf asserts that

many citizens of Ghent who were deported to the Somme front were killed or seriously wounded during a fight by French machine guns. This correspondent adds that a thousand men from Ghent are compelled to work on that front, and that 4,000 more are about to be sent there.

Les Nouvelles says a large number of young people from villages in the Belgian province of Luxembourg were deported from the commune of Virton, among them children between the ages of 12 and 15.

FIRST PARTY OF 200 WOUNDED NOW EN ROUTE TO CANADA

The New Policy of Allowing Them to Convalesce Amid Home Environment Inaugurated.

A despatch from London says: The new policy of sending sick and wounded soldiers to Canada for treatment was inaugurated last week by the sailing of a party of more than 200 men from London, who will go to Canadian hospitals as soon as they arrive. Many of the men in the party have lost limbs, but a small proportion of the party may be rendered fit for further service.

The new policy, which was recommended by Dr. Bruce, will relieve the congestion in the hospitals in the United Kingdom, at the same time making the men happy by allowing them to convalesce amid home environment. The men who sailed in the first party were radiant at the thought of returning to Canada. Between three and four thousand men are ready to follow.

BRITAIN CALLS WHOLE MANHOOD

Bold Plan to Utilize All Her Human Resources.

A despatch from London says: The Daily Chronicle gives prominence on Thursday morning to an article which purports to outline the Government's scheme for utilizing all the manpower resources of the country with a view to the more vigorous prosecution of the war. It says that the plan is of a very bold and far-reaching character. More men are needed for the army, for the manufacture of munitions, and for productive employments like agriculture. The Government will therefore appeal to the whole manhood of the country that is not in the army or already engaged in work of national importance to enroll voluntarily for service as war workers. Men between the ages of seventeen and fifty-six are wanted. They must place themselves at the disposal of the State for the duration of the war and consent to be transferred to occupations or localities where their services are most required in the interest of the country.

BRITAIN TO CURTAIL TRAVEL BY TRAIN

A despatch from London says: With a view to curtailing travel and thus enabling British railways to use more rolling stock for the war and food purposes, it has been decided to decrease after the first of the year the number of passenger trains and to increase fares 50 per cent. This will not apply to workmen's tickets or to season tickets for distance not exceeding 40 miles. This was announced by the Government in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

CANADIAN TRADE CLIMBING.

Huge Increases Are Reported From Ottawa.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Huge increases in Canadian trade are indicated for the month of November and the eight months of the fiscal year.

November trade was \$186,066,351, as against \$164,225,481 in the corresponding month last year. For the eight months ending November 30, 1915, Canadian trade was \$1,499,255,942, against \$1,308,670,349.

November imports increased \$27,000,000 to \$72,690,790. In the eight months imports increased by nearly \$250,000,000 to \$577,235,197.

Domestic exports for November totalled \$109,559,950, an increase of \$17,000,000. For the eight months these exports increased by over \$300,000,000 to \$731,592,639.

EXCESS PROFITS TAX WILL BE BIG AMOUNT

A despatch from London says: The tax on excess profits has produced \$73,699,000 up to Dec 16, Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the House of Commons on Wednesday. The original estimate for the full year ending March 31 was \$28,000,000, an amount which he considered likely to be greatly exceeded.

IRISH RAILWAYMEN ARE GIVEN INCREASE

A despatch from London says: The complaint of the railway men in Ireland was amicably settled at the Board of Trade on Wednesday. The men have been granted an increase of seven shillings weekly in their wages; they had asked for ten shillings on the ground of the increased cost of living.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs.

Toronto, Dec. 26.—Manitoba wheat—New No. 1 Northern, \$1.54; track, Bay ports. Old crop trading at above new crop.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W. 54c track, Bay ports.

American corn—No. 2 yellow, no seller owing to embargo.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 65 to 71c nominal; No. 3, do, 58 to 60c, nominal, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—New No. 2 Winter, per car lot, \$1.62 to \$1.64; No. 3, do, \$1.49 to \$1.52, according to freights outside.

Peas—No. 2, \$2.40, according to freights outside.

Rickseed—No. 2, \$1.24 to \$1.25, according to freights outside.

Barley—Maltine, \$1.16 to \$1.18, according to freights outside.

Milled—No. 2, \$1.24 to \$1.25, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in jute bags, \$4.20 to \$4.25; strong bakers, do, \$3.50, Toronto.

Oats—No. 2 white, 65 to 71c nominal, according to freights outside.

Milled—Car lots—Delivered Montreal freights, bags included, bran, per ton, \$22; shorts, do, \$27; good feed flour, per bush, \$2.70 to \$2.80.

Hay—No. 1, per ton, \$12.50 to \$13.50; No. 2, do, \$11.50 to \$12.50.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, \$3.50 to \$10, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale.

Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 41 to 42c; country, extra, 38 to 40c; sold, 44 to 44 1/2c.

Eggs—No. 1 storage, 40 to 41c; storage selects, 42 to 43c; new-laid, in cartons, 50 to 55c; out of cartons, 50c.

Live poultry—No. 1, 18 to 19c; No. 2, 16 to 17c; No. 3, 14 to 15c; ducks, 13 to 14c; turkeys, 25 to 28c; geese, Spring, 14 to 15c; geese, Summer, 12 to 13c; geese, 25 to 26c; triplets, 26 to 27c.

Breadstuffs—No. 2, \$1.24 to \$1.25, according to freights outside.

Honey—White clover, 23-lb. tins, 12 to 13c; red clover, 12 to 13c; buckwheat, 9-lb. tins, 9 to 9c; Comb honey—No. 1, 25 to 26c; No. 2, 23 to 24c; No. 3, 22 to 23c.

Mincement—Pails, 18 lb., 10 to 12c; tubs, 65 lb., 9 to 11c.

Beans—No. 1, 18 to 19c; No. 2, 17 to 18c; British Columbia Rose, per bag, 22 to 23c; New Brunswick Delawares, per bag, 22 to 23c.

Cabbage—Quebec, per ton, \$55.

Leaves—No. 1, hand-picked, per bush, 45c; Canadian, hand-picked, per bush, 35c; Canadian, whole, 35 to 40c; Linseed, per bush, 40c.

Provisions—Wholesale.

Smoked meats—Dinner, 25 to 26c; do, heavy, 22 to 23c; cooked, 24 to 26c; rolls, 19 to 20c; breakfast bacon, 28 to 30c.

Pickled or dry cured meats, 1 cent less than current market.

Lard—Pure lard, tins, 21 to 21 1/2c; tubs, 21 1/2 to 22c; tins, 22 to 23c; compound, 18 to 19c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 18 to 19c; per lb; clear hams, 18 to 19c; cooking oil—No. 1, 19c; No. 2, 18c; No. 3, 17c; No. 4, 16c; No. 5, 15c; No. 6, 14c; No. 7, 13c; No. 8, 12c; No. 9, 11c; No. 10, 10c; No. 11, 9c; No. 12, 8c; No. 13, 7c; No. 14, 6c; No. 15, 5c; No. 16, 4c; No. 17, 3c; No. 18, 2c; No. 19, 1c; No. 20, 1c; No. 21, 1c; No. 22, 1c; No. 23, 1c; No. 24, 1c; No. 25, 1c; No. 26, 1c; No. 27, 1c; No. 28, 1c; No. 29, 1c; No. 30, 1c.

Winnipeg Grain.

Wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.44; No. 2 do, \$1.40; No. 3 do, \$1.36; No. 4 do, \$1.32; No. 5 do, \$1.28; No. 6 do, \$1.24; No. 7 do, \$1.20; No. 8 do, \$1.16; No. 9 do, \$1.12; No. 10 do, \$1.08; No. 11 do, \$1.04; No. 12 do, \$1.00; No. 13 do, \$0.96; No. 14 do, \$0.92; No. 15 do, \$0.88; No. 16 do, \$0.84; No. 17 do, \$0.80; No. 18 do, \$0.76; No. 19 do, \$0.72; No. 20 do, \$0.68; No. 21 do, \$0.64; No. 22 do, \$0.60; No. 23 do, \$0.56; No. 24 do, \$0.52; No. 25 do, \$0.48; No. 26 do, \$0.44; No. 27 do, \$0.40; No. 28 do, \$0.36; No. 29 do, \$0.32; No. 30 do, \$0.28; No. 31 do, \$0.24; No. 32 do, \$0.20; No. 33 do, \$0.16; No. 34 do, \$0.12; No. 35 do, \$0.08; No. 36 do, \$0.04.

United States Markets.

Minneapolis, Dec. 26.—Wheat—May, \$1.58 to \$1.70; July, \$1.54; cash, No. 1 hard, \$1.58 to \$1.70; No. 1 Northern, \$1.54 to \$1.66; No. 2 Northern, \$1.47 to \$1.59; No. 3 Northern, \$1.40 to \$1.52; No. 4 Northern, \$1.33 to \$1.45; No. 5 Northern, \$1.26 to \$1.38; No. 6 Northern, \$1.19 to \$1.31; No. 7 Northern, \$1.12 to \$1.24; No. 8 Northern, \$1.05 to \$1.17; No. 9 Northern, \$0.98 to \$1.10; No. 10 Northern, \$0.91 to \$1.03; No. 11 Northern, \$0.84 to \$0.96; No. 12 Northern, \$0.77 to \$0.89; No. 13 Northern, \$0.70 to \$0.82; No. 14 Northern, \$0.63 to \$0.75; No. 15 Northern, \$0.56 to \$0.68; No. 16 Northern, \$0.49 to \$0.61; No. 17 Northern, \$0.42 to \$0.54; No. 18 Northern, \$0.35 to \$0.47; No. 19 Northern, \$0.28 to \$0.40; No. 20 Northern, \$0.21 to \$0.33; No. 21 Northern, \$0.14 to \$0.26; No. 22 Northern, \$0.07 to \$0.19; No. 23 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 24 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 25 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 26 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 27 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 28 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 29 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 30 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 31 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 32 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 33 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 34 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 35 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 36 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 37 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 38 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 39 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 40 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 41 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 42 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 43 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 44 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 45 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 46 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 47 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 48 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 49 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 50 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 51 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 52 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 53 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 54 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 55 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 56 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 57 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 58 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 59 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 60 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 61 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 62 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 63 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 64 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 65 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 66 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 67 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 68 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 69 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 70 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 71 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 72 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 73 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 74 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 75 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 76 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 77 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 78 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 79 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 80 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 81 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 82 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 83 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 84 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 85 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 86 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 87 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 88 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 89 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 90 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 91 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 92 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 93 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 94 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 95 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 96 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 97 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 98 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 99 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12; No. 100 Northern, \$0.00 to \$0.12.

GENERAL MANGIN

generally known as the hero of the Marne, who took personal charge of the latest great French drive north of Verdun.

DECLINE OF THE BIRTH RATE

INFANT MORTALITY IN GERMANY IS INCREASING.

Birth and Death Rate Significant From War Economist Point of View.

A decline of the birth rate is in a special manner the work of war; it has not the feature of accident but the inevitable character of life and death. And to the belligerent nations living branches, the source of new strength, have become a subject of intense solicitude. An Amsterdam despatch tells us that infant mortality is increasing on account of lack of sugar, which is a fair specimen of the non-scientific reports. In England and France the true state of the Teutons has been a theme of much inquiry, and the minds of physicians and public authorities have been listless in following out the interior intricacies of the living birth rate in Germany and its no less important problem of inferior vitality.

KEEP MONEY IN CANADA.

Offerings of Non-Canadian Stocks, Concerns Minister of Finance.

The frequent offering in Canada of non-Canadian stocks and bonds causes concern to the Minister of Finance, Sir Thos. White, earnestly hopes that, instead of making such purchases, Canadian investors will purchase Dominion debenture stock or conserve their savings for Dominion war loans.

He points out that the huge expenditure now made in Canada for the purpose of the war and for the purchase of shells and other munitions should find its way back into Dominion securities for the purpose of financing further orders.

In answer to the statement which is frequently made that a higher rate of interest may be obtained upon non-Canadian securities of a speculative character, and that therefore there is national gain from such purchases, the Minister replies that while the individual may make a higher rate, the money he has invested abroad is not available, as it should be, in war time for the purposes of the Government. Manifestly if all Canadian investors invested their funds in outside loans at speculation interest rates, the Dominion Government would not be able to float its domestic loans.

The Minister says that all available Canadian funds and more will be required for war expenditure and the purchase by the Imperial Government of munitions in Canada.

IRISH SETTLEMENT COMING.

Close Harmony Will Soon Prevail Says Sir Horace Plunkett.

A despatch from New York says: Ireland and England will soon be brought into closer harmony through a provisional adjustment of the Irish problem, Sir Horace Plunkett, prominent Irish politician, declared on Wednesday. Plunkett arrived in New York on Tuesday on the Adriatic. The understanding and sympathy with the purpose of the war will soon spread so rapidly throughout Ireland that she will give between 150,000 and 160,000 men for the defence of the United Kingdom Plunkett predicted.



General Mangin, generally known as the hero of the Marne, who took personal charge of the latest great French drive north of Verdun.

FROM OLD SCOTLAND

NOTES OF INTEREST FROM HER BANKS AND BRAES.

What is Going On in the Highlands and Lowlands of Auld Scotia.

A movement is on foot in Glasgow to establish a university memorial to Sir William Ramsay.

Glasgow Trades House members have decided to contribute \$10,000 further to war relief funds.

Scarlet fever has made its appearance in Kelso, and several cases have been admitted to the fever hospital.

Owing to an epidemic of measles in the Thornhill district Morton Public school has been closed for three weeks.

The late Lady Stuart of Grandtully has bequeathed a legacy of \$1,250 to the Cottage Hospital, Aberdeen.

A prominent rest hut at Edinburgh Military Hospital at Bangern has been opened by the Marchioness of Linlithgow.

Prof. Job Ferguson, who had occupied the chair of chemistry in Glasgow University for 41 years, has died in Glasgow after a few days' illness.

In consequence of the damage caused by squirrels to timber in plantations in the Lothians, a large number of these animals have lately been destroyed.

A prominent figure has been removed from Aberdeen city and county public life by the death of Mr. William Bothwell, farmer, Berryhill, near Aberdeen.

A Scottish painter, Mr. Duncan Cameron, who had been for the past half-century well known in Edinburgh art circles, has just passed away in his 79th year.

During a gale recently an English trawling vessel was driven on the rocks near the North Carr Beacon, Fifth of Forth, and three of the crew of thirteen were lost.

The Tramways Committee of Glasgow Corporation have adopted a motion that all women in the Tramways Department should be paid the same scale of wages as men.

As a result, it is thought, of the darkened condition of the streets, the operations of "The Red Skins," and other bands of hooligans in Glasgow is causing something like a reign of terror.

The governors of the North of Scotland College of Agriculture at Aberdeen approved of a scheme for the training in agriculture and horticulture of discharged soldiers and sailors.

At the annual meeting of the Guildry of Edinburgh it was stated that the value of the various works authorized during the year was \$720,000, or \$60,000 less than the previous year.

Lord Beresford, presiding at a meeting in Edinburgh, said he deplored the Admiralty method of giving despatches to the public, and more should be known of what the navy is doing.

There has just been erected in the Parish Church of Monzie, near Crieff, a handsome bronze tablet to the memory of the late Major Mackilloch Crichton of Monzie, who fell at the battle of Loos.

Lord Broom, restaurateur, Govan, has made a generous offer through the Milnrigg Town Council to present 100 cwt. of coal to about 80 wives and widowed mothers of soldiers and sailors.

A military ceremony took place at Stirling when Colonel Oliver presenting Antoine Rouse, a Belgian, with the Croix de Guerre and the Medaille Militaire with palm awarded by the King of the Belgians.

VERDUN IS NOW GERMAN PROOF

HUN SOLDIERS WILL NEVER GET NEAR IT AGAIN.

Journalist Finds the Famous City Firmly Held By the French.

Arno Dosch-Fleuret, staff correspondent of the New York World, cables from Verdun, France, that the Germans can never come back at Verdun. They have been vanquished by the new heavy French artillery and the fine supporting picked army of Verdun, and are steadily slipping off the hills to the Woivre Plain. He adds:

I have just been over most of the ground lost by them in the past ten days. I visited the region of Verdun, Douaumont, Thiaumont and Vaux, as one of our lucky correspondents given the extraordinary privilege by the French Government. We went at night, as by day it was impossible.

We were under steady shell fire for twelve hours, and I can say that neither the Germans nor any other army can advance again toward Verdun over the wrecked country.

Loosening German Hold.

We passed along the front line of the French army facing north from Thiaumont and Douaumont, seeing the steadily advancing line of French rapid-fire guns, backed by concentrated artillery fire, loosening the Crown Prince's hold on the foothills to the north. The temper of the French army at Verdun makes it evident that they never will be content until the Germans are pushed out on the water plain of the Woivre.

Verdun is simply a town in the narrow valley of the Meuse, running north. The famous citadel is but a rock in the town, a rock I entered, however, with relief. Verdun's real defenses are in the line of forts, particularly St. Michel, on the hills dividing the Meuse from the Woivre. Douaumont is the highest and most important. The Germans began charging the hills in February, and charged for six months, capturing half the distance to Verdun. They captured all the heights except St. Michel, which rises abruptly opposite Verdun. They dominated Verdun from Douaumont.

Fleury Levelled.

Before the recent French attack these hills were trenched. Now they are an unbelievable mess of shell craters 20 feet deep. The town is full of arriving shells. The main battlefield is on the ridge rising from the Meuse and dropping to the Woivre, on which are Forts Douaumont and Thiaumont, their walls now completely buried under the dirt thrown up by bursting shells.

The village of Fleury, between, is so knocked apart that we passed it without knowing we had done so. When the ridge was held by the opposing forces its trenches had barbed wire entanglements, communicating trenches and all the paraphernalia of modern trench warfare. Now there is not a vestige of this; no sign where the trenches once were.

Called His Bluff.

She—Before you go I must show you the handsome clock my aunt sent me.

He (facetiously)—Some of my friends tell me that I am homely enough to stop a clock.

She—Oh, that won't matter. It can be started again.

BRITISH ENTER GERMAN LINES AND INFLECT MUCH DAMAGE

Numerous Prisoners Brought Back From Trenches North of Arras and in Gommeourt Sector.

A despatch from London says: The official statement on Thursday from British headquarters in France reads: "During the night the enemy lines were entered by us in the neighborhood of Gommeourt and considerable damage was done. A number of prisoners were taken in the course of another successful raid carried out by us early in the morning against the enemy's trenches north of Arras.

"In a patrol encounter in the morning north of Neuve Chapelle the leadership of a hostile patrol was killed; his men were taken prisoner. The enemy

exploded a camouflet south of Ypres. "The enemy's artillery was particularly active on the right of our line north of the Somme and in the neighborhood of Festubert and Ypres. Our artillery vigorously replied.

"Enemy trenches at Gommeourt and in the neighborhood of Loos and Hulluch were also bombarded by us. "Heavy artillery fighting continues on the Verdun front, the French War Office announced on Thursday afternoon. During the night the engagements were most spirited in the vicinity of Louvemont and Chambrettes.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN DOBRUDJA

Russo-Rumanian Forces Have Halted and Engaged the Enemy.

A despatch from London says:—In the Northern Dobrudja the Russians and Rumanians have faced each other and are giving battle to the Teutonic allied forces who have been pursuing them. Just how strong the stand they are making has not yet been made known, the German official communication announcing it merely says that they have "again offered fighting resistance." Petrograd reports that attacks by the invaders near Parilia, on the left bank of the Danube, were repulsed, and says also that operations successful for the Russians and Rumanians are being carried out by scouting parties in the direction of Rimnic-Buziu.

DR. BOYD CARPENTER'S BOOK.

Touching New Lights on the Death of King Edward.

There are some touching new lights on the death of King Edward in Dr. Boyd Carpenter's "Further Pages of My Life." King Edward died on Friday, May 6, and on the following Monday Queen Alexandra sent for Dr. Boyd Carpenter to come to Buckingham Palace. She told him how a strong impulse, as though a premonition of coming danger, had led her to shorten her stay abroad and to hurry home.

"Stay if you will," she said to her travelling companions; "I must be with my husband." She told how, when she arrived, the King had stood up and walked to meet her; how, for a moment of himself, ill as he was, he had asked her about everything and wanted to hear her news. She told how restless though he was, as the end drew near; even when sadly weakened he tried to walk into the next room; how at last she stood near him with his head resting on her shoulder—how the end came after an interval of unconsciousness.

It will be noted that these are fresh facts touching the passing of King Edward. "You would like to see him?" said Queen Alexandra to Dr. Boyd Carpenter, and she led him to the King's bedroom.

"An oblong room with windows on the left as we entered; the greater part of the room was free of furniture; at the far end, on the right, was a folding screen. The Queen passed behind it, I followed; near the wall, parallel to the windows, was a small single bed covered with a white counterpane; and there, lying with his hands just touching one another across his breast, lay the dead King. The face was pale, the expression calm and placid; he might have been asleep."

They knelt in prayer, and when they rose from their knees, tears in the Queen's eyes, Dr. Boyd Carpenter said, "Shall I leave you here?" and she said, "Yes," and he left her with the dead.

ONE OF 'EM.

A man met an Irishman one day whose son was out at the front, and the following conversation was heard: "Well, Pat, how are you? Have you heard from your son lately?" "Yes, I heard from him this morning, and he's a-knocking them Germans down like nine-pins, and he quite expects to have a Cross of St. George."

"You stupid! You mean the Victoria Cross!"

"Well, anyhow, I knows it be one of them there big stations he be going to get."

BRITISH ENTER GERMAN LINES AND INFLECT MUCH DAMAGE

Numerous Prisoners Brought Back From Trenches North of Arras and in Gommeourt Sector.

A despatch from London says: The official statement on Thursday from British headquarters in France reads: "During the night the enemy lines were entered by us in the neighborhood of Gommeourt and considerable damage was done. A number of prisoners were taken in the course of another successful raid carried out by us early in the morning against the enemy's trenches north of Arras.

"In a patrol encounter in the morning north of Neuve Chapelle the leadership of a hostile patrol was killed; his men were taken prisoner. The enemy

IRISH RAILWAYMEN ARE GIVEN INCREASE

A despatch from London says: The complaint of the railway men in Ireland was amicably settled at the Board of Trade on Wednesday. The men have been granted an increase of seven shillings weekly in their wages; they had asked for ten shillings on the ground of the increased cost of living.

EXCESS PROFITS TAX WILL BE BIG AMOUNT

A despatch from London says: The tax on excess profits has produced \$73,699,000 up to Dec 16, Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the House of Commons on Wednesday. The original estimate for the full year ending March 31 was \$28,000,000, an amount which he considered likely to be greatly exceeded.

IRISH RAILWAYMEN ARE GIVEN INCREASE

A despatch from London