southward the French pushed their positions forward to the edge of the flooded area along the left bank of the St. Jansbeek River, and on the right bank they surged across the Steenbeke, which is a ocntinuation of the St. Jansbeek, and occupied German positions to an extreme depth of about 1,000 yards. At the same time the British ad-

vanced on the right of the French and occupied considerable territory in the region of St. Julien and Langemarck. Langemarck village itself apparently to firmly in the hands of the Allies. Further south the British had pushed forward at various points as far down the salient as the country west of the Polygon Wood. In all this region heavy fighting was in progress, especially in the vicinity of Polygon Wood and the neighboring forests.

SHELLS WORKED HAVOC. At this time it is impossible to give more than a general idea of the events that are transpiring, since a signal was given a few hours ago for an advance. There is little doubt, however, that the German troops engaged have been dealt a heavy blow and that the British have made appreciable advances at many points in this difficult territory.

The preliminary bombardment by the British artillery worked havoc in the German ranks, according to pri-All night the heavy guns were taken and 16 guns captured.

Strategic Bridgehead. London Cable .-- Again the great | poured a steady stream of shells into Anglo-French war machine has struck the small forts and the fortified farms in which the Germans had esthe Germans in Flanders, and again

BRITISH MAKE HEAVY GAINS

IN OFFENSIVE AROUND YPRES

Captured, Besides Langemarck.

it has been successful. The village of

More than 1,800 prisoners includ-

ing 38 officers, already have been

counted by the Anglo-French forces.

The latest blow in the Ypres area

Some German guns also were taken.

was on a front of nine miles, and only

on the extreme right were the allied

forces unable to make progress. The

Germans resisted stubbornly, suffering

heavy losses, but on the greater part

of the front they were forced to leave

valuable positions in the possession of

Before the fighting between Lens and Loes had died out the French and

British moved forward north of the

Thursday bitter fighting occupied the

ground between the Yser canal and

Martjevaart and then drove the Ger-

the centre and right of the attacking

line. In the centre the British early

gained their first objectives, and then

established themselves in Lange-

marck. Continuing their attack, they

advanced a half-mile beyond the vil-

lage, gaining a trench system which

was the final objective of the day. On

the right flank the German resistance

was most desperate. Early in the day

the British drove the Teutons back,

but numerous counter-attacks, in

tack in Flanders has been forced back

with heavy losses, it admits French

Thursday night's War Office report

"The allied attacks delivered early

in the morning on a front of nine

miles north of the Ypres-Menin road

have been continued during the day in

advancing on both sides of the Zuyd-

tween the Yser canal and Martjevaart

and captured the bridgehead of Dreig-

rapidly captured their first objectives,

and, continuing their advance, carried

the village of Langemarck after heavy

fighting. They then forced their way

forward for a distance of half a mile

beyond the village and established

themselves in the German trench sys-

tem which constituted their final ob-

and continuous fighting since the

early morning for the possession of

the high ground north of the Menin road. The enemy disputed our ad-

vance with determined counter-attack-

ing with large forces. As the result of

the counter-attacks the enemy suc-

ceeded during the afternoon at great

cost, in pressing back our troops in

this area from part of the ground won

ter-attacks in this neighborhood were

broken up by our artillery fire. The

number of prisoners taken by the al-

lies in the course of this attack cannot

yet be ascertained, but over 1,800, in-

cluding 38 officers, already have been

brought in. A gew German guns also

headquarters in Belgium says he hears

that fighting is proceeding well be-

LARGE GAIN OF GROUND.

(By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent

of the Associated Press.

gium Cable.—At 4 o'clock this

British Front in France and

Reuter's correspondent at British

"This evening further enemy coun-

"On our right there has been fierce

emy from the tongue of land be-

"In the centre the British troops

the face of strong enemy resistance.

the Germans to regain lost ground.

Throughout

Ypres - Menin road

of Dreigrachten.

sitions were captured.

the allies.

said:

rachten.

jective for the day

earlier in the day.

were captured."

youd Langemarck.

Langemarck and other important poor made untenable. About Langemarck, where heavy fighting occurred, the seventeenth reserve division of the Prussians suffered severely from the bombard-

> The barrage which the British artillery dropped before the infantry for the advance was perfect throughout. The German guns pounded away sullenly but their fire was not effective and the British troops suffered little as they pushed forward.

In the Langemarck region the main difficulty encountered was the mud in the approaches to the town and into this bog the infantry plunged deep at every step. Not infrequently the soldiers had to extricate a comrade who had sunk to the waist in the morass, but they continued to push forward steadily, facing machine-gun fire from hidden redoubts and batmans from the important bridgehead tling their way past with bombs and Field Marshal Haig's men carried

Thus the British came to Langemarck. There were concrete gun pits about the position in front of the town and which was flooded from the Steenbeke River, but the infantry divided and bombed its way about either side of the town. As passed to the further side of the Germans could be seen running away and little resistance was offered in the town itself. The fighting still continues beyond Langmarck, according

to the latest reports. which they suffered severely, enabled The French attack began at 4.45, simultaneously with the British ad-Although Berlin says the allied atvance, and the contact between the allied armiss was excellent throughand British gains at Dreigrachten, on out. The French completed the task mapped out for them in about one the Yser canal, and near Langemarck. hour. The extreme depth which These are the places where London officially says the French and British they penetrated into the German territory was over 1,000 yards.

TERRAIN MOST DIFFICULT. The terrain over which the French advanced was most difficult, for, on their right, the Steenbeke River was in flood, and on their left they were moving toward an inundated area, and the ground was becoming marsh-On the left the French troops, ier all the time. The German defences in this inhospitable zone conschoote-Dixmude road, drove the sisted chiefly of fortified machinegun positions. These, however, were accounted for largely in the preliminary bombardment. The French met with little resistance and the operation was carried out with few

casualties. The portion of Steenbeke French crossed lies between a point west of Wijendrift and a bend in the river 1,500 yards north, a little southwest of St. Janshoek. On the east side of the river they met strong resistance at Champaubert farm and at the Briehne house, both strongly fortified and machine-gun nests. The French artillery was brought into play and these strongholds forced to surrender.

Dreigrachten was occupied with little or no resistance, as was virtually all the country south of that place. The French front now runs from Dreigrachten along the bank of the St. Jansbeek River to a point of crossing below St. Janshock, whence it runs south-east to a junction with the new British line.

FRENCH CAPTURE GUNS. The Germans had concentrated large bodies of troops in the Houthulst Forest in anticipation of this at tack, but the French heavy guns bombarded the woods so effectively that it was impossible to bring up

reserves. The German losses in the preliminary bombardment were severe, and the French already had accounted for 300 prisoners when the corresspondent of the Associated Press visited their front at noon. booty obtained by the French will be considerable, including a number of heavy guns, which stuck in the mud and were abandoned by the retreating Germans. Many machine guns also fell into the hands of the French.

RUSS RETIRE TO NEW LINE

Forced by Superior Foe to Cross the Sereth.

Turks and Kurds Advance in Caucasus.

London Cable.—The Russian War Offices announces a strategic withdrawal by the Roumanians to the So-

vaia-Monastirik-Voloshkani line. Russian forces on the Roumanian front withdrew under pressure to Munchellu and Monaso, and Roumanians to Movilitza, in the Fokshani

Russian and Roumanian forces which had held the western bank of which had held the western bank of the River Sereth on the Roumanian front, yesterday were driven across the river by troops of Field Marshal von Mackensen, according to the statement to-day of the German genstatement to-day of the German genst

The Petrograd report says:
"Western front: Aufmated fusiledes
have taken place in the direction." Dvinsk, Vilna and Baranovichi.

"Roumanian front: Between the Rivers Dniester and Pruth there has been lively artillery firing. In the direction of Sasbreana, one of our 'Battalions of Death,' by a dashing assault, carried a series of positions five **Important Positions and 1,800 Prisoners** verses east of Mount Bermalui. In the direction of Onic the enemy made no

"For strategic reasons the Roumanian troops on the night of the 4th were withdrawn from Kragoslavo-Kosako-Lakiul front to the line of French Also Win Much Ground, and Take Soveia-Monastirsk-Voloshkani. During the night and the entire day of the 15th the enemy conducted a series of attacks in the Valley of the Suchitza and on the front of Voloshkani and Irestchidesus. All of them were repulsed by Roumanians, supported by our infantry.

"In the direction of Fokshani since the morning of the 15th, the Germans heve renewed their offensive. More tablished machine gun squads, and energetic attacks were directed against many of their defences were wiped out Stracani and Krucheadesus. Under strong pressure from the Germans our troops retired to Muncheliu and Monass, while some Roumanian detachments retired to Movilitsa.

Caucasus front: In the direction of Kharput the Turks, about a battalion and a half strong, with several thousand Kurds, after artillery preparation, began an offensive the morning of the 14th in the region of Mount Salvus Dag and Pelimer. The Kurdish offensive was repulsed, and 211/4 bushels in 1916. only in the region of Mount Salvus Dag did they succeed in moving for-

ward a little. "In the direction of Mosul our troops beat off an attack by a Turkish band. "In the Baltic, in the region of the

Aland archipelago, a torpedo boat was blown up and destroyed by an enemy mine. Twenty-four men perished.

"In the Gulf of Bothnia one of our submarines sank a German steamship.

"Tuesday night our airmen made a flight over the Courland coast. They dropped combs and caused conflagrations.

"Aviation: In the direction of Vilna our artiliery brought down two German aeroplanes. West of Krevo being 1.76 tons, as compared with 2.91 our aeroplanes dropped bombs in the rear of the enemy postions."

BULGARS FEAR HUN TREACHERY

See Germany Failing to **Back Their Demands**

And Serve Notice of Their Determination.

Stockholm Cable.—It would be in Germany has been shaken, but the fact deserved close attention that seeds of possible discord are already sprouting. For instance, all Bulgaria, from the highest official circles to the man on the Sofia streets, suffered a severe nerve shock recently, having gathered the impression from certain publicaits territorial claims, if not virtually peace.

The champions of reconciliation and of peace without annexation or in- wan, and 64 in Alberta, whilst oats are demnities have long felt and more 62 in Manitoba, 53 in Saskatchewan, recently given public expression to and 57 in Alberta. their feelings that Bulgaria's claims to Macedonia were a bar to peace and that consequently Serbia must be more reassuring character. restored in full, or at least a reconciliatory agreement must be reached between Bulgaria and Serbia.

The German Socialists, more particularly, have again and again voiced by declaring, in effect, that they would not fight one single day longer tor Bulgaria's territorial claims.

Herr Wendel, a Socialist member of the Reichstag, in a series of remarkable articles in Vorwaerts, elaborated this thesis, virtually championing Serbia's case with unequivocal frankness. Knowing the existence of the stringest military censorship in Germany, the Bulgarians assumed that the Vorwaerts articles, which were tantamount to an argument that Bulgaria must give up its dream of a great Bulgaria, could be published only with the knowledge of military censorship. The failure to confiscate Vorwaerts for unfriendliness toward Germany's Bulgarian ally, together with complete silence on the part of the highest German authorities in the matter, could be interpreted only as meaning that the Imperial Government approved the Vorwaerts propaganda against annexations by Bul-

The fact, too, that the Pan-German press and the Austrian Government organs passed over the question in silence further intensified the deep chagrin felt in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Minister at Berlin, Rizoff. in an open letter to Vorwaerts, now serves notice on the German people that, while incapable of disloyalty to its Teuton ally, Bulgaria is equally incapable of giving in to either friends or enemies in the matter of its nation-

al aspirations. Minister Rizoff concludes his letter. which is published in Vorwaerts under the caption of "Pro-Macedonia,"

"Bulgaria has the right to calculate

on unlimited co-operation of its Allies in this direction."

Yield of Hay and Clover Almost a Record.

Field Crops 6 P. C. Below Decade Average.

Ottawa Report. The preliminary estimate of the yield of fall wheat, hay and clover and alfalfa for 1917 made by the Census and Statistics Office, and a report on the condition of other field crops based on the returns of cor- the Central Powers in the aggregate respondents at the end of July, is as of naval strength. The number of

The preliminary estimate of the average yield per acre of fall-sown wheat of 1917 is 22 hushels, as compared with 21½ bushels in 1916, 29.41 bushels in 1915, and 21.70 bushels the average of the seven years 1910 to 1916. The total yield of fall wheat for 1917 is therefore now estimated at 17,-816,,000 bushels, from 809,250 harvested acres, as campared with 20,060,000 bushe's from 932,500 acres in 1916

In Ontario, the chief fall wheat province, the total yield is 14,515,000 bushwith 16,465,000 bushels from 774,800 acres in 1916, the average yields per acre being 22.11 bushels in 1917 and

Saskatchewan now ranks as the second fall wheat province, with 2,220,000 bushels from 105,700 acres, and Alberta is third with 836,000 bushels from 38,-

000 acres. The total yield of hay and clover is placed at 13,379,000 tons from 7,824,000 acres as compared with 14,637,000 tons, the record erop from 7,892,900 acres in 1916. This year's total yield of hay and clover has only twice been exceeded, viz., last year and in 1911, when the yield was 13,989,000 tons. The average yield per acre this year is 1.70 tons, as compared with 1.85 tons in 1916 and 1.62 tons in 1911.

The yield from alfalfa is 152,200 tons from 86,500 acres, as compared with \$260,500 tons from 89,470 acres last year, the average yields per acre

The condition of spring wheat for the whole of Canada has receded from 85 per cent. of the standard at the end of June to 77 at the end of July. Oats show 76 compared with 85. barley 78 against 86, rye 81 against 83, and peas 85 against 89.

The condition of other crops on July 31 was as follaws: Beans 74, buckwheat 86, mixed grains 90, flax 88, corn for husking 76, potatoes 84, turnips 90, mangolds 86, hay and clover 88, alfalfa 86, corn for fodder 77, sugar beets 83, and pastures 83.

Converted into a standard wherein 100 represents the average yield per acre at the nine years 1908 to 1916, the condition of the principal grain crops at July 31, 1917, was as follows: Fall wheat 94, spring wheat 92, all wheat 93, rye 96, barley 93, oats 88, potatoes 99, and flax 107. That is to say, the premature to say that Bulgaria's faith | yields per acre of these crops, according to their appearance on July 31, are yields of the previous nine years by 6 per cent. for fall wheat, 8 per cent. for spring wheat, 7 per cent for all wheat, 4 per cent, for rye, 7 per cent. for barley, and 12 per cent. for oats,

and 1 per cent. for potatoes. Throughout Eastern Canada the contions in Germany that Bulgaria's dition of the crops generally on July Teuton ally was putting out reeters, 31 is reported as excellent. In Ontario to be followed by more forceful po- spring wheat is marked as high as 91, titical and other pressure, with the and outs and barley are 93, but in the view of inducing Bulgaria to modity West excessive heat and drought during July brought the condition down to abandon them, in the interest of by July 31 to figures below 70 per cent of the standard, spring wheat being 68 in Manitoba, 63 in Saskatche-

Reports received during the last fortnight are, however, of somewhat

The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture telegraphed (Aug. 8) as follows: "Cool weather of past week and local showers generally have done much good to improve crop condithe sentiment of the German masses tions. Wheat is filling well and cutting will be general in about ten days. is one of the finest Gothic buildings Oats aer very short in straw, and from in that part of France, and was present indications will be very low in

yield." The Alberta Department of Agriculture telegraphs (Aug. 11): "Heavy rains and cooler weather prevailed throughout most of the province during the past week and greatly benefited late crops. Grain harvesting will be general in several districts next week. Light frost in a few districts on August 8 did very little damage excepting to vegetables in one or two

READY FOR FOE

In State of Preparedness for Instant Action.

Col. Repington Says Naval Strategy Correct.

(By Col. Repington.) Ottawa, Report.—A communication has been paying a visit to the fleet to "find out whether the naval strategy adopted had the approval of our

best fighting seamen." Extracts from declaration of war and 50 per cent.

higher than when the battle of Jut-

waging successfully the minor forms of war were and still are most in-adequate to our purpose. Great has been the task of those who with in-adequate means endeavored to carry out this mission, and heavy is the responsibility of those in London whose want of foresight was the primary reason for the losses which our maritime trade has suffered, but it has ben want of foresight, not congenial fallibility, to find an antidote for the bane that hampered us. With our immense resources joined to those of our allies we shall in time wear the enemy down even under the sea. Meanwhile his expendion that want of food and raw material will compel us to treat for peace is shown by experience to be completely fallacious. . . But no needless risks must be run with the Grand Fleet, although the allies are immensely superior to

British battleship units are not so sup-

erior to the German number that we

can afford to indulge in any spectac-

ular follies. I never had ony doubt

that on general lines our naval strategy is correct. I fortified this belief by my visit to the fleet. The German high sea fleet since the Jutland fight has not found conditions favorable for an engagement, but certainly the enemy may yet fight, and our fleet is commanded in expectation that he will do so. No other expectation is it legitimate to entertain. The enemy, if he comes, will come with his whole force, submarines included, and some units of ours will at such a moment be normally under repair. Therefore, the Grand Fleet has been ready to tackle him to make humanely sure that it will be the victor under the conditions specified. and will, further, be ready to steam out and fight at any moment, any day or night, the enemy may select

"This is an advantage of which the enemy cannot at present be deprived, but it is nothing new in our naval an-

Canadians Decorated

AN INVESTITURE.

Windsor Castle.

London. Calble.-At an investiture at Windsor Castle to-day Lieut.-General Richard Turner had conferred upon him will which the temporary collapse a knightbood at Knight Commander of of the Russian military power has St. Michael and St. George. Order of made in the task with which our solthe Loth, Brig.-General Alexander McCrac; Order of St. Michael and St. George, Col. Reginald Sims, Lieut.-Col. Harold MacDonald; Distinguished Service, Majors Kenneth Mahaffy, Charles Willets, Alexander Wilson; Bar to Military Cross, Major Henry Cooper; Military Cross and Ear, Lieut. Evan Price; Military Cross and Ear, Lieut. Evan Price; Military Cross, Majors Percy Alexander, Samuel Birds, Frank Winson, Dick Worai, Captains Wm. Hale, Ashley Johnston (Medicals), John Stewart, Lieuts. Roy Harrison, Stephen Knight, Merrill MacDowell, John MacKinnon, Cyril Stevenson, Harry Wooton. the Bath, Brig.-General Alexander Mc-

Quentin Edifice

And Lay the Blame for Deed On France.

Paris Cable. -The Germans have set fire to St. Quentin Cathedral, which is likely to be totally destroyed. With characteristic effrontery, the Berlin the Germans and their allies will have War Office issued this statement on Thursday:

"Near St. Quentin the French in the afternoon developed especial firing activity. They were successful by means of about 3,000 shells thrown on the inner town in setting the presbytery on fire. From there the flames spread to the cathedral, which has been burning since 8.20 o'clock last evening.

The cathedral of Church of St. Quentin, reported burning by the Germans. erected between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries. The building has double transepts and the nave is 370 feet long and 130 feet high. It is very finely decorated and contains some handsome bas-reliefs. In the crypt of the church are buried St. Quentin and his fellow martyrs, St. Victoricus and St. Gentianus.

CHINA IS ACTING.

Seizing All Hun Business and Shipping.

London, Report.—The Chinese Government, a Reuter despatch from Pekin says, is arranging for the prompt liquidation of the German Asiatic Bank. Five ifficials of the Foreign Office have been appointed to take over the accounts and cash here and in the Shanghai, Canton, Tien Tsin and Hankon branches.

Chinese troops have seized Austrian concessions in Tien Tsin, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch, and Gerna nand Austria shipping is being seized at Canton, Amey, Swatow, Shanghai and Nanking. The vessels include several small warships. small warships.

SUBS'. TOLL LIGHT

As Shown by French and Italian Reports.

Paris, Special Cable.-The weekbest fighting seamen." Extracts from his conclusions follow:

"My opinion is that the war efficiency of the Grand Fleet is 100 per cent. higher than at the time of the declaration of war and 50 per cent.

Rome, Aug. 16.-The Italian merchant

HELD UP DRIVE BY THE ALLIES

Defection and Retirement Dislocated the Entente Plans.

LLOYD GEORGE

Told Commons One Claw of Nippers Out of Repair.

London Cable.-In the cause of a speech in the House of Commons today Lloyd George said:

"I don't think the time has come for a useful review of the military situation. The main facts are well known to the House and the country. I had anticipated this year a great converging movement against our foes. Russia was equipped for that part as she never before had been equipped. I venture to say that the nippers were beginning to grip, but to be quite frank, one caw of the nippers is out of repair for the moment and therefore we have not got that same converging pressure we had

anticipated. "But things are mending. The situation in Russia is a very difficult one, and I should be sorry to say anything which would make it more difficult because it is quite obvious you cannot even state facts without emparrassing those who are trying to restore the situation in that country. But while they are doing it bravely, with great at courage and, I think, with great thoroughness, the brunt of the fighting must fall upon other countries. And considering all the difficulties with which we are confronted, our armies have won very conspicuous successes. "It is difficult even to dwell on the

> diers are confronted." Mr. Lloyd George said that British divisions which have been fighting and temporarily are exhausted pass behind the lines until they are reformed, but that the German divisions in the same condition go to Russia and hold a front which does not impose severe military obligations. while fresh divisions from Russia come to the western front. That increased the number of Germans on the

western front. Under these conditions what had been achieved was one of the most brilliant episodes in the history of the British army.

"The best Germany can do now," Mr. Lloyd Cearge continued, "when what practically was her most powerful opponent at the beginning of the war is paralyzed by internal difficulexpected to be below the average Huns Destroy Venerable St. ties, is to hold her own against the attacks of the British and French. And she is not quite doing it. On the contrary, in this year she has been beaten in several great battles with severe losses and with hundreds of her guns captured, which is not a bad

test of winning ar losing a battle. "Russia recovered and America really in with those fine troops of which we saw a specimen yesterday and which were a symbol of America coming into this world-struggle with a virile swing—those are the things

to think about." Premier Lloyd George then read a message from Field Marshal Haig about the fighting in Flanders and concluded:

"This is the supreme hour for patience, for, courage, for endurance for hope, for unity. Let us go through this hour with a temper that will enable us to destroy a great military despotism. Let us go through this hour with the old temper of our race so that next year we shall begin, and then the world will begin, to reap the fruits of our valor."

ASQUITH CONFIDENT.

Former Premier Asquith said that Great Britain can survey with satisfaction , if not complacency—for who could survey complacently the scene now presented to the civilized worldthe results of her own effort. What has happened in Russia has frustrated one of the greatest military purposes of the Allies and any criticism passed on this year's operations must bear in mind that important cons'deration. Mr. Asquith added:

"I hope that before long our Russian allies, whose work in the first two and a half years of the war furnished a glorious and inspiring chapter, will resume to the full their share of the great common task to which I believe the Russian nation is still de-

GERMAN LOSSES OVER 4,500,000

London Cable.—German casualties reported during July in the German official lists, but not necessarily occurring in July, aggregated 89,863. as follows: Killed or died of wounds or

sickness 21,389 Prisoners or missing 14,620 Severely wounded 13,896 Wounded and slightly wounded 39,958 The total German casualties of all classes since the beginning of the war exceeds 4.500.000.

"There's no fun in automobiling nowadays." "Too many cars?" "No. Not enough pedestrians."-Buffalo Express.

Von Tirpitz has decided to enter politics, it is said. The democratization of Germany goes on unabated.-Savanah News.