

# War News.

Messages Received  
Previous to 9 A. M.

## WAR SUMMARY.

For the first time since he started his series of attacks against the German positions in Flanders, Field Marshal Haig has had to cease operations before all the objectives set out for were attained. It was not German guns that stopped the British, however. It was a more than usually heavy rain-fall which started during the battle and turned the already swampy region, over which the men were supposed to pass, into a veritable quagmire, from which they could not extricate themselves for a forward move. The drive, as has been customary in Haig's strategy, was started in the early hours of Friday morning, and extended from near Houtholst Wood to below the Ypres-Menin road. At several points the British succeeded in gaining ground over fronts ranging up to a thousand yards but here rain intervened, and fighting ceased for the day. During the forward movement over the six mile front the British captured an aggregate of about 600 prisoners. The struggle was particularly bitter to the north of Poelcapelle and around Passchendaele. In the latter region the Germans apparently have massed the strongest array of troops, hoping to stay the further progress of the British towards the Ostend-Lille railway. The Germans were expecting the battle for several hours prior to the signal for the British to attack. They laid down a heavy barrage fire all along the line, interspersing the rain of steel and explosive shells with asphyxiating gas bombs.

Considerable artillery activity still prevails between the French and Germans along the Chemine-de-Dames in Champagne and on the Ypres sector, but no important infantry engagement have taken place.

Likewise in the Austro-Italian theatre and in Macedonia big guns are doing all the work except for reconnoitering and outpost encounters in the latter region.

## BRITISH ATTACK.

LONDON, Oct. 12. The British troops in Flanders attacked the Germans this morning on a front of about six miles, northeast of Ypres. They are reported to be making satisfactory progress. Rain fell heavily during last night.

## GOING WELL.

British Headquarters in France, Oct. 12.—By 7.45 o'clock this morning reports were received that everything was going well with to-day's British attack in Flanders. The troops along a wide front had pushed forward to a depth averaging eight hundred yards or more. Prisoners are beginning to come in early although slowly, owing to the condition of the ground.

## OFFICIAL REPORT.

LONDON, Oct. 12 (Official). Notwithstanding the heavy rain which fell during the night, our troops succeeded in forming up for an attack which was launched at 5.25 a.m. to-day. Progress was made along the entire front which extended from the Ypres-Roulers railway on the south to our junction with the French on the southern edge of Houtholst forest. On the whole of this front a large number of defended localities, fortified farms, woods and concentrated strong points were captured by us together with a number of prisoners. Fighting was especially severe on the slopes of Quin Ridge, west of Passchendaele, and on the main ridge itself south of that village. Heavy rain again set in during the morning, after a brief interval of fine weather, and has continued with increasing violence throughout the day and impeded our progress. It was in consequence decided not to make any further ef-



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fort to reach our final objectives. The number of prisoners taken by us to-day is approximately 500.

## BRITISH WAR MACHINE AGAIN IN ACTION.

British Front in France and Belgium (by Associated Press), Oct. 11.—To-day's dawn saw the great British war machine set in motion across the Flanders mud fields against the German positions northeast of Ypres. At an early hour the attacking forces had penetrated several hundred yards into the enemy territory along a six mile front extending from a place near Houtholst forest down below the Ypres-Roulers railway and were battling along Passchendaele village. The offensive started at 5.25 a.m. The condition of the ground was appalling but by 7.45 a report came back that everything was going well and the troops over a wide section of the front had pushed forward to a depth averaging 800 yards, or more. Prisoners already were beginning to come in although slowly. Owing to the condition of the ground the enemy artillery barrage was slow in response at the hour of attack and the fire was not severe, but the Germans were putting down a heavy machine barrage all along the line. The enemy's guns were very active during the night against the central and southern portions of the front, especially about Broodseinde ridge and Ypres-Roulers railway. Between four and four-thirty this morning a large number of gas shells were thrown along the British front line probably indicating that the Germans were aware there was trouble ahead.

## BRITISH PROGRESS.

LONDON, Oct. 12. A Reuters despatch from British headquarters reports progress in Poelcapelle and Passchendaele sections of Flanders front. The despatch follows: Rain is reported to have brought operations to a standstill, but we have gained possession of the Brewery east of Poelcapelle, which has been the centre of strong German resistance. At noon to-day our troops were said to have occupied the crest of the farm on the left of Passchendaele Road and be within about 500 yards of Passchendaele church.

## POLITICAL CHANGES IN CANADA.

OTTAWA, Oct. 12. After several months of negotiations between Sir Robert Borden and the leaders of the War Liberals, a Union Government was formed last night. Of the old administration, Sir Robert Borden, Sir Thomas White, Hon. Arthur Meighen, Sir Geo. Foster, Sir Edward Kemp, Sir James Lough-

eed, Hon. Frank Cochrane, Hon. J. D. Reid, Hon. C. J. Doherty, Hon. M. Burrell, Hon. A. Seigney, and Hon. P. E. Blondin remain in the Government, as well as Hon. C. C. Ballantyne and Hon. Hugh Guthrie, who became members last week. The new members are Hon. A. L. Sifton, Premier of Alberta; Hon. James A. Calder, Minister of Public Works, Saskatchewan; L. A. Crerar, Winnipeg; General Mewburn, of Hamilton; N. W. Rowell, Opposition Leader of the Ontario Provincial Legislature; F. B. Carvell, New Brunswick; Premier George H. Murray, Nova Scotia, who will retire from the Premiership of that Province and then join the Union Government; Hon. F. B. McCurdy, Parliamentary Secretary of Militia and Defence; and Hon. Hugh Clark, Parliamentary Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, retain their respective offices. In the new Cabinet are twelve Conservatives and nine Liberals, but Hon. Frank Cochrane, who retires from the Department of Railways and Canals, is without portfolio and will shortly take the Chairmanship of the Board of Management of the Canadian Northern Railway. The members retiring from the Cabinet are Hon. J. D. Hazen, who will become Chief Justice of New Brunswick; Sir George Perley, to accept High Commissionership in London; Hon. Dr. Roche to Chairmanship of the Civil Service Board; Hon. F. W. Crothers, who will accept a Judgeship; and Hon. Frank Cochrane, who resigns his portfolio, but remains as a member of the Privy Council. Hon. Robert Rogers and Hon. E. L. Patenaude retired from the Cabinet some months ago.

There is some doubt about Carvell and Murray entering the Cabinet.

Shortly before one o'clock, ten members of the new Union Administration were sworn in as follows: Premier and Secretary of State for External Affairs, Sir Robert Borden; Minister of Militia, Major-General Mewburn; Minister of Overseas Service, Sir Edward Kemp; Minister of Immigration and Colonization, Hon. J. A. Calder; Minister of Interior, Hon. Arthur Meighen; Minister of Agriculture, T. A. Crerar; Minister of Customs, Hon. A. L. Sifton; President of the Privy Council, Mr. N. W. Rowell; Minister of Railways and Canals, Hon. J. D. Reid; Secretary of State for Mines, Hon. Martin Burrell.

The Union Government held its first Cabinet Council this evening, Hon. N. W. Rowell, President of the Privy Council, presided. There was a full attendance. No official statement was made as to the business transacted but it is understood the discussion was confined to a preliminary review of the work being taken in hand. Maritime Province Liberals remain outside the Cabinet as yet, and the general impression prevails that Frank Carvell and A. K. McLean are likely to join the Government. Premier Murray is understood to be adverse on personal grounds to coming to Ottawa.

## ON THE FRENCH FRONT.

PARIS, Oct. 12. The night was marked by great activity of the artillery and a series of German efforts at various points on the front, says to-day's official statement. West of Cerny we repulsed an enemy attack, while a detail operation, carried out by us north of Noisy Farm, enabled us to bring back prisoners. An enemy surprise attack west of Maisons de Champagne and the three German efforts in the region of Aubery and Souain came to nothing. On the right bank of the Meuse artillery fighting continues in the region of Pezonvaux.

## LOSS OF SUBMARINES.

NEW YORK, Oct. 12. The Evening Sun says: Among the passengers arriving on an American liner at an Atlantic port to-day was Major Ian Hay-Belth, of the Argyle Highlanders, who comes to this country on tour. In regard to submarine warfare, Major Belth said he understood more German U-boats had been destroyed in the month of September than in any previous month. The figures are not given out by the British Admiralty, but gossip in naval circles was that the British and American patrol boats had accounted for a large number of submarines. Things have been going so well for the British on the Western front that I have no doubt the Germans will soon have to evacuate Ostend, said Major Belth. This will give the British heavy artillery a chance at Zeebrugge, and will result in the breaking up of a troublesome U-boat base. I also had the opportunity of visiting the Grand Fleet. The morale seemed good, and they are anxious for another go at the Germans. But the officers do not believe the German battleships will venture forth again unless the German naval heads decide to make a separate gamble.

## CARDINAL GIBBONS WRITES PRESIDENT WILSON.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12. Cardinal Gibbons wrote President Wilson in a letter made public here to-day that he is trying to persuade all Americans that they can do great good to themselves and their country by careful and generous practice of their duty as it is pointed out to them

by lawfully constituted authority. The letter was written on the occasion of the recent formation of the League of National Unity, of which Cardinal Gibbons is the Honorary Chairman. President Wilson in reply thanked the Cardinal for accepting the chairmanship of the League.

small part of what we need. There is little cholera or other disease among our armies and people now, but the spring may bring more. Hundreds of American relief workers will be there then.

## RUSSIAN OFFICIAL.

### THE NEED OF ROUMANIA.

PARIS, Oct. 12. General Jancovsco, Roumanian War Minister, called today on American Ambassador Francis and explained the situation in Roumania. In the interview the General said: One American Red Cross mission has arrived at our front, but that is only a

small part of what we need. There is little cholera or other disease among our armies and people now, but the spring may bring more. Hundreds of American relief workers will be there then.

On the Roumanian front, on yesterday the enemy, after artillery fire, attacked in Ducez region and took several trenches, which were restored by counter attacks. The enemy yesterday several times bombarded Galatz. On the Causasian front, in the venduz region, we occupied enemy positions fifty miles south of Urmic, driving out the Turks. In Zpreez sector two enemy airplanes attacked a Russian captive balloon, which began to descend. The observer was mortally wounded because of the parachute failing to open. The balloon was undamaged.

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By A. HITT

