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VOLUME XXXVI.-No. 13,183

# FRENCH START BIG NEW OFFENSIVE ON MEI

FR DAY MORNING DECEMBER 15 1916 -FOURTEEN PAGES

TORPEDO BOAT GRILSE, WITH SIX MEN MISSING, REACHES PORT German Attempt Against Lassigny Fails Disastrously

# FRENCH ATTACK ENEMY - FOE ONSETT IN REGION OF VERDUN

German War Office Reports Allied Advance on Both Banks of Meuse in Offensive -Paris is Silent.

tal Cable to The Toronto World. Berlin received tonight says: French troops took the offensive in the Verdun region this evening, says tonight's supplementary war office statement, advancing on both banks of the Meuse.

took place south of the Somme on letins have been extremely lad both banks of the Meuse and on the these past few days, it is noted.

London, Dec. 14.—A despatch from valled on the rest of the front."

The French war office this afternoon issued the following statement on op-erations along the French front: "Last night was without incident." It is said that the German official

TO IMPRESS FRANCE No mention of an offensive undertaken by infantry is contained in either today's or tonight's French official bulletins.

The bulletin issued by the French war office tonight reads:

"Somewhat spirited artillery actions to be place south of the Somme on the south of the south o communication may refer to later events than the French night bulletin,

# GRILSE REACHES PORT SIX MEN ARE MISSING

W. J. Trembee of Toronto Among Lost During Terrific Storm Which Battered Canadian Torpedo Boat Grilse Reaches Shelburne, N.S., Under Own Steam.

Halifax, Friday, Dec. 15.—With six of her crew drowned, two more injured, N. S. wireless dismantled, her boats carried away, and leaking badly from the terrible pounding which she had received in 48 hours of gales and high seas off the Nova Scotia coasts. H. M. C. S. Grilse, the torpedo boat which was recorded as lost with all hands, arrived in Shelburge harbor, under her own.

steam, at 3.50 o'clock tonight.

The following were lost overboard:
R. Wilkinson, Wellington-on-Tyne.
England; E. C. Clemens, wireless operator, Hamilton, Ont; W. J. Trembee, chief petty officer, Toronto; G. Ashwin, leading seaman, London, Eng.; A. J. Harris, able seaman, Maye, Ireland; H.

# **RUSSIAN CAVALRY** ATTACKS INVADERS

Czar's Troops Fight Fierce Action in Region of Buzeu, Rumania.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. London, Dec. 14.-It is expected here that a Russo-Rumanian counterthrust against the Teutonic and allied forces is about to take place on the Moldavian plain. The Germans on the Russo-Rumanian right wing continued their attacks in the direction of Buzeu and they were met by Russian cavalry and Rumanian infantry detachments southwest of this point. The Cossacks advanced westward against the enemy and they fought a stubborn

hiver in eastern Wallachia.

LLOYD GEORGE HAS

Premier Ordered to Remain in Bed a Few Days More.

London, Dec. 14.—The condition of Premier David Lloyd George has taken a slight turn for the worse. He suffered considerably from a severe chill contracted early in the week, and

In the commons this afternoon, being asked by John Redmond as to the possible length of the recess after the prorogation, Bonar Law replied: "I have been considering that, but the premier is ill and the doctors will not allow me to see him. So that am not prepared to answer."

MISCHA ELMAN HURT.

New York, Dec. 14.-Mischa Elman famous violinist, was injured today when a taxicab in which he was ridarms were severely injured.

# The Germans report that they have when a taxicab in which he was rid-affected a crossing of the Jalomitsa ing collided with a surface car. His

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

\* WAR SUMMARY \*

ROM Berlin a report based on a paragraph in the German official communication, was despatched, saying that French troops took the offensive in the Verdun region last evening, "In the army also?"

"Yes, in the entire country," said the cing on both banks of the Meuse. The French night official "Yes, in the entire country," said the advancing on both banks of the Meuse. The French night official communication, a mere bulletin for brevity, however, only says that a somewhat spirited artillery action took place south of the Somme on both banks of the Meuse, and on the heights south of Bonhomme. The German version of the engagement may, therefore, be a deluslon owing to loss of nerve, or it may be based on a French raid; or again, it may be reporting the beginning of an actual large scale offensive. French and German activity in the region east of Champagne has been suggestive of soon coming large operations.

It was announced some time ago that the allies would keep up spondent. their offensive during the winter. In spite of this many persons have the Danish steamer Vidar, bound for written and spoken as if winter fighting in France is impossible, for-getting the launching of an offensive at Verdun by the Germans last mid-February. On the French front many places have sufficiently solid terrain in the cold weather to permit the movement of large armies, not only for siege warfare, but for ordinary manoeuvre battles. Because in this war winter fighting in the west has hitherto been at a standstill, it is not a guarantee that it will not become an active factor. The allies were unready in the past 28 months to wage offensive warfare, and they did not undertatke Somme battles every day. The Germans also needed the winters in the past to make ready for spring campaigns. They need this winter more than cover to pull themselves together. For these reasons it was decided by the allies actively to continue do Page 2, Columns 1 and 21

Defensively Armed Vessels

Caps, collars, gauntlets and furble and fur coats, with heavy driving robes, make up the main part of men's furs, on the main part of men's furs, on the men's furs, on the men's furs, on the men's furs, on the men's dready for spring coat system in the west.

McCURDY OFF TO ENGLAND.

Indeed not undertake and furble and fur coats, with heavy driving robes, make up the main part of the men's furs, of these long, shell of black beaver cloth, lined with must-continue does not into the finding of the board as "acute."

No Offer of Peace is Made

To Belgium by the Enemy

Has Become Real Luxury

Continued on Page 2, Columns 1 and 21

Continued on Page 2, Columns 1 and 21

Forty Thousand German Infantry Suffer Decimation Under French Fire.

Move Synchronizes With

Move Synchron zes With Chancellor Bethr ann-Holl-weg's Peace Proposals.

Paris, Dec. 14.—A erman attack on Lassigny, that par of the front nearest to Paris, was made Monday in great force, says La Liberte's correspondent with the French armies. It appears to have been concerted to coincide with Von Bethr ann-Hollweg's note, probably with a view to impressing the French by a local success.

The Germans brought together about 40,000 men from the best divisions, adds the correspondent, and concentrated corresponding quantities of artillery. The attack was preceded by an intense bombaniment lasting for hours.

The French were not taken by sur-

The French were not taken by sur-The French were not taken by surprise and received the assaulting waves with a fire from their three-inch guns and maching guns, tearing the ranks terribly. A barrier fire thrown to the rear of the Germans caught the supporting reserves.

The Germans reached the French trenches over a frontage of 300 yards, but an immediate counter-attack enabled the French to regain the trenches, Only a few survivors of the attacking columns esciped. Most of them were killed after stubbern re-

sistance.

The Germans renewed the assault an hour later without success. The French heavy artillery dispersed the reserves as they came

## TOTAL PROHIBITION A SLIGHT RELAPSE TO RULE IN FRANCE

Premier Briand Will Suppress Consumption of Alcohol During War.

Regard to National Defence.

Paris, Dec. 14.-Total prohibition thruout France of the consumption of such alcoholic beverages as whiskey. brandies and liqueurs has been decided on by the government. This is shown by the cext in the Journal Officie! today of Premier Briand's declaration yesterday before the chamber of deputies on the subject. The premier said:

"The government will ask you to give it the faculty of solving by de-crees all questions of interest in re-gard to the national defence which the laws are too slow to regulate. A particularly grave question which can be regulated only in war time, en the solution of which depends the life of the country and its salvation, is the total suppression of the consumption of alcohol."

The premier's remarks were greeted

premier. The use of the term alcohol in this connection is understood in France not to include wines or beer.

### German Torpedo Boat Lost Wreckage is Washed Ashore

London, Dec. 14.-Wreckage of a German torpedo boat has been washed ashore near Gothenburg, says the Exchange Telegraph's Copenhagen corre-

## Only One Neutral Bars Out

USUAL BIG GUN DUEL PROCEEDS ON CARSO

Austrian Shells Cause Fire in Gorizia-Weather Bad in Trentino.

Rome, Dec. 14. via London.—The following communication was issued "On the Trentino front bad weather has limited the activity of the artillery to duels in the Pasadeno area and

on the Asiago plateau.

"On the Julian front there has been the usual artillery activity in the Plava sector, east of Vertobizza, and the Carso plateau. Some shells fell in Gorizia and a fire br ke out there, which was soon extinguished." Two Face Trial for Murder

Of a Soldier From Toront

McKenna Points Out Real Difficulty in Financing

About Five and One-Palf Million Pounds.

London, Dec. 14.—That the extent to which England is able to convert her sterling wealth into dollars is the real measure of her ability to continue to meet the war's demand was the gist of a brief but pointed speech in the house of commons tonight by Reginald McKenna, the former chancellor of the exchequer, supporting and suplementing Mr. Bonar Law's presentation of Great Britain's financial position. Mr. McKenna opened by congra-tulating Mr. Bonar Law on his speech thus showing the entente cordiale be-tween the old and the new govern-ments, and then continued:

ments, and then continued:

Must Pay in Dollars.

"We are bound to supply munitions to the full extent of our capacity, and we are bound likewise to meet all the his physicians have ordered him to remain in bed a few days more.

Friends of the premier expressed the hope that he will be able to appear in the house of commons next Tuesday,

Matter is Grave Question in the easy to convert sterling wealth

NOT WINES OR BEER

We are bound likewise to meet all the demands of our ablity to meet those demands is enormous, but there is one restriction, namely, that it will not be easy to convert sterling wealth not be easy to convert sterling wealth into dollars wealth. We must pay in dollars for what we buy now all over the world, and that is the limit of our power to help the allies."

Touching on the large increase in the expenditure during the past two months, Mr. McKenna said:
"Mr. Bonar Law mentioned that our average daily expenditure for the past 63 days reached £5.700.000, but in

Artillery Causes German Dump to Go Up in Smoke About

London, Dec. 14.—The war office onight issued the following communi-

Last night enemy trenches were enered by us in the neighborhood of Monchy-au-Beis, south of Arras, A number of casualties were inflicted on Dugouts filled with his troops were

bombed. A raid was attempted against our trenches in the neighborhood of Hulluch, but the enemy failed to enter them. Prisoners were left in our The usual artillery activity continued today on both sides. Our bombardment of an enemy dump in the neigh-borhood of Pys (northeast of Albert) set fire to the material collected there

## DINEEN'S MEN'S FURS.

causing large clouds of smoke.

Not to Be Rejected Offhand.

NOTES AT WASHINGTON

Wilson Thinks Way for Mediation May Possibly Be Opened Up.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Arrival of both the German and Austrian peace notes and broad intimations at the entente ally embassies that the proposals of the central powers would not be flatly rejected without examination, were the outstanding developments here today in he peace movement.

Germany's note, substantially the same as the published texts, arrived by cable this morning and was followed later by Austria's note. Secretary of State Lansing said it was identical with Germany's and that neither contained any change in meaning from the semi-official versions.

It was stated officially that the president had not decided what action, if any, he would take in transmitting the central powers' proposals to the entente belligerents.

Wison's Hope.

When, with the announcement of the German proposals two days ago, it appeared that the entente allies were inclined to reject the offer flatly, it ap-

(Continued on Page 10, Column 4),

# **FURTHER CREDITS ASKED OF BANKS**

White to Confer With Bankers Today on Financial Situation.

**NEW ORDERS COMING** 

mediately.

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, Dec. 14.—Canadian bankers have been summoned to Ottawa by Sir Thomas White, minister of finance, for an exchange of views upon the present financial situation in Great Britain and Canada. They will meet here tomorrow. that period there were brought into the account large sums expended in the United States which ought to have been brought into the charges of an earlier period. I believe that the true daily expenditure is now about £5.500,000; therefore we may hope that the estimate of £1,950,000.000 for the discally ear will not be exceeded."

BRITISH RAID TRENCHES

NEAR MONCHY-AU-BOIS

Canada. They will meet here tomorrow. Sir Thomas expressed the view today, that altho there was no idea of an immediate loan, it was certain that there would be other domestic loans as time would be other domestic loans as time would be other or discussed, but there will be another and more pressing problem placed before the bankers. It will be that of furnishing further credits in Canada for Great Britain for the manufacturers of munitions and other war supplies. It is in the interests of Canadian business quite apart from the fact that munitions and more munitions are required for the allies, that as many war orders as possible should be placed in this country. To do this there must be extensive credits.

redits.
No definite plan will be presented tomorrow to the bankers by Sir Thomas
White, but it is expected that a program
of domestic loans and advances to the of domestic loans and advances of domestic loans and advances and British Government will be agreed upon and that to the plan suggested by the bankers the finance minister will ad-

## BRITISH SHIP BURNHOPE SUNK ON HIGH SEAS

Several Members of Crew Injured-Captain Dies After Landing.

London, Dec. 14.—The British ship Burnhope, a vessel of 1,941 tons, has been sunk. The crew, of which several members were injured, has been landed. The captain of the vessel died after reaching shore.

Licyds announces that the British steamer Bretwalda, 4,037 tors, has amendment had not expected favorable

## FOE'S PEACE PROPOSAL WILL SOLIDIFY BRITAIN

Viscount French Says Kaiser Will Prove Best Recruiting Agent.

Cardiff. Wales, Dec. 14.—Field Mar-shal Viscount French, speaking here today, said: Central Powers' Peace Offer

today, said:
"Germany's so-called peace proposal will only serve, like the zeppelin raids, to draw this nation closer together. The kalser will thus prove our best recruiting agent, and his latest piece of arrogant insolence will only prompt us to additional efforts."

## FRANCE WILL ABOLISH POLITICAL CENSORSHIP

Parliament Will Confer Power on Government to Rule By

Paris, Dec. 14.—A bill conferring upon the government the large powers outlined by Premier Briand yesterday to take measures for the national defence by decree instead of asking the authorization of parliament in each instance was introduced in the chamber of deputies today. The chamber of deputies today adopted a motion abolishing the political censorship, while retaining the diplomatic and military censorship. The motion was accepted by the government and passed unanimously.

many Will Not Affect

TO IMPRESS NEUTRALS

Propaganda Carried on in Neutral Countries, Particularly U.S.

Petrograd, Dec. 14.—The peace proposal of the central powers is regarded by the Russian Government as "an attempt to court public opinion and encourage the people of Germany by appearing to put the responsibility for the continuation of the war upon the entent allies."

entente allies."

The proposal has been received by official Petrograd without an atom of sympathy. An official of the foreign office made today the following statement, which has been issued by the semi-official Petrograd News Agency: "The new appeal of our enemies is not their first attempt to throw upon the entente powers the responsibility. not their first attempt to throw upon the entente powers the responsibility for the war they let loose. In order to obtain the support of the German peoples, who are tired of the war, the Berlin government many times has had recourse to fallacious words of peace, and has frequently, in order to animate its troops, offered prospects of an early peace. It promised peace of an early peace. It promised peace when Warsaw was taken; when Serda was conquered, forgetting that such promises unfulfilled would cre-

te profound distrust. To Sway Neutrals.

"In its further efforts, which are similarly due to the same interested considerations, the German Government is obliged to carry this question outside of Germany. All the world recalls those attempts, notably its balloons d'essai, which were sent up in neutral countries, particularly the renewed vigor.

RAILWAY BOARD ORDERS United States.

"Seeing the inanity of such methods, which deceived nobody, Germany atempted to create a peace atmosphere, which would allow her to consolidate her aggressive and imperialistic ten-dencies, while sowing discord between the allies, by seeking to make public opinion believe that separate pour parlers were in progress between her and the entente powers. There were

(Continued on Page 10, Column 1).

# Nation-Wide Prohibition

Washington, Dec. 14.—Nationwide prohibition took a long stride toward congressional consideration today when the house judiciary committee unex-pectedly voted to recommend adoption of the amendment to submit the con-stitutional amendment forbidding the manufacture and sale of liquor for beverage purposes in the U.S. Even the most enthusiastic champions of the action so soon from the committee

Adequate Reparation for Past and Security for Future Insisted On.

## BIG CREDIT IS PASSED

Additional Million Men of All Ranks for Service in Army.

London, Dec. 14 .- The allies require that there shall be adequate retribution for the past and adequate security for the future. That is still the policy and still the determination of his majesty's government.

This was the declaration of Andrew Bonar Law, repeating the words of Mr. Asquith three months ago as he made his debut today as the leader of the new government in the house of commons at was only a brief and passing illusion to the German peace proposal, but the ringing announcement that it was still the policy and determination of the government struck the keynote of the new government's attitude and aroused a prolonged demonstration of approval.

Unusual Interest.

The sessions of both the tords and

The sessions of both the tords and commons were attended with unusual interest as being the first bow of the government, tho the absonce of Premier Lloyd George thru continued illuses last. Lloyd George thru continued illness left the initial occurs of the new regime like Hamlet without the pane. Great crowds besieged Westminster for ad-mission, and both chambers showed the galleries filled with eager specta-

(Continued on Page 10, Column 5).

# **GERMANS CHEER** PEACE PROPOSAL

Soldiers Break Into Joyful Demonstration on Receiving Announcement.

## DOUBT SHOWN LATER

Attitude of Entente Powers Towards Proposal Considered Uncertain.

German Great Headquarters in the West, Wednesday, Dec. 13, via Berlin to London, Dec. 14.—The German peace note was read at moon on Tuesday to all the reserves and to the troops resting behind the front. Its contents were made known to the soldiers at the front or on the way to or from the tree-less thus appropries from the trenches thru announcements on improvised bulletin boards. The effect of the amouncements was

to call forth spontaneous shouts of joy, tempered later by doubt as to whether the entente would agree to make peace now. It is generally agreed, however, that the note comes exactly at the right time and that in case it is rejected the fighting will continue with

# COAL CARS PROVIDED

Important Principle Laid Down Will Assist West to Get

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 14.—In an order of the railway board issued today the new and important principle is laid down that the railways responsible for carrying coal to the consumers of the west must move this commodity not only over their own originating lines of railway, but also to points on other lines. The order declares that cars must be supplied for delivery to points on other lines to the full extends of the cars must be supplied for delivery to points on other lines to the full extends of the cars must be supplied for delivery to points on other lines to the full extends of the cars must be supplied for delivery to points on other lines to the full extends of the cars must be supplied for delivery to points on other lines to the consumers of the cars must move this commodity. tent that cars are available. In all cases where transfer at the junction point results in the line on which the traffic originates obtaining the long to supply the cars. It is believed that the effect of the order, which upsets previous judgments given by the board in the past, will tend to relieve the after the last session had voted to existing coal system in the west, postnone its consideration indefinitely, which is described in the finding of