BRITISH ARMS MEET SEVERE **REVERSE, ENEMY ADVANCING** 2 MILES ON 11-MILE FRONT

TEN PAGES

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Germans in Furious Assault Drive General Plumer's Men off Messines Ridge, Capturing Wytschaete and Spanbroekmolen and Getting Footing in Meteren-Bailleul and Heights to East Had Fallen Monday Night-British Clinging Desperately to Western Slopes of Messines Ridge.

Further West They Seem to be Falling Back Across Deuve Valley on Mt. Kemmel and Critical Point in Battle has been Reached - Messines Ridge Carried by Storm in Fierce Hand to Hand Fighting- While the Course of War Depends on Result of Gigantic Battle, Fate of Allied **Cause Hanging in the Balance.**

(By Arthur S. Draper.)

Special to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

London, April 16 .- The Germans in a furious assault today drove General Plumer's men off Messines Ridge, captured Wytschaete and Spanbroekmolen and got a footing in Meteren. Bailleul and the heights to the east had fallen Monday night. The enemy has advanced on an eleven mile front, forming the northern side of Armentieres salient, to an average depth of about 2 miles. The British are clinging desperately to western slopes of Messines Ridge. Farther west they seem to be falling back across the Deuve Valley on Mount Kemmel.

A critical point in the battle has been reached. The defenders are making desperate efforts to prevent the foe from carrying out his evident design to drive in below Ypres and to capture the important railroad centre, Hazebrouck, about six miles west of Metern, between Bailleul and the British positions behind Neuve Eglise. The enemy won his way forward Monday evening by throwing into the fray three fresh picked divisions. Today enormous forces were thrown against Messines Ridge from the southeast and it was d by storm in fierce hand to hand fighting. Last night heavy fighting continued all Government Decides that Only Way in Which Reinforcements Can be Secured in Time and in Sufficient Numbers is by Taking Authority to Order Out for Service all Men of Certain Defined Ages who are Physically Fit and to Abolish all Exemption in the Case of all Men so Ordered out.

CANADA WILL CALL OUT MEN

AS YOUNG AS NINETEEN AND

HASTEN AID TO THE ALLIES

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GENERALLY FAIR

It is Intention to Call Out in the First Instance Unmarried Men and Widowers Without Children Between the Ages of Twenty and Twentythree, both Inclusive-Calling Out of Men of Other Ages Must Necessarily Depend Upon the Exigencies of the War and Need for Reinforcments.

Ottawa, April 16-Owing to the critical situation which has with some suddenness developed on the western front and which is likely to continue until the allied nations have materially increas-IRISH PEACE ed the strength of their forces the government of Canada after the most careful consideration of all the circumstances and possible consequences has reached the decision that it is not only desirable but cosolutely essential that substantial reinforcements be secured for the Canadian expeditionary force London, April 16.-(Via Reuler's ttawa Agency) - Premier Linya eorge announced in the House tovithout delay.

the set of the man power bill is in-perative because Germany has just alled up a further he'f million men. The third reading of the bill was carried tonight by a vote of 301 to In view of the emergency that has arisen it is now recognized that the additional men so urgently needed cannot be secured within the time required through the ordinary operation of the military service act or any system of individual selection. The government has therefore decided that the only way in which reinforcements can be secured in time and in sufficient numbers is by taking authority to order out for service all men of certain defined ages who are physically fit and to abolish all exemptions in the case of all men so ordered out.

It is the intention to call out in the first instance unmarried men and widowers without children between the ages of twenty and twenty-three, both inclusive. It is believed that these young men can be spared with the least disturbance to agriculture and other essential industries. The calling out of men of other ages under the proposed order-in-council must necessarily depend upon the exigencies of the war and the need for reinforcements

carried tonight by a vote of 301 to 103. Premier Lloyd George said in the House of Commons today: "It is desirable in the interests of the war that we should settle the firsh question and produce something like contentment in Ireland and good will in America." Mr. Lloyd George believed that American opinion supported the man power bill, provided self-government was given to Ireland, and it was of the greatest importance, at the mo-ment America was rendering to the Allies great aid on the battlefield, that Great Britain should satisfy American opinion. Nothing would tend more to secure the greatest measure of American assistance. At The Front In the meantime the military service act will continue in operation as to all other men in class in the meantime the mining service at win continue in operation we do not out in the mean one and as regards other classes under the act. Men of ninetcen will be required to register without delay. Every effort shall be made to speed up the work of the tribunals and appeal courts in dealing de of course, of the men called out under the new order (Continued on page 2)

along the northern side of the salient.

The Germans also attacked opposite the northeast corner of the Niepp forest but were repulsed. They began a spirited local operation against Boyelles, south of Arras, which at last accounts had not had much effect but was continuing.

The Crisis Supreme

With the Germans in Bailleul Wulverghen, Spanbrokmolen and Wytschaete, and occupying the greater part of Messines Ridge, Gen. Plumer's army is fighting a gigantic battle upon the result of which depends the whole course of the war. The British army is facing the supreme crisis, for the fate of the allied cause is hanging in the balance. From the enemy's lines to the sea it is only 25 miles, and between Wulverghem and Ypres it is only a scant 4 miles. In the eyes of the enemy every every foot seems a mile. The events of the next twenty-four hours will hold a prominent place in the history of the world. The danger of interpreating a momentary pause as a sign that the enemy is weakening is well illustrated by the developments of the last day.

The only proper way to view this battle is to overestimate the enemy's strength and then hope for the best. Ludendorff is directing this greatest battle of all time. He has prean any general has ever handled hitherto. There is no precedent for the present battle. It is a fight to the finish between two armies, unparallelled in strength and size.

Fighting against overwhelming odds, Haig's men were forced out of Bailleul. which has been the supply centre for the armies on Messines Ridge, and along the old Armres front, and they have now taken their stand on the hills to the north. With the loss of Neuve Eglise, the evacuation of Bailleul and the withdrawal from Wulverghem, were almost inevitable unless exhaustion overtook the enemy, but unfortunately his numbers were so great and his guns so plentiful that fresh reinforcements enabled him to press forward against defences which would have held in any previous struggle. The Germans are using every device of modern warfare-rifles, mitrailleuses, big guns, bombs, gas, flame owers. fresh divisions being employed constantly. (Continued on page

At The Front.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 17, 1918.

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PREMIER WANTS

Commons By Mote of 301

Home Rule Bill Immedi

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Will Resign.

GERMANY CALLS OUT

SUCCESSFUL

ANOTHER 500,000

in House o

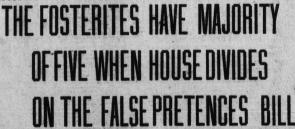
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MAKE IT LAW

At The Font. Referring to the situation at the front. Premier Lloyd George said "The fuctuation between hopes despondency must continue for some the second second second second second despondency must continue for some the second second second second second the second second second second second to the second second second second the second the second the second second

N. Barnes. labor member o sh cabinet without portfolio

he British cabinet without portfolio, nnounced that the government in-special to The Standard. Fredericton, April 16—The feature of today's session was the first division of the present year and in it the government would re-ism if the House of Lords reture of pass the new home rule bill.



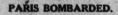
Amendment of Hon. J. A. Murray to Rid Patrotic Fund Measure of Fraud Defeated, Government Voting to Tax the People for \$518,000 for the Fund when Only \$400,000 Required-Politicians on Government Side Place Burden on the Shouders of People They Should Not be Called Upon to Bear.

substituting for the sum of \$518,000 the sum of \$400,000, the amount the Canadian Patrictic Fund really requir-ed for its purposes. This amendment had been declared by Hon. C. W. Robhad been declared by Hon. C. W. Koo-inson to be out of order on the ground that it was not in the power of any member to instruct a committee as to matters in which that committee had authority. The Speaker on the pre vious session had reserved his decla-

PRICE TWO CENTS.

HAIG CONFIDENT.

London, April 16.—"The same spirit that carried your army through 1914 sustains us all again today against overwheiming odds," says Field Marshal Haig in a telegram sent to day to Field Marshal French, thank-ing him for a message of encourage-ment.



hat Paris, April 17.—Thirteen were it ed and forty-five were wounded the yesterday's long range bombardm by of Paris.