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The Weather.

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# Brigadier General Mercer Reported Killed in Action

# British Recorder's Office Hears That Gallant Canadian Has Lost His Life---Was First Thought to Have Been Taken Prisoner---The Fighting at Verdun.

LONDON, Ont., June 17.—General Mercer's brother today received the 26. the day following the capture of following cable message:

"British Recorder's Office, London-Major General Mercer, who was recently reported missing, now reported killed in action."

General Mercer was reported missing after the recent German drive against the Canadian lines at Ypres. He and General Williams were inspecting the front line trenches when the attack began.

PARIS, June 17.—In the course of last night German troops attacked the French positions at Avocourt with grenades, says the official state-last night at his residence here, age ment issued today by the French War Department. In the region of Dead ernor of Maine and was one of the Man Hill there was an intense bombardment. In the Vosges after a vio-proprietors of the Kennebec Journal. lent bombardment of Hill 425, to the east of Thann, French infantry penetrated the first and second line and brought back a number of prisoners.

ne court martial trials in Dublin yes-The men, the prosecutor said, had been

A despatch from London on April

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. B. Balkam and Mrs. E. D. Balkam of Milltown, are

## The British Destroyer Eden Sunk in a

# Collision in English Channel Last Night

LONDON, June 17.—The British destroyer Eden has been Thirty-one members of the crew were saved. Three officers are missing. The Eden was sunk in the English Channel last night after a collision. This announcement was made this afternoon by the official press bureau.

The British destroyer Eden displaced 555 tons and carried a complement of 70 men. She was 220 feet long, 25 feet beem and 8 feet deep. She was built in 1903 and had a speed of 26 knots. The Eden carried four 3-inch guns and was equipped with two 18-inch torpedo tubes.

## The Russian Artillery and Armored

LONDON, June 17.—Swiss. Italian and Roumanian reports dwell upon the great effect of the Russian offensive on public opinion in Austria-Hungary, where general pessimism prevails. The principal newspapers of Vienna make no comment upon England be Starved?" "Starvation War a Boomerang?" the situation. It is stated that the offensive on the Trentino front has suddenly ceased. Austrian troop trains are hastening to the east, both from the Trentino front and from Albania. Thirty-six trains loaded with soldiers are reported to have passed Presburg in one day.

A despatch from Bucharest confirms the astonishing efficiency of the Russian artifle latter have in one sector of the front replaced the cavalry, pursuing the Austrians and creating terrible havoc with their machine guns. Petrograd advices state that the first German reinforcements failed to check the Russian advance and was obliged to retire, suffering serious losses.

Field Marshal Von Hindenburg also sent his chief of staff, General Ludendorff, to help Archduke Friedrich. Both came on the scene too late, however.

## Lloyd George's Appointment as Secre-

### tary for War Definitely Decided Upon been disastrously curtained by the German submarines.

LONDON, June 17.—According to the political writers in the London morning papers, the appointment of David Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, as Secretary of State for War, to succeed the late Lord Kitchener, has now been definitely decided upon. The Morning Post's political correspondent says:

Earl Kitchener as Secretary of State for War. There remains opening of the U-boat campaign. The vast bulk of the people to be settled the relations of the new minister to the munitions however, seem to have realized that Germany's course in yield department. It is stated that the two offices will not be com- ing to the United States demands, was the proper one. bined, in which case it will be necessary to appoint another Minister of Munitions.

#### GERMAN AVIATOR REPORTED KILLED.

LONDON, June 17 .- Capt. Boelke, the champion German aviator, who received an autograph letter from the Emperor recently complimenting him on his success in bringing down French aeroplanes, is believed to have been killed in an acrial combat with the French aviator, Roger Ribiere. A Fokker Tribune says: "I learn from high authority that the British facilities for 2,500 patients. It is intended the Epsom shall painted yellow and of the type known to have been piloted by government is contemplating a project which is likely to have shortly be devoted entirely to treatment of Canadian patients, Boelke, who also wore a large yellow muffler, was shot down enormous effects on trade after the war. With the co-opera- and will contain 3,800 beds. Major Irving of Toronto is the trenches near Verdun.

#### FIGHTING IN EAST AFRICA.

LORENZO MARQUES, Portuguese East Africa, via London, June 47.—An official statement on the fighting in northern Portuguese Africa says: "The Germans on Tuesday made a lose 5 killed and 2 wounded. The German losses are unknown. new battles have been started on the whole front in Volhynia.

AMSTERDAM, June 16.—Can England be starved into submission? It is as yet a complete mystery on what actual basis Russians have now got free play. his question appears with growing frequency at the top of arbecome a sort of journalistic hobby in the Empire. The matter usually printed under this heading is not editorial, but news Automobiles Show Great Efficiency coming to Germany via Amsterdam. It is of course always vance. On the contrary, his progress continues without internews tending to answer the question which heads it in the mission. The broad corridor formed by our break through in affirmative. Here are a few examples of news ite msprinted the direction of Lutsk continues to widen and is assuming an under London date lines in leading newspapers in Berlin and enveloping character in relation to the enemy's flank. other large German cities, all bearing such captions as "Can" English are Hungry' and others in the same vein.

#### FOR GERMAN READERS.

visable that the people in the United Kingdom will be placed on munication. meat rations. No actual shortage exists, the existing high deficiency due to the requirements of the forces in the field.

The British government is taking an inventory of all the more scarce and dear, and public sentiment is gradually assum- destruction of the vital organs of the enemy's military power, ing a character that may prompt the government to scrutinize the possibilities for peace.

The result of the publication of these items is that the belief is growing stronger and stronger in Germany, if press comments are a criterion, that England is feeling the pinch of hun-various nationalities with the duty of handing over the town ger, due principally to the fact that her merchant marine has to the Russians. According to Bucharest despatches, the hopes

#### THE SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN.

If is true that in wide circles of the German Empire the cry We want Tirpitz back" still continues, and that some of the soberest members of the Reichstag and some very very conserhas been decided that Mr. Lloyd George is to succeed vative naval and military critics cling to the demand for a re-

ing everywhere in the Fatherland of "what will happen to the British blockade when we start." There is an unshakable confidence in the Empire, the fravellers report.

#### BIG TRADE PROJECT ON.

Ribiere two days ago between the German and French tion, it is hoped, of France and Russia, the Government intends commandant. Dalhousie University Hospital (of Halifax, N.S.) to establish an international bank with branches throughout the has embarked for France. world, for the sole purpose of increasing and facilitating the trade of the Allied nations.

#### AUSTRIANS CLAIM A SUCCESS.

retire into the bush on the left bank. The Portuguese troops lers under date of June 16. The statement also announces that will be couched in such a fashion as to prevent any trickery on

## Great Secrecy Being Maintained in Connection With the Manoeuvres---Pressure on Italian Front Has Already Been Relieved by the Russians.

LONDON, June 17 .- The chief gain of ground announced by the Russians during the past twenty-four hours was on the Austrian centre, which up to now had held comparatively firm. The Russians claim to be breaking this resistance. The main contest has been on the front just north of Buczacza, on the Stripa river. Here the Russians are declared to have overthrown the Austrian army and taken 6,000 prisoners.

For the time being the rapid movement on the wings and the cavalry dash in Volhynia toward the Kovel Junction seems o have slackened somewhat. The morning newspapers today print only brief specials from Petrograd and some of these give vidence of considerable delays in telegraphic transmission.

A possible explanation of these delays is given in a despatch from the Daily Telegraph's correspondent, who says:

#### NOT LIKELY TO BE MUCH INFORMATION

#### ABOUT RUSSIAN ADVANCE MADE PUBLIC

It is likely that the course of events will become a little obscured during the next few days, for much depends on the secrecy of the execution of the manoeuvres, for which the

A semi-official commentary published in Petrograd vestericles in German newspapers, but the fact remains that it has day says: "The absence from the official communications of the names of places occupied or the directions taken by General Brusiloff's army do not mean any retardation in his ad-

The advance, however, cannot go on indefinitely at the The present speed, for the element of unexpectedness, to which was due much of its early success, cannot be maintained for the period of a fortnight. Stops must be made for removing the wounded and prisoners, for bringing up fresh supplies and for "It is believed that circumstances will shortly render it ad- other work necessary in the freshly elongated lines of com-

#### **OBJECT OF THE RUSSIAN AGGRESSIVE IS** TO DESTROY THE ENEMY'S MILITARY POWER

"Moreover, the imminent aim of the Russian aggression is foodstuffs in the United Kingdom. Meat is becoming more and not to recapture certain towns or areas, but has in view the which are his armies.'

In connection with the report of the fall of Czernowitz, the Daily News' Petrograd correspondent says: "The Austrians, before leaving Czernowitz, entrusted a small committee of of the Russians of relieving the Italians have already been accomplished, as the Austrians are pouring troop trains eastward from their southern positions. The despatches say that thirtysix troop trains passed through Pressburg, Hungary, within 24 hours, and that the Austrian forces in Albania are all hurrying northward to try and stem the Russian advance.

#### CANADIAN HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION IN ENGLAND HAS BEEN GREATLY INCREASED

LONDON, June 16. Lieut. Col. Johnston, of Charlottetown, has been detailed for duty with the Canadian Medical Stores Department in France. Major Guest, of St. Thomas, succeeds him as commandant of the convalescent hospital at Buxton, which has been opened and is in use to nearly its full capacity of three hundred patients, the majority of whom are suffering from rheumatism and like ailments.

The accommodation in the Canadian section of the hospi-NEW YORK, June 17.—The London correspondent of the tal at Epsom has been increased by a thousand, making total

#### THE SITUATION IN GREECE.

PARIS, June 17.—Premier Skouloudis of Greece is sending out confidential instructions to government officials and army BERLIN, June 17 (by wireless to Sayville) - Austro-Hun-lofficers in order to counteract the effects of the order for desurprise attack against the Portuguese post of Namaka. The garian troops south of the Dniester river, in Galicia, defeated a mobilization of the army, according to the Matin. The paper fighting lasted an hour, the Germans using explosive bullets. Russian cavalry force on Thursday, according to an afficial adds that the Allies will shortly present a complete list of their The Germans crossed the river in dugouts, but were forced to statement given out by the Austro-Hungarian army headquar- grievances to the Greek government, and that their demands the part of King Constantine.