toward Rut-El-Amara, where General the weakening of German and India presents against flusts. There have tured by the Turks last spring.

The new offendive of the British in the Mesopotamia theatre of war is commanding widespread attention.

Military expects express the opinion that the new thrust against the Turks along the Turks in Mesopotamia the Irritish troops from Turks in Mesopotamia the Irritish troops from Armsolan arens.

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FRENCH WIPE OUT 40,000 GERMANS

Two Teuton Divisions Annihilated in Latest Verdun Drive

ASSAULT LIKE INFERNO

Crown Prince's Line Thrust Back More Than Three Miles

By HENRY WOOD WITH THE FRENCH ARMY AT VER-

a rear that recked the earth and sky, a seething volcane of fire and smoke and an advance of elockwork precision, every man abreast his fellow soldier along a front of five miles—this was Friday's French vicw at Verdun.

when the inferno of noise and fire had died down, the French calculated they had wiped out two whole divisions of Germans -40,000 men. The net result was thrusting back of the German line more than three miles from Suuville, Verdun's last defense, from which point in July the Germans were separated by only 500 yards. Also, the ground taken was that over which the Germans for six weeks had worked day and alatit intrenching and fortifying themselves. I witnessed this great battle from one of

I witnessed this great battle from one of the highest forts behind the French line, a point of vantage permitting a view of the entire five-mile front, from Vacherauville to beyond Besonvaux. The artillery prepto beyond Hesonvaux. The artillery preparation, which had extended along the entire Verdun front to St. Mihiel, evidently pussion the Germans. They expected an attack somewhere else, and, therefore, were unable to begin their barrage fire until the French had swept up a goodly portion of penner Ridge. Pepper Ridge.

Pepper Ridge.

The French assault was made with such precision that the entire advance of nearly two miles was accomplished at a uniform, pre-established pace. The foot troops advanced under a perfect curtain of artillery fire, with rifle and hand grenade barrage starting at each stop. This barrage wiped out any German opposition which had escaped the artillery, and the infantry never fell behind the pre-established rate of advance.

The attack was launched at 10 o'clock The attack was launched at 10 octors. Priday morning. It followed a day's terrific artillery preparation, culminating just before the infantry leaped from its trenches into such a steady roar that, combined with the unbroken rumble of scores of acroplanes everhead, the air and earth literally trembled and vibrated together.

When the French had swept up a goodly portion of Pepper Ridge, there was a straight line of fine white smoke to be seen along the side of the ridge. There the grenade throwers were executing their barrage fire while awaiting an artillery curtain for their further advance. Then the line leaped forward and executed a second gre-made barrage. All these barrage fires continued smoking in the wet, sticky air. The entire slope of the Pepper Ridge was ribbed with tiny white smoking lines, marking every advance.

mit of that height the fury of the battle in-creased. Innumerable rockets shot up sky-ward as the different sections of the French stackers signaled aeropianes of their ad-vance. It looked like a great pyrotechnical display—a glorified Fourth of July in America.

The German barrage, which had opened at short range opposite Pepper Ridge slope, lengthened as the French barrage ascended from the front side—and the two curtains met at the summit in a frightful intermin-fling of explosions that turned the entire dge into a seething, empling volcano.

Yet-a moment afterward-rockets sho

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Week

With the less of the Pepper Ridge the German turned almost their entire artillery force loose in an effort to check the French advance. Further east they shot an almost solid barrage of projectiles over Louvemont, Chambrettes farms, Hardaumont and Bezonvaus.

That German artiller

Lowemont, Chambrettes farms, Hardaumont and Bezonvaux.

That German artillery fire continued with incredible violence and persistency during the entire afternoon—but it was apparent from the continued elocitening of the range by the enemy that the French were advancing sing the entire front unchecked. The battla began amid intense cold, and with a dark, cloudy sky overhead. During the afternoon a driving, freezing rain came up, which turned into snow at night. Despite this comprisely of the elements, the French valiantly maintained their most advanced positions all through the night. During the height of the battle on the ground, a French aviator attacked a German "sausage" (balloon; in frunt of Douaumont. He circled about the liting in the sky—and suddenly the dark clouds were lighted up by a monstrous flash. Then mane a heavy black cloud of gas and emoke, flattening out about \$40 feet in the afr. That was all that marked the spot where the "sausage" had been. Above, the victorious aviator circled triumphanily about.

PLANES AID INFANTRY Astroplanes contributed their part to the atruggle on the ground. During the entire battle they few low behind the German lines and gunned the feeing enemy who sought to escape from the French attackers.

General Nivelle, new commander of the French armies in the north and northeast, witnessed Friday's hattle—his troops' farewell to him. During the afternoon General Nivelle called in person to congratulate General Mangin, who executed the offensive and who has been in charge of the preparations since October.

Suffrage for Dead," Frenchman Proposes

the opinions, the aims of their dead as they know their lost voices and lost smiles. they know their lost voices and lost smiles. They would accept and hold in sacred trust a power that would give them the right of expression in hallot, the known opinions of their beloved dead in directing, through whom and how should be governed the land for which they had died. There is not only justice but gratifude in my idea. For without these hundreds of thousands of brave dead France today would have ceased to exist. There is also a very possy in it. And there is a reason most emineuity practical. est eminently practical

"For the first, each mother and sister and wife would feel that their dead live again in the thought of voting and the act of voting for them. Can you not see the wife in her allent home considering her dead husband's remembered views upon things general, and guided by the influence of this memory as she religiously observes her sacred move?" observes her sacred proxy?

coldly disposed to the just appeal for municipal, departmental or governmental consideration in the case of a mere woman, where each and all would be more likely to consider the interests of such woman armed with the ballot of her soldler-hus-band, or brother, or son, lying dead somewhere in France?

"And now the most important reason of "And now the most important reason of all, the reason upon which my idea of suffrage for the dead was formulated. There are certain departments in the north and east virtually depopulated of men through the system of mobilization which threw our main strength of reserves in front line of battle in 1914. The eystem was all right until German crime, in manner of invasion, made it necessary to send this vigor of France against almost certain death at the beginning of this war.

"There are villages in the north and east

There are villages in the north and east that die French had successfully parsed this surfain and were descending on the opposite side.

Within an hour the entire ridge was captured. Then began a mad race to the rear of the French lines by the dozen or so acropianes that had been flying over the combatants. Every aviator flew low and as fast as he could drive his machine, intent on being the first to drop the joyful news of France's victory over headquarters of the commanding general.

While the French troops were sweeping over Pepper Ridge others advanced on Vacheranville, lying at the foot of the Pepper Valley, on the Meuse. They progressed in hand-to-hand fighting with bayonets and grenades, the grenades smoke marking the fighting line.

The fighting was so fierce in the city that the volume of some kind of hand grenades huried by the French into cellars and houses where Germans still resisted made it appear the entire village was aftre. Yet, when the struggle was over, the French in contact the contact of the contact

crol and the smolin cleared away, there was dead will be welcomed as a tribute to those who have made their country's high place in the world of nations fastingly

frm.

"Of course, certain opposition to the lifes will develop. There is always such in a certain quantity to any idea, and particularly an idea that seems startling in legislation. I expect it. But I shall first appeal to the voice and support of three powerful influences to whom all France is profoundly grateful. I do not mean to infer general gratitude toward these influences will become less profound as time goes on. It will only be less a part of the daily fare of our legislators and people as the war-recedes into the past.

TO PREPARIS PETITION

TO PREPARE PETITION The views upon suffrage for the dead of the living soldler of the women of France and the numberiess French families in mourning must be tested now as one would feel a pulse. To that end I am instituting a petition which will be ready for signatures presently at the Patriotic League in the Rue Sainte-Anne, Paris.

League in the Rue Sainte-Anne, Paris.

"I feel it will become a monatrous petilion in a very short time. Fortified with it and with certain assured legislative support, I shall in due course present suffrage for the dead in the form of a proposed isw in the Chamber of Deputies, the petition first, of course. It involves all I have outlined to you, with the addition that it is not a plea for or entering wedge toward general suffrage for women. For a general consideration of this question the time is not ripe in the broad sense in France.

"I propose as a debt of gratique to the "I propose as a debt of gratitude to the noble dead who uncoffined lie by hundreds of thousands under the soil they have de-fended that they should still live in the extension of their votes to their womankind. It is a just and true proposal, all the more so because a large part of the glorious courage of our soldlers is theirs through directly inherited or inspired courage and abnegation of the women of France.

"For all classes and all opinions in the nation rushed equally with fervor to hor defense. So all these classes and opinions should in their existing numerical propor-tion of August, 1914, continue to live, not entirely become memories, but rather tan-gibly evident through their beloved women in the direction of the business of the re-public they died for."

M. Barres first broached the idea about the Croix de Gerre in a newspaper article published in Paris November 27, 1914, and saw it become a law in February, 1915, aided to this and by his eloquence and efforts. The Croix de Guerre is worn today, a simple medal of bronze suspended from a band of red and green siriped ribbon, by many a valiant soldier who could never have hoped to see his bravery cited in an order of the day issued by the supreme General commanding the armies of France. THE VALOR OF FRANCE

It truly depresents the valor of France as exemplified at the Marne, at Verdun, on the Somme, and in a thousand minor con-flicts. As official and public recognition and tribute to the brave men without dis-tinction of caste or rank who have blocked the German path with their bodies, the Croix de Guerre will live as long as time

FOR DEAD KIN

"For the second, is it not possible, since human nature is human nature, for future fields in and future legislator, future official in any capacity of government, to become, I won't say ungrateful, but more coildly disposed to the just appeal for muric. cultured expression.

As I rose to leave and Mr Barres es-corted me to the door leading to his gar-den and the street, he said carnestly: "Think and you will see that sufrage for the dead is but rendering simple fus-tice toward the women who bravely sent them forth to fall." them forth to fall.

5000 Scientists to Meet in New York NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—What probably will be the biggest gathering of scientists ever held will take place Christmas week when the American Association for the Ad-vancement of Science and forty-seven other acientific bodies convens here. Between \$600 and 10,000 scientific men and women will listen to the results of scientific effort during

Preacher-Editor Dies

HAGERSTOWN, Md., Dec. 18.—The Rev. George John Roudabush, seventy, burgess of Boonsboro, Washington County, Md., for fifteen years editor of Boonsboro Times and former presiding elder of Maryland United Brethren conference, died at Washington.

Virtually All of Dobrudja and Great Wallachia in

MORE BOOTY CAPTURED

Braila and Galatz Reported Evacuated by Russo-Rumanians

All of Dobrudja, except the forest region n the bend of the Danube, is no ssion of the German-Bulgarian and Turk-

Virtually all of Great Wallachia has been everrun. The Rosso-Rumanians are re-ported to have evacuated Braila and Galatz

During the last forty-eight hours vast stores of fresh booty have fallen into the hands of the German allies. It includes railway rolling snock, live stock, food stuffs, grain, war materials and petroleum. It is reported that the seat of the Ru

nanian Government has been removed from said.

and.
Russo-Rumanian columns retreating toward Braila, at the bend of the Danube, were attacked by German air squadrons with successful results, the War Office announced today in its statement of Rumantan operations

of Lusk and south of Zborov was reported by the War Office.
On the Macedonian front there has tem-

PETROGRAD, Dec. 18.

tured several heights, enemy counter-attacks being repulsed.

RUSSIANS REORGANIZE RUMANIAN FORCES

The Rumanian army has retreated to the Russian frontier, where it is being re-organized by Russian and Rumanian offiers, says a dispatch to the Petit Parisien,

When the Russians took over the fight-

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ing front, the remnant of the original flu-manian army retired behind the Sereth River to the sector of Jasey, some of it going into Bessarabia (a Russian prov-

The Russians have fortified their line between the Danobs marshes and the sec-tor of Rimnik to make a stand in front of the advancing Austro-Germans.

BY FRENCH AT VERDUN

Since the morning of December 15, French

roops on the Verdan front have captured

It is admitted that the Germans have been able to regain a footing on Cham-brettes Farm, northeast of Verdun, which the French captured last Friday.

The newly won positions of the French n the Louvemont-Chambrettes-Bezonvaux

Prisoners captured in the fighting or

Sunday declare that the assaults of the French were irresistible. The German field surks and underground forts, which had

een strengthened by the Germans during heir months of occupation, were smashed y terrific bembardments before the French mantry dashed forward

Much of the fighting took place in fog ind semidarkness and in the glare of star

Considering the importance of the gains

he French losses were small. Most of hem resulted from the fire of the German machine gone, which were tugged up from leep dugouts when the French camonade

All the newspapers are filled with praise

for General Nivelle, the successor to General Joffre, who celebrated his promotion with a grand offensive on the Verdun front

that is rolling the Germans back to the positions they occupied east of the Meusa before the Teutonic drive was opened last

There have been no important events n the Somme and Verdun fronts," the Var Office announced today in its official

LONDON, Dec. 18, British troops in Mesopotamia are driving

the word.

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eport on the western theatre of war

BRITISH TROOPS PUSH

BERLIN, Dec. 11.

ON KUT-EL-AMARA

lass night.

were heavily shelled by the Germans

11,387 GERMANS TAKEN

Teuton Hands

BERLIN, Dec. 18. Field Marshal von Mackensen's army has eached the gates of Moldavia, the only lumanian province remaining in the hands I the Russo-Rumanian forces.

West of the Buseu-Remnik road the Ger-man allies are pushing toward the north-east through the mountains; east of the road parallel progress is being made across the lowlands.

Jassy to Russia. The Foreign Office has been emablished in Petrograd; the other branches are to be located at Kiev, it is It is rumored that King Ferdinand, who

intry," will abdicate and go to Eng-

The general situation in Rumania is un

changed. In the Uz Valley, on the eastern fron-tier of Transylvania, there have been local engagements with varying success. The repulse of Russian attacks northwest

porarily been lively firing along the bend of the Cerna River, the War Office stated.

Advance of Russian forces in the Car-pathians was announced in today's official statement. The report said: Around the little Porsk our position was restored. East of Glashutte we cap-

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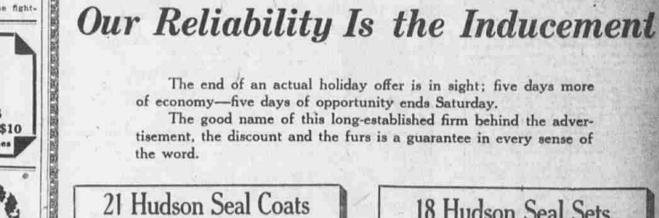
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