

The Germans made their long-expected assault Rheims last night, with a view to the loop they had already drawn around the city and completing its capture. Work was delivered on a front of twelve to miles from Vignay at the foot of the hills and the plain of Rheims, west of the the Pompelle Fort on the east. On the east and north between Saint Prix and the Germans were already in the suburbs.

## Enemy Repulsed

### ON ITALIAN FRONT.

#### 9,000 Prisoners Captured.

News from the Italian front is again of a gloomy nature. Bitter fighting took place on Tuesday. The enemy made repeated attempts to cross to the right bank of the river, with no success.

Some thrusts were carried out by Allied troops on the Asiago plateau and in the Fossalta

the battle began the Allies have captured 9,000 prisoners.

Austrian casualties are reported to be very

## ENEMY'S WAR AIMS.

### In Burian's Reply to Lord Milner.

Burian, Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in an interview with a representative of the "Freidenkblatt," replied to Lord Milner's recent speech. He complained that Lord Milner entirely misrepresented the war aims of the Central Powers. "Germany did not desire domination over her Allies as well as her opponents. The German yoke was for Austro-Hungary of mutual, rock-like friendship, and consideration for the interests of both parties. Otherwise the existing relationship between Hungary and Germany would not be possible at the present moment. As regards the statement of the Central Powers desired world domination, Burian said—I agree with Lord Milner's view that these aims ascribed to us are insupportable. But I can assure him there are no signs of sound common sense in the central Powers—and here, despite Lord Milner, Austria-Hungary may assuredly also speak in the name of humanity—who would have set before themselves aims even in the wildest of dreams.

## The Zeebrugge Raid.

### torpedo Boats and Submarines Locked Up.

Commons yesterday, Dr Macnamara said the results of the Zeebrugge operations turned out better than was anticipated. Twenty-one torpedo boats and a number of submarines were at Bruges dock or in the canal, where they are jeet to continual bombing.

### Meritorious Service.

Award of the Meritorious Service Medal to 100 Lieutenants, non-Commissioned Officers, and other ranks, in recognition of valuable services rendered by the Forces in France during the past year has been approved by his Majesty the King. The names in Irish regiments include:—Lt J Butcher, Leinster Regt. Athlone. Lt J Carew, M.C., R.I. Regt., Ferns. Lt A A Crook, R.E., Limerick. Crossley, R.R., Limerick. Lt M Sergt T Donovan, R. Munster Fus.

Brigadier General and Mrs Trevor, Mr and Mrs I H Harding, Mr and Mrs Richard Pennefather, Colonel and the Honble Mrs C D Guinness, Mr and the Honble Mrs C Vansittart, Mr and Mrs H M Lowndes, Major J G Lowndes, Mrs Massey (Riversdale), Lieut de Moleyns Massey, Miss Noeline Massey, Mr and Mrs Howe, the Servants at 6 Pery Square, Mr and Mrs J B Barrington, Mrs King French, Canon and Mrs Waller, Miss Rich, Captain and Mrs Vereboyle, Mrs Lucas, the Misses Russell, Dean Hackett, and Mrs Robinson.

Mr R M Russell, Milford House, was unavoidably absent from the funeral.

## PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

### Criticism in the Commons.

The question of the better control of National expenditure was raised on the report of the Vote of Credit in the House of Commons yesterday by Mr H Samuel, who, as Chairman of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the subject, said they had made six reports dealing with a large proportion of Government departments, and made over 100 specific recommendations. Certain establishments were swollen beyond all measure, were badly organised, and much money was wasted, the Treasury not exercising proper control.

Mr Bonar Law said he would welcome any method by which greater control could be secured. There was a real danger that in dealing with these great questions they might be so lost in detail that they would not be able to see the wood on account of the trees.

## LATE MISS ANNIE KELLY, MONALEEN.

Very general sympathy is felt by a large circle of friends and acquaintances with Mr John Kelly, N.T., the popular chairman of the County Board, at the loss he has sustained through the death of his daughter, Miss Annie Kelly. The deceased, who was in her twentieth year, had been a student at the Training College, South Circular Road, and was a young lady of much promise. Ill health compelled her, however, to relinquish study, and a change in her condition ended fatally a few days ago. The funeral was largely attended by city, county, and other friends, several schools and boards sending wreaths. Resolutions of sympathy with the father of the deceased were also adopted.

## CHARGE OF WOUNDING AT GALWAY.

At Galway Quarter Sessions yesterday the jury disagreed when John Moran and Patrick Duggan were tried for wounding John Koonoy. The latter stated that he went to the assistance of his brother, a water bailiff, who caught the prisoners poaching. Moran held witness, while Duggan slashed him on the head and arms with a razor. The inference was that the accused were not the aggressors. They were remanded to the Summer Assizes.

## CANADA SHORT OF COAL.

The Ottawa correspondent of the "Times" writes:—It seems likely that Canada will be put on a fuel-rationing basis next winter, as there is certain to be a shortage of coal. The United States has cut down the allowance of anthracite coal for Canada for domestic purposes by 20 per cent, and Ontario and Quebec are entirely dependent on Pennsylvania for supplies. In doing this the American authorities have treated Canada generously, as the allowance of many of the States has been curtailed. Western Canada has been asked to be dependent entirely on the mines of Alberta and British Columbia.

## A MYSTERIOUS MALADY.

The Ballinacree correspondent of the "Frederick Telegraph" writes:—

The inhabitants of Ballinacree are almost in a state of panic owing to a mysterious malady which has prostrated over 40 soldiers and 20 of the civilians. On Tuesday, two shop assistants collapsed at the counters they were working at, and had to be removed to the local hospital.

In some cases whole families were laid down, and one doctor, while driving his motor was attacked with the malady, and is now confined to bed. The symptoms are very peculiar, headache, back-ache, and dizziness.

The doctors are baffled as to the nature of this peculiar illness of the people. While speaking to the correspondent, a man who, ten minutes afterwards, had been removed to hospital, as he was taken down with the illness.

### DEATHS IN BELFAST.

The epidemic of influenza noted in Belfast recently, and which necessitated the closing of departments in several industrial establishments in consequence of the number of workers stricken from the ailment, has made considerable headway in the past few days. About a dozen schools are accommodating several thousands of pupils closed in the East end of the city. At the meeting of the Belfast Board of Guardians yesterday it was stated that during the past week 43 deaths from influenza had been admitted, and that 100 deaths had occurred.

## WAR BONDS AND SAVINGS IN IRELAND.

Over £3,288,700 of War Bonds have been sold in Dublin. Recent subscriptions include a total of £25,000 from Messrs W & H M Goulding, making £75,000. The total sale of War Bonds in Ireland amounts to £512,000, 1917, and £600,744 for the first five months of 1918.