THE WEATHER FORECAST.
Fair to-day and to-morrow; moderate temperature; gentle northwest winds.
Highest temperature yesterday, 84; lowest, 70.
Detailed weather reports on page 10.

The Sun.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

VOL. LXXXIV.—NO. 352. NEW YORK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1917.—Copyright, 1917, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association. ONE CENT In Greater New York | Elsewhere TWO CENTS.

LONDON THINKS PLEA OF POPE FAVORS BERLIN

"Germany Would Present War Map as Basis of Parley."

ENTENTE EMBARRASSED

"Proposals May Have Detrimental Effect on the Russian Situation."

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Aug. 17.—Although the suggestion is made in many quarters that President Wilson should become the spokesman of the Allies in replying to the Pope's peace proposals, the British Foreign Office assured the correspondent of THE SUN to-day it was impossible as yet to determine the method of procedure, except that the allied Governments will confer carefully before acting. It is quite possible President Wilson will become the medium of the joint communication.

The attitude of the Foreign Office was clearly indicated, though guardedly, by an expression to the effect that whether the Pope's move was calculated or not to be such, it was decidedly favorable toward Germany. Peace talk now, it is considered, can have no effect except to embarrass the Entente allies, especially in their relations with Russia, while if a peace conference should be forced at this time Germany would certainly present the war map as the basis of discussion, and it must be recognized that this is decidedly favorable to Germany.

Thus, at the time when any peace discussion is certainly unfortunate for the allied cause and when their attitude to this effect has been clearly indicated for months past, noticeably in regard to the Stockholm conference, the Pope's proposal is regarded as at least futile.

"Crimes of the War."

"While no official is disposed to question his sincerity and impartiality," it was said at the Foreign Office, "it is surprising that the Pope's communication does not contain any allusion to the violation of treaties and the outrages committed in Belgium, Armenia, Serbia and elsewhere and the submarine atrocities during the war.

"When a wolf is found devouring a lamb a peacemaker would hardly assume the attitude that they had quarrelled and therefore were equally responsible.

"Discussion of motives is unnecessary. Impartiality means justice. If atrocities have been committed by the Allies, which is possible, although few would be deliberate, they should be considered likewise. We are surprised also by the phrase 'condonation on both sides,' because to condone requires an assurance that the criminals are really repentant. Doubtless a reply to the Pope's note will be made in due course, but it has had only preliminary consideration as yet and it is not possible to indicate whether or not President Wilson will be the medium.

"The Pope's initiative might possibly be useful if it leads Germany to state definitely her war objects and peace terms. The Allies have already done that. Therefore it seems logical to expect that Germany will be the first to respond to the Pope."

Foreign Office's Reply.

Asked if he believed that in case the Pope's effort failed to accomplish anything Germany would soon make a direct peace move through diplomatic channels, the Foreign Office official replied:

"It is impossible to prophesy as it is difficult to judge the internal conditions in Germany, except the apparent conditions, which are complicated by the recent turmoil there when Michaelis was made Chancellor. Opinion inside and outside of Germany is that he is only a stopgap. If this is true, it will be necessary to await the establishment of a more permanent political status in Germany which in turn will depend upon the outcome of the struggle for control now in progress there.

"There is no evidence that the junkers are likely to be unhorsed soon or that they are even remotely disposed to abandon the ambitions and purposes with which they entered the war. The most recent peace suggestion from a competent German authority was that Germany relied on the war map. So long as she thus relies there is small hope of initiating negotiations."

WILSON AS SPOKESMAN.

Exchanges Will Begin Soon Between Washington and Entente.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—While awaiting advices from Entente capitals President Wilson is keeping his own counsel as to the reply he will make to Pope Benedict's peace proposals. The Cabinet meeting to-day lasted scarcely half an hour, and it was stated afterward that no detailed discussion of the peace message was entered into. No member of the Cabinet, with the possible exception of Secretary Lansing, has the slightest intimation of when or just how the President will reply.

All of the Cabinet members had received official copies of the peace message and had read it over with great care in anticipation of an exchange of views. When the President is ready he will probably ask each member of his official family for suggestions.

There is no doubt the President fully appreciates the responsibility thrust upon him by the Pope's appeal. Added importance to his reply comes from the fact that he may be official spokesman for all the Entente Allies, although his reply will be simply on behalf of the United States.

The Door to Peace.

The official reply will be the all important factor which will determine whether the Pope's proposals are to open the door to peace discussion on any basis. No one in diplomatic circles believes for a moment that the President will "accept" the Pope's terms and no one believes the Vatican anticipates any such action. The question as seen here is not whether the terms proposed will be "accepted" or "rejected" but whether the President in his reply will construe the Pope's proposals as a possible basis for future peace on terms which will be outlined.

In other words, the President may courteously inform the Pope the terms

Continued on Second Page.

Allied Governments Plan Reply to Pope

LONDON, Aug. 17.—The Allied Governments will discuss jointly the peace proposals of Pope Benedict and a reply will be issued in due course, Lord Robert Cecil told the Associated Press to-night.

Whether the reply will be a joint note or, as suggested in some quarters, through the medium of the United States, or by some other manner, will be decided later.

GERMANY URGED TO OBEY POPE

Cologne "Gazette" Says People Have Will and Courage for Peace.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—Opinion in Germany outside of Berlin regarding the Pope's peace proposal is generally pessimistic. The *Cologne Gazette* asserts it has no right to reject the proposal, but it believes the German Government should enter the path indicated by the Vatican. It adds:

"The German people and the Government have the will and the courage for peace; the Entente people also earnestly desire it, but the enemy Governments are dominated by the fear of peace, as is proved by their refusal to grant passports to delegates to the Stockholm conference. The Pope's proposal is thus a test of which side sincerely desires peace."

The Cologne *People's Gazette*, a Catholic organ, says:

"The Pope's voice has made the deepest impression. We can only hope that despite the obstacles the road to reconciliation of the nations has been paved by the new appeal."

Some of the papers assume that the note, which was already known to the belligerent Governments, is one reason why the Entente Powers opposed the Stockholm conference. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* says:

"If the Pope recommends peace on the restoration of the past, that is a matter for discussion, because in that case England and Japan must carry out the reintegration of overseas territory; otherwise Germany must renounce her willingness to do so. If only European reintegration is proposed this is a one sided condition. We therefore hope Germany will demand all round reciprocity and make her acceptance of the conference dependent upon her enemies' adoption of this condition. The mediation proposal need not be rejected, but the aims must be clarified."

KNOWS GERMAN TERMS.

Berlin "Lokalanzeiger" Asserts Pope Has Peace Conditions.

By the Associated Press.

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 17.—The German Government's attitude on so important a matter as the peace proposal of Pope Benedict can only be made known after the most careful deliberation, particularly as its decision can only be taken in full accord with Germany's allies. A statement to this effect has been communicated by the German Foreign Office to the German press.

On account of this development most of the Berlin newspapers hesitate to express any definite opinion in regard to the Pope's suggestions, and in editorials published this morning confine themselves to reproducing foreign comment.

The *Lokalanzeiger* says it is now clear that the Vatican was behind the recent action of Mathias Erzberger and the Centre party which led to the adoption of the Reichstag peace resolution. It quotes a "well informed politician," evidently a member of the Centre party, as saying the Pope knows Germany's peace conditions and undoubtedly informed the Entente Governments in regard to them before venturing to make this proposal. Being an annexationist organ, the *Lokalanzeiger* disapproves the Pope's programme.

Germania, which, as the Catholic organ, has less reason to wait for a lead from the Foreign Office, says the Pope acted in his temporal capacity as a neutral sovereign. It asserts he did not launch his proposals without warning, but prepared the way through official channels. His programme, it adds, corresponds in many respects with the Reichstag's peace resolution and therefore in large measure will fall on receptive soil in Germany, notwithstanding the inclusion of the questions of Alsace-Lorraine and the Trentino. Moreover, it says in a phrase of doubtful meaning, "it cannot be assumed that this is done in any spirit other than on the principle of the right of nationalities."

The Hamburg *Fremdenblatt* says the Pope obviously chose a poor time for his proposals, which can count on no particularly favorable reception at a moment when the necessity of prosecuting the war is being announced on all sides.

The note contains one point agreeable to Germany and others favorable to the Entente, the newspaper says, the balance undoubtedly being on the side of the Entente. It continues:

"It is questionable enough for the Pope to include so delicate a question as that of Belgium, but far more so to touch the questions of Alsace-Lorraine, Trent and Trieste, affecting the disposal of German and Austrian soil. These points are treated carefully, but not in delicate enough form to make it possible for Germans to take up even academic discussion with foreigners of matters bound up so indissolubly with the fate of Germany as the disposition of Alsace-Lorraine."

The newspaper regrets that the Papal note makes it needlessly difficult in regard to this and other points for the Germans to recognize the praiseworthy intent of the Pontiff's efforts.

SAMMIE JAILED IN FRANCE.

Punished for Returning After Expulsion From Country.

PARIS, Aug. 17.—The American army uniform made its appearance in the correctional court in Paris yesterday when Harry Kurz, described as a "doctor of letters of a New York university," was charged with being in France although he had been expelled in June, 1916, because his parents were Austrians.

Kurz said that when he returned to France with a number of army aviators he told his Major that he had been expelled, but that the Major replied, "We will see about that." Kurz was sentenced to a month's imprisonment. As he has been in jail twenty-eight days since he was arrested he will be released to-morrow.

M'ADOO FAVORS BOND ISSUE AT FOUR PER CENT.

Would Issue $7,538,945,000 Subject to Income Surtaxes and Profits Taxes.

TO RETIRE NON-TAXABLES

Plan Is to Provide Also Four Billions for Future Allied Loans.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—Issuance of $7,538,945,000 worth of 4 per cent. Federal bonds, subject only to income surtaxes, war profits and excess profits taxes and designed to provide $4,000,000,000 for further allied loans and to retire the $3,000,000,000 non-taxable 3½ per cent. issue now authorized to cover loans to the Allies is contemplated in suggestions submitted by Secretary McAdoo to-day to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Receipt of the suggestions caused immediate activity among both Democrats and Republicans of the committee, many of whom are opposed to the details of the Secretary's plan. While taxing the bonds is generally favored, something more concrete than the Secretary suggests, such as a flat levy of 6 per cent. on the interest rate, or application of the income tax, appears to be more generally desired by House members.

The 4 per cent. interest proposal probably will be accepted by the committee. The Secretary has impressed members with the necessity of prompt disposal of the bonds and the possibility of attaining this result by an increased rate. Only a most unreasonable tax rate, it is agreed, can prevent a lively demand for the bonds at 4 per cent.

Prediction of Experts.

The fact that they will be exempt from all save Federal taxation is in itself sufficient inducement to create a good market, and prediction of bond experts that a 4 per cent. rate may carry the bonds above par is expected to increase the demand.

One of the principal arguments advanced for the Secretary's plan is that it would protect the small investor. Surtaxes would not apply under the revenue bill now before the Senate on incomes of less than $5,000. Few except the very large investors would be affected by the war and excess profits taxes, it is believed.

Variations in war and excess profits taxes are so great that it is difficult to present even a general idea of what rates might be collected through such sources. Calculations on supertax returns, however, are easily made. Under the proposed law, for instance, the supertax on $275,000 worth of bonds would be $250 and $500 on $500,000 worth. Thus the holder of $275,000 worth of 4 per cent. bonds would receive a net income of 3 15-16 per cent., while the holders of a $500,000 allotment would receive 3 9-10 per cent.

Members of both parties in the House are demanding the establishment of a definite bond marketing and retirement policy, and this is likely to delay the passage of the bill somewhat. It is predicted, however, that the bond issue bill will pass the House within a week after the Ways and Means Committee meets August 25.

One of Chief Objections.

One of the chief objectors to the Secretary's plan urged at the capital is that it proposes to leave the investor largely subject to the whims of future Congresses and the fortunes of war. Changes in the various tax levies proposed are liable to ensue at any time.

Representative Moore of Pennsylvania, who in the absence of Representative Fordney of Michigan is the ranking Republican member of the Ways and Means Committee, issued a statement to-day indicating his belief that Republicans would support authorization of the bonds unreservedly.

"The disposition of Congress for the present," he said, "is let the President have what he wants for the purposes of the war. The Administration believes it to be its bounded duty to help the Allies to the limit. We are in the war, it is said, and we cannot back out. We must help sustain the Allies as they go into winter quarters and to prepare for their usual spring drive."

CANADA ENDS GRAIN FUTURES.

Delivery Trading Ordered Discontinued on Exchanges After Aug. 31.

WINNIPEG, Man., Aug. 17.—Trading in wheat for future delivery will cease on all grain exchanges in Canada on August 31.

Official notice to this effect was posted to-day on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange on orders from the board of grain supervisors for Canada.

OTTAWA, Ont., Aug. 17.—Exportation of flour to the United States was prohibited to-day through an order in council, issued at the instance of the Canadian Food Controller.

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD AUDITOR ARRESTED

Ficke Lived Where He Could View New York Bay.

Henry F. Ficke, employed by the North German Lloyd Steamship Company as an auditor at a salary at $540 a month since that company stopped operating its transatlantic passenger service, was arrested last night by the Federal authorities.

Ficke lives at 1324 Bay street, Staten Island, in a district which commands a view of Fort Wadsworth, the Narrows and New York Bay.

Capt. Koenig of the German merchant submarine Deutschland was a great friend of Ficke, who was chairman of the reception committee when the submarine arrived in American waters last year. Ficke is charged with being a dangerous alien. He is in the Raymond street jail, Brooklyn, but will be taken to Ellis Island to-day.

Dutch Dancer Must Die.

PARIS, Aug. 17.—A revision court-martial has rejected the appeal of the Dutch dancer Mata Hari, who recently was condemned to death as a spy.

Balfour Gives Praise to American Troops

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—A. J. Balfour, British Foreign Minister, who recently visited the United States at the head of the British mission, wrote the following letter to American Ambassador Page at London after the parade of American troops there, which was reviewed by King George:

"The War Cabinet, who have just witnessed the march past of the United States of America troops, desire to express their admiration of the magnificent sight and their deep gratification at this striking symbol of American power."

CAN'T FIX PRICES SAYS WAR BOARD

Finds Power of Regulation for Public and Allies Outside Its Scope.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—Neither regulation of prices for the general public nor for the Allies comes within the present scope of the work and authority of the War Industries Board, in the opinion of members of that organization, it was learned on the highest authority to-day.

The board has been created as an organization for the prosecution of the war. Its members feel that the successful accomplishment of that work will exhaust their entire energies and that matters which do not directly bear on the expansion of the nation's production to the point where it will successfully sustain the demands made by Government agencies are matters which must be left in other hands than theirs.

Briefly summarized the view of the members of the board as to the work which they have undertaken is:

Price regulation for the general public is outside the board's province.

Purchases for the Allies constitute a problem which will probably be solved through the creation of another agency.

Price regulation, so far as it applies to Government purchases, must be fixed with other matters in mind than production costs.

Character of Regulation.

Opinion among the members of the board strongly leans to the view that the prices which the public will have to pay during the war will be regulated in part by public knowledge of costs of production and in part by a lessened demand.

Whether the information gained by the Government as a result of the inquiry of the Federal Trade Commission will be made public cannot yet be forecast, but there are strong intimations that something of the sort will be done. The public will then be expected to educate itself sufficiently to be able to judge of the reasonableness of prevailing prices.

Purchases for the Allies constitute one of the most difficult problems before the board. All such purchases are being held in abeyance as much as possible until some method for dealing with them has been worked out. It is probable that this will take the form of an Allies' purchasing committee, which will place its requirements before the War Industries Board for consideration in the same way that the War and Navy departments are doing at the present time. Negotiations for the formation of such a committee are now under way.

Broad View Favored.

Prices to be paid for Government orders will be fixed on a basis which will insure not only a reasonable profit to producers but will also stimulate the industry to 100 per cent. production, and in some cases provide for large expansion. It can be announced emphatically that the board as it is at present constituted is in favor of taking a very broad view of the price question, with the primary thought that prices, no matter how important they may be, are a secondary matter compared to winning the war as soon as possible.

It must be remembered, however, that the War Industries Board is merely an advisory body. It cannot spend one penny of public money by its own action. Whether its recommendation will be accepted by the heads of departments on whom the actual responsibility for expenditures rests is another question.

The board is in the strong position of having been created by the action of the Council of National Defence, which is composed of members of the Cabinet, and being assigned by them to this work. Refusal to accept recommendations therefore will place the department heads in the position of upsetting the efforts of part of their organization.

"Sun" Tobacco Fund Passes $42,000 Mark

THE total of THE SUN Tobacco Fund for Our Soldiers in the Trenches is above $42,000 this morning and still going strong. The number of regular contributors and group givers increases daily, and more individuals and organizations are arranging benefit entertainments.

Don't forget that next Wednesday is Smoke Up Day, when each of the 365 United Cigar Stores in the greater city will give 5 per cent. of its gross receipts to the fund. In addition the first 500,000 United certificates deposited in boxes in these stores, beginning that day, will be turned over to the fund in cash at two cents each.

The depositories in the Schulte Cigar Stores start to fill up with Mutual certificates and coupons as soon as they are emptied. All these contributions help. Also you may leave orders in these stores.

The fund employs no agents or solicitors. The story of yesterday's progress is told on the fifth page.

38,000 MILITIA TROOPS IN FIRST UNIT TO FRANCE

Indications Are That Two, Instead of One, Divisions Will Be Sent Abroad.

MOBILIZING AT 2 POINTS

New England Guardsmen Are Likely to Accompany the "Fighting 69th."

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—Two army divisions instead of one, comprising a total of at least 38,000 men, probably will make up the first contingent of the National Guard to go to France.

Although no official confirmation was obtainable, there were evidences to-day that the composite Forty-second Division, whose organization recently was announced, will be accompanied abroad by the Twenty-sixth, made up of New England Guardsmen. No New England States are among the twenty-six having representation in the composite division which includes the "Fighting Sixty-ninth" of New York city.

The commander of the Twenty-sixth is Major-Gen. Clarence Edwards, now acting as commander of the Department of the Northeast, and it is presumed he would go to Europe with the division. The Forty-second is commanded by Major-Gen. W. A. Mann.

Plenty of Shipping Available.

A report was current to-day that sufficient shipping will be available for forwarding two divisions within the time fixed for the departure of the Forty-second, and that the Twenty-sixth had been selected to go because it comes from a compact area and is composed for the most part of regiments of high rating and representing States whose troops were left out of the composite division.

The Forty-second Division is being mobilized at Mineola, L. I., under the new European standard, which requires that the strength of the individual infantry regiments be increased more than 50 per cent. The process necessitates the addition of some units not included in the original order, for where one company of infantry, for instance, was to have come from any State two companies have been consolidated to give the 250 men necessary.

Thus hundreds of men have been transferred to fill up the regiments selected to go. All the other National Guard divisions will go through a similar process on their arrival at their divisional camp.

Speeding Up Equipment.

No hint has been given as to the probable time it will require to prepare the Forty-second for embarkation. As it is a wholly new organization, it is logical to assume that it will take some time to get into working shape. The question of equipment also entered into the fixing of a sailing date. The same considerations apply also to the Twenty-sixth.

The original plan for a composite National Guard expeditionary force is known to have provided for two divisions made up on the composite plan. Approximately forty States would have contributed toward forming the Forty-second and Twenty-sixth, and supplemental divisional or army corps troops might have made up an expedition that represented every State.

The War Department announced to-day the final allotment of State troops among the national army cantonments and made public the list of Colonels assigned to regimental commands in the various divisions, both of the national army and the National Guard.

Thirty-two Major-Generals assigned to command divisions of the new army and National Guard to-day received instructions to report for duty not later than August 25. All the regular departmental commanders are now called upon for duty in the field, probably in France.

SHOES GROWN IN GARDEN.

Iowan Tells How to Make 'Em Out of Cornstalks.

Thanks to the discovery of an Iowa man who landed in New York yesterday every amateur farmer can raise his own shoes in the back yard garden, and there really isn't any reason why shoes for a small family can't be raised in a large window box.

This distressing news for the gentlemen who are getting $15 a pair for the sandals for which we used to pay $5 in the days before kings and emperors and such got to pulling one another's hair over in Europe comes East through J. M. Dinman of Storm Lake, Iowa.

When Mr. Dinman put one foot on the brass rail at the Majestic yesterday said foot was encased in a shoe made of a combination of plain cornstalk and glucose. It was a nifty tan shoe that looked like the sort one sees in the show windows along Broadway.

He said he had been experimenting with his process for six years, and had finally made it work. The cornstalk composition shoes can be made for $2.50 a pair.

MUNITION STRIKE IN GERMANY.

Cards Distributed Called Peace Walkout on August 15.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN *from the London Times.*

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AMSTERDAM, Aug. 17.—A Berlin political news agency reports as authoritative information that cards calling a general strike in munition plants were distributed in many places in Germany. The day fixed was August 15. The cards state the purpose of the strike is to compel peace.

An attempt was made in Germany to establish a connection between the proclamation of a strike and the Entente offensive. It is asserted that an understanding exists between Entente agents and the Independent Social Democrats of Germany.

Hugh S. Gibson Promoted.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—Hugh S. Gibson, former secretary of the Legation in Brussels, who did notable work in the futile efforts to prevent the execution of Edith Cavell, received a promotion today making him a Secretary of the first class.

1st Pictures of Russian Revolution. RIALTO, B'way & 42d St., New York.—Adv.

WILSON EAGER TO EXEMPT MARRIED MEN FROM DRAFT

Crowder's Strict Rulings Opposed, as President Agrees With Weeks That Conscripting of Those With Families Is Unwise.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—President Wilson has come into conflict with Provost Marshal General Crowder on the policy to be pursued by local and district exemption boards in passing upon cases of married men or men with dependents drafted for the military service. Provost Marshal General Crowder has ruled that dependency exemption claims shall be allowed by local boards only when such exemptions are necessary to prevent dependents from becoming charges upon the Government.

The President takes the position that married men should be exempt as a class. Should the President's interpretation of the conscription prevail thousands of cases where claims for exemptions have been disallowed by local and district boards may have to be reopened.

Wilson and Weeks Agree.

In a letter to Senator Weeks, Massachusetts, made public to-day, President Wilson agrees with the latter that drafting of men with families is unsound and unwise, and concludes: "I shall take pleasure in calling the attention of the War Department again to it."

This action was received in army circles with surprise and amazement in view of recent rulings by Provost Marshal General Crowder, which in effect instructed local and district boards to grant exemptions on pleas of dependency only when the contribution of the drafted man to the support of a family cannot be made up from some other source in the event of his being taken into the army.

In army circles it is said that the position taken by Senator Weeks, which the President indorses and plans to impose upon the Department, is contrary to the clear spirit of the law and to the spirit under which the law has been administered to date. It is asserted that exemptions of married men as a class would be contrary to the terms of the law and therefore illegal.

Unsound Policy Shown

Senator Weeks in his letter to the President said in part:

"Drafting married men with families excepting in cases where marriage has been entered into for the purpose of escaping the draft is economically an unsound policy, and it is unwise from the standpoint of successful prosecution of the war to take married men as long as there are sufficient single men to meet the Government's requirements."

After replying to Senator Weeks's contention that aliens should be included in the draft "whatever may be our treaties with foreign countries on this subject" that this matter "is already interesting the Department of State" the President concludes:

"Your point with regard to drafting of men with families is undoubtedly well taken, and I have reason to believe that it is very much in the mind, at any rate, of most of the drafting boards. I shall take pleasure in calling the attention of the War Department again to it."

U. S. ORDERS SMOKE SCREENS FOR SHIPS

Department of Commerce Prepares Apparatus to Foil U-Boats.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—Apparatus for creating smoke screens for protection from submarines is to be provided soon to every American merchantman entering the war zone.

Details are withheld, but a Department of Commerce circular just issued reveals that preparations are being made to use not only smoke producing boxes but smoke funnels and phosphorus for supplementing such apparatus. The boxes, to be dropped overboard at the approach of an enemy, will be issued to each ship by the Navy Department as a part of its naval armament. The more elaborate stationary funnel contrivances are being made by private concerns and ship owners have been asked by both the Navy and Commerce departments to purchase them direct.

So far have the plans advanced that a booklet has been issued to ship owners describing the best kinds of smoke producing apparatus and giving directions for its use. It is taken for granted that a long series of experiments preceded the step, and although officials refuse to discuss that phase of the matter, it is apparent that they expect important results in the direction of making the seas safe for merchant shipping.

"The Department of Commerce," says Secretary Redfield's circular announcing the step, "regards this matter as of great importance for the protection of our merchant vessels."

Use of smoke apparatus to blind submarines is not in itself a new feature of sea warfare, but until now no such elaborate steps have been taken to employ that means of defending merchantmen.

Few merchant vessels could simulate without special apparatus the great smoke screens produced by destroyers to protect themselves and hide the movements of other units of the fleet, but it has been pointed out more than once since the war began that such a screen would be one of the greatest possible protections for merchant vessels encountering U-boats.

Whether the Naval Consulting Board had a part in framing the Department's policy for smoke protection is not revealed. Its members have been at work for months on various contrivances for combating the submarine.

KAISER UNDER AIR ATTACK.

Allied Fliers Bombard Homburg While Emperor Is There.

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 17.—Allied aviators recently dropped bombs on the bathing place of Homburg while the German Emperor was staying there, according to a traveller who has arrived here from Germany. The traveller, who was at Frankfort-on-the-Main when it was attacked by French airplanes two weeks ago, says it was reported there that the same aviators had dropped the bombs on Homburg. One of the Emperor's two headquarters is said to be in Homburg.

The traveller says that the first bomb dropped on Frankfort destroyed a number of houses.

GERMAN SEA CRIMES TO BRING REPRISALS

World Sailors Discuss Punishment for Brutality.

LONDON, Aug. 17.—"To consider the crimes committed by Germany and seamen of German U-boats," was the official description of the purpose of the gathering here to-day of representatives of seamen's organizations of several allied and neutral countries. France, Italy, the United States, Canada, Australia, Holland, Belgium and the Scandinavian countries were represented.

J. Havelock Wilson, head of the British Seamen's Union, presided. In his speech he said:

"It is not worth while calling on the Government to protect us, but the people of the world must do something for themselves. The war will not last forever. After the war the Germans again will have to come among the seamen of the civilized world. Then there will be a great many accounts to settle.

"As seafaring men we should express in no uncertain language our opinion of German brutality. Suppose the seamen of the world make up their minds that, after giving Germany fair warning, they will, independently of all Governments, show the Germans that the seafaring men of all nations will not permit themselves to be disgraced by working in a boat in which Germans sail? Not only will we punish German seamen, but German shipowners as well."

TWO DOGS TEAR BOY TO DEATH IN YARD

Animal Prowlers of City's Streets Drag Prey Off Fence at Home.

Two vicious mongrel dogs attacked Ralph Protta, 9 years old, of 245 East 150th street yesterday afternoon and injured the child so that he died in Lincoln Hospital less than an hour after Dr. Berger had hurried the little fellow to the institution.

The boy was playing in the back yard of his home. Between his home and the house at 236 East 151st street there is a fence and a small yard. Ralph climbed to the top of the fence to see why the dogs were barking so furiously in the neighboring lot.

As he reached the top of the fence one of the dogs jumped for the lad. The dog's teeth caught the boy's leg and he was pulled to the ground. Then both dogs attacked him. One of the mongrels was a stocky, black animal. The other was a small, red brute. They went for their young victim just as two wolves might have attacked a lamb.

As they tore the child's flesh he screamed and a number of neighbors ran to his aid. They were not able to check the infuriated dogs, and Policeman Flannigan of the Morrisania station was called. The policeman climbed the fence and made an effort to beat off the dogs.

He found both animals tearing the little boy's limbs. They had entirely laid open the abdomen. Flannigan took careful aim and shot the big, black dog through the head. The neighbors got a rope and tied the red dog.

Then Dr. Berger came with the ambulance and made every effort to save Ralph's life. He found probably the worst case of the kind that has ever confronted a physician in this city. Within forty-five minutes after the hospital was reached the boy died.

The neighborhood is thickly settled, chiefly with Italians. They were indignant and excited. Some of them sent for Assistant District Attorney Cohen and Lieut. Gilday of the detective bureau. When the officials came a search was made for the owner of the two dogs.

They finally traced the ownership to Liberio Pecciano of 232 East 151st street. After he had admitted that the dogs belonged to him the man was taken to the Morrisiana station, where he was locked up on a technical charge of homicide. The red dog was also held at the station.

SHAKEUP IN BRITISH CABINET.

John Hodge Chosen for Minister of Pensions.

LONDON, Aug. 17.—John Hodge, Minister of Labor, has been appointed Minister of Pensions in succession to George Nicoll Barnes, who was appointed to the War Council to take the place of Arthur Henderson. Other changes announced officially to-night were:

Minister of Labor, George H. Roberts; Minister of National Service, A. C. Geddes; Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, George J. Wardle.

The new Minister of National Service is Brig.-Gen. Geddes, a brother of Sir Eric Campbell Geddes, First Lord of the Admiralty. He has been Director of Recruiting, but under the Ministerial pledge that recruiting should pass into civilian control he drops his military rank on entering the Ministry of National Service, which will have charge of recruiting.

AIRSHIPS CRASH; ONE KILLED.

Two Americans in Collision at Canadian Camp.

TORONTO, Ont., Aug. 17.—Two airplanes flying at high speed crashed together 800 feet in the air at the Armour Heights aviation camp to-day; one of the machines bursting into flames and plunging to earth, killing the aviator, Cadet S. H. J. Dorr, who hailed from New Jersey. The victim's neck was broken and his body badly burned.

The other aviator, an American, whose name is withheld by the Royal Flying Corps, reached earth safely.

LONDON, Aug. 17.—Two army airplanes, flying low and at great speed, came into collision to-day over the Thames near Purfleet, Essex. Both machines fell and the pilot of one was drowned.

ALLIES CLINCH FLANDERS GAIN; FOE EXHAUSTED

Germans Keep to Shelter After Counter Attacks Are Repulsed.

CANADIANS PUSHING ON

British Toll of Prisoners and Guns Grows in Lens Drive.

LANGEMARCK STILL HELD

French Victorious Near Steenbeke River—St. Quentin Cathedral Burned.

LONDON, Aug. 17.—After a series of the most violent counter attacks last night, in which they failed to win back any of the ground the British and French took from them Wednesday and Thursday except a bare footing here and there, a strange quiet descended upon the German lines to-day. Certainly they show far less ability to come back than in any of the previous big battles of the war.

What attacks were made were delivered by the British and the French, who were naturally fully occupied in consolidating their new positions. The most important of these was by the Canadians, who added to their holdings above Lens and increased the toll of their prisoners to 1,120. It is announced that in this drive the British have captured twenty-four guns, including a number of heavy cannon. About 1,800 prisoners were taken.

Germans Lose Their Gains.

During the night three strong counter attacks were delivered against the British north of Lens. The first failed; in the second the British were pushed back a little, but the Germans were unable to hold their gain. The third was a complete failure.

Up in their own sector, to the north, the French repulsed heavy counter attacks and then pushed further east, near the Steenbeke River. A vigorous attack delivered against the French line near the California plateau, in Champagne, was beaten down by the French artillery.

The Berlin report on the fighting yesterday, which did not reach London until to-night, reiterates that the British and French attacked on a twenty mile front from the Yser Canal to the River Lys, on the Belgian frontier. It declares "the second great fighting day of the Flanders battle was decided in our favor," and, after admitting losses here and there, adds "by evening, after heavy fighting, Langemarck and our lost position were again in our hands."

Foe's Claims Are Denied.

An official denial of these claims was issued in London to-night. Langemarck is still held by the British and has been since its capture. No attempt was made to retake it, a British staff officer reported who was in the village as late as 6 P. M. to-day. There was no fighting south of the Ypres-Menin road, fully seven miles north of the Lys.

The German official statement asserts that the British penetrated to Poelkappelle, a mile and a half east of Langemarck. Concerning this the British official press bureau says to-night:

The reference to Poelkappelle obviously is intended to give the impression that the British failed to reach some imaginary and distant objective, just as in the German official statement Thursday it was implied that the British objective on the Lens front was Vedin-le-Vieil.

It is sufficient to state that the British troops gained all their objective not only north of Lens on Wednesday but also from St. Julien northward on Thursday.

GUNS SPEEDED BRITISH.

Flanders Barrage Fire Called Most Accurate of War.

By the Associated Press.

BRITISH FRONT IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Aug. 17.—Evidence continues to multiply from both the prisoners and British officers of the wonderful efficacy of the British barrage fire yesterday morning on the north end of the British line in Belgium, where the advance was so successful.

The correspondent visited the casualty clearing station for the Langemarck region and talked with a British artillery observation officer who was wounded. He said:

"I have seen much modern artillery work, but frankly I never dreamed there could be such perfection achieved in a barrage fire as we accomplished Thursday morning. I was stationed in an advance post where I could see the full effects of our fire on the Langemarck region. While I directed the firing of the guns in the rear I was amazed to see what our gunners could not see.

"At the jumping off hour, which was 4:40 o'clock, the British batteries dropped a barrage in front of our infantry for the advance. It was as though a solid curtain of steel had been dropped before our men. It moved forward with the mechanical precision of clockwork. All our guns broke out with such a hurricane of fire that I was stunned with the effect.

"I tried to say something to a companion standing beside me but could not make him hear my loudest shouts, so deafening was the thunder from the breaking shells. The barrage moved forward with such accuracy that our infantry was able to keep quite close to it without danger, for there was no wavering of the barrage line.

Cuts Way for Troops.

"Straight on over Langemarck and the surrounding region passed the barrage, with the infantry trailing. It was not more than thirty minutes from the start before we were in the town itself. It was 8 o'clock when our gunfire finally rested on German positions far to the rear, and there they continued to hammer away while the fighting went on about Langemarck.

"The Germans undoubtedly were expecting our attack, for their counter barrage was dropped back of our lines almost as soon as our advance began.