

ONE YEAR COURSE FOR WEST POINT

MILITARY ACADEMY IS TO BE UTILIZED TO THE FULL LIMIT DURING THE WAR PERIOD.

TEACHING FLYERS "STUNTS"

Aviation Students to Learn the Acrobatics Quickly or Not at All—War Department Compels the Making of Clinical Thermometers.

(From Committee on Public Information.) Washington.—The acting secretary of war has approved the recommendations of General March, chief of staff, to graduate the two upper classes at the United States Military Academy on November 1, and to authorize a one-year course at West Point for the remainder of the war. It is proposed to utilize this valuable and expensive institution, the war department announces, to the limit during the period of the war. The number of cadets graduated each year from West Point is now only about 200. Under the new system it will be possible to graduate 1,000 officers a year.

Vacancies resulting from the graduation of the two upper classes will be filled by the war department, if possible, by the admission on November 1, 1918, of qualified candidates. Appointments will be made in the usual way—through senators and representatives in congress, and other customary channels. The war department desires that candidates to be admitted on November 1 shall be not under eighteen years of age on that date.

As the result of an investigation by the war department, following the failure of the medical department to obtain a supply of clinical thermometers except at what were considered exorbitant prices, the general staff has ordered 18 manufacturers in different parts of the country to furnish about 608,000 of the instruments, which are urgently needed here and abroad.

Under these orders the war department will not only take the entire stock of clinical thermometers now manufactured, but will require the factories to produce in large quantities for 20 weeks. The compulsory order specifies that the entire quantity must be delivered by February 10, 1919.

The price of clinical thermometers has advanced in the past year from 25 cents and 30 cents to 50 cents and 60 cents each. The investigations of the military authorities disclosed a combination between the glass-blowers and the makers of thermometers.

The prices to be paid by the government for the 608,000 thermometers which have been requisitioned will be fixed by the war department board of appraisers.

One undertaking in connection with the registration of more than 13,000,000 men for the draft, September 12, is illustrated by figures by Provost Marshal General Crowder. A statistician in the provost marshal's office has calculated that if all the printed forms distributed since August 7 in connection with the work of registration, classification and mobilization were placed in a pile ten feet square it would tower above the ground to a height of 887 feet, or more than one and a half times the altitude of Washington monument.

Altogether there have been printed and shipped out, since August 7, 224,000,000 forms of all kinds, weighing 4,300,000 pounds, and measuring, in the aggregate, 88,787 cubic feet. A total of 44,000 mail sacks were used to carry this vast quantity of matter. The largest number of sacks shipped in a single day was 1,828. These weighed about 83 tons.

If these forms were placed in one small train 143 60-foot postal cars would be required and the train would be one and two-thirds miles long. Placed end to end, the forms would extend 68,044 miles—more than twice the distance around the earth.

Many sample cans of tomatoes such as are used in the army have been found by the inspection branch of the subsistence division, quartermaster corps, to be filled only to three-fourths of an inch of the top, although weighing the requisite amount. Instructions have been issued that regardless of weight, the cans must be filled to within three-eighths of an inch of the top. If the cans are not filled to within half an inch of the top there is to be a readjustment of prices and under no circumstances, it is announced, will underfilled cans be sent overseas.

It has been calculated that if this saving of three-eighths of an inch were made in all cans of tomatoes purchased by the army for a year, it would equal 417,000 cases, costing about \$1,500,000. The saving of tinplate used in the can would equal about 7,000,000 square feet.

German prisoners are being used in the construction of homes for Belgian refugees in the village which the American Red Cross is building near Havre, France, for families who were driven from their country by the German invasion. Many such prisoners also have been put to work in the fields in the section surrounding Havre. They have harvested wheat and other crops, thus lessening the burden on the women and very old men who have been operating the farms while the young and vigorous ones are fighting at the front.

Naval and military flyers who loop the loop at altitudes of 4,000 feet, who do nose dives, side slips and other thrilling and seemingly frivolous evolutions, learn to accomplish these feats in seven or eight hours—or they never learn them at all. For the mastery of airplane acrobatics does not require the time that is requisite to train a performer for a circus.

Cadet flyers receive this instruction, which is called the acrobatic stage, toward the end of their training and after they have become masters of their machines and possess absolute control. Otherwise they could not acquire the knack of throwing their machines in and out of these whirls and loops. And, by the way, some of them never do. Because a cadet becomes master of his plane, it does not inevitably follow that he can "stunt." He may not be fitted for it temperamentally; he may lack the head or the heart or the stomach for it. If that be so, then he must abandon acrobatics. Those who like it stick to it, and thus it happens that frequently these stunt flyers become the aces in actual combat in France, because fights in the air are more or less games of tag; and the more artful the dodger the greater are his chances.

The course in acrobatics is not chosen because it is showy or spectacular. It is as much a part of a cadet's training as pursuit work, reconnaissance or bombing. It is designed to inspire the student with confidence in his ship and in his ability; to teach him the feel of dangerous positions in the air; to actually get into them and out of them safely, and in general to demonstrate to him how much may be accomplished by the proper and skillful handling of his plane.

The greatest care is taken in choosing instructors for this work and in selecting the ships or planes to be used. Expert riggers are assigned to check the alignment of the planes used after each flight.

At Kelly field, Texas, there is a special stage for the instruction and to insure safety for the cadets and their instructors. Others not flying in this stage of instruction are required to keep entirely away from the territory over which the stunts are being performed. A severe penalty is attached to the slightest infringement of this regulation. No student or instructor is allowed to stunt under 2,000 feet, and practically all of the work in the acrobatic line is done between 2,000 and 4,000 feet.

When a student reports to the stage for instruction, he is assigned to a teacher who at the first opportunity takes him and performs the requisite evolutions. The student is then given the control and directed to repeat the maneuver. After the third or fourth trial he is usually able to perform in a creditable manner. However, in no case does the instructor allow a student to fly alone unless he shows himself well qualified.

When a student is sent into the air he is directed to follow a definite course in gaining his altitude; to turn over his sector, and, if at a sufficient altitude, to do his stunts. It may be that he will have been directed to do a one-turn spin, a two-turn, spin, five loops and three Immelmann turns. Upon returning to the ground he reports to his instructor, who has carefully watched the execution of the stunts and who offers appropriate criticism and suggestions. This is repeated several times, and before the student is transferred he again goes up with the instructor, who estimates whether the former is qualified to advance to the next stage.

Troops for the Slavic legion which is to be a part of the United States army will soon be recruited under regulations just promulgated by President Wilson. The officers and enlisted men in these regiments will be Jugo-Slavs, Czech-Slavs and Ruthenians. If practicable, companies will be composed of members of the same race and this plan of organization will be followed as far as can be in the larger units—battalions and regiments.

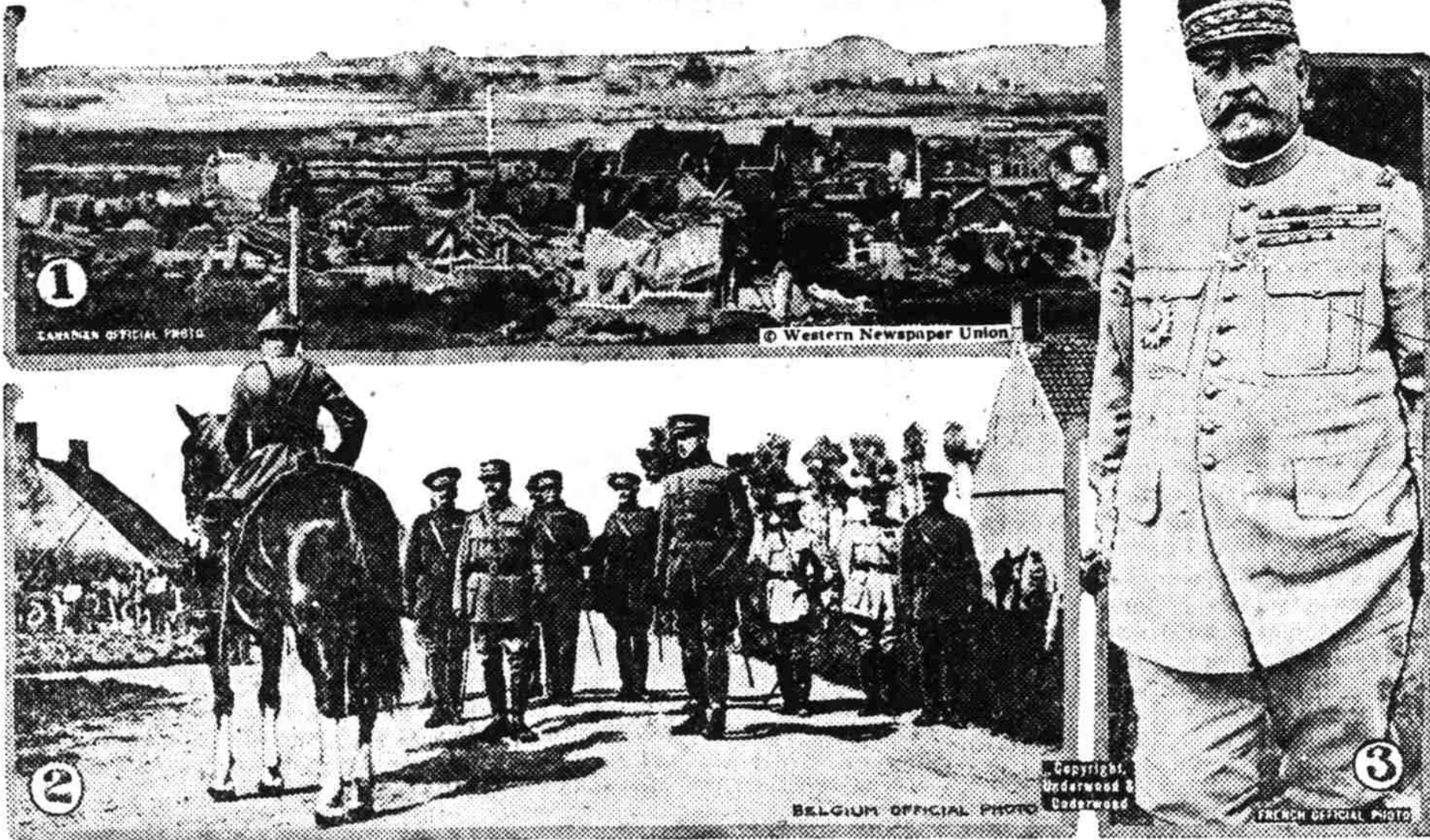
Enlisted men for the Slavic legion will be obtained by voluntary induction from among the members of the races mentioned. They must be residents but not citizens of the United States and not subject to the draft. Enlistments in coal mining regions will not be authorized. Volunteers for this legion will be forwarded by draft boards to depots in the usual manner and will be sent from there to Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina.

The weather bureau will publish in its National Weather and Crop Bulletin a series of charts showing for the country east of the Rocky mountains the southward progression of the earliest killing-frost date line and the total area covered by killing frost to the date of each issue. These charts are expected to be of much interest and value, as they will indicate the time of the ending of the growing season for summer crops this year in the various sections of the country.

Much loss is caused at times by early frosts and interest is unusually great this year because of the possibility of frost damage affecting the food supply.

To test the present health of the nation's children, the child welfare committee of the council of national defense throughout the country has weighed and measured more than 6,500,000 babies. Hundreds of committees, endeavoring to meet the needs revealed by this test, have employed public-health nurses, opened infant welfare stations.

In England, since the beginning of the present war, the infantile death rate has been reduced nine points below the mortality among American children of the same ages.



1—View in the ruins of Leuven just after the British recovered it; a large shell is seen exploding in the distance. 2—Marshal Foch and King Albert arranging for the opening of the drive in which the Belgians drove back the Huns. 3—General Berthelot, commander of the French forces operating north of Reims.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE GREAT WAR

Germany's Tricky Peace Move Is Balked by President Wilson's Diplomacy.

ARMIES OPPOSE ARMISTICE

Cambrai Captured and Huns' Defensive Line Smashed, Compelling General Retreat—Yanks Successful in Champagne—Beirut Occupied by the French.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Prince Max of Baden, the new imperial chancellor of Germany, requesting President Wilson to arrange for an armistice and a subsequent discussion of peace terms, and stating that Germany accepted the president's 14 points as a basis for the negotiations, evoked three separate and distinct replies. President Wilson answered that he could not suggest an armistice while the German armies were outside the boundaries of Germany, and then asked whether the German government accepted the terms laid down by him and whether its object in entering discussions was only to agree upon the practical details of their application; furthermore, he wanted to know whether the chancellor was speaking merely for the constituted authorities of the empire who have so far conducted the war.

The people of all the allied nations, soldiers and civilians alike, answered Prince Max with a tremendous shout of "Unconditional surrender."

Marshal Foch responded with one of the most powerful attacks of the allied armies, capturing the important city of Cambrai, smashing a 20-mile-wide breach through the Hindenburg line, and forcing back the German armies all along the line from Verdun to the sea.

Nearly all authorities agree that the chancellor's proposal was insincere; that the request for an armistice was made merely to give the military command a chance to reorganize the shattered armies, and that Prince Max knew the suggestion for a peace conference, as he made it, would be rejected, giving him the opportunity to say to the people of Germany: "I have offered to end the war on the enemy's own terms and he refuses. The German nation now must unitedly fight on."

At first there was some disappointment because President Wilson did not reject the German proposal swiftly and bluntly, but a little consideration has convinced almost everyone that he evaded a trap and by his direct questions put the German diplomats in a position of the utmost difficulty. At the same time he left the door open for ultimate negotiations. After Germany has accepted his 14 points and given full guarantees. As for the armistice, he did not agree to that even were the German armies to be withdrawn from all occupied territories, recognizing the fact that the declaring of an armistice is up to the military commanders. The president's note was fully approved, probably in advance, by the allied governments, and was given the highest praise by the press in England and France as well as America.

Any agreed cessation of fighting at this time, short of the abject surrender of the central powers, would bitterly disappoint the soldiers of the allied armies and the people who are backing them up. Foch's forces have the Germans on the run, and if they are permitted to follow up the Huns on their retreat to the Meuse they will destroy a large part of their effectiveness and capture probably half of their material. On the other hand an armistice would permit the Huns to retire within their borders with their armies intact and prepared to maneuver effectively behind their shortened and powerfully fortified lines. Annotated by a spirit, not of vindictiveness, but of retributive justice, the men of the allied armies feel that no peace should

be granted Germany until her cities, her towns and her people have suffered some of the horrors of war that her brutal soldiers have inflicted on Belgium, northern France and Serbia. The absolute unrepentance of the Huns for their outrages is shown by their action in looting and wantonly destroying the towns in France from which they are being driven and in their practice of carrying away with them thousands of the helpless inhabitants who are forced to work for them like slaves. The formal warning of France that there would be retribution for these shameful deeds has been disregarded, and if adequate punishment is not inflicted there will be a general feeling that justice has miscarried.

President Wilson and his confidential advisers, it is said, still believe the German people will rise in revolution and oust the Hohenzollern crew, and his inquiry as to whom Prince Max represents is significant in that connection. The chancellor, in his speech to the reichstag, undertook rather feebly to demonstrate that recent political changes actually had put the people in power and that he was their representative. But all that was looked on as bunk.

The diplomatic situation resolved itself down to this: The German government must either admit defeat and surrender on allied terms, or it must confess that the chancellor was not acting in good faith. That is the hole in which President Wilson has placed Prince Max and his associates.

The greatest blow delivered by the allied armies last week was between Cambrai and St. Quentin. There Field Marshal Haig's tireless forces, re-enforced by American divisions, tore a 20-mile gap through the strongest of Hindenburg's boasted defenses, capturing dozens of villages and many thousands of prisoners and on Wednesday occupied the long and desperately defended city of Cambrai.

The Huns, in full flight, blew up most of Cambrai and burned Bohain, Marcy and many another beautiful town, but the allies did not even stop to extinguish the flames. The enemy apparently was attempting to reconstitute his lines back of the Selle river from Le Cateau to Solesmes, so Haig's troops, led by the cavalry, pushed rapidly forward and the big guns followed so fast that they kept the Huns always under fire. Only the German machine gunners put up a creditable defense, the riflemen who could be overtaken generally surrendering willingly. Prisoners said the German plan was to retreat to the Valenciennes line and then to the Meuse, and it was evident the retirement of the German armies from France was well under way. They will fight all the way back to their borders, of course, but the country is open and the tanks and cavalry of the allies will have daily increasing opportunity to do their part. The Germans still have the strength to maintain a fairly orderly retreat, and if the war is ended by a military decision, it is admitted the Huns may be able to postpone that inevitable event for many months. When they do reach the Meuse they will be behind powerful defenses, but the nature of those defenses is known to the allied commanders, and so far as the fortifications there are concerned, the immense sum just asked of congress for American artillery may be taken to indicate the tremendous concentration of gunfire that will be used to batter them to pieces.

While their comrades were helping the British in the great drive in the Cambrai region, the American First army was exceedingly busy west of the Meuse. For many days the doughboys battled their way through the Argonne forest, and at the northern end of it they went up against a concentration of Huns gathered for the defense of the Kriemhilde line. Pausing to permit their artillery to pour a rain of shells on the German positions for 19 hours, the Yanks advanced to the attack Wednesday, and by a brilliant and swift advance broke through the enemy line. To the right of them other troops forced their way through the Cuneil wood, and this made possible the storming of the Mamel trench of the Kriemhilde position. The engineers were advancing right along with the infantry, clearing the way through the entanglements. Important heights south of the Marcq were captured, and the Yankees joined hands

with the French at Laucou. East of the Meuse also the Americans were going forward, and, at the time of writing, these movements, as well as those all along the line, were still progressing.

These operations in France were steadily crushing the great German salient whose apex was near Laon, and the French were maintaining a continuous pressure on both sides of that city. They also were compelling the further retirement of the Huns who still remained south of the Aisne between Neufchatel and Vouziers.

The American air service on the front of the First army clearly demonstrated its superiority during the week. Huge aggregations of bombing planes continually flew over the enemy front lines, communications, back areas and troop concentrations, doing incalculable damage, while the pursuit planes kept the air clear of Hun machines.

The Serbian army kept up the unremitting pursuit of the Austrians in Serbia as the Bulgarians withdrew from that country, or surrendered, according to their agreement. Before the end of the week the Serbs were quite close to Nish and moving ahead steadily. To their west, in Albania, the allied troops made considerable progress. The Italians took Elbassan after crushing determined resistance by the Austrians, and then continued their advance northward.

The occupation of Beirut by French marines only accentuated the troubles of Turkey. The cabinet resigned, after a peace note was said to have been started on its way to President Wilson, and Tewfik Pasha, it was reported, would be the new grand vizier. His sympathies are rather with the allies, and there is little doubt the sultan himself would be mighty glad to get out of the war on the best terms obtainable. London was convinced Turkey had notified Germany it intended to make peace and that the kaiser tried to stave this off by the proposal of the chancellor.

Austria-Hungary was in a condition almost of panic and was nervously awaiting the outcome of Prince Max's effort. Reports from Vienna said the ministerial council had decided to introduce national autonomy "in order to make President Wilson's stipulation an accomplished fact." Among the people of the empire the movement to proclaim the separation of Hungary and Austria was making great headway. Meanwhile the Bohemian leaders were conferring and preparing to declare the independence of their country and its separation from Austria-Hungary, and, knowing the dangers of such action, made their wills and settled their personal affairs.

Boris, who has succeeded to the throne of Bulgaria on the abdication of his father, Ferdinand, adheres to the terms of the surrender made by his armies, and has ordered Germany and Austria to quit his country within a month. Already the rail connection between Vienna and Constantinople seems to be effectually broken.

Three more "victories" by the murderous German U-boats are to be recorded. The Irish mail boat *Lanister*, the Japanese liner *Hirano* and the American cargo steamer *Ticonderoga* were torpedoed. The total loss of life was estimated at more than 900. In the case of the *Ticonderoga* about 230 were killed, most of them by shrapnel fire after the boat had ceased to resist.

One painful result of the German peace offensive was the decided slowing up of the campaign for the fourth Liberty loan. Presumably because many short-sighted people thought peace was at hand and the money would not be needed, subscriptions to the \$6,000,000,000 loan were distressingly slow in coming in. All the agencies engaged in the campaign redoubled their efforts and the American public was loudly warned that the Hun peace talk must be disregarded and the money must be raised. Uncle Sam needs those six billions and he will get them, and he will need and will get much more, in all probability, before peace is declared and the armies are disbanded. If the people refuse to lend the government all the money it needs, at a good rate of interest, it has other ways of getting funds, and it will adopt them.

NO ARMISTICE NOR PEACE AT PRESENT

ATROCITIES ON LAND AND SEA MUST FIRST BE PUT TO AN END.

MEETS APPROVAL OF SENATE

Senator Lodge, Chief Critic of the President, Expresses Great Gratification at Decision.

Washington.—President Wilson answered Germany's peace proposal with a decision which not only falls within the expectations of all the supporters of diplomacy, but also dispels the fears of those who predicted that he would substitute victories at arms with feats at diplomacy.

No peace with Kaiserism! Autocrats must go! No armistice can stem the thought of while Germany continues her atrocities on land and sea. Peace cannot be considered unless it is dictated by the allied commanders in the field in such terms as adequately provided safeguards and guarantees that Germany's part will not be a scrap of paper.

This is in a few words the president's answer.

If it does not bring a capitulation which may be more than unconditional surrender, allied diplomats and American officials believe it may cause a revolution in Germany.

The dispatch of the president's reply was followed by the issue of a formal statement at the White House by Secretary Tammaly:

"The government will continue to send over 250,000 men with their supplies every month and there will be no relaxation of any kind."

Quite outside of the formal phraseology of a diplomatic document that was President Wilson's word to the world that he had no thought of stopping the fighting at this stage.

The senate chamber rang with applause of senators as the president's answer was read a few minutes after it had been announced at the war department. Senator Lodge, the President's chief critic, issued a statement expressing his gratification at the president's decision. Opinion in the capitol and throughout official Washington was unanimously in approval.

FIGHTING ON WESTERN FRONT IS CONTINUED WITH SPIRIT

London.—The British, French and Belgian forces in their new drive against the German positions in Belgium have captured Roulers. The Evening News says it understands.

The newspaper says an advance of five miles has been made in Belgium by the allies. Central is threatened from the north. The advance continues.

CAMP GREENE COMMITTEE HAS NOT FILED REPORT

Washington.—The following order was made public:

"A board of officers to consist of Col. John W. Barker, general staff corps; Col. Frank McCall, Gambia, quartermaster corps; and Col. George W. Winterburn, general staff corps, is appointed to convene at Camp Greene, North Carolina, at 10 a. m. October 7, 1918, or as soon thereafter as possible, to ascertain and report upon the suitability of that camp for a large garrison and to make recommendations as to character of troops to be sent there and as to the class of equipment of training practicable. Upon completion of this duty the members of the board will return to their proper stations. Such travel as may be necessary to be performed by the board in connection with their duties is necessary in the military service. The board has returned here but has not made its report to the secretary of war."

SOLEMN WARNING ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH LOAN

Washington.—President Wilson issued this statement on the fourth Liberty loan:

"The reply of the German government gives occasion for me to state my fellow countrymen that neither I nor any other of our recent leaders have in any way diminished the vital importance of the Liberty loan. Relaxation now, hesitation now, would mean defeat when victory seems to be in sight."

SIMMONS SAYS PRESIDENT HAS SCORED ANOTHER HIT

Washington.—President Wilson has made another hit in reply to Germany.

"The President is following the wise course in dealing with the German government," said Senator Simmons. "He will let the generals in the field dictate the terms of an armistice. I had no idea the President would agree to any peace parley with the present German rulers. He demands that the people of Germany act."