Both Berlin and Paris Tell of Hard-Fought Engagements on Western Front.

PRISONERS TAKEN

Germans Assert Enemy Has Beer Repulsed Except at Points Where Battles Are Still Raging. Both Claim Victories.

LONDON, Feb. 17 .- The tenor of the German official report received today from Berlin on the fighting in Flanders and France is optimistic. Suc cesses of a minor nature are reported at separated points and it is asserted at separated points and it is asserted that the allies' attacks have been "repulsed everywhere." Several hundred livitish and French prisoners, the report says, have been captured. It is declared that stubborn attacks have been imagurated by the allies, and that some of the engagements are still in progress. in progress.

The text of the report la:

"Obviously induced to do so by our great successes in the east, the British and French yesterday and during last night began especially stubborn attacks at many places. In their unsuccessful attempts to recapture positions which they lost on February 14, the British lost in prisoners four officers and 170 men.

Elections Fierce at Close Quarters.

Fighting Flerce at Close Quarters. Northeast of Rheims the enemy's attacks were repulsed. Two officers and 176 Frenchmen were captured. Especially strong advances made against our lines in the Champagne district frequently led to fierce fighting at close quarters. With the exception of certain separate sections, where the enemy had penetrated and where the battle still continues, the troops of the enemy were repulsed everywhere. About 580 Frenchmen ware laken prisoners

were taken prisoners.

'In the Argonne we continued our offensive and captured further portions offensive and captured further portions of the enemy's main positions, taking 350 prisoners, two mountain cannon and four machine guns. In Priesterwald, north of Toul, small successes also were recorded. On this occasion two machine guns were captured. There is no news from the Alsace-Lorraine frontier."

Belgian Artillery Effective.

Beigian Artillery Effective.

The Paris War Office tells of the repulse of German attacks in the Champagne district and declares that the Belgian artillery has been especially effective in breaking up gatherings of troops. Paris speaks of "huge losses" inflicted on the enemy, and, while the French and German reports do not agree, it is evident, taking both of them together, that there has been sanguinary fighting on the western front. The text of the early French efficial report is:

"In spite of an active cannonade, the interest of the sanguinary fighting on the western front in the text of the early French efficial report is:

"In spite of an active cannonade, the interest of the sanguinary fighting on the western front. The text of the early French efficial report is:

"In spite of an active cannonade, the interest of the spite of the mean reports of the mean reports of the night's entertainment was hearing grand opera sun over a telephone in the midst of a battle.

In a bomb-proof dugout not far from the brigade headquarters in the little Belgian town of H—, where Colonel M— was introducing the newspaper men to the comforts of life underground, a regimental adjutant

harmes we have destroyed a block-house and 100 meters of trenches. A sierman attack launched by at least three battalions between Four de Paris and Hill 263, west of Boureuilles, has and Hill 263, west of Boureulius, has been very severe. We have entirely re-julsed it, inflicting on the enemy huge losses and taking some prisoners. "More to the east, in the Forest of Melancourt, we have captured 100 me-

ters of trenches." "Efficacious Shelling" Reported. The official report issued in Paris

From the sea to the Oise our artil-iery has carried on an efficacious shelling, which has dispersed several gath-ings, blown up some caisssons and dealroyed some trains.

"To the north of Arras we have taken two lines of trenches and beaten back violent counter atacks. We have made some prisoners and inflicted on the

enemy heavy losses. Several German officers have been killed. "In the neighborhood of Rheims, Several German

near Loivre, the advances made on February 16, several hundred meters, have been maintained and consoli-In the Champagne district we have

followed up our gains to the north west of Perthes and have captured po-sitions of the enemy on a front of 800 meters. All the German counter at-tachs to the north of Mensil-Les-Hurus and Beausejour have been repulsed. We captured a large bomb thrower and several small ones and made 200 pris-This engagement continues. Action Fought at Close Quarters,

"In the Argonne we have made progress in the forest of La Grurie and maintained our gain, notwithstanding two violent counter attacks and sev-eral hot actions at close quarters which ulted in heavy losses to the enemy. "A strong attack by the Germans was completely repulsed at Four de

we have made progress at divers points.

"In Alsace we have taken control of the ridges which dominate the Sudel farm and we have retained all the ground conquered.

"Our aviators have bombarded the railway station of Freiburg In Reals."

"There is no doubt about it, war Between the Argonne and the Meuse

railway station of Freiburg Im Breis-

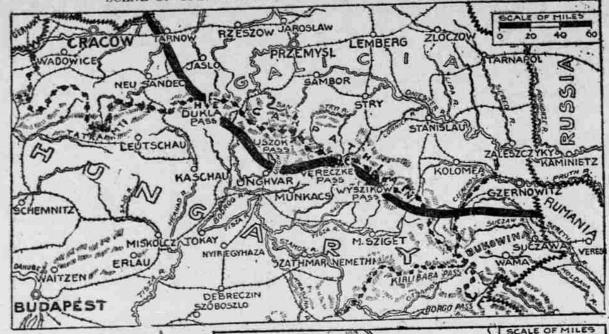
FRENCH RENTES DECLINING

Fall Due to Pessimism Over War, Thinks German Financiers.

BERLIN, via London, Feb. 17.—The present decline in French rentes is attracting much attention in German financial circles. The press points out that for the first time in history French 3s have fallen below German 2s, having lost 18 points in a year, while the latter have dropped only 8.

The inference drawn here is that the German people are optimistic over the military outlook, while the French have become pessimistic.

SCENE OF OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN THEATER OF WAR.



Approximate Battlefront in the Carpa-thians and Bukowina Shown by Heavy Line.

HEARD IN BATTLE

Notes of Wagnerian Concert Heard in Dugout Within Few Yards of Front.

German Soldiers Sing of One Who Is to Die at Sunrise, of One Condemned, of Stern Captain Who Puts Duty First.

WITH ONE OF THE GERMAN ARMIES, IN A HAMLET OF NORTH-ERN FRANCE, Jan. 30 .- (By Courier Berlin.)-Observation made others-that the German soldier at the front shows a preference for sad songs -was found to be well borne out dur-

French and German reports do not agree, it is evident, taking both of them together, that there has been sanguinary fighting on the western front. The text of the early French official report is:

"In spite of an active cannonade, the French and English aviators who yesterday threw bombs in the region of Chistelles and Ostend have been able to re-enter our lines unharmed.

"The Belgian artillery has carried out some effective shooting against gathering of theorem and shelters.

"In Champagne 10 of the enemy's counter-attacks were repulsed during the night.

"In the Argonna there was considerable activity. Near Fontaine-aux-Charmes we have destroyed a block-liques and 100 meters of trenches. A terman attack launched by at least

Orchestra Is Improvised. "Who is it?" Colonel M-

asked. "General von C-, the Brigade ommander," he answered. "And now, Commander, he answered. "And now, if you like, my lads will give you a

If you like, my lads will give you a concert."

Led a short distance away, to the cellar of a ruined farmhouse, the party found half-a-dozen fresh-faced youths who boasted an improvised orchestra. One played a mouth-organ. Another had mounted half a bicycle bell on the brass collar of a shell, giving him two clear notes. A third played an instrument made from an old soapbox and strung with four wires tuned to the mouth-organ's key of G. A snare drummer, an artist in his line, and the leader completed the orchestra. The leader, who were a disreputable derby above his field-gray uniform, belonged to a highly individual school of conducting. He would rap on the table, elevate his baton—cut from a board—and command: "One, two, three, Go." After playing several pieces, the solplaying several pieces, the sol-

Sad Songs Sung by Soldiers.

They sang "Morgenrot"—the song of the soldier who is to die at sunrise; "Es geht bei gedaempfter Tromme! Klang"—the song of the soldier condemned to be shot; "O Strassburg, G Strassburg, The song of the relentdemned to be snot; "O Strassburg, O Strassburg"—the song of the relentless captain, who would not release the boy to his parents because "there must be soldiers at Strassburg." They sang of home and parents, of the particles of ing for the war, of the lads who will

The Colonel joined with his "lads" in The Colonel joined with his "lads" in singing some of the songs. Then he sat motionless in a corner of the little room, looking down at his folded hands, his thoughts somewhere away in the Bavarian homeland. The light of the smcky petroleum lamp fell upon the old soldier's kindly face, and botrayed unsoldierly tages in his aves.

"Trench Warfare Unexpected.
"There is no doubt about it, war is brutalizing," he had said. "When the first officer of my regiment fell there was no priest here and I had to read the burial service. I couldn't finish it. I broke down and wept like a child. But now I can read it clear through."

common with all the officers at the front, Colonel M____'s preconcep-tions of war had been upset by the

"I never dreamed of such a trench arfare," he said. "I always expected warfare," he said. that we should meet the enemy on the open field, as we did in '70 and '71. None of us, I think, had expected this weary lying in the trenches."

BALTIC SEA KÖNIGSBERG GULF ARIENBURGA BIELOSTOK NOVO ALEXANDRI LUBLING CHELMO RADOM KRASNIC APPROXIMATE BATTLEFRONT IN EAST PRUSSIA, POLAND AND GALI-CIA SHOWN BY HEAVY LINE.

Through Descendants.

PARIS, Feb. 1 .- (Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—"France and the French after the war, ' is the subject The of much speculation by philosophers, that we specified scientists and doctors. Emile Boutroux, system.

Insanitary Buildings Gone.

"Our cities and the country contain a great many unhealthy habitations," he declares. "that we were unable to decide ourselves to demolish. We hestitated before the difficulties and before the expense. War has put us face to face with the accomplished fact. Unhealthy and incommodious buildings have disappeared and will be replaced by constructions conforming to hygienic laws and to the needs of modern life. Many defective conditions of our existence will thus be improved by the reconstruction that will be imposed upon us.

"Death awakens life. After 1870 France pulled herself togethar and

"The cause of the low birth rate,"
Monsteur Boutroux thinks, "resides primarily in selfishness and the disposition to consider only the present or the immediate future. With confidence in the future, with a vast distant perspective opened up, there is awakened a desire to glorify one's self in one's descendants.

Shackles Taken From Nature "Measures that are most contrary to the indifference of yesterday are today accepted without objection, such as the prohibition of the traffic in absinthe. Civilization has been loaded down with a thousand fictitious needs, foreign and harmful to nature; a great many of them are so many chains upon nature and as many causes of fragility and

The inference drawn here is that the German people are optimistic over the military outlook, while the French have become pessimistic.

Bread Riots Reported in Bohemia.

VENICE, via London, Feb. 17.—It is reported that bread riots have occurred in Bohemia. A dispatch from Carlishad says that at Altrohlau, near there, no bread has been procurable for several days and that 400 women. bringing their children, came into Carlishad from that village to beg that the authorities send them food.

Prench Shoot Spy.

PARIS, Feb. 17.—A dispatch to the Haves Agency from Bordas says that a Gorman named Staddler-Willy was shot today by order of the court-martial, having been found guilty of espionage.

mbat one another. Examples they combat one another. Examples they have given of unity and the efficiency of collective effort." Monsieur Boutroux thinks, "will have as important an effect upon France of the future as any other of the lessons of the war." Racial Adaptability Proved.

From the medical standpoint, Pro-tessor Chauffard, of the Academy of Shown French Virile.

Shown French Virile.

Medicine, before the Alliance d'Hygiene Sociale, speaking of the, mobilization order and comparing it to one of the great physical phenomena which constantly trouble the universe, like earthquakes, tidal waves, etc., says that "the manner in which France supported the shock augure well for the health of the race after the war.

"Adaptation," he says, "is the greatest law of biology, for we live and preservists and certain other classes of untrained Moslems on payment of a tax of \$120.

Constantinople, via Amsterdam and London, Feb. 17.—For the double purpose of raising funds and for releasing persons unwilling to serve in the army the Turkish Chamber of Deputies today passed as an urgent mensure a bill granting military exemption to all trained and untrained Moslems on payment of a tax of \$120.

Confidence in Future After Conflict Is over Expected to Create Desire to Glorify One's Self

to this unforeseen danger, and to realize this it is only sufficient to remember what Paris and what France were at the moment the mobilization order was published. For the calm confidence with which each one went to his duty we are indebted to a quality that w did not know we possessed perhaps to that degree, nervous stability, to the mastery of ourselves, to the control that we have not lost of our nervous

scientists and doctors. Emile Boultons, scientists and doctors, thinks France the French philosopher, thinks France will come out of the trial better and greater, in spite of all of the destruction of life and property.

It is a collectivity, he says, "there are always a certain number of individuals who suffice for their daily life, but who is unable to accomplish a more ardunated in the first of the control of the contro wealth annihilated, stupefies us and leaves our souls in incurable pain," he says. "All these sacrifices, however, may in certain ways contribute directly to the betterment of life in our country.

Insanitary Buildings, and suffice for their daily life, but who are unable to accomplish a more arduous task or to support an unforessenshock. When the hour of the trial arrives those succumb. They lose their mobilization a number of such subjects at the house."

"Death awakens life. After 1870 of the season appear in all our garrisone, but on the contrary, the army in sone, but on the contrary, the army in sone, but on the contrary, the army in action is remarkably free from them, and, fortunately, in proportion to the dead, the wounded and the sick there will remain a far greater number who have escaped all the dangers. These will come back hardened, more resistant then they were before enumbed.

that reason he considers that the gen-eral physical condition of the French race will be improved by the war.

VICTORY HALF TOLD IN EARLY REPORTS

Russians Captured in East Prussia Number 50,000, Declare Germans.

BIG BATTLE IS DEVELOPING

Large Forces of Czar's Troops in Bukowina Are Reported Enveloped by Austro-Hungarians. Reinforcements Are Near.

LONDON, Feb. 17. - Announcements from Berlin today are that the German victory in East Prussia has proved greater than first reported, the prison

man victory in East Prussia has proved greater than first reported, the prisonors being offluially estimated at 50,000. In addition to this an unofflicial report says a large Russian force in Bukowina has been enveloped by the Austro-Hungarians.

Other Russian columns in that campaign, which were forced to retreat, have met reinforcements, however, and further terrific fighting is expected.

Regarding the East Prussian victory the German official report says:

"North of the Nieman River our troops have followed everywhere the defeated enemy in the direction of Tauroggen. In the district east of Augustowo engagements occurred at many places during the pursuit of the enemy. A Russian column advancing from Lomza was defeated. Four hundred prisoners and six machine guns feel into our hands. A division of the enemy coming from Krajewe also was driven back toward Assowaic.

Big Battle Is Developing. "On the conquered front from Plock to Racions, in Poland north of the Vis-tula, bitter fighting apparently is de-

tola, bitter lighting apparency, veloping.
"In Poland, to the south of the Vistula, there are no new developments."
"In a nine-days' battle in the Mazurian Lake district the Russian tenth army, consisting of at least it infantry and several cavalry divisions, not only was driven out of strongly entrenched positions east of the Mazurian Lake plateau, but was forced back across the feorities.

frontier.

"Htterly defeated at almost every point, only the remnants of the army managed to reach the woods east of Suwalki and Augustowe, where they are being pursued. The number of prisoners taken has not been ascertained, but certainly exceeds 50,000. More than 50 cannon and 60 machine gans, besides an unknown quantity of war material, were captured.

Kaiper Sees Victory.

*Emperor William was present during the decisive fighting in the center of our line. The victory was won by veteran East Prussian treeps, assisted by other troops, who were young for such work, but proved their worth.

"The achievements of these troops under fearful weather conditions, marching by day and night and fighting against such a slubborn enemy, are beyond all praise." Kniser Sees Victory.

beyond all praise."

"Field Marshal Von Hindenburg directed the operations with masterly skill and he was brilliantly assisted by Generals von Eichhern and Von Ruelew." Buelow."

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CHAT NO. 11

N these days of hurry-scurry we like change. That is why I have inaugurated a new policy: At the Peoples we shall continue to run famous players in famous plays, like Gaby Deslys in "Her Triumph" this week, or like Blanche Sweet in "The Warrens of Virginia" next week,

But at the Star I intend to offer variety, change-love, drama, comedy, sensation-in other words, the best blended bill money will buy on the market.

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You remember the famous old morality plays, such as "Every Man"? Well, over at the Star today—and until Saturday—you will find a modern morality play: "Every Girl," in which Love. Conceit, Pleasure, Work and other thought characters appear in modern garb. "Every Girl" is a stenographer and the play gives an idea of the temptations the average stenographer faces. Mary Fuller is a very beautiful "Every Girl."

"Terrors of the Jungle" is a two-act animal drama with untrained lions and tigers, while "The Awaited Hour" features Violet Mersereau.

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