

# CITY-WIDE SEARCH FOR ANOTHER MISSING GIRL

Showers and warmer to-night; fair to-morrow.



## The Evening World



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# COCCHI'S ESCAPE AFTER CRUGER CRIME AIDED BY TANGLE OF POLICE RED TAPE

## FRIGHTENED COAL BARONS PROMISE TO LOWER PRICES; \$600,000,000 GOUGE ASKED

### "Operators Are Human," One Tells Senate Committee, Admitting the Present Rates Are Charged Because of "Lean Years."

WASHINGTON, June 26.—Alarmed by the rapidly rising public indignation confronted by governmental inquiries and fearing State prosecutions, the coal barons of the country hastened to Washington to-day with promises to be good and reduce their outrageous prices.

They met under the cloak of semi-official authority, having been called together by F. S. Peabody, Chairman of the Advisory Coal Committee of the National Defense Council, most of whose members are coal operators. The demand of this committee and its associates, however, is that price regulation be left to them and they will restore conditions more nearly to normal if they are allowed to violate the Sherman Anti-Trust Law sufficient to form combinations and the Government does not seize their property and fix prices.

Other branches of Federal and State authority are skeptical of the operators' promises. This sentiment was plainly in evidence to-day when the Senate Committee on Inter-State Commerce began an inquiry into extortionate coal prices and summoned for its first witness, C. M. Moderwell, of Chicago, a leading operator of the Middle West and member of the Peabody Committee.

From him the Senators obtained admission that present prices have no relation to cost of production and are all that can be wrung from the public. The coal men have had lean years and they are now endeavoring to reap a harvest, taking advantage of the war emergency.

While the witness would not state definitely what price the operators will fix if the public is consigned to their mercy, he gave it as his own view that they should be allowed \$1 a ton profit. To this amazing demand, Senator Pomerene of Ohio answered:

"The total coal output this year is estimated at 600,000,000 tons. That would mean \$600,000,000 profit or tax of \$6 a year on every man, woman and child in the United States."

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## BRITISH CAPTURE TOWN NEAR LENS; FRENCH ALSO GAIN

### Canadian Troops Force Germans Back on Line Nearly Two Miles Long.

CANADIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, June 26.—Canadian troops entered the village of La Coulotte this morning. The Germans have withdrawn in this neighborhood from a line about one and three-quarters miles long. [The captured village is one mile south of Lens.]

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, June 26.—The British are closing in about Lens. After the capture on Sunday of Fosse 2 and enemy trenches west from the hill and from the lines immediately south of the Souchez River several new positions have been occupied in this region near Lens. Patrols are advancing across the plains in an easterly direction. Thus the great mining centre is being slowly encircled. For weeks Lens has not been exploited economically by the Germans and now it is directly menaced by the military.

LONDON, June 26.—"There was a successful local operation last night northwest of Fontaine-lez-Croisilles, resulting in the capture of a number of German prisoners," says to-day's official statement. "A hostile raiding party was repulsed in the night west of La Bassee."

French Capture German Trenches in Sudden Drive Near Laon. PARIS, June 26.—Suddenly assuming the offensive over a wide front northwest of Hurtlebise, French forces last night captured front line German trenches and completely attained all objectives. Following is to-day's statement from the War Office:

"On Monday evening, following a short period of artillery preparation northwest of Hurtlebise, the French brilliantly attacked on a strongly organized front and took all objectives almost instantly. The first line of the enemy was completely captured.

"The enemy, surprised at the rapidity of our attack, lost heavily. Three hundred prisoners, including ten officers, were captured.

"Counter-attacks, following an intense bombardment of the two flanks on this front, were stopped by our fire."

"The French coup was executed at one extremely of a front on which the Germans up until Sunday had for five days been waging a tremendous counter-offensive movement. Hurtlebise lies on the Chemin des Dames, southeast of Laon, and very close to Croisnoe. The dominating positions along this highway were taken by the French in their great offensive drive of April and because of the constant menace of further French progress which would very soon come around Laon, the Germans have striven desperately to recapture them."

Berlin Claims That Lost Ground Was Regained. BERLIN (via London), June 26.—"In spite of severe losses which the enemy's storming waves suffered he penetrated our line at some places northwest of Hurtlebise," to-day's War Office statement asserted. "An immediate counter-attack, however, drove him out."

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## Police Are Rushed to Solve Mystery of Girl Missing From Riverside Drive Home

### Cecilia Pewthers Fails to Return After Auto Ride and Chauffeur Is Held.

Twenty-five detectives and fifty policemen were assigned this afternoon to search for sixteen-year-old Cecilia Pewthers, stepdaughter of Robert Pewthers, superintendent of an apartment house at No. 730 Riverside Drive, who has been missing from her home since last Sunday afternoon.

The girl, known by her stepfather's name but whose real name is Stratley, was last seen in company with Thomas Cooney, a chauffeur of No. 600 West One Hundred and Thirty-third Street.

Cooney, who was held in Washington Heights Court to-day on a charge of abduction preferred by Pewthers, admits, the police say, having been with the girl, but insists she left him about midnight Sunday night to return to her home. District Attorney Swann's attention was called to the case by one of his assistants, Mr. Weller, and the activity of the police this afternoon is believed to be the result of a communication from the District Attorney's office.

So far as the police can learn Cooney met the girl for the first time last Sunday afternoon. He is employed as a chauffeur for a Washington Heights family named Cruhl. Last Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Cruhl saw Cooney talking with the Pewthers girl and told him he might bring her along with them on a ride to College Point. They again permitted him to take her with them on a night trip to Coney Island, after Cooney, it is alleged, assured them he had obtained the consent of the girl's mother.

The police say Cooney has now admitted never having obtained permission from the girl's mother. During the time he was supposed to be seeking this permission the police say he and Miss Pewthers were dining in an uptown restaurant. Cooney drove his employers and Miss Pewthers back to the city about midnight Sunday, and after dropping Mr. and Mrs. Cruhl at their home, started away with the girl. He insists Miss Pewthers left him shortly afterward.

Cooney's brother has told Assistant District Attorney Weller the chauffeur did not return home Sunday night.

## CABINET TAKES UP CHARGE THAT DRAFT PLAN IS UNFAIR

### Too Great a Burden on Native-Born Americans, Declares Boston's Ex-Mayor.

WASHINGTON, June 26.—Alleged unfair features of the selective conscription plan were considered at to-day's Cabinet meeting. On representations of former Mayor Fitzgerald of Boston that the exemption regulations placed too great a burden on native born Americans, changes may be made. Elimination of aliens who have declared their intention of becoming citizens has aroused protest.

The quota of men for the National Army is based upon the total number of males in a town or city. No allowance is made for the alien population provided there is a large foreign population in many manufacturing towns, conscription will take almost every native born man. This is characterized as unfair.

## 12 HEAVY QUAKE SHOCKS RECORDED IN NEW YORK

Earthquake shocks continued nearly one hour were recorded to-day on the seismograph of the New York Academy of Sciences at the American Museum of Natural History. It was announced by Dr. Chester A. Reed, Assistant Curator of Geology of the Museum.

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## PRIEST DENIES TO SWANN THAT HE HARBORED SLAYER AFTER HEARING CONFESSION

### Detective Lagarenne Admits at Wallstein Inquiry Police Worked in Complete Circle in Search for Fugitive Motorcycle Repair Man.

## GOVERNMENT TAKES FIRST STEP FOR EXTRADITION

The police worked in a complete circle in trying to solve the disappearance of Ruth Cruger, Detective Lagarenne of the Fourth Branch Bureau admitted this afternoon at the inquiry under way before Commissioner Wallstein, who is seeking to place the responsibility for the bungling of the case.

Lagarenne, who was assigned to the case when the girl's disappearance was reported, said that his suspicions were aroused against Cocchi when the latter dropped out of sight. Previously he had held to the theory that Ruth Cruger had "gone away with a man in a taxicab." Though he was suspicious of Cocchi, he said, he had no right to assume a crime had been committed and send out a general alarm for the repair man because the missing girl's body had not been found. On the other hand, it was necessary to establish a crime before looking for the body.

## WIFE BEGS COCCHI TO REVEAL ALL FOR SAKE OF HIS BABIES

Mrs. Cocchi to-day turned over to District Attorney Swann a copy of a letter she has sent to her brother-in-law, Aldo Barondini, at Bologna, Italy, urging him to see her husband, Alfredo, and impress him with the necessity of forwarding to her all the details concerning the murder of Ruth Cruger.

The letter, extremely pathetic in its reference to her plight, begs the brother-in-law to persuade her husband to make a clean breast of the events preceding and following the crime, giving the names of any accomplices, to the end that the authorities here may permit her to return to her babies.

"Tell Al," the letter states, "that when he went away I was penniless. I struggled along the best I knew how until I sold the shop. Then I was beginning to be happy. Then they found the girl's body and since then I have been a prisoner and my babies have been taken from me."

"Get from Al all he knows about the murder. Tell him to send me everything, particularly the names of any one who was in it with him. Ask him who aided him in escaping, who gave him the money to go back to Italy and who gave him the money for the new clothes he wore."

"Please tell him to give me everything he knows so as to clear his conscience and also the names of his babies and their mother. If Al does this they will let me return to my babies."

Father Moretto revealed, though, that the Cruger family, investigating Cocchi through private detectives, learned that the priest had performed Cocchi's marriage and that Miss Helen Cruger called on him after Cocchi had disappeared. He did not tell her that Cocchi had come to him to confess. He told her he did not know Cocchi.

"Why did you tell her that?" asked the District Attorney. "Because I told her the truth it

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