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# Richmond Times-Dispatch

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67th YEAR VOLUME 67 NUMBER 161 RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1917.—TEN PAGES. WEATHER PAGE 5 —FAIR PRICE, TWO CENTS

## I. C. C. REFUSES RATE INCREASES ASKED BY ROADS

### Proposed 15 Per Cent Advance Suspended Until October 28.

### NO EMERGENCY EXISTS TO JUSTIFY APPROVAL

### Gloomy Forecasts of Jeopardized Incomes Not Borne Out by Figures.

### CERTAIN RELIEF IS GRANTED

### Eastern Lines Allowed Higher Tariffs on Class Rates, and Southern on Coal.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, June 29.—The Interstate Commerce Commission to-day denied the plea of the railroads of the United States for a horizontal increase of 15 per cent in freight rates.

In its decision the commission indicated its willingness to increase class rates in the Eastern district approximately 14 per cent. Since about one-fourth of the freight handled is moved under class rates, the decision virtually allows the Eastern lines about a 4 per cent increase in gross freight revenue. Increases sought in rates on coal, coke and iron ore will be granted. In the Southern district an increase of 15 per cent on coal, with a maximum of 15 cents a ton, was permitted.

The commission found, as a result of extended hearings, that the carriers generally show a substantial and increasing financial prosperity, and that they have ample resources with which to conduct transportation.

Little sympathy was given the arguments of the roads that they were victims of war. The commission is holding that the carriers have profited by the mobilization of troops.

The commission suspended the proposed tariffs until October 25, but it indicated that no rehearing of the case will be of value at this time, and suggested cancellation of the tariffs if the commission finds that the gloomy forecasts of jeopardized incomes seen by railroad officials early in 1917 have not been borne out by the figures available for later months. The proceedings were brought in March, when returns from February were just being made. February was one of the worst months in railroad history.

### INCREASING REVENUES IN SUBSEQUENT MONTHS

The subsequent months have shown increasing revenues, while expenses have, in many cases, failed to mount to the extent the carriers' officials feared.

The decision points out that the carriers' comparisons have been largely with those of 1916, which was the banner year in railroad earnings, and add that the 1917 income might be considerably diminished without necessarily indicating a danger point in earnings.

Commissioner Harlan, in a concurring statement, declared that about the next few months show that the railroad men's fears were well founded, the commission would be ready to grant relief. He also made a plea for better equipment and service.

Commissioner Meyer, dissenting in part, disagreed with the commission's holding that an emergency exists for Eastern roads of such character as to make it imperative to authorize even the increased class rates sanctioned by the majority. He stated that there is not proof that the returns of the carriers of the East for this year may not be more favorable than the net returns for all but a small number of years in their entire history.

Commissioner McChord, also dissenting, urged that the commission report to Congress the essential facts disclosed and ask that an investigation be made to determine whether prices demanded of the carriers for fuel and supplies are reasonable under present conditions. He also intimated that government control of these commodities might afford relief.

### RAISES IN CLASS RATES

### FORMALLY AUTHORIZED

The commission authorizes the following raises in class rates: For points north of the Ohio, east of the Mississippi—first class, from 78.5 to 90; second class, from 63.3 to 75; third class, from 52.5 to 60; fourth class, from 36.5 to 42; fifth class, from 22.5 to 26; sixth class, from 25.06 to 30 cents per 100 pounds. The commission found it general that the effects of the Adamson eight-hour basic day and of the increased cost of fuel, supplies and materials had not affected the Southern and Western carriers as greatly as it affected the Eastern carriers.

The decision, in part, follows: "Only a most urgent and extraordinary situation would justify tariffs carrying a large percentage increase to become effective. This record does not disclose the existence of a situation requiring so heroic a remedy. . . . The emergency which the carriers believed existed when these proceedings were initiated was attributed by some primarily to the war in Europe. It has not been shown that military transportation has been in the past, or likely to be in the future, a financial burden to the carriers. . . . On the contrary, certain facts were referred to which indicated that the transportation of troops has been more remunerative during certain mobilizations in the past than ordinary passenger transportation. . . . An examination of the operating results of individual carriers shows that certain of them have lacked prosperity, while others have been affluent. . . . (Continued on Second Page.)"

## PRESIDENT CHECKS "BONE DRY" MOVE

### Asks Prohibition Leaders to Drop Fight Against Beer and Light Wines.

### IN ORDER TO PREVENT DELAY

### Writes Dr. Cannon That Immediate Passage of Food Bill Is Vital for Nation.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, June 29.—Intervention of President Wilson to-day checked the "bone dry" national prohibition movement in Congress. Confinement of prohibition legislation to distilled beverages, without interference with manufacture of beer and wines, and it is generally agreed, will result. Prohibition leaders were asked by the President, in order to prevent delay in passing the food control bill, to drop their fight against the manufacture of beer, wines and other light liquors.

With a formal response from the "dry" deferred, Senate leaders of all factions quickly reached an understanding to limit absolute prohibition to distilled spirits.

President Wilson exchanged letters with the Rev. James Cannon, D. D., chairman of the National Anti-Saloon League's legislative committee, and called Senate leaders to the White House in his effort to harmonize differences and smooth the way for final enactment of the food measure.

### ASKED BY SENATOR MARTIN TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS

In his letter to Dr. Cannon, the President said Senator Martin, Democratic leader, had asked him to express his views on the food-liquor legislation regarding "the wisest and most patriotic policy to be pursued," and added: "I regard the immediate passage of the bill as of vital consequence to the safety and defense of the nation. Time is of the essence, and it has become evident that heated and protracted debate will delay the passage of the bill indefinitely if the provisions affecting the manufacture of beer and wines are retained and insisted upon. In these circumstances, I have not hesitated to say to members of the Senate who have been kind enough to consult me that it would undoubtedly be in the public interest in this very critical matter if the friends of those provisions should consent to their elimination from the present measure. Feeling that your country is actuated by the same patriotic motive which inspires me, I am confident that the consideration will seem to you as they seem to me, to be imperative."

### WILLING TO HAVE CONGRESS CLOTHE HIM WITH AUTHORITY

Informal agreement was reached by those of the prohibition forces in the Senate for virtual abandonment of the fight to include beer and wines in the liquor legislation. Their future efforts, it appeared probable, would be directed to securing an amendment authorizing the President to suspend manufacture of malt, fermented and vinous beverages in his discretion. President Wilson told Senators with whom he conferred that as a compromise and to secure action upon the food control legislation, he would be willing to have Congress clothe him with such authority.

A copy of the President's letter to the Anti-Saloon League leader was sent to Senator Martin, and the Senate ward a compromise to-night the so-called "dry" leaders in Congress conferred, and it was expected that tomorrow there would be evolved a definite plan of action.

### PASSAGE EARLY NEXT WEEK

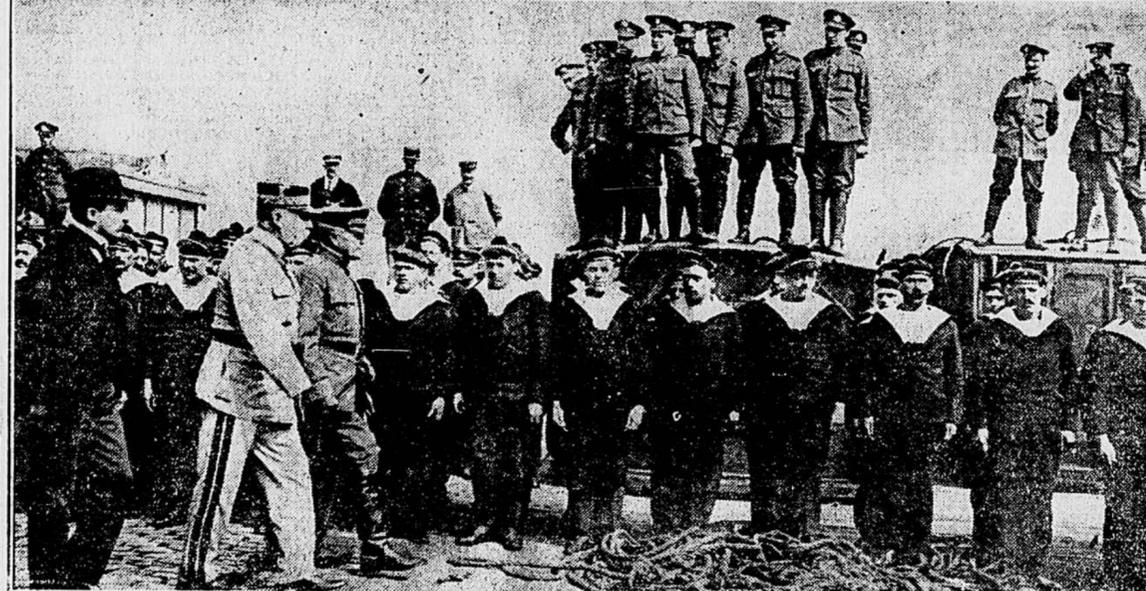
Passage by the Senate of the food measure early next week was confidently expected through the prospective elimination of the great contention over liquor. The general legislation will be taken up in detail tomorrow, and final action upon the liquor sections probably by Tuesday, when leaders expect a final vote.

House leaders, active in to-day's conferences, predicted that body would accede to the President's desire as to beer and wines.

Brief references to the prohibition issue were made during Senate debate to-day by Senators Hardwick, of Georgia, and Reed, of Missouri. The former said the "control" legislation, as well as the prohibition sections, involve "a straight-jacket" for the nation. Senator Reed criticized the press for opposing prohibition, but paying scant attention to the other alleged evils of the bill. Senator Hardwick vigorously attacked the bill in a three-hour speech as "despotic, autocratic, undemocratic and un-American."

Discussion of committee amendments was begun late to-day, and without a roll call the Senate rejected an amendment. (Continued on Third Page.)

## General Pershing Reviews French Marine Gunners



Left to right—M. Rene Bernard, War Secretary; General Pelletier, reviewing French marine gunners on a quay. —Copyright by Underwood & Underwood.

## COAL PRICE REDUCTIONS TO BE RIGIDLY ENFORCED

### Council of National Defense Will Take Quick Measures to Prevent Any Wavering.

### SEEK RELIEF IN ANTHRACITE

### May Get Further Cut to Consumers Through Regulation of Jobbers' and Retailers' Profits—New Figures Not to Apply in Export Trade.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, June 29.—Coal price reductions agreed on yesterday by the country's bituminous producers at a conference with government officials will be strictly enforced.

With the weight of the industry's approval behind the agreement, and certain of the fact that the government will take control if it is not lived up to, the coal committee of the Council of National Defense will take quick measures to prevent any wavering.

The coal committee has given each of its twenty-six members supervision of one coal production district, and every man will be held responsible for prices in his territory. The Federal Trade Commission will be called on for aid if difficulties arise.

The price of anthracite probably will be further reduced to consumers, it was said to-day, through regulation of jobbers' and retailers' profits. The coal committee, the Trade Commission and Secretary Lane expect to call anthracite dealers together soon to work out a plan for furnishing cheaper coal to the household.

### PRICE TO CONSUMER FAR HIGHER THAN NECESSARY

Under an agreement with the Trade Commission, anthracite is selling at the mines now only 30 cents higher than last year, but jobbers and retailers are adding so much to the cost, officials say, the price to the consumer is far higher than it should be.

Bituminous jobbers will not be allowed to raise coal prices beyond the mine price, with the addition of 25 cents a ton. If a consumer has difficulty in getting coal and finds he can get it only by paying some jobber more than the 25 cents profit, the coal committee can be appealed to, and will see that he gets coal direct from the mine at the mine price.

The new prices will not apply in export trade, and will not disturb existing contracts. Export prices, it is believed, however, may be affected if the American government and the allies get together on an agreement to stabilize prices between all the allied countries.

One method of equalizing bituminous prices to the consumer will be sought in a rearrangement of freight hauls. Some Middle Western operators are said to be selling now in the East, while Eastern operators are delivering their product in the Middle West. The coal committee plans an entire rearrangement of shipments to be worked out with the aid of the War Railroad Board.

## ALSATIANS GREET PERSHING

### Proud That Descendant of Their Little Country Is Fighting for Its Restoration.

(By Associated Press.) PARIS, June 29.—Major-General Pershing yesterday received a delegation from the Alsace-Lorraine republican committee. Referring to the American commander's Alsatian ancestry, the vice-president, M. Staehelin, told the general how proud they were that a descendant of their little country had come to fight for the triumph of their inalienable rights, and the restoration to France of the lost provinces.

General Pershing was visibly moved. He said he was most happy to greet representatives of the valiant people who had suffered so deeply because of fidelity to their country, and that he had a warm place in his heart for Alsace, the land of his fathers.

## Army Still Is Silent as to Troops Landing or Plans for Future

### Preparation of Great Forces to Support Those Already in Europe Moving Steadily Ahead.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, June 29.—Reports from Major-General Pershing on the landing of American troops in France still were lacking to-night, and the personal accounts of newspaper correspondents of the scenes at the French port were held up, to wait on official information. Army officials maintained complete silence as to the expedition, or as to plans for future movements of troops.

Marine corps officers were eager to learn whether the regiment of sea soldiers under Colonel Doyen was first into France, and the marines are proud of their record of being first in the field. It is hoped that it has been sustained in the first dispatch of American forces to fight in the Old World.

It appeared possible to-day that a full marine brigade eventually would be sent to France to work as a unit of General Pershing's army. With the total of 30,000 men, enough for a brigade could be spared, and officers and men want to get to the fighting front.

Preparation of the great forces that are to support those already dispatched are moving steadily ahead, both in the army and navy. Announcement to-day that when the National Guard is drafted into Federal service and mobilized it will be sent at once to the divisional training camp sites in the Southeastern, Southern and Western Departments was another step on the road. It will eliminate some delay in making the State troops ready for the front.

### NO ANNOUNCEMENT AS TO USE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

There has been much speculation and no authoritative announcement whatever as to the use to be made of the National Guard. The existing units and those recruited are ready for Federal inspection and recognition, comprise the skeleton of the defense act, and are distributed by States, there would not be more than four or five divisions complete enough to deserve that name.

It seems likely that redistribution and consolidation of the force must be undertaken soon after they pass into the Federal service under the draft clause of the national defense act. Probably twelve or more complete infantry divisions could then be organized. Certainly that number could be presented with the cavalry employed dismounted, as now planned, and used as provisional infantry regiments.

At full war strength the existing regiments would represent a total force of probably 350,000 men. Of that number at least one-third are fairly well seasoned troops, who already have had six or eight months of intensive instruction and active, continuous service on the border. The fact that the guard camps are to be of canvas seems to indicate that it is not expected to keep them in training on this side of the water for a very extended period.

Additional training for numerous guard artillery units soon will be in progress, also, at the various officers' training camps. At least a battalion of field artillery has been ordered to each camp in order that the artillery officer candidates for the national army may have the means of learning the things they must later teach to new forces.

## TO WED AMERICAN WOMAN

### Brother of Former King Constantine of Greece Reported Engaged.

(By Associated Press.) LONDON, June 29.—Special dispatches from Athens say Prince Christopher, brother of former King Constantine of Greece, is coming to London to marry a rich American woman. The Daily Chronicle gives the name of Miss Lally, without details as to her identity.

The prince, who is twenty-nine years old, and an ex-sublieutenant of the Grecian infantry, has twice been reported engaged, each time to a wealthy American woman.

## ALLIES MUST FIGHT ON TO GAIN FULL OBJECTS

### If Peace Comes an Hour Before Their Aims Are Achieved, It Will Be Calamity for Europe.

### LLOYD GEORGE AT GLASGOW

### Declares Germany Wants Peace, but a Peace Which Would Make the Countries She Invaded Subject Nations—Believes Victory Assured.

GLASGOW, June 29.—Premier Lloyd George, in a stirring speech before the Burgesses of the northern metropolis to-day, declared that if peace came an hour before the objects for which Great Britain entered the war had been achieved, it would be a calamity for Europe.

Germany, the Premier said, wanted peace, but a peace which would make the countries she invaded subject nations.

Lloyd George pointed out that no German statesman had promised the restoration of Belgium, and said that the entente allies could enter into a conference with a democratized Germany in a different spirit than they could deal with the Prussian autocracy.

Great Britain, said Lloyd George, could hold out if Germany's submarine war was kept in bounds, and the people practiced frugality.

The public enthusiasm was tempered by unfriendly demonstrations, for Lloyd George had previously incurred the hostility of some sections of the Glasgow laborers in his dealings with them while Minister of Munitions. A crowd of malcontents gathered outside the hall and sang the "Red Flag," but the cheers of the friendly majority drowned their demonstration. Lloyd George, in reply, said:

### MEN AT HEAD OF NATION NEED FULL CO-OPERATION

"Never have good men stood more in need of sympathy, support and co-operation than the men who are guiding the fate of the nation in this hour of all lands. They were called to the helm in a raging tornado, the most destructive that ever swept over the world, on land or sea. Great Britain so far has weathered the storm. She has successfully ridden the waves, but the hurricane is not yet over, and it will need all the efforts, all the skill, all the patience and all the courage and endurance of all on board to steer the country through without foundering in the angry deep."

Lloyd George said he was steeped, morning, noon and night, in the perplexities, difficulties and anxieties of the war.

"All the same," he continued, "I feel that the difficulties will be overcome if we persevere through. . . . As to the military situation, there is no doubt the startling developments in Russia have modified the military situation this year temporarily to our disadvantage, but permanently for the better. What happened on the western front showed what could have been accomplished this year if all the allied forces had been ready to bring all-round pressure to bear. . . . In training, equipment and experience our army is infinitely better than it ever has been. The finest collection of trench-pounding machines which any army has ever seen is now in the possession of the British forces. The Russian revolution, beneficent as it undoubtedly is, great as will be its results both this year and even more hereafter, undoubtedly has had the effect of postponing complete victory."

### RUSSIA MUST BE MORE FORTHWELL

Russia, the Premier proclaimed, now was free and unfettered, and when her distractions passed away she would be more powerful and more formidable than ever. Meanwhile, France, Italy and Great Britain have to bear a greater share of the burden.

"The strength of Great Britain, once (Continued on Second Page.)"

## GREECE SEVERS RELATIONS WITH CENTRAL POWERS

### Apparently Soon Will Take Field Against Them on Side of Allies.

### VENIZOS, NEW PREMIER, FAST FRIEND OF ENTENTE

### Nation's Course Began to Be Shaped With Abdication of King Constantine.

### BACK IN TRADITIONAL PLACE

### Haig Takes 2,000 Yards of German Positions in Region of Oppy.

(By Associated Press.) Greece has severed diplomatic relations with Germany and her allies, and apparently soon will take the field against them on the side of the entente allies. The new Premier, Eleutherios Venizelos, in taking the oath of office, announced that Greece's place was beside democracy.

The British Premier, in a notable speech at Glasgow, reasserted that it was the intention of Great Britain and her allies to continue the war until the objects for which they had entered it were realized. The end of the war before that time, he said, would be a calamity for Europe. During his address the Premier made the significant statement that the entente could enter into conference with a democratized Germany in a different spirit than they could deal with the Prussian autocracy.

The entente powers must fight on until they have reached the end they have set to attain when they accepted Germany's challenge to civilization, declared David Lloyd George in his speech.

To permit the war to come to an end a single hour sooner would be "the greatest disaster that ever befell mankind," he added.

These utterances possess notable significance at this moment, when there have been suggestions that the allied powers fighting Germany might agree to some revision of their previously declared war aims, and at a time when hints have been coming out of Germany that next week's session of the German Reichstag might witness some new statement on the subject of peace by Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg. Possible point to the suggested German peace movement is given by reports of mysterious political happenings within the German empire. The impression has been given that the expected developments would be of a dramatic nature, and the press seems to have been completely muzzled, so far as discussion of political topics is concerned.

"No doubt Germany wants peace," declared the British Premier in his speech, "but it is a peace which would give her economic and other control over the countries which she has invaded."

### FRENCH AND GERMANS IN INTENSIVE FIGHTING

The French and Germans are engaged in intensive fighting in the region of Cerny and Corbeny in the Soissons-Rhems sector, and around hill 304, and in the Avocourt wood, near Verdun, while the British are continuing their operations having the envelopment of Lens as their objective.

The battle around Cerny has been sanguinary, positions several times changing hands, but at last reports remaining in the hands of the Germans, who, after several unsuccessful attempts, won them from the French, but at the cost of heavy casualties.

Southeast of Corbeny the Germans along the Laon-Rhems road also endeavored to force the French line, but here they were repulsed, losing heavily among their men, who were led by picked battalions of storming troops.

According to the Berlin War Office, the Germans have captured French positions along the Malancourt-Esnes road, in the Verdun sector, 2,000 meters in length, to a depth of 500 meters, and repulsed French attacks delivered in an endeavor to regain the lost ground. The claim is also made that in the Avocourt sector the Germans stormed a French position over a front of 300 meters.

Field Marshal Haig's forces in an offensive in the region of Oppy have taken German positions on a front of 2,000 yards, and have forced their way into the town of Avion, two miles south of Lens. In addition successful trench-raiding operations were carried out north of Cherisy and southeast of Loos. In the fighting around Oppy and south of the Souchez River 247 prisoners and twelve machine guns were captured by the British.

Minor operations continue on the Russian, Austro-Italian and Macedonian fronts. Along the Persian-Mesopotamian frontier there has been considerable activity, in which the Turks have forced the Russians to recross the Abis Hirman River south of Baneh.

### GREECE BREAKS RELATIONS WITH CENTRAL POWERS

(By Associated Press.) ATHENS, June 29.—The Greek government has broken diplomatic relations with Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Though war has not yet been declared, the government considers that a state of war exists since its advent to power yesterday. The recall of the Greek diplomatic representatives accredited to the central powers and their allies is imminent.

Greece's new course with regard to the war began to be shaped on June 13 with the abdication of King Con-

(Continued on Second Page.)