

WEATHER  
Fair to-day, probably preceded by showers in the morning; to-morrow fair; not much change in the temperature. Fresh south to southwest winds.  
Full Report on Page 9

# New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News · Editorials · Advertisements

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1917

CIRCULATION  
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## Teutons Fight Desperately To Save Lens

### Flood Fields, Raze Buildings to Meet Final Attack

### British Vise Slowly Closing on the City

### Canadians Capture La Coulotte, Mile from the Coveted Position

(By The Associated Press.)  
British Headquarters in France, June 26.—Realizing his danger the German commander is fighting for Lens like a wolf in a corner. Lens gone means that a large sector will have to be abandoned. So, inside a salient somewhat resembling the shape of a dog's head the Germans are hanging on, apparently determined to hold until the last hope goes glimmering.

The Canadians took La Coulotte, one mile from Lens, this morning at 7 o'clock, their patrols pushing on eastward toward Avion, while other British troops advanced down the eastern slope of Hill 65.

The Germans have extended the floods with water from the River Souchez until the plain between Avion and Lens is well covered. The mill city on the western fringe of Lens has been razed by order of the German higher command, so that the machine guns may have a clear sweep as the British as they approach. Lens itself is a mass of ruins. The walls still stand, but the city is roofless, making airplane photographs resemble a bird's-eye view of Pompeii.

Rows of houses have been levelled that the field guns may obtain wider ranges. The entire city has been converted into a German fortress, in which each ruined house is a machine gun emplacement and every cellar and subterranean a refuge.

For weeks the British refrained from shelling Lens, but the Germans, taking advantage of the sentiment staying the hands of the English, brought their guns into the town, razing the houses about the gun pits and then blazed away safely. Recently, therefore, the British guns have trained their sights on the gun positions hidden in the mining capital.

The German losses in the Lens salient are heavy, and new drafts are constantly demanded.

Prisoners say that they have been promised peace definitely by September.

### Germans Quit Line Along Souchez River

London, June 26.—The Germans withdrew last night from positions astride the Souchez River, south of Lens, along a front of two miles and to a depth of 1,000 yards.

The evacuated ground was immediately occupied by the Canadians, including the village of La Coulotte, one mile south of Lens. The British are now rapidly encircling the great coal centre of Northern France on the south and east.

Canadian troops this morning entered the village of La Coulotte and pushed their patrol out on the heels of the retreating enemy south of the Souchez River, opposite Mericourt, and the roads linking that village with Avion and Lens. Along this line the German retirement came to a halt in strong positions previously prepared.

Reservoir Hill, the most powerful outpost in the ring of defenses around Lens, fell into the hands of the Canadian troops early last evening. At the summit of the height without encountering opposition, and quickly pressed down the eastern slope. Meanwhile, other detachments pushed forward south of the Souchez River, and reached the summit of the Lens Electric Station, and continued their advance to La Coulotte, which was reached about dawn.

### Italian Battles and Other War News on Page 4

## Root's Prediction of 500,000 U. S. Fighters For France Confirmed

(From The Tribune Bureau.)  
Washington, June 26.—According to officials of the War Department, Elibee Root spoke advisedly in predicting before the Russian War Industrial Committee that the United States soon would have 500,000 fighting men in Europe.

Mr. Root's statements affecting the military preparations of the United States were based, it was stated today, upon intelligence he has received from Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the army, who is President Wilson's military representative on the mission to Russia. Until Mr. Root spoke it was known here to what extent the War Department had prepared to transport troops to France. It was indicated to-day that the minimum number set by military estimates as necessary to insure an effective force was 500,000. Even that number is no more than the smaller nations, such as Serbia, employ in war.

## 'U. S. Troops at Front' Mentioned in Commons

London, June 26.—Asked by Joseph King, Liberal member for North Somerset, in the House of Commons to-day whether "the American soldiers now on the Western front are under the supreme command of the French generalissimo or General Haig or the American general," Henry William Foster, financial secretary of war, replied:

"The American government will doubtless make suitable arrangements as to the disposal of their forces when they consider it opportune to do so."

Continuing to question the Secretary, Mr. King asked:

"Does that imply that he doesn't know what the answer is?"

Mr. Foster answered: "It means I do not think it desirable to say."

## A SETTING OF EGGS WE'D LIKE HATCHED RIGHT AWAY



## Germans in N. Y. Selling Insurance Against U-Boats

### Enemy Underwriting Concern Kept in Full Touch with American Shipping

German insurance companies are doing in this country perhaps the weirdest business in all the history of underwriting.

Owning in Germany, managed in New York by German citizens, they are insuring armed American merchantmen and their cargoes against destruction at sea by German U-boats.

To do so, they must have full information as to the nature of the cargoes and the ports for which the vessels are sailing, and information also as to the time of sailing, and the probable route to be taken is, of course, accessible to them.

The enemy companies doing business in New York are:

The Mannheim Insurance Company, of Mannheim, Germany.

The Nord-Deutsche Insurance Company, of Hamburg, Germany.

The Alliance Insurance Company, of Berlin.

F. Herrmann & Co., of 37 Wall Street are the managers of the two first named. J. Raymond Smith, an American citizen, looks after the affairs of the third from offices at 15 William Street.

### By the President's Permission

These enemy companies are doing business by direct permission of President Wilson. In a special proclamation on April 6, the day war was declared, the President said:

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the United States laws, do hereby declare that the several companies of German insurance companies now engaged in the transaction of business in the United States, and the laws of the several states, are hereby authorized and permitted to continue the transaction of their business in accordance with the laws of such states in the same manner and to the same extent as though a state of war did not now exist."

Consequently, the business of these enemy companies has not for a moment been interrupted, nor has any channel of information relative to the movements of their ships or ships of war been closed to them. All that is required of them is that they shall send no money to Germany. Inasmuch as it is a physical impossibility for them to transmit money, this limitation is more theoretical than real in its effect.

### The Practice Defended

That there is nothing improper in German marine insurance companies being allowed to do business as usual is asserted by Paul Wolf, He, together with Franz Herrmann and Charles A. Orr, constitutes the firm of Herrmann & Co. Mr. Wolf, like the head of his house, is an unnaturalized German, who has resided in the United States many years.

"The President," said he, "ought to be good enough American for anybody, and he sees no reason why he should be interfered with. In truth, we have had no dealings with the home office for two years. All of the assets of this branch are in this country, all of the moneys we take in are kept

## Dewey's Flagship Olympia Aground Off Block Island

### Machinist's Mate Is Killed Trying to Get Out—Portion of Crew Is Taken Off and Sent to Naval Station at Newport

Block Island, R. I., June 26.—The United States cruiser Olympia, Admiral Dewey's flagship at the battle of Manila, ran ashore in the fog off Block Island early to-day. The cruiser was reported in a bad position, with considerable water in her hold. Chief Machinist's Mate William M. Babb lost his life when he was hit on the head by a falling hatch. No other fatalities were reported.

Warships and wrecking vessels are standing by the ship to-night. The sea remained calm, but it was reported that as a precautionary measure a part of the crew had been taken off.

The Olympia put out yesterday for target practice. Details of her exact position could not be learned here.

The Olympia was recently assigned as the flagship of the coast patrol fleet of the 2d Naval District. Immediately after she had flashed out word of her accident members of the patrol fleet were going to her assistance, but it was found that the famous old warship was in no immediate danger of breaking up.

Babb was killed as he was hurrying on deck. His next of kin is his mother, Mrs. Sarah Babb, who lives in Reading, Penn.

### Navy Reports Olympia Not in Great Danger

Washington, June 26.—Reports to the Navy Department to-night indicated that while the Olympia was seriously damaged by grounding, she was resting easily in shoal water and in no further danger. The department announced the accident in this statement:

"Monday p. m. U. S. S. Olympia struck south of Cerberus Shoal Buoy in Block Island Sound. Port engine and firerooms flooded after ship lifted ten degrees. Ship was then in shoal water for observation and is now resting easily in four and one-half fathoms or edge of shoal."

## Prussian Hunger Riots Were Quelled By Machine Guns

Gothenburg, Sweden, June 26.—According to further details given in the newspaper "Tidning" by a resident in Gothenburg who saw them, the recent hunger riots in Stettin were of a most serious nature. Several persons were killed.

The riots began June 18. The mob was composed largely of women, although some men took part in the disorders. The outbreak had its origin in rumors that foodstuffs had been exported. The mob plundered shops and broke windows. The police in the outlying parts of the city fought to quell the riots. One girl was reported to have been stabbed with a sword. In the central part of the city the soldiers used machine guns and bayonets, and several persons are reported to have been killed near the Hansa bridge.

## Ex-Czar's Favorite Sues Government For Holding Palace

Petrograd, June 26.—Mademoiselle Khesinska, the dancer and favorite of the former Czar, has sued the Provisional Government for two million rubles, owing to its failure to eject the followers of Nikolai Lenin, the radical Socialist leader, from her palace, which they occupied during the revolution; and the refusal of the military authorities to send troops to evict the Leninites.

The legal period for the evacuation of the villa expired to-day, but the Leninites declined to leave.

A dispatch from Petrograd May 29 said that after a long process in the courts, the keys of the palace had been delivered to Mademoiselle Khesinska. At that time Khesinska complained that furs to the value of 227,000 rubles were missing from the palace.

VENUS PENCILS—they're perfect.—Advt.

## Martial Law Is Declared By Alfonso

### Army Called to Quell Disorders Spreading in Spain

### Pro-Republican Movement Grows

### Even Military Forces Infected by the Agitation Against Monarchy

(By Cable to The Tribune.)  
London, June 26.—King Alfonso is in a tight place. Having declared martial law in Spain, he must now depend upon his army to maintain order. But the army is far from being loyal, and anything is likely to happen to the country now.

Although there is much talk about pro-German influences inciting the people to disorder, and undoubtedly some of it is true, the chaotic situation is due largely to domestic affairs. The army officers are supposed to be friendly toward Germany, but the real cause of their antagonism toward the King is his failure to grant their demands.

The anti-dynastic and pro-republican movement which has sprung up in Russia has spread westward and is beating hard against the walls of the Spanish monarchy. Socialism is infecting the ranks of the army, and if the present situation continues King Alfonso will have the greatest trouble getting his decrees enforced.

### Former Attempt Failed

In 1868, when constitutional guarantees were formally suspended in Spain, the trouble was due to discontent in the army. During the six years following Spain passed through a period of grave unrest and disorder, during which Prince Amedeo of Savoy resigned from the throne and the republicans tried unsuccessfully to run the country, three Presidents attempting to pile the state and falling.

The republican movement is better organized to-day. It has learned much from the lessons of recent events in Europe, and it has skilled leaders at the head. One of the first moves of the Cabinet made under martial law was to put a strict censorship on all newspapers, forbidding the publication of any news of disorders. But no Spanish censorship can approach in severity the heavy hand laid on the Russian press up to February—and yet the revolution came in that country.

Whatever his shortcomings, King Alfonso has no lack of courage, and his attempt to rule with an iron hand and bring order out of the chaos of anti-liberalism and anti-monarchy may prove more successful than a policy of concession.

## Press and Agitators Blamed by Government For Disorder in Spain

(By The Associated Press.)  
Madrid, June 26.—The government yesterday decided to suspend constitutional guarantees. Premier Dato went to the palace to obtain the King's signature to the decree authorizing the suspension.

The reason for this action is outlined in the following official note issued to-day by the Cabinet:

"Following reports from various provinces, according to which campaigns of agitation have been conducted by well known persons, who have excited violence and provoked disorder, and outbreaks on the part of a certain section of the press, which has been publishing deplorable articles attacking the fundamentals of social order and tending to destroy military discipline and to present Spain as a country undermined by the passion of revolution and ripe for the outbreak of violence and crime, the government, after an examination of all the circumstances that menace public order in various ways, believes it indispensable to tranquility to decree the suspension of the guarantees."

Count Romanones has written a letter to the president of the Senate resigning from his position as director of the Liberal party and asking for the appointment of a committee to take his place.

The suspension of the constitutional guarantees has been followed by the announcement of a new and rigid censorship upon all military information, the movement of troops, the attitude of Spain toward the European war and the movement of warships as well as strike meetings and the agitation of political societies.

## There and Back

From the letter of an American nurse in London:  
To-night, riding down the Strand, we passed a string of ambulances, all brightly lit and each containing four men, some so bandaged it was quite impossible to distinguish anything but a muddled heap of bandages. On the opposite side of the road men in full kit were marching toward the station to go out, trudging along, singing, as they always do. It's just a great circle, marching them out and carrying them back."

## Adams and Arizona-Ray

Just another copper wildcat didn't interest Samuel Hopkins Adams particularly till he met a certain little man in a desert.

What Adams found out about Arizona-Ray makes decidedly interesting, not to say fascinating, reading.

You will get this better-than-fiction story in next Sunday's Tribune—that is, if you surely remind your newsdealer. Speak to him to-day.

## The Sunday Tribune

## Wilson Can Make National Dry Under the Senate's Food Bill; Coal Men Agree to Put Prices Under Government Control

### Operators, Warned by Lane That U. S. Is Prepared to Take Over Mines, Agree to Fix Lower Scale—Admit Public Has Been Overcharged Up to 100 Per Cent—'Making Up for Lean Years,' Their Excuse

### U. S. Trade Board To Begin Inquiry On Cost of Steel

### Lumber Also To Be Taken Up—Price Fixing for Staples May Result—Voluntary Plan for Pooling Interests Suggested to Producers

(From The Tribune Bureau.)  
Washington, June 26.—The Federal Trade Commission will begin immediately an investigation of the cost of steel and lumber production, it was officially announced to-day. Later, it was intimated, there will be cost investigations of the production of all staple and raw materials essential to the prosecution of the war. These investigations are preliminary to the fixing of maximum prices on certain raw materials.

One of the most difficult problems confronting the government is that of determining the price the government is to pay for steel to be used in the shipbuilding and munitions programmes. The cost of production varies so greatly between the larger plants and the smaller that a price permitting handsome profits to the larger companies would drive many of the smaller concerns out of business.

### May Commander Pig Iron

It is considered probable that the final solution of the steel problem will be the commandeering of all pig iron by the government. With the cost of production of steel determined by the Trade Commission, the government will then be in a position, through control of the raw product, to fix a steel price which will insure maximum production without imposing unfair burdens on any producer.

### Warned United States Will Act

The operators' action, in the form of a formal resolution adopted amid applause, came at the close of an all-day conference which opened with addresses by Secretaries Lane and Daniels, John T. Port, of the Federal Trade Commission, and Assistant Attorney General Lewis, all of whom frankly warned the producers that unless they themselves established a fair selling price and proper regulation of the industry, their output would be taken over by the government.

The meeting was called by the Defense Council's committee for a discussion of methods of reducing the price of coal for the government. It was presided over by Frank S. Peabody, of Chicago, chairman of the committee. While it was in progress the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, beginning its inquiry into the cost of production of raw materials, was holding its first hearing with coal operators and miners as witnesses.

Both at the operators' meeting and before the committee the solution of the greater production problem was declared to be more railroad cars. Car shortage was blamed for restricting the output of mines everywhere.

### To Organize Operators

Sessions of the operators will be continued to-morrow. One of the things considered is a motion declaring "that it is the sense of this meeting that they earnestly request every operator in the United States to join the National Coal Operators' Association."

Representatives of each coal producing state held meetings to-night to choose committees in accordance with the resolutions adopted and will report to-morrow.

Secretary Lane minced no words in telling the coal men they should be patriotic enough to forego profits for successful conduct of the war.

"The success of the country in this great war," he said, "rests on you and you are responsible just the same as the soldiers in the trenches. Pershing in France, or the President in the White House, is a serious coal operator. How much vision have you? Are you small or big? Are you petty politicians or statesmen?"

### Demands New Adjustment

"The country will not stand anything but a large policy from large men. There must be some new adjustment at the head of the industry. When you buy and mine are going to the front is no time for you to reap an advantage, even when it comes under normal demands of trade. The life of the nation is at stake and there are greater things that make and there are greater men who will say to me: 'You can send your boy to France while I stay here and coin his blood to dollars.' To be an American citizen is not merely to make a million dollars, but it is to uphold the arm of the man who is asking the fight for his country."

C. M. Maderwell, a Chicago coal operator, predicted a serious coal shortage if action is taken. He believed an arbitrary price now was undesirable. Fear of prosecution under the Sherman law prevents the operators agreeing among themselves to bring down the price, he declared.

Chairman Newlands expressed the opinion that the Attorney General would not construe the Sherman law in that way.

"If I think if the Attorney General would tell us that the law would not be used against us we could bring down the price of coal very quickly," Mr. Maderwell replied. He added that the coal situation was in part caused by the fact that the mines operate only eight hours a day, while a majority of industries are in operation twenty-four hours a day. Capacity of the mines is about 40 per cent more than present production, but he doubted if they would be able to reach maximum production for lack of railroad transportation.

"What is the average increase in the price of coal to the consumer?" asked Senator Fomeregher.

"It has been very large," he replied. "I would say that it has been from 75 to 100 per cent, but that is only an estimate."

"How do you justify the increase?"

## Iron and Steel Put Under Control of the President, as Well as Oil and Its Products and Farming Machinery—Close Vote on New Measure Is Now Predicted When It Comes Up on Saturday for Final Passage

Washington, June 26.—The Administration food control bill passed by the House was rewritten to-day by a Senate Agricultural sub-committee so as to give to President Wilson the power and responsibility of deciding whether the nation shall be "bone dry" during the war and to place iron and steel and many other products in addition to food and fuel under government control.

These and other changes are so satisfactory to many Senators who have been opposing the original draft of the legislation that both advocates and opponents to-night predicted passage in the Senate by Saturday.

As a substitute for the House prohibition sections, which without qualification forbid the manufacture of foodstuffs into liquor, the sub-committee adopted provisions which would prohibit manufacture, during the war, of all intoxicating beverages, and empower the President to commandeer existing supplies of distilled spirits, but would authorize the Executive in his discretion to permit manufacture of malted, fermented and vinous beverages, and fix their alcoholic content.

As rewritten the sub-committee draft will be considered to-morrow by the Agriculture Committee, and probably will be reported at once for Senate discussion without material change.

### Gore for New Bill

Senators Gore, Smith, of Georgia, and others prominent in the bitter fight against the legislation have announced their support for the re-drafted measure.

Other signs of waning opposition and prompt Senate action came in to-day's debate on the Senate floor, opposition Senators leading recent discussion yielding to Senators Knute Nelson, Republican, and Thomas, Democrat, for speeches strongly supporting the control legislation. Future debate promised to centre upon the prohibition question, with leaders predicting an extremely close final vote.

For the House prohibition plan, the sub-committee substitute provides:

"That from and after thirty days of this act it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to use in the manufacture of any intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes any perishable or non-perishable feeds, foods or food materials."

Whenever the President shall find it necessary to conserve the perishable products thereof he is empowered to permit the use of such products in the manufacture of vinous liquors. Whenever in the judgment of the President the public interest would be conserved thereby he is empowered to permit the limited use of the materials mentioned in the manufacture of malt or fermented liquors and to prescribe the alcoholic content thereof.

### May Take Over Liquors

Another section adopted would authorize the President to take over any or all distilled spirits now in bond, upon payment of a reasonable and just price, to be used for the production of alcohol for war, industrial or other non-beverage purposes.

The thirty-day provision is designed to give that time to the President to decide whether further manufacture of beer, wines and light beverages shall be permitted, and for consumers and manufacturers to prepare for what the President may decide.

Should the President not exert his authority so as to exempt malt, fermented and vinous beverages from the sweeping prohibitory provisions and should commander distilled spirits in bond, "bone-dry" national prohibition—of both manufacture and consumption—would result, entailing a loss of Federal revenue estimated between four and five hundred million of dollars and new taxation measures, as well as local revenue reductions.

Besides the prohibition substitutes, other radical changes made in the House bill included:

Extension of government control in addition to food, feed and fuels to iron and steel and their products, petroleum and its products, farm implements and machinery, fertilizers and hemp, sisal and jute.

Limiting government commandeering of mines, factories and other plants to production necessary for military purposes or "public uses of the common defence."

Limiting Federal licensing to products and agencies of interstate and foreign commerce.

Limiting the power of the government to commandeer foods, feeds and fuels to supplies for the army, navy and other military purposes or "public uses of the common defence," but authorizing their purchase for sale and distribution by the government at reasonable prices to be fixed.

Extending the government's powers to maintain minimum guaranteed prices to producers to the storage or sale and purchase of foods and fuels for resale

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Mr. Maderwell said that for years the coal situation was in part caused by the fact that the mines operate only eight hours a day, while a majority of industries are in operation twenty-four hours a day. Capacity of the mines is about 40 per cent more than present production, but he doubted if they would be able to reach maximum production for lack of railroad transportation.