

TRADE COMMISSION SHARPLY ASSAILED

Federal Body Accused of Usurping Power—President Asked to Act.

INACCURACY IS ALLEGED

Subversion of Justice in Food Inquiry Is Charged; Jurisdiction Alleged Exceeded; Able Men Said to Be Needed.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—Usurpation of power, inefficiency and unjust abuse of business interests are among the charges made against the Federal Trade Commission and laid before President Wilson by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

In a letter to the President, made public tonight by the organization, the directors approve and submit a report denouncing the Trade Commission as an irresponsible body that has lost the confidence of the public and asking the President to remedy this condition by filling two existing vacancies in the membership with able men "whose interests will be single to the commission's work."

The report was prepared by the chamber's Federal trade committee, of which Rush C. Butler, a Chicago lawyer, is chairman. It presents the following seven charges:

Jurisdiction Alleged Exceeded. "The commission has undertaken the exercise of functions beyond its own jurisdiction to the detriment of its proper usefulness.

"The commission has begun the study of important situations but, because of vacillating interest or for other reasons not apparent, has left its work incomplete.

"The commission's procedure, originally orderly and appropriate, has been changed without public notice or notice to Congress.

"The commission has abused its powers of publicity.

"Prominent features of the commission's recent food investigation were subversive of common justice.

"In present information to Congress and the public the commission has been heedless of the accuracy and frankness which its position and the circumstances require.

Purpose Said to Be Lost. "The commission has departed from the fundamental purpose for which it was established.

"The report sets forth that it does not undertake to make in detail specific acts of the commission, but rather to point out mistakes in principles of conduct. The President is assured that the chamber and its committee, which has followed the commission since its organization three years ago, does not represent special business interests.

In support of the charge that the commission has taken on improper functions, the report cites the commission's news print report and its efforts to secure distribution of coal by creation of the Fuel Administration. In both these activities, the report says, the commission was inaccurate in figures of costs and "displayed recklessness alike with National interests and personal rights."

Inquiries Started, Never Finished. Investigations of the lumber industry, of resale price practices and of bituminous coal production were started but never completed, the report says, and these are cited as examples of permitting public interest to suffer and wasting public money.

Charges of unfairness, often initiated by a jealous competitor, the report declares, are preferred by the commission and made public without giving the accused firm advance notice of the charges, or sufficiently definite information on the charges to enable it to make proper answer, while by filing about 180 formal complaints and disposing of only about 30, giving full publicity to the original complaints, with meager removal of the originals, the commission has caused great injustice, injury and confusion.

Espionage Aid Invoiced. "This strange spectacle ended in Chicago in February, 1918, when application was made on behalf of the commission for a search warrant under a section of the espionage act, and the Circuit Court of Appeals quashed the warrant.

"The result of the commission's course was not to give information to the public, but to place the commission in the position of seeking to create prejudice which would support an apparently preconceived purpose to inaugurate Government ownership of the business.

Referring to the commission's recent report to Congress on profiteering, the report says:

"The commission again showed its lack of responsibility by giving such form and content to its report as to make general charges of calumnious nature against business enterprises without supporting its charges with adequate facts.

Sensational Charges Unwarranted. "The commission couched its charges in sensational terms unwarranted by the facts set out. For example, it spoke of 'bare-faced fraud,' 'monopolistic control,' 'manipulation of the markets by illegal devices,' and 'preying with shameful avarice upon consumers.'

"It even resorted to hearsay in reciting, it is understood, that producers of airplane spruce in the Northwest have taken advantage of allied governments.

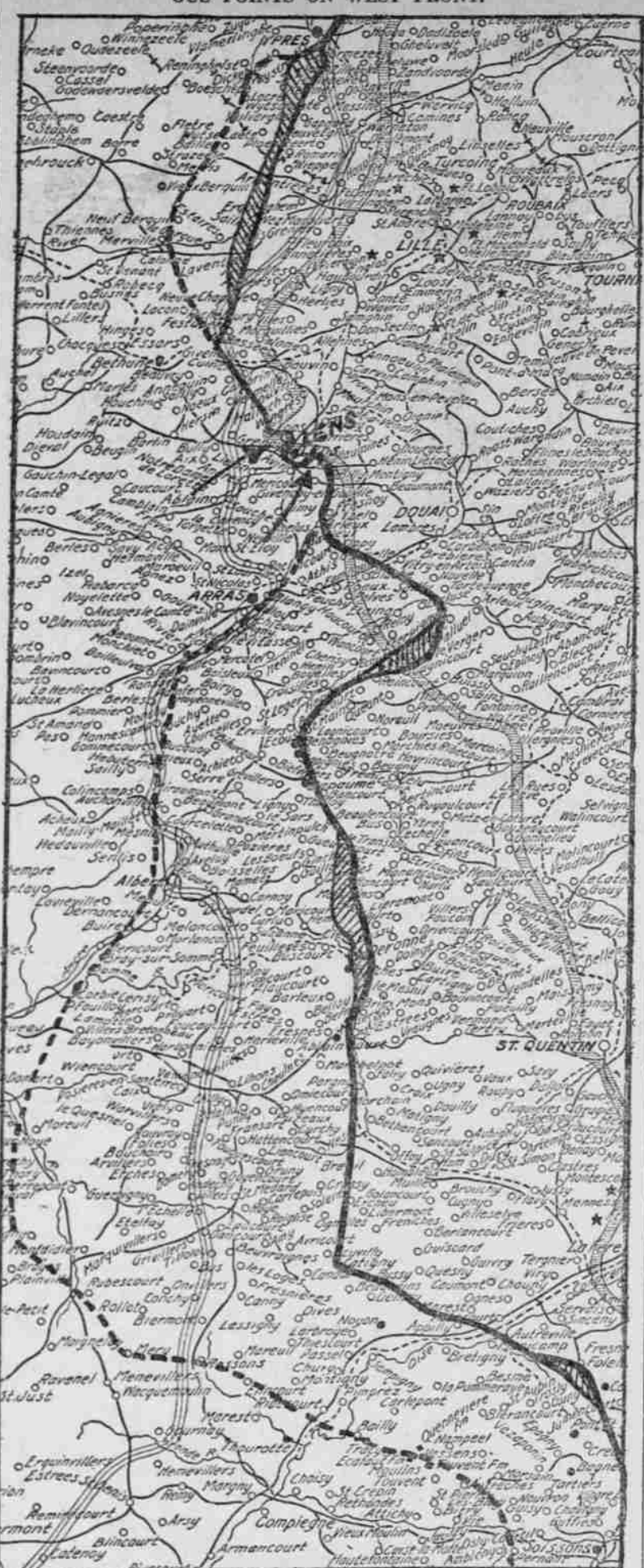
"Intrinsic faults in this report are even more serious. The commission criticized the principle of fixed prices, which every other agency of the Government has approved as a means of once regulating the market and obtaining the increased production the Nation requires. It finds the profits of producers of Southern pine unusually and unnecessarily large, yet the price-fixing committee of the Government, having before it the commission's own figures of costs, has recently increased the price for Southern pine to the Government by approximately 15 per cent."

Wholesale Innuendo Deplorable. The report concedes that individual profiteers should be prosecuted vigorously, but adds:

"The existence of individual error and crime is no reason for condemnation of the whole community or any part of it by broad accusation and innuendo."

Members of the Federal Trade Commission are William B. Colver, chairman; John F. Fort, and Victor M. Durand, Joseph E. Davies and William J. Harris recently resigned membership to seek Senatorial nominations in Wisconsin and Georgia, respectively. Francis J. Henry, special counsel, during the packers' inquiry, was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor of California.

WHERE THE ALLIES PRESSED FORWARD YESTERDAY AT VARIOUS POINTS ON WEST FRONT.



Dotted Line Shows German Position Before Allies Started Drive. Solid Line Shows Position Saturday, and Shaded Portion Indicates Gains Yesterday on the Lys Salient, Northeast of Haponaire, in the Peronne Sector, Where Peronne Was Taken, and to the North of Soissons. Where French President on Sunday Arouse Show Where British Moved Around Mighty Stronghold of Lens.

AMERICANS TAKE 600

Advance of Two Miles Made Beyond Juvigny.

TEUTONS CAUGHT NAPPING

German Officers Out-Maneuvered and Their Men Badly Outfought.

Raid Attempted by Enemy Proves Fruitless.

(Continued From First Page.)

had been subjected to a counter-barrage by their own army. That did occur in at least one instance, due to the confusion in the German aerial service.

Triple Barrage Repeated. The Americans held their long-range guns on a line of targets, beginning their barrage along a line to the rear of that. This barrage moved on and in a brief interval another barrage started at the same point. When the first moving line of fire reached that of the long-range guns, they shifted and the triple barrage was repeated.

Ordinarily when a creeping barrage passes, those under the fire feel free to reappear. In this case they reappeared only to be subjected to another smothering fire.

On the Americans' left similar tactics were used but the intervals were longer, the Americans' guns covering exactly twice the ground, if measured by the density of the fire.

The allies' mastery of the air in this sector is unquestioned. In the air at one time there were counted 80 allied planes. It was one of those rare opportunities for observation work; the visibility was good and squadrons after squadrons ascended. After the observation planes went combat planes, a few of which disappeared over the German lines to take part in the actual fighting.

Occasionally a German plane challenged their presence, but in every case it was driven off. The allied planes even prevented the Germans spotting for their own artillery with any degree of efficiency. Not one allied plane was brought down.

An incident of the arrival of the prisoners at the rear was a halt of a detachment at a spot where graves were being dug. Their stopping was accidental, but the men were fully convinced that they had been brought there to die and there to be buried.

In the dressing stations today the number of German wounded was far greater than the American. The longforester.

ALLIES PURSUE Foe INTO AISNE CAVERNS

Desperate Fighting Takes Place With Germans Underground Field of Battle.

WHIPPET TANKS EFFECTIVE

American and French Troops Advance Together in Action Aimed to Smash Defensive System of Ludendorff.

BY LINCOLN EYRE.

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WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES NORTH OF THE AISNE, Sept. 1.—(Special.)—Amid the tangled trench lines that cross the tortured battle ground west of Chemin-des-Dames, our infantry is pushing the French to cleave a wedge in the stone wall of the defensive system with which the enemy seeks to save himself from further disastrous retreat.

Planked by crack French divisions, accompanied by several squadrons of light tanks, the Americans are pushing forward in the face of resistance even stronger than any offered by the Germans on the Marne, the Ourcq or the Vesle.

Ludendorff realizes only too well the vital importance of the high plateau running eastward from the Franco-American front at Juvigny to Chemin-des-Dames. His is a reserve of men and munitions like theatrical currency to keep the allies off these heights, for should he lose them he must needs fall back to the trench from which he set out on March 27 last.

Offensive Plans Secret. Only General Mangin, under whom the French forces and ours are co-operating, knows what the offensive movement is, and even he is bound by a narrow front, he expected to achieve.

The American units, and so far as I know, the Polish on either side of the Marne, are not expected to achieve anything that has been asked of them; but the battle still is in full tide and prophecy may not be formulated yet.

Many operations began with certain subsidiary attacks, designed to bring about a rectification of our line. As soon as this had been effected, artillery of many calibers, including light and heavy American batteries, started a methodical destructive fire on the enemy's trenches and back areas.

Private Wesley Barlow, of Warsaw, Wis., captured one of these curious weapons by creeping up on its operator from behind while a squad of American infantry was pouring direct fire in from the front. The tank Fritz sought to annihilate dodged about so cleverly that it never was hit.

Gas Masks Donned. Fully 50 per cent of our boys wore their respirators when our fire having lifted, they debouched from the railroad embankment west of Juvigny at 6 P. M. heading eastward. Whippet tanks rambled along with them, dipping in and out of ravines along the disused trenches like a school of sea lions.

The ground hereabouts is made of shaly sandstone, which is highly porous and heavy American batteries, started a methodical destructive fire on the enemy's trenches and back areas.

In Juvigny, elements of the Seventh Prussian division, fresh troops whose morale were both of the highest order, swarmed out of the underground quarries with which this fighting country abounds to meet our advance.

Private Wesley Barlow, of Warsaw, Wis., captured one of these curious weapons by creeping up on its operator from behind while a squad of American infantry was pouring direct fire in from the front. The tank Fritz sought to annihilate dodged about so cleverly that it never was hit.

Tanks Clean Up Machine Guns. German machine guns, hidden in the depths of caverns and suddenly whisked into position, were the worst things with which our soldiers had to contend. Here the tanks helped mightily. They charged the machine gun nests as they came, and the operators were obliterated them before the infantry came up.

The enemy had a liberal stock of anti-tank rifles with long barrels. Private Wesley Barlow, of Warsaw, Wis., captured one of these curious weapons by creeping up on its operator from behind while a squad of American infantry was pouring direct fire in from the front. The tank Fritz sought to annihilate dodged about so cleverly that it never was hit.

Wrestler Puts Out Officer. An American lieutenant was gingerly leading his platoon toward the entrance of a quarry, which he had hoped was free of Boches, when a German officer suddenly popped up from the depths waving an automatic pistol.

Private Jack Dubois, of Ipswich, Mich., one-time wrestling champion of his state, was standing on a ledge of rocks over the Prussian's head. He sprang from above and with a wrestler's trained clutch broke the German's back.

Caves are never entered until an advance guard has thrown hand grenades into them, but such is the depth and size of some of them that the Germans simply lay low at one end and waited until our boys followed their bombs underground. Then a battle royal would ensue. Bayonets and grenades were favorite weapons in the struggles often carried on in complete darkness.

In places the foe had planted machine guns so as to sweep long galleries of the caves.

Hun Resentment Stirred. No estimate is yet possible of the number of prisoners taken. They are stalwart and of higher grade than most of the Germans we had encountered recently.

They were particularly resentful when they found that a large percentage of the Yankee contingent that had opposed them were Americans of German lineage.

Official War Reports. British.

LONDON, Sept. 1.—The British war office statement issued today says:

"Yesterday evening the enemy repeatedly counter attacked our new positions at Mont St. Quentin and was repulsed on each occasion after severe fighting, leaving prisoners in our hands."

"We have made progress in the direction of Le Transloy and during the night cleared the enemy from the villages of Longatte and Ecoust St. Mein, taking 100 prisoners."

"North of the Arras-Cambrai road more than 50 prisoners were captured."

by us in a successful minor operation east of Haucourt.

"In the Lys sector our advance is continuing. Our troops have crossed the Lave River and are approaching the La Bassée-Estaires road.

"This morning Australian troops captured Peronne. After beating off the enemy's counter attacks at Mont St. Quentin yesterday evening, the Australians at 5:30 this morning renewed their advance in conjunction with English troops on their left. At an early hour the attacking Australians had stormed the German positions west and north of Peronne and, pressing on, while fierce fighting was still taking place among the ruined streets and buildings, carried the eastern suburbs of the town.

"The Australians hold Peronne, Flammcourt and St. Denis and have made important progress on the spur east and northeast of Mont St. Quentin.

"On the Australians' left London troops, attacking southeast of Comblès, have taken Bouchavennes and Ran-court, with the high ground overlooking these villages, and have reached the western outskirts of St. Pierre-Vaast wood.

"In the course of this successful attack, in which stiff opposition was met and overcome by both English and Australian, over 200 prisoners and a few guns were taken."

French. PARIS, Sept. 1.—The text of the French official statement tonight follows:

"During the day there was great artillery activity in the Somme region and along the Canal Du Nord.

"North of the Ailette we have taken foot in the wood west of Concy-Le-Chateau. South of the river we captured the village of Crecy-au-Mont.

"Eight enemy airplanes were brought down or fell in a damaged condition. From a low altitude our bombing airplanes today dropped 23 tons of projectiles on enemy concentrations and convoys in the region of Fauaxillon, Neuville-Sur-Arenval, Lauffaux and Mantouil La Foos (all northeast of Soissons). Thousands of cartridges were fired in the same regions on enemy troops."

"Eastern theater, Aug. 31.—There was great artillery activity by both sides on the two banks of the Yvardar. On the left bank the Yvardar British troops successfully raided the enemy lines and brought back prisoners. British aviators bombed encampments in the Struma Valley."

GERMAN. BERLIN, via London, Sept. 1.—The official statement from general headquarters this evening says:

"Fighting is proceeding between the Seine and the Somme. British attacks here, in the night, failed. At isolated places they pressed back our lines towards the east.

"Between the Oise and the Aisne French partial attacks were repulsed."

PORTLAND MAY BENEFIT

VANCOUVER FEARS RESULT OF WAGE INCREASE.

Employers of Women Labor Anxious to Know What Oregon Commission Is Going to Do.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Sept. 1.—(Special.)—The action of representatives of employers and employees in war conference with the Industrial Welfare Commission in raising the wages of girls and women to \$13.20 per week, a flat salary, may have the effect of assisting Portland at the expense of local employers of feminine labor, unless the Oregon Commission takes similar action and raises the minimum of wages to the same standard in Portland. The old scale was \$9.90 to \$10.70 per week.

The new rate, which will become effective as soon as approved by the commission, is to be effective for at least six months after the war. The number of hours women may work is fixed at eight by legislation.

Local employers of women labor are not complaining so much about the rise they will no doubt have to pay, but are interested in what the Oregon Commission is going to do.

Portland laundries solicit business in Vancouver and do the work in Portland, where the scale is lower. It is the same in other industries.

FREIGHT RULING DUE SOON McNary Urges Diversion to Columbia River Points.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Sept. 1.—It is altogether likely that the railroad administration and the other Governmental agencies will co-operate in an effort to divert to Columbia River ports some of the Middle West and Eastern traffic now going through Seattle and congesting shipping facilities there.

Senator Charles L. McNary today presented the subject at length before the traffic division, and was told that a decision was probably reached during the coming week as to the extent to which it will be practicable to divert freight with greater expedition in handling through Columbia River ports.

LABOR POLICY TO WIN WAR

British Leader Asserts No Surrender to Predatory Aims of Imperialists.

BIRMINGHAM, England, Sept. 1.—Arthur Henderson, leader of the labor party in the House said in a speech Saturday, labor's international policy was not one of compromise with the militarist rulers of Germany or surrender to the predatory aims of the German imperialists. It was not a policy of weakness and disunion, such as led the Russian people to the debacle of Brest-Litovsk, but a policy to win the war for democracy and freedom.

Mr. Henderson said there could not be an international Socialist conference until the parties in the central empires accepted the inter-allied labor memorandum as the basis of discussion.

Dangerous Assault Alleged. LEBANON, Or., Sept. 1.—(Special.)

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A complaint was lodged in Justice Crumson's Court at 10 o'clock Friday night charging James Ward and George Smith with assaulting E. L. Trento with a deadly weapon. The fight occurred at 8 o'clock at the Trento home about four miles east of Lebanon, in which Ward and Smith are said to have attacked Trento with a knife and a shotgun. Trento was beaten and cut, but is not dangerously hurt.

AID IS ASKED FOR MINERS Rise of Prices Relative to Gold Creates Serious Condition.

SEATTLE, Sept. 1.—Need of providing some sort of assistance to the gold miners is among the Nation's important economic problems at this time, according to Charles A. Sulzer, Alaska Delegate in Congress, who arrived here today on a train from Seattle. Supplies and mining costs, he said, have advanced two and three fold, but the price of gold has remained the same. Mr. Sulzer believes that the Government should either increase its price for gold or provide some sort of bounty or subsidy to keep production up.

H. L. CARNAHAN RESIGNS Political Cause Ascribed for Request by Governor Stephens.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 1.—In a letter to Governor William D. Stephens, made public here last night, H. L. Carnahan, commissioner of corporations, announced that the Governor had requested his resignation and that in compliance with the request he had resigned.

"It is obvious," said Commissioner Carnahan in a letter to the Governor, "that you demand my resignation because at the recent primary I did not support you and did support Mayor Rolph."

Governor Stephens defeated Mayor Rolph.

Draft Official Declared Briber. CLEVELAND, Ohio, Sept. 1.—David L. Shaw, attorney and member of draft board No. 9, was arrested today on a charge of demanding and accepting a bribe of \$500 from Edward I. Robinson, to give Robinson deferred classification in the draft. Robinson also has been arrested.

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LABOR POLICY TO WIN WAR British Leader Asserts No Surrender to Predatory Aims of Imperialists.



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