



MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



Forty-eighth Year. Daily—Thirteenth Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, JULY 1, 1918

NO. 85

UNCLE SAM TO TAKE OVER TELEGRAPH

PRESIDENT ASKS NEEDED AUTHORITY

Refusal of Western Union to Abide By War Labor Board's Ruling and Permit Operators to Unionize Results In Recommendation From Wilson to Congress for Government Control and Operation of Wire Systems of Country.

WASHINGTON, July 1.—Government control and operation of the nation's telegraph and telephone systems was recommended to congress today by President Wilson.

In the face of an impending strike of union operators employed by the Western Union company, an effort will be made to put through before the recess of congress this week legislation empowering the president to take over the systems.

It is understood that the president has not concluded definitely to take over the telegraphs and telephones as soon as the power is given. He probably will await the result of the strike of Western Union operators called for July 8 by the Commercial Telegraphers' Union because the Western Union refused to abide by the rulings of the war labor board and continued to discharge union operators.

Union officials claim one-fourth of the 20,000 operators of the Western Union will walk out. The company insists that the strike call will have no substantial effect upon its business.

Authority Asked
Members of congress said today that the attorney general had advised the president that he is without authority under existing law to take over the lines and that if necessary for action arose with congress in recess he would be without power to act.

The president today informed the house interstate and foreign commerce committee that he is heartily in favor of legislation authorizing the government to take over the telegraph and telephone lines.

A resolution authorizing the president to take over the lines probably will be reported favorably by the committee this afternoon.

Letters of approval also were sent by Secretaries Daniels and Baker and Postmaster General Burleson whose opinions had been sought by the committee.

Bills Introduced
The president's views were communicated in a brief note endorsing the legislation but making no reference to the strike of the Western Union operators called for July 8 by the Commercial Telegraphers' Union after the Western Union had refused to abide by the rulings of the war labor board on the discharge of union operators.

Senator Sheppard of Texas today introduced a resolution, identical to that pending in the house. It was referred to the military committee.

Action on the resolution was deferred until tomorrow by the house committee and Chairman Simms invited Secretaries Baker and Daniels and Postmaster General Burleson to appear then and further explain their views.

ABBREVIATED COATS ORDERED IN GERMANY

AMSTERDAM, July 1.—The German imperial clothing department issued an ordinance today under which new clothing can no longer be obtained unless the application is accompanied by a properly certified statement giving in detail a list of the clothes already in the applicant's possession.

It is provided that henceforth coats shall be unlined in the back and lined only half way down in front. The number of pockets is limited to four, while vests and trousers may not have more than three pockets.

GERMANS USE LIQUID FIRE ON YANKEE LINES

Descriptive Information Sent By Pershing Regarding Activity On Various Sectors Held By Americans—Marked Air Activity—Heavy Shelling Denotes Nervousness of Huns.

WASHINGTON, July 1.—Descriptive information of activity in the different sectors occupied by the American forces was given in the second section of General Pershing's communique. It follows:

The Germans used liquid fire in an attack on American troops on the night of June 25 to 26, but none of the fire reached our troops.

Attempts of Germans at one point to make conversation with Americans by signalling "good morning" displaying kittens on the parapets and throwing cigarettes into American barbed wire entanglements are reported in the communique.

"Section A.—Except for the increase of artillery activity on both sides in the Chateau Thierry region there is nothing to report.

"Section B.—In the Chateau Thierry region June 27 to 28 there was no special activity other than that of the hostile air forces and of the artillery on both sides. The German artillery fire was lighter than on the preceding day. Shrapnel and gas were used in moderate quantities. A large part of the hostile fire was concentrated on our lines in the general direction of Bouresches and Triangle farm. The activity of the German air forces was marked only by the frequency of the reconnaissance flights made. German machine guns are intermittently active at the points mentioned in yesterday's report. Behind the enemy's line activity was normal. In patrolling activities, there occurred an encounter between a hostile patrol of about 20 men and one of our ambush patrols.

After a hot skirmish near the La Roche woods, the hostile party, having suffered losses, withdrew to his own lines.

South of Marne
South of the Marne, between the evening of June 27 and the evening of June 28, it was noticeable that the activity of the enemy had increased while a certain nervousness on his part was also observed. His artillery was constantly active throughout the breadth of our sector and as on the preceding day paid special attention to our positions on the left. In the last named region the use of shrapnel was again marked. German airplanes were again busy along our front although somewhat less so than during the days preceding. Very energetic efforts are being made by the Germans to prevent further crossings of the river on the part of our troops.

On Picardy Front
"In contrast to the activity which has recently prevailed in the sector occupied by our troops in Picardy the day extending from noon, June 26, to June 27, was uneventful. The hostile artillery, instead of scattering its fire over the whole of our sector, fired a greatly reduced number of shells on a few localities, notably the Coulemelle wood, the Serelle wood, the country surrounding Brones and our positions near Cantigny. Gas, high explosives and shrapnel were all used. In some cases the enemy was apparently attempting to adjust his fire. The enemy's trench mortars were in action for a short time during the afternoon. A few German airplanes appeared during the day. A German patrol attacked one of our outposts during the early morning but was driven off by rifle fire.

"In the Malhaus sector our troops experienced on June 27 a quiet day. The only unusual event was the falling within our lines of a number of small propaganda balloons dispatched by the enemy. The German artillery delivered a scattering fire of normal intensity. During the early morning, the late afternoon and the evening his machine guns delivered occasional bursts against our lines."

ALLIED FORCES PROD GERMANS ON 3 SECTORS

Vantage Points and Prisoners Captured In Sharp Attacks By British and French On Widely Separated Fronts—Early Resumption of German Drive Expected.

WASHINGTON, July 1.—An official dispatch from Rome today says the Italian and French forces on the Asiago plateau in capturing Mont Val Della took 1,500 Austrian prisoners.

Both the French and the British continued yesterday and last night their recently adopted program of prodding the Germans at various points along the Franco-Belgian line, capturing a vantage point here and there and harassing the enemy while preparations for the resumption of his offensive are under way.

French Strike Twice
The French hit the line in local attacks at two separate points.

The most pronounced gain was effected by General Petain's troops just above the point where their line joins the American sector northwest of Belleau wood. They advanced here south of Passy-En-Vaux and carried their line forward so that it now runs east of the Chezy-Vinly railroad. In addition they held on firmly to the ground gained the night previous just to the north, in the region of Mosley, fighting off two German counter attacks.

Southwest of Soissons the French moved ahead again.

In all, the French took some 200 prisoners in these attacks.

British Hit at Albert
The British stroke was just above Albert, north of the Somme river. An improvement in the British positions was effected here.

Severe battles are brewing on the several fighting fronts. All indications point to an early resumption of heavy fighting on the western line. In Italy the mountain zone is again the scene of infantry operations.

Tension is increasing along the British front in France as the crescendo of the German artillery fire mounts higher and higher. From Ypres to Rheims, the big guns are busier than they have been for some days and the Germans probably are preparing to meet strongly against the allied nibbling tactics.

The German command is known to have large forces in readiness on the main battlefields of France.

Along the line northwest of Chateau Thierry, where the Americans hold a sector, the Germans are reported concentrating troops and supplies.

DIRECTING THE BIG SPLASH HEARD AROUND THE WORLD.



Charles M. Schwab, who is now enroute to the coast to celebrate the Fourth by launching a vessel every hour in the day until night. He is boss of the emergency fleet corporation and on July 4th, 80 vessels, of 440,000 tons capacity, will be launched in the shipyards of America—a third greater than the entire output of American shipyards for the year ending July 1, 1916. Forty steel and wooden vessels will be launched in Pacific coast shipyards on Thursday. Before the end of the year, Mr. Schwab promises a million tons of ships a month. "The American people never have lost a war, and by thunder they never will" says Schwab.

ALLIED AVIATORS RAID MANNHEIM

PARIS, July 1.—Five persons were killed and 14 injured at Mannheim, Germany Saturday morning by bombs dropped by allied aviators, says a Havas dispatch from Basle. Severe property damage also resulted.

A successful attack on the Badische Anilin and soda factory at Mannheim on Saturday was announced in official reports from the British air ministry Saturday night. Many bombs were dropped and six bursts were observed on the factory. In air fighting over Mannheim during the attack the British airmen drove down three German machines out of control.

GERMAN U-BOAT SINKS HOSPITAL SHIP

LONDON, July 1.—A Teuton submarine sank the British hospital ship Llandovery Castle, 116 miles southwest of Fastnet, on June 27, the British admiralty announced today.

The Llandovery Castle was homeward bound from Canada. She carried 258 persons. This total included 80 Canadian army medical corps men and 14 female nurses.

One boat containing 24 survivors so far has reached port.

Chicago—S. J. Konenkamp, president of the Commercial Telegraphers' union, called a strike of the Western Union operators effective Monday, July 8.

GERMAN PEACE PROGRAM CALLS FOR THE EARTH

Britain's War Fleet for Germany, Gibraltar for Spain, Egypt and Suez for Turkey, Belgium for Germany, Serbia to Be Divided, French Provinces Annexed.

PARIS, July 1.—Great Britain must turn over its war fleet to Germany, return Gibraltar to Spain and restore Egypt and the Suez canal to Turkey. Great Britain, France and the United States must pay Germany an indemnity of at least \$45,000,000,000. Belgium and French territory must be surrendered to Germany.

These are among the conditions included in the German peace program published in the Nachrichten of Goerlitz, Prussia, by Count Roon, a member of the Prussian house of lords, according to a Havas dispatch from Basle, Switzerland.

Count Roon says Germany is entitled to the following terms because of its strength, and until they are realized there should be no armistice and no cessation of submarine warfare:

To Annex Belgium
Annexation of Belgium, with administrative autonomy in the interior. Independence of Flanders.

Annexation of the entire Flanders coast, including Calais.

Annexation of the Briey and Longwy basins and the Toul, Belfort and Verdun regions eastward.

Restitution to Germany of all her colonies, including Kaio Chau.

Great Britain to cede to Germany such naval bases and coaling stations as Germany designates.

Great Britain must return Gibraltar to Spain, cede its war fleet to Germany, restore Egypt to Turkey and the Suez canal to Turkey.

Greece must be re-established under former King Constantine with frontiers as before the war.

To Divide Serbia
Austria and Bulgaria will divide Serbia and Montenegro.

Great Britain, France and the United States must pay all of Germany's war costs, the indemnity being a minimum of \$45,000,000,000. They also must agree to deliver raw materials immediately.

France and Belgium are to remain occupied at their expense until the conditions are carried out.

Washington—Sears-Roebuck & Co., of Chicago were ordered to desist from certain unfair methods of competition by the federal trade commission.

STATE OF WAR PROCLAIMED IN RUSSIAN ARCTIC

Province of Archangel Declared Under Martial Law—Contains Arctic Ports and Immense Stores of War Supplies—Is Being Invaded by Fins and Germans.

MOSCOW, June 23.—(By the Associated Press.) A state of war has been proclaimed in the province of Archangel.

The province of Archangel extends from the Ural mountains westward to Finland, a distance of approximately 900 miles, from Volgoda and Olonets on the south, to the Arctic ocean, about 400 miles. It contains the ports of Archangel and Mourmansk, the only Russian outlets to the Arctic ocean. It was on the Mourmansk coast that French and British troops were landed sometime ago to protect the Mourmansk railway, over which allied supplies had been going into Russia.

American Navy on Guard
WASHINGTON, July 1.—In the Russian province of Archangel where a state of war has been proclaimed, according to a dispatch from Moscow lies the Arctic port of Kola, with its railroad guarded by allied and American naval forces. Consequently the greatest interest attaches to any developments there and officials and diplomats here are wondering what the declaration of a state of war may mean.

All recent reports to the state department have represented conditions to be quiet around Archangel and along the railroad southward from Kola and it is hoped that the latest development may mean no more than that the bolshevik government has proclaimed martial law to maintain order.

At Kola and for miles inland along the railroad there are acres of military supplies, running all the way from locomotives and cannon to clothing and provisions, scattered over the country.

Shipped From America
Most of these were shipped from America and from England when the Russian armies were still fighting the Germans and were short of supplies. The goods accumulated while the railroad from the Arctic port was being rushed to completion as a military measure. When the line was opened, but before any large quantity of the supplies could be shipped southward, the Brest-Litovsk peace was declared and the movement ceased.

To Save Stores
The allies have realized the danger and, determined to save these stores for a rehabilitated Russian army which could be depended upon to fight the Germans, have landed French and British marines at Kola who have taken over a considerable part of the railroad running southward.

As this territory is regarded by the allies and by the United States government as within control of General Foch in his capacity as commander-in-chief, it has been deemed proper to give the occupying forces an international character. Therefore, American marines and blue jackets are mingled with the French and British naval forces at Kola.

(Continued on Page Eight.)

ITALIAN TROOPS CROSS PIAVE RIVER UNDER FIRE OF AUSTRIANS



This photograph was received in this country before the Austrian offensive began, but it illustrates graphically the kind of fighting the Italian troops have been doing in pursuing the fleeing Austrian army across the Piave. The photographer who splashed all around him. The censorship forbids giving the name of the river, but as the battle line has extended along the Piave since last autumn, it is likely it is the Piave.

OIL LEASING BILL AGAIN POSTPONED

WASHINGTON, July 1.—With the understanding that the enactment of the oil land leasing bill, involving development of western naval reserves, will go over until after the recess of congress, action on the bill again was deferred by senate and house conferees.