THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE: APRIL 14, 1907.

How French Government is Guarding the World's Greatest Desert



THORN BUSHES FURNISH THE FOOD FOR THE CAMELS.

B im in one of the wildest parts of ing over and over until it falls inside the from time to time upon march for such Colomb Bechar, at the end of the road stretching to the west, south and east, for and if a railroad should be in their way growth of tough grass, and I have seen the most important inflitary locations. hundreds of miles. The desert, all told, is they would swallow it up. I have seen thousands of animals feeding upon it. The Beni Dunif is within almost a stone's I now am is more than 400 miles south of is almost as solid as that of the seashore, special letter about them in the future. the port of Oran, and about 1,200 miles from Timbuktu on the Niger, where the great fertile belt of Africa begins.

On the Edge of Morocco

This is on the very edge of the French Sahara. Just west of it there are wild of Pennsylvania avenue, and as thirsty as was Dives when he begged Lazarus to cool his parched torgue. They mark the boundbetween the possessions of the French and those of the Moorish sultan; but the descri goes farther westward, and at the southwest it does not stop until it reaches the Atlantic ocean.

came here on the military railroad, built by the French, to guard their people from the brigands of Morocco. It is the road which, it is thought, may some day be continued clear across the Sahara to Timbuktu, with possibly a branch going off to Lake Chad. The road starts at Oran and carries one through the rich lands of the Tell, a country as fat as our Mississippi valley, which has grain fields and 2022 orchards, and vineyards which make millions of gallons of wine every year. The the capital who devoted more careful at-



TENT VILLAGE OCCUPIED BY SHEPHERDS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

(Copyright, 1967, by Frank G Carpenter.) crescent being turned away from the the grass will not grow there are some- General Lyote, the commander of the camels will soon march across into the was a fight which lasted five hours, after to Morocco and as far south as the Soudan. SNI OUNUE, April 11*-(Special winds. The sand is rolled up by the wind times thorn bushes which furnish food for French army of the Sahara, is located, and Algerian Sahara and attack the French out- which the French retreated. Correspondence of The Bee.)-I from the bottom to the top, each grain go- the camels, and nearly every caravan stops there are other troops farther south at posts.

the greatest desert on earth. On crescent. As this rolling goes on the dures food. Along the railroad from here to the The depois are all of stone, with port holes all sides of me is the Sahara, increase in size. They move along slowly Atlas mountains there is in places a thin for rifles on all sides. Hight here is one of It was a Harka like this that brought about the battle of Figuig, named after an larger than the United States. It is so hig similar dunes on the great Peruvian desert flocks are usually composed of both sheep throw of the Moroccan boundary, and at it took place. Figuing is one of the richest that if you could lift up its sandy, rocky at the foot of the Andes, and have been and goats, and strange to say, they are the gate to a pass through the mountains settlements of western Morocco. It has surface like a guilt and transport it to told that they were the chief obstacles to fat, although it would seem that most of which separate the dominions of the Moorour country, it would cover every bit of railroad building in that region. These them are grazing upon the bare stones. tsh sultan from African France. The have always been noted for their prosperity It, and hide a part of Canada and the Guif dunes grow hard as the wind blows against As to the cases, I saw many on my way French have subdued long since the hrig- and trade. They are also famous as haters of Mexico. It is longer than the Mediter- them. During my travels through them here. They are chiefly date pairs with ands of their own parts of the Sohara, but of Christians, and until lately it was death ranean sea, and bigger than all Europe, here not far from Beni Ounif. I have rid- mud villages inside or nearby. I have vis- the brigands of the Moroccan desert make to such to enter their cases. About three some places it is 2,000 miles wide. Where den up them on horseback and the sand lied a number of them, and will make a raids upon the French cases, and they also years ago, when the railroad had not yet

attack travelers and caravans going to and reached this point, the governor general of fro over the desert. The base of such ex- Algeria made an expedition from the end thing like this, and they soon came almost Tripoli to Morocco. They act as scouts for peditions is the oasis of Taffici, in Mo- of the road at Duverier to Beni Ounif, and on their knees to beg the French to desist, the French officers, and are ready to fight There are large regions in the Sahara As I have said, the road here was built rocco, not far from here, where are some started thence on an expedition to Figuig. which have no vegetation whatever, but for military purposes. It is an absolute ne- of the worst scoundrels of this part of the He was accompanied by a detachment of to Bent Ounif, and within two years a of them are now watching the pass here. many other parts have grass during parts cessity to the French control of the Sa- world. These expeditions are known as Spahis, the bravest of these African sol- thriving settlement has grown up here. They go about at wide distances apart and of the year. This is so everywhere along hara. The stations along it are all forti- Harkas. They are often composed of hun- diers, and three companies of the foreign right at the gate of the pass. Figuig is bring in reports of the conditions existing the edges of the desert, and also along the fied, and the country for miles about here dreds and even thousands of camels and legion, under the command of General now safe for a traveler, if he is accom- all along the desert frontier, rocky mountains as bare as the asphalt dried-up water courses, the beds of which is one great camp. Every town has fts men. One which came through here a few O'Conner. It was then well known that any panied by French soldiers, and the French contain some moisture. In many places barracks, there are soldiers at every sta- years ago had about 4,000 men mounted on Christian who went into Figuig did so at are even building a wagon road to that there is a slight rainfall during certain tion, and troops on borseback and on cam- camels and a Harka of 500 camels is not the risk of his life, and one of the Arab place.

months. The least water causes the grass els are moving about everywhere. Beni uncommon. At this writing reports have officials of the town warned the governor The French Sahara alone is altogether to spring up, and the Arabs drive their Ounif has a garrison of 500. A few hours' come here that the governor of Taillet has general that he had better keep out. He more than half as large as the whole United flocks to such places to pasture. Where ride to the northward is Ain Sefra, where declared a holy war and that an army on did not heed the warning, and the result States. It extends from the Libyan desert and Adrar, there are postoffices, where

Battle of Figulg.

THE CAMEL POLICE ARE NATIVES MOUNTED ON CAMELS.

The French have made this whole region

This battle was entirely with rifles on percetul, and now it is possible to travel ern part of the Algerian Sahara. These The Moors had never heard or seen anystion

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troops patrol the country all the way from Since then the railroad has been extended bravely in time of trouble. A large number

The French have established a sort of mail service for the Sahara. The Arab postmen carry mail hags on these fast meharis. Every millitary station is thus served and in some places, such as Colomb Bechar money orders are issued and a regular mail service is given. Among the important stations are those of Tuat, which is a large

kelt, at Igeli and at many other places.

The Foreign Legion.

Here at Beni Ounif is a branch of the foreign legion, made up of Germans, Swiss, Italians and Americans. There are also several companies of military criminals who have been deported from France and sent down from other parts of Algeria for pun-"When I was editing the Virginia City ishment. These men are put to making Enterprise, writing copy one day and min- roads, bridges and all kinds of hard labor.

Gossip and Stories About People of Prominence Washington's Best Dressed Man. When I meet a man I put him and some kalser was nearer than they thought. He get out of money easier, and he did not and in the evening for the convenience of

IS generally conceded in Wash- particular instance together. The next time had overheard their conversation and, propose being out of politics and money at those scholars and lay readers who are ington that Admiral Dewey is the I hay eyes on him I can call his name and catching them up, said jokingly: "Don't the same time. Accordingly, he said, he unable to visit it on secular days and in best dressed man there with tell the circumstances of the meeting. I be a fool, Fritz. If you won't take her saw no sense in spending money foolishly office hours. Senator Lodge of Massachusetts don't forget faces or names." second. No man ever lived in

scenes there are like those of the best parts tention to his attire than Admiral Dewey. Kaiser Wilhelm occasionally shows that of California. We left Oran in the even- The veteran's own tailor insists that his he has his own share of the milk of human ing, and as the night fell we were still in distinguished patron dresses altogether too kindness. One day he was walking in the William T. Tyndall, who ended a brief gayly for a man of his years. He claims Thiergarten, Berlin, when he saw a soldier career as a member of congress with the

Tip from the Kalser.

How French Control Sahara.

Then he passed on and carefully refrained per diem for a rainy day. Now, it is said, he goes back to Missouri to start a bank from looking back.

A Thrifty Congressman.

and become its president. -A Remarkable Memory.

Ainsworth R. Spofford, librarian of con-

both sides, and the Moors thought they almost anywhere through it. They have were equal to anything the French could troops stationed at every large oasis and

bring forth. A day or so later the foreign have camel soldiers scouring the country legion and three squadrons of cavalry ap- and heliographing the least sign of disturbpeared, their force altogether numbering ance. These camel police are natives 4,500 They brought with them a number of mounted on meharis-heasts which can go mountain guns and other cannon, and plas 100 miles day after day without tiring. cing these more than a mile away they Many of the camel police are Tuaregs, who opened fire upon the casis, and its villages find it pays better to be employed by the with melinite shells. The result astonished French than to rob the caravaus themthe natives. Their mud brick houses were selves, as they did in the past; others are blown to atoms, and the minarets of their Targhis, from a warlike tribe in the east-

On the Atlas Plateau.

through a great plain of yellow, sandy soil, covered here and there with stones, and alfa grass. Only in one direction werethere any hills to be seen, and they were bleak, barren and rocky.

The alfa was growing right in the sands. It is a long, wiry grass, which is gathered by the thousands of tons and shipped to Europe for the making of paper. It is cut by the Arabs and there are companies with imense capital which handle it. It grows to the height of my waist in bunches, some f which are not bigger than one's fist, while others sprout out of mounds which would fill a half-bushel measure. It looks tough and dry, but nevertheless large flocks of white and brown sheep, black goats and camels feed upon it. I saw such animals scattered over the plains, each flock watched by a shepherd in white gown and turban, who looked like a ghost as he stood among his sheep in the early morning.

We passed many tent villages occupied by such shepherds and their families. The tents are of a coarse black cloth woven in stripes. They are so stretched out that one has to get down upon his knees and crawl in. The cloth is made of camel's hair and sheep's wool by the wives of the shepherds; it is used as canvas throughout the desert.

Down Into the Desert.

We soon left the Atlas and came on into the Sahara itself. There was still some vegetation, but it was only in patches, hera jail?" and there, or along the banks of dried up streams. Now the land was flat, and now it rose into rocky mountains which were black in the early morning. As I looked out over the plains I saw the sun rise. There was first a faint streak of yellow away off in the east. This grew until it became a sheet of light over the horizon. A few minutes later a pale yellow sun could be seen through this vell. As it rose the yell disappeared and a blazing white ball jumped out into the sky. For a time a thin fleecy mist hovered over the sands, only to be followed by the clear air of the desert.

As we went on with our Journey the Sahara seemed always changing. We passed for miles over bare rock, almost as smooth as a floor, and then through regions where the rocks were ragged and cut up into all sorts of shapes. At times there were boulders and again small pebbles of different colors, red brown and black

Here about Beni Cunif the desert is largely mestone, while farther south, slong the Zousfana river, I passed through rolling dunes and plains covered with boulders.

Not a Flat Hed of Sand.

The old descriptions represented the Sahara as a dreary waste of barren sand outing attorney of Shawore county. In sahara as a mast wilderness where 1890, ten years after his admission to the travelers must perish if they tried to go bar, he was candidate for congress, and through it. The real Sahara has vast ex- lost. Two years later he tried again, and panses of sand. It has plains as his as a won. It is said he shook hands with \$0.000 good-sized state of the union, which are men in that campaign, and remembers to envered with stones, but a great part of it this day the name of each. He has served is rolling. It is largely a plateau, broken fourteen years in the lower house. up by lofty mountains and cut up by water

the Alleghenies and higher.

Vegetation of the Desert.

Spooner and the Swede.

One of the first important cases Senator his home in Indiana to practice law at Hudson, Wis., was the defense of a Swede indicted for criminal carelessness, the penalty of which was a term in the penitentlary. The case was an extremely difficult one, relates the Washington Herald. limb of the law accepted it under many misgivings. The senator believes that he has never since had to work as hard on M any case, and he is certain he has never made a more telling plea to a jury. His 8.4 client sat through the proceedings unconcerned, and even when the jury retired to verdict of acquittal, Mr. Spooner rushed

excitedly to his client. back home. Don't you understand what I mean? I say you have been acquitted -freed-cleared-and you can walk out of going back to jail." The Swede, still unmoved, calmly in-

quired to his lawyer: "Ef aye bane cleared, don't I get some moneys from the court for my time in

A Stumbling Block.

Professed politicians who have reduced public office to an exact science find the independent voter a sad stumbling blocka fact which is amusingly disclosed by a story found in the revent life of the late George Munro Grant, the eminent Canadian educator and clergyman. Toward the end of Sir John MacDonald's life he and Principal Grant, then the head of Queen's college, met at dinner at the house of the premier's brother-in-law, Prof. Williamson. "How I wish," the premier said to the principal, "that you would be a steady friend of mine." "My dear Sir John." the principal replied, "I have always supported you when you were right." The premier's eyes twinkled and he laid his hand upon the shoulder of the principal. "My dear man," said he, "I have no use for that species of friendship!"

Remembers Whom He Meets.

Congressman Charles Curits of Kansas, who was elected to succeed Joseph R. Burton in the United States sonate, has had a career out of the ordinary. Not the least interesting thing about him is that he has Indian blood in his veine.

When 24 he held his first office-prose-

"Yes, I know most of my coastilnents," courses called waddys which are dry the Curtis has said, "and I have alwinys made greater part of the year. Its average it a point to do so. One day I was in the height above the sea is about as great as home town of a senator in the Fourth disthat of the Blue Ridge mountains of Vir- trict and he took me around to introduce ginla, and in many places it is as high as me to some of the men in the town. It's a fact that he'd forgotten the names of some

The sand dunes themselves are some- of the men he'd lived near for twenty times 600 feet high, and they rise from the years, and I had to tell him who they desert, cruscent-shaped, the horns of the were. He enjoyed it, and so did his friends.

he white flannels, white shoes, white of his own regiment striding along ahead, seesion just closed as the representative cup, etc., which the admiral affects in sum- The soldier met his sweetheart, who pro- of the Fourteenth Missouri district, prob- gress from 1861 to 1897, has a wonderful in many ways. Wrapping myself in my blanket, with mer time are not consistent with the ceeded to take her young man's arm after ably holds the record for thrift in the Fifty- memory. Until the new system of cata- "A superstitious subscriber once wrote my camera under my head as a pillow, I dignity of the hero of Manila bay. The the manner common to engaged couples in ninth congress, reports the Washington loguing was introduced he had practically and said he had found a spider in his paper. alept fitfully all night and awoke on the innate refinement of Senator Lodge crops all northern countries. The soldier, know- Heroid. Men who have been in his couff- the whole library catalogue in his mind Was this good or bad luck? I replied to Arab. I northern countries. The soldier, know- Heroid. Men who have been in his couff- the whole library catalogue in his mind was the soldier, know- Heroid. high plateau of the Atlas mountains, be- out in tasteful dressing, but sometimes his ing that it was the time of day at which dence declare that Tyndail has acknowl- and it would astonish visitors when they him in our answers to correspondents' colyond which is the desert. I was passing taste inclines to foreign styles which make the emperor generally indulged in a con- edged to them that he has saved \$11,000 out asked for a book which might not be very turn as follows:

notice or gather around him trying to in- were, was afraid that so loverlike an atti- years that he has been a member of con- "Go to such a stack and on such a shelf in your copy of the Enterprise was neither

spotted everywhete with bunches of dry duce him to divulge the name of his tallor, tude might be regarded as a disrespect to gress. Tyndall looked upon his situation bring me the book (maming its number) good luck nor bad. The spider was morely the imperial uniform or some equally terri- philosophically. He said he did not expect from the end." He rarely, if ever, made a looking over our pages to find, out what ble military offense and be punished ac- to come back to congress; that his election mistake and he can give reference offhand merchant was not advertising, so that it, cordingly. In a shame-faced manner he was somewhat of an accident, and that on almost any subject. It was due to Mr. could spin its web across his door, and so had that he could not stand it, and that Spooner secured after he had gone from explained this to the young woman, who while a man could get into politics easily. Spofford's persistent efforts that the con- lead a free and undisturbed existence for-

rather huffily withdraw her arm. The he could get out as easily, but he could gressional library remains open on Sunday ever after.'

good over what they can see by point.

jury finally returned and anounced its eventually to link Ravenswood, L. L. with are concerned, and of the 50,000 tons of steel ber 20, 1562. Fifty-ninth street is now so far along that that will be required 20,000 has already. Almost at the take of strikes began. The

be riveted to truss;

hattan in.

the Blackwell's Island bridge finished by The idea of a Blackwell's Island bridge men are at work, not counting the great Save for the bridges at Poughkeepsie and modern guns. They have practically given of the court room to your home instead the middle of 1808, but strikes have been and was hatched a long time ago. A company force employed in gotting out the steel in Ningara, this will be the only cantilever up brigandage, and they now sweep over may be again, and predictions are scarce was chartered to put it through as far back the shops of the Pennsylvania Steel com- bridge of consequence in this part of the the desort mounted on namels, aiding the It looks, anyway, as if Ravenswood would as 1807. The Long Island end was to tilt pavy.

he connected with the Island before Man- the earth two miles inland, and there was Counting approaches, the Blackwell's Poughkeepsie bridge, with room for a The French captain who is chief of the to be a branch to Brooklyn. In Manhattan island bridge is going to be the fourth Si-foot roadway and four trolley car tracks. Anab bureau here tells me that they are The up of the completed section projects two approaches were projected, one start- longest tridge in the world. Its \$230 feet on the lower floor and four elevated tracks by no means a bad people, and that their 500 feet ver 'he sust sameb of the East ing so the Grand Central station the other will be beaten by the Tay bridge-which

EW YORK, April 13,-Long Island river, while the progress from Blackwell's further north. Prof. W. P. Trowbridge is holds the record of 19,780 feet-and the truck farmers and others cov- Island toward New York proper has been on record as having suggested the can- Forth bridge, both in Scotland, and by the

fire, though, until January 27, 1901, when The gauzy affair at Poughkeepsle, always Thirteen hundred and eighty feet of the a contract for plers for the bridge was let, played as a headliner among cantilevers. Sahara. He is expecting to be sent on into showed no particular interest. When the days. The long delayed bridge that is bridge is done so far as the mere trusses. Steel workers were on the job by Novem- can boast of no more than 6.767 feet. For

the sprouting green strip of island is com- been used. The gap once bridged, there will worst one, that of the Housesmith' and suspension, from Park Row to Sanda "You have been acquitted," exclaimed pletely spanned by it. And cantilever arms still remain the long sloping approaches Bridgemen's union, kept things at a stand- street, is 5,989 feet, which makes that the lawyer. "You are now free to go are nosing both ways as fast as truss can and the laying of tracks and roadways, still between January I and the middle of esteemed structure compare with the the best work of all the Arabs employed by The contract for the Manhaitan approach May last year. The union lost and the bridge at Blackwell Island about as bush- the French. They have been organized bridge is now "open shop." Six hundred lenguers do with the Glants,

mosque cut in two.

purposes of comparison let it be noted that the entire length of the Brooklyn bridge

out over the water from both sides until siders himself rich.

Mark Twain's Advice.

at an advertisement writers' banquet.

"It pays to advertise," said Mark Twain

the ends meet.

The old way, exemplified at Poughkeepsie and elsewhere, was to effect a junction by inserting a sort of little suspension bridge hinged to the parent structure. Cancelback, the style has been dubbed.

For aesthetic reasons Bridge Commisplanning the Blackwell's bland bridge. A sion. During a year there is a variation of an inch in every hundred feet of bridge. steel

on the westerly side and razing the whole block bounded by Second and Third accordes and Fifty-ninth and Sixtleth streets. Nobody knows for sure yet what elevated or surface lines will connect with the bridge, either here or over across. In Ravenswood the bridge will terminate in the triangle at the junction of Jackson avenue, Jane street and Stillman av. 10

The bridge will not help the Blackwell's Islanders much, for it will be a hundred fuces. feet above them, with no way of their getting up. As it is, the guards have a hard enough time in keeping prisoners in the various penal institutions from break-

well's Island bridge will cost \$15,000,000, crossing the desert, In lives it has already cost eleven,

ing the next, tried to force this truth homa I met one last night in a Moorish cafe who told me he was an American. His complexion was that of a mulatio, but he wore the red trousers, blue jacket and tall red. tables when he sat down beside me and behis colleagues in the senate sit up and take stitutional along the very path where they of his salary and encoluments for the two well known to have him say to an assistant, "Old Subscriber: The finding of a spider gam to speak English. He told me that he

served as a marine in the Franch navy and had finally drifted into the army. He said that the food and treatment were he deserted and succeeded in setting to the Mediterranean, where he had hidden himself away in the hold of a German steamer. Just as the ship was raising anchor the military police came on board and discovered him, through a Hindoo cabin boy, who pointed out his hiding place. He was then put in prison at the part of Namours, where the sheriff set him to cleaning his horses. One day he took the

best horse in the stable and rode across into Morocco to Melilla. There he again bridge which spans the Ohlo river at Cairo, tried to get off, this time on a Spanish ship. He was smaln caught, however, and

shipped down here into the heart of the the desert far from the railroad.

Tutregs as Police.

I understand that the Tuaregs are doing into companies and have been given good

econtry. It will be much wider than the French in keeping the natives in order,

and two Hig-foot sidewalks above. The bloodthirstness is largely a matter of roadways are to be payed with wood imagination. It is true they have been blocks, like those of the Williamsburgh robbers in the past, but now that they are bridge. Pedestrians will walk on cement. employed by the government they make The cantilever idea is pretty well under-splendid soldiers. They are paid from stood, although it has been of practical twenty to twenty-four dollars a month, and use only since the middle '80s. Starting this is a fortune to them, Each man owns from two shore piers, the builders atchor his own camel and takes cure of it and their first trusses to the shore in the man- himself; but as the food for both man and ner of a springboard and begin working beast costs practically nothing he con-



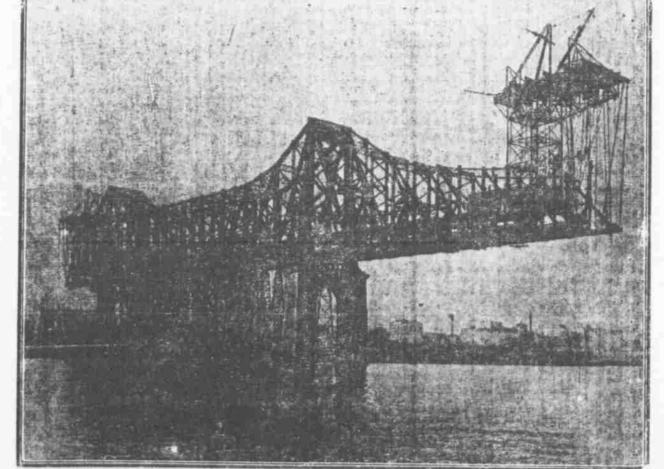
These Tuaregs are descendants of the Berber or white race of the Atlas mountains, who have been crowded off into the desert. They have long been noted as the

sioner Lindenthal and Consulting Architect, brigands of the Sahara. They are especially Henry Hernbostle cut out this feature in distinguished by the fact that they wear wells night and day. Their wells are black; binged rocker has been found to answer and they wind them about their heads like the same purpose, which was to provide a turban and then pass them over the none room for natural contraction and expan- and mouth and across the forehead, so that only the eyes can be seen. Is is said that the vell was originally adopted to keep out the dust, but that it is now a mark of

A plaza approach to the Manhatian end fishion and modesty. Another story told is to be secured by widening Second avenue me is that the Tuareg men first put on vella as a matter of cowardics and shame. They were surprised by their enemies and were as frightened that they threw down their arms and ran, leaving their families, Thereupon the women picked up the swords, spears and daggers, and defeated the enemy. From that day until now the men, to show their admiration for the conduct of linch wives have adopted the yell, and the Tuarek women still go with bara

Many of the Tuarega live in tent villages, moving about from place to place, They have causely and sheep, and some of them have gardens. As a general thing ing away. The lower roadway will be 135 they are miserably poor, and the money feet and the highest point of the bridge they restore of them made when their sola they receive from the French is far more In money it is expected that the Black- profession was robhing the travelers while

FRANK G. CARPENTER.



METHOD OF BUILDING THE BLACKWELL'S ISLAND CANTILEVER DRIDGE.

The case was an extremely one, relates the Washington and the ambitious young the law accepted it under many How a Big Cantilever Bridge Grows

etous of a straight road to Man- but 250 feet. The Long Island and Man- tilever scheme in 1850. hattan have reason to feel protty hattan shores are 3.7.5 feet apart at this Ground was broken in 1891. Plans missed III.

deliberate on the verdict the stole Swede Squinting across at Blackwell's Island these

The engineers say they're hoping to have is not let yet.