

# 20 SHOPS PRODUCING BROWNING GUN TOOLS LOSE ALL CONTRACTS

### ACTIVITIES OF LAVIT IN FOMENTING STRIKES CAUSE OF ACTION TAKEN— WORK TRANSFERRED WEST—300 WALK OUT OF ARMS AT NOON.

Today the Remington Arms Co. has answered the machinists' strike and threats made by Samuel Lavit, the business agent of the Machinists' union, by cancelling all contracts with about 20 local shops for the manufacture of Browning machine gun tools and parts, and transferring the work to factories in the middle West, which have been either closed or running on part time owing to government orders covering the manufacture of automobiles and non-essentials.

This afternoon it was learned that approximately 300 men had walked out of the tool department of the Remington Arms plant, but it is said that while the production of machine gun tools will not seriously affect the gun production as the 300 who have struck represent less than 20 per cent. of the entire complement of workers in the tool department, and the majority of the machinists show a disposition to return to their work tomorrow morning.

The contract transfer on the part of the Arms company has only been taken after careful weighing of all the facts connected with the output of the gun parts which are so vitally necessary to keep our troops at the front supplied with weapons.

The reluctance of the Remington people to take this step before, was due to their desire to avoid the few days delay incidental to the transfer of drawings and tools to the shops at more distant points. It is understood government officials were first consulted.

Browning machine guns, and automatic pistols are needed, and needed badly by our soldiers on the firing line and every minute counts in the production of the arms, means the sacrifice of the lives of American soldiers.

The officials of the Remington plant have exhausted every means to prevent the labor troubles being fomented by Samuel Lavit, and now the factories turning out contract orders for the Browning machine gun, but in the shops of the Remington Arms itself.

It was impressed upon the representative of the Bridgeport Times, that the only shops affected by the order of the Remington Arms, are plants which have been turning out parts for the manufacture of machine guns and pistols, and which owing to strikes are idle.

The following is a partial list of the plants affected by the transfer of orders to the middle West:

- Anderson Die & Machine Co.
- Bradley Machine Co.
- F. G. Breal.
- Bridgeport Gun Tool Co.
- Peeney Tool Co.
- Electric Compositor Co.
- Harris Engineering Co.
- Lindestrom Die, Tool & Gauge Co.
- Modern Mfg. Co.
- Model Tool & Gauge Co.
- Pederson Bros.
- Precision Tool & Gauge Co.
- W. L. Smith Mfg. Co.
- F. S. Trumbull Co.

Dozens of machinists that have been ordered to stop working by Business Agent Lavit, have spoken rather loudly about the mistake which has been made and have even gone so far as to predict trouble, but say that they will not be here to see it. As a consequence many machinists are leaving Bridgeport and it is no uncommon sight to see a score of them at the railroad station with their tool boxes leaving Bridgeport for points in the Middle West.

Manufacturers seem to be helpless as they find it impossible to meet the constantly growing and unreasonable demands made by Samuel Lavit, who has gained a record for picking out factories engaged on important government work in which to start a strike or some other trouble which holds up the production.

# "SINK WITHOUT TRACE," AUTHOR TO SAIL HOME

### Next Blow of Huns is Awaited With Confidence.

# FOUR INJURED AND ONE DROWNED AT NEWPORT

### NAVAL LAUNCH GASOLENE TANK IGNITES JUST WHEN STUDENT DIVER LOSES FACE PLATE WHILE PRACTISING UNDER WATER.

Newport, R. I., May 8—A student diver was drowned and four enlisted men were injured here today, just when the gasolene supply on a navy launch was ignited. In the excitement a fire alarm was sounded from the torpedo station, resulting in a dash of navy ambulances for the station.

The man drowned was Frederick Reif. He was practicing diving under water in a tank when the face plate of his helmet became loosened and fell off. He was quickly brought to the surface.

An attempt at resuscitation by the use of oxygen was made by his mates who were thus engaged when the oxygen tank exploded, injuring four of the five men who were working over the diver Reif and the injured men were regulars in the seaman gunner class.

The fire on the launch had no connection with the explosion, the launch being moored at a considerable distance from the diving school.

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# FRESH NEWS POUR INTO FLANDERS

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# AUSTRALIANS IN IMPORTANT PUSH

### Great Aerial Activity is Reported Over U. S. Positions.

Along the battle lines in northern France the Allied troops still await the shock of renewed heavy fighting by the Germans.

Apparently the rainy weather has interfered a great deal with the enemy's transport and he has not been able to perfect his arrangements because of the difficulties of bringing his supplies over the battle torn ground of Flanders and Picardy.

Having gained some advantageous positions in local fighting, the Allies are waiting for the next effort of the Germans which already has been delayed much longer than in previous lulls since the beginning of the offensive on March 21. Meanwhile fresh troops and new supplies are pouring in to strengthen the Allied positions and this fact must also add to the perturbation of the enemy, who has nothing remarkable in military achievement to show for his heavy losses of the last seven weeks.

The edging in process was continued by the British last night in the important sector east of Amiens, between the Somme and the Somme, the Australians following up their recent successes there. The operation was a purely local one, but it resulted in anchoring the British line more firmly on the ridge between Sully le Sec and Morlancoeur and thus putting it in a better position to resist the expected German assault.

The artillery fire continues violent on important sectors. The Germans are shelling heavily the Anglo-French front southwest of Ypres and the sector south of the Somme between Villers Bretonnois and Hallies. These sectors saw the heavy fighting previous to the German repulse north of Mont Kemmel nine days ago. Enemy fire against the southern side of the Arras sector, which lies north of Albert, also has been intense.

There has been great aerial activity on the American sector northwest of Toul and Capt. James Norman Hall is reported missing. Two of the enemy aeroplanes are believed to have been brought down.

Other Americans also have been meeting the enemy in the air along the line east of St. Mihiel and it is believed that the Germans have concentrated large forces in an attempt to wipe out the American fliers. There has been no infantry fighting on any of the American sectors.

Except for isolated patrol raids by the Austrians and limited artillery fire there has been no activity on the Italian front. The Austrians still withhold their attack and neither Vienna nor Berlin has said anything of it for the last several days.

The Australian advance last night pushed forward their lines 500 yards along a front of 600 yards near Sully le Sec, on the sector east of Amiens. They also pushed back the Germans 300 yards along a front of 500 yards west of Morlancoeur, just above Sully le Sec. Notwithstanding a heavy barrage the Germans were unable to prevent their advance.

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# GRAVE CRISIS FACES ENGLAND AS RESULT OF MAURICE CHARGES

### TEST VOTE WILL BE TAKEN THURSDAY NIGHT IN HOUSE OF COMMONS TO DECIDE WHETHER PRESENT CABINET WILL RETAIN OFFICE.

# JIMMY HALL, HERO OF U. S. AVIATORS, LOST

### WHOLE AMERICAN ARMY IS MOURNING LOSS OF OF YANKEE ACE—LAST SEEN EMERGING FROM SPIRAL AND DIVING TO EARTH.

With the American Army in France, May 7—(By the Associated Press)—"Jimmy" Hall is gone and the whole American air service is mourning his loss. All are wondering whether he was killed or was able to bring his machine safely to earth after his battle in the air over Pagny sur Moselle.

Capt. Hall was popular throughout the army and had won admiration by his daring, coolness and skill in handling his machine.

The captain's flying companions are all certain that he would have knocked out his opponent had it not been for maneuver unbroken of so far as American and French pilots in this sector are concerned. It has been regarded as dangerous to the last degree to bring up a machine sharply from a downward plunge because the strain is almost certain to cause the collapse of some vital part of the plane.

The Americans attacked, Capt. Hall singling out one of the enemy and driving him downward while firing with his machine gun. The pair made a spiral dive from 6,000 meters to 4,000, when the German suddenly reversed his machine and started to rise. In a quick turn he poured a deadly stream of machine gun bullets into the bottom of Hall's machine.

Capt. Hall promptly came out of the spiral and made a dive for the earth. He was last seen attempting to complete this maneuver.

In the meantime the enemy machine that the other Americans had engaged dropped toward the ground. It is unknown what happened to them, but two of them apparently were in distress. No credit for victory is given the Americans, because official verification of the destruction of the enemy was impossible. Captain Hall's machine had painted on its side the first American aeroplane insignia to appear on the battle line. It was in the form of a hat in the ring sign, showing a starry striped high hat usually pictured on Uncle Sam, surrounded by a golden ring.

Mr. Crosby, who is still assistant secretary of the treasury, will assist in working out a plan of extending government credit to France, Italy and other co-belligerents, instead of through Great Britain. This will relieve Great Britain of borrowing from the United States approximately the sums required for British loans to the Allies.

The financial branch of the council was organized in Paris about five months ago and consists of representatives of the principal Allied governments. It has acted as a board of priority for American loans.

Washington, May 7—Complaint that George Muench of Stamford, Conn., a manufacturer of machinery, has systematically given employees of customers gratuities, such as liquor, money and valuable presents, was made today by the federal trade commission. The complaint says that such actions are designed to influence employees to have their employers deal with the respondent and not with competing concerns.

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Washington, May 6.—Ten steel ships of 2,250 tons and six wooden ships of 2,500 tons were launched by American yards in the week ending May 5, the shipping board announced today. Twelve steel ships of 80,180 tons were delivered to the board completed in the same period.

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# DISCOVER KEY TO CODE KEPT BY BERNSTORFF

### Albany, May 8.—The Von Bernstorff code, the means of communication employed by the German foreign office to keep in touch with Count Johann von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to this country, while he was directing sabotage and other German activities in the United States, has been deciphered, reconstructed and turned over to the federal government by Attorney General Merton D. Lewis, it was announced today.

This code was the same that Hugo Schmidt, the alleged paymaster in this country of the German foreign office, attempted to destroy by burning the original copy in the furnace in a German club in New York.

In addition to the code the attorney general's office has furnished the federal government with a complete index of names and subjects involved in the investigation of the Hugo Schmidt-Deutsche bank negotiations, a summary of the inquiry into the activities of German agents relative to the wool trade, and a special report on remittances by the German foreign office to South American countries to defray the expenses of German propaganda.

Paris, May 8.—Commemorating the American soldiers and sailors who have fallen in battle, "La Cocarde du Souvenir," a patriotic society, plans to decorate the graves of all Americans who are buried in France. Decorated markers known as the "War Cross of the Dead" will be placed over each grave.

A committee of the society headed by Senator Poirrier called today on Mr. Sharp, the American ambassador, to make the preliminary arrangements. The ambassador thanked the committee and informed them that he would discuss the plan with Gen. Pershing, the commander of the American forces in France.

Markers now decorate the graves of French, British and Belgian soldiers. The marker consists of a metal laurel leaf, about six inches in diameter, surrounding an American flag. The markers are to be supplied to units in the army, the name of the soldier, the unit and the date.

Mr. Cutler, pastor of the Universalist church here, is regarded by his fellow townsmen as a real "fighting parson" by his determination to contribute his share toward the winning of the war. Twice rejected by medical officers as unfit for military service, he saw his opportunity in an appeal for ship builders and besides maintaining his church he journeys each week to Newington, Conn., 130 miles away, to work on the night shift in a ship yard.

Mr. Cutler was a member of the New Hampshire National Guard for several years but was rejected by the medical officers when the regiment went to Mexico.

Washington, May 8.—The precious metal reserve of the United States has decreased \$116,000,000 in the first nine months of the fiscal year, as shown in a report today by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce.

Exports of gold totalled \$118,989,052. Gold imports were \$33,155,219. Purchase of silver has increased more than 100 per cent., but still are \$19,000,000 less than the exports.

Washington, May 8.—Continued good reports throughout April have given indications that today's winter wheat forecast based on conditions on May 1 issued by the agriculture department at 2:15 p. m. would show a large increase over the 150,000,000 bushels estimated in April. Private estimates within the last week have placed the prospective crop estimate at from 600,000,000 to 650,000,000 bushels.

# FRENCH SOCIETY WILL DECORATE GRAVES OF DEAD

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# KAISER WILHELM THANKS GOD FOR GRACIOUS HELP

Berlin, May 8, via Amsterdam—Emperor William replied to Chancellor Von Hertling's congratulations on the conclusion of peace between Germany and Rumania with this message:

"The termination of the state of war in the east fills me also with proud joy and gratitude. Thanks to God's gracious help the German people, with never failing patriotism under brilliant military leadership and with the assistance of strong diplomacy are fighting step by step for a happy future.

"I cannot but convey my thanks on this occasion to you and to your collaborators. God will help us to pass through the struggle which the hostile attitude of the powers, still under arms against me, has forced us to continue and to conclude."

On the other hand it is added, it is doubtful whether any other form of inquiry will be held and it is likely that the premier will give the house the full information consistent with public safety, citing figures in proof of its statement of the relative strength of the army in January, 1917, and January, 1918. As regards other matters involved in the statement of Gen. Maurice, it is understood that an explanation perfectly consistent with both versions will be made.

Washington, May 8.—Preliminary steps toward putting into operation a general plan for fuel conservation in power plants were taken today when the fuel administration appointed Thomas E. Brown of Pittsburgh as administrative engineer for the Pittsburgh district and C. P. Billing as special staff assistant.

The plan contemplates the saving of from 25,000,000 to 50,000,000 tons of coal used annually in industrial plants by means of correct operating methods. It includes personal inspection of every power plant; classification and rating of every plant and administrative engineer in each state or district.

The program which is in effect in the Pittsburgh district will be used as a model.

Hartford, May 7—Only six of the 13 cases slated for the May term of the supreme court were ready when the court convened this morning. All of these were Hartford county cases. Two Litchfield county and five Hartford county cases were held over to the next session of the court.

Washington, May 8.—Cities which made the highest subscription percentages of their Liberty Loan quotas in their respective population classes were announced today by the treasury as follows:

Above 500,000 population; Boston 165 per cent.; between 250,000 and 500,000, Washington, 197 per cent.; between 100,000 and 250,000, Birmingham, 196 per cent.; between 50,000 and 100,000, Hartford, Conn., 251 per cent.; between 25,000 and 50,000, Topeka, Kan., 202 per cent.

Hartford is the percentage leader of cities in all classes.

# PROTEST AGAINST NEW REGULATIONS

Paris, May 8.—Leading French suffragettes are protesting against new regulations which would deprive women of the privileges of the distribution of tobacco by card.

Mme. Jules Siegfried, president of the National Council of Women approves the measure. She declares the tobacco should be reserved for poitius, who have well earned it.

# U.S. METAL RESERVE HAS DECREASED

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# INCREASE SHOWN IN WHEAT CROP

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# FIGHTING PARSON BUILDING SHIPS

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# CRUDE RUBBER ON RESTRICTED LIST

Washington, May 8.—Carrying out its announced intention of placing crude rubber on the list of restricted imports, the war trade board issued today regulations holding imports to the United States to a basis of 100,000 tons annually and limiting issuance of licenses for such importation to 25,000 tons from May 6 to July 31. The cut amounts to something more than one-third of America's imports as rubber comes in at the rate of about 157,000 tons annually.

# CHINESE ENGINEER WINS FELLOWSHIP

Troy, N. Y., May 8.—Ernest Hsieh, a Chinese engineer graduated at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute last week in the class of 1918 with the degree of Civil Engineer, has the distinction of being the first Celestial to win notable engineering honors in this country. Graduated with practically the highest honors in a class of 70 young men, representatives of several American states and foreign countries, he has been awarded one of the two Russell Sage Fellowships at the Troy Polytechnic, funded by the late financier, and will pursue the post-graduate course during the next year leading to the degree of Doctor of Engineering. He won membership in Sigma Xi, the Senior honor society, and is a member of the Rensselaer Society of Engineers. Mr. Hsieh was educated at St. John's University in Shanghai, China, and spent a year at Cornell University before entering the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute three years ago.

# U. S. LOCOMOTIVES ON FRENCH ROADS

Paris, May 8.—On railroad lines in France 245 large type American locomotives are now in operation. They were brought to France in parts and set up in the army machine shops. Likewise 514 American freight cars set up and 700 more are in process of assembling, while another 700 are on the way. The ordinary freight car of France is of the 10 ton type.

# SAVING SYSTEM IN POWER PLANTS WILL BE ADOPTED

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# FOURTEEN TO TAKE BAR EXAMINATIONS

Among the 14 young men of Fairfield county who have applied to take the bar examinations in New Haven, May 31, are seven Bridgeporters. There will be a meeting of the Fairfield County Bar association May 17 at which the applications will be passed upon. Those who have applied are: Benjamin Gilman, Harvey O. Gish, W. F. D. Kilpatrick, Emil A. Napolitano, Abe Schwartz, Lorin W. Willis, Joseph L. Verrillo, all of Bridgeport; Salvatore P. Genaurio and Richard H. Ireland, South Norwalk; Albert L. Goldner, Ernest M. Lofgren and Charles S. Stamford, Mills; H. H. Hunte, Greenwich; David W. B. Wilson, Peekskill, N. Y.

# HARTFORD TAKES LEAD OVER NATION'S CITIES

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Hartford is the percentage leader of cities in all classes.

The 1910 census was taken as the basis for classifying the cities. In some cities final results are not known and some cities may be added to the honor list. There were so many claimants for first honors among cities of less than 25,000 that the treasury has not been able to determine which should stand first.

The lists of honor flag cities is a follows:

Above 500,000 population, Boston 165 per cent.; Baltimore, 115 per cent.; Chicago 115; New York and St. Louis, above 100 per cent. (exact percentages not determined).

In the state totals for N. E., Connecticut led in the percentage record with 166.

# ARTHUR SALSBERY STILL A FUGITIVE

Norwich, May 8.—Arthur Salsbery, who shot and killed Constable William Kinney of Preston on Monday, was still a fugitive today. Herman J. Chapman, who was wounded in the shooting affray, was comfortable today and will recover.

Coroner Franklin H. Brown is continuing his inquiry.

There is talk now of the government taking a firm hand in the labor situation and it would not surprise many if a labor draft was enforced.

This could very easily be done considering the powers entrusted to the President and his cabinet, and a situation brought about similar to that which almost rocked France some years ago when a general strike was called upon all the railroads with a view of paralyzing commerce of every kind.

The French government at that time ordered the army mobilized, the strikers were called to the colors and were then assigned to duty operating the railroads at five cents a day, the pay of a French soldier, instead of the union scale with which they were dissatisfied.