

## LIVE WIRE KILLS ONE, BURNS TWO

### Heavy With Ice, Wire at Low Voltage Falls Across Charged Feed Wire of New Haven Road and Drops Among Pedestrians

### Heroic Attempt to Rescue Girl, Fatally Burned, Costs Bystander Dearly—Officials to Investigate Fatality—Man Saves Lives By Chopping Wire

Forming a short circuit for a heavily charged cable of the New Haven road, a broken wire falling into the street at Railroad and South avenues, instantly killed Kertiska, a color, and set factory operative, 23 years old, just after noon today.

Michael Baurjash, 22 Pine street, in St. Vincent's hospital, dangerously turned from the peril of the live wire. Katie Teves, a companion of the dead girl, suffered severe burns on the wrist in the same way.

The Kertiska and Teves girls were on their way home to dinner when the wire, heavy with icicles, snapped, fell across a highly charged service cable of the New Haven road and dropped to the right of Kertiska, a color. She was just crossing a spur railroad track at that point, one of her feet being on the rails. The full voltage passed through her body, causing her to drop like a log, beyond a few convulsive movements showing no signs of life. Miss Teves felt the wire across her left wrist and all that saved her was that she wore rubbers and was on the ground.

The crowd of factory workers on their way to dinner was horrified. Baurjash rushed to the side of the fallen girl in an attempt to resuscitate. Beside the wire, he was transformed into a state of rigidity and then became in a highly convulsive condition. None dared to go to his rescue. At the risk of his life, Dr. J. H. Jones, ambulance surgeon, went to his side in an attempt to reach him, but was unable to do so on account of the wire circling his body.

The unfortunate man rolled about in the mud and water of the roadway, at intervals giving vent to the most piercing shrieks. People who were passing and the members of the ambulance corps tried to get him to pull the wire from his hand.

Samuel G. Arnold, a foreman at the Bridgeport Malwood Iron Co., happened along and ran back to the factory for an axe. Joseph Fernandez, master mechanic, got on the scene about the same time. Arnold cut the copper off close to Baurjash's hand. Noting that Miss Kertiska was beyond medical aid, Dr. Welton gave all his attention to Baurjash who was unconscious and showing little signs of life. A record run was made to St. Vincent's hospital. He was delivered there still unconscious but at a late hour this afternoon had regained consciousness and appeared to be on the road to recovery.

The body of the dead girl was carried to the opposite side of the street and covered with a blanket. A morbid crowd remained in the drearily rain watching the silent form until it was taken in charge by Cullinan & Phillips. Dr. Kertiska's medical examiner, is making an investigation this afternoon and will report the fatality to Coroner Phelan.

## CHALLENGER LEADS IN EXAMINATIONS FOR NAVAL ACADEMY

Washington, Dec. 7.—Congressman Donovan today announced result of the competitive examination held in Bridgeport, November 25, last, to determine designations to take the entrance examinations for the Naval Academy. Harold L. Challenger, 985 Noble avenue, Bridgeport, who led the contestants was designated as principal and the alternates named are Eugene Wintermantel, 321 Atlantic street, Stamford, John A. Waters, 805 Atlantic street, Stamford, and Walter T. Keating, 165 Noble avenue, Bridgeport, Conn. The examination, conducted by the Civil Service Commission throughout and the result was known in seven days after the date of the examination. The entrance examinations will be held next February and one of the four young men is a future midshipman.

Harold L. Challenger who was designated as principal, is the son of Howard S. Challenger who conducts the news-store at 9 Crescent place. He was born in this city a little more than 16 and one-half years ago and attended the public schools and the High school from which he was graduated last June. He has always held a very high record in all of his classes, and has successfully passed the Yale entrance examinations. Mr. Challenger is now at Washington preparing for the examinations to be held at Annapolis in February.

Walter T. Keating, one of the alternates named, is a sophomore in the local High school and his examinations were taken without much preparation for them, he having seen the announcement that they would be held in the newspaper and decided that he would try them "just what they looked like." He too, is 16 years of age.

## THE WEATHER.

Rain tonight, probably followed by clearing Tuesday and not much change in temperature.

## EIGHT SUBMARINES INSUFFICIENT SAYS LOCAL INVENTOR, SIMON LAKE

"It would seem to me that in view of what the submarine has demonstrated itself capable of during the present war, and the inability of the battleship to protect itself from attack, the number mentioned in Washington despatches as being recommended—eight—would be insufficient.

"I am inclined to believe that the protection of our shores in time of war demands a greater number of the under-sea craft, and should not be surprised if in the House debates, which will follow, those acquainted with naval conditions will argue for a greater number of harbor defense submarines as well as the sea-going type."

SIMON LAKE.

## VIOLENT STORM HOLDS CITY IN ICY GRASP

### Waves Reach Unusual Height and Sweep Summer Cottages Along Shores of Sound—Telegraph Poles Fall and Trolley Feed Wires Part Under Crashing Trees

One of the severest rain and sleet storms which has struck this section of Connecticut within a period of five years has done great damage in this city and surrounding towns to trees, telephone and telegraph poles, and overhead wires. In one instance the chimney of a house in this city is reported as blown down. Shipping is tied up in the harbor with a violent sea running outside and though the Connecticut company stated this morning that they had been able to maintain schedules fairly well to outlying points, seven wrecking crews had been called to points east and north to clear away wreckage caused by falling trees and poles which had carried the feed wires down with them.

The storm, a continuation of a brief one that came early yesterday morning, broke in its greatest severity at midnight and seemed to increase in violence towards daybreak. Shipping in Bridgeport seemed to be its center, though owing to the proximity of the sound the water did not freeze as quickly as heavily as it did in the interior.

As early as six o'clock, trolley, telegraph and telephone traffic chiefs began to receive reports of falling trees. The first call for the Connecticut company wrecker was reported from Woodmont at 4:30. Trees and poles had carried away the wires. A large gang was put to work at repair and within two hours traffic was resumed. Two trees falling at East Broadway and Stratford avenue, Stratford, caused similar conditions, with additional calls coming later from Paradise Green, and Oroquoque on the Derby division.

Superintendent Charles H. Chapman and one of his assistants, the emergency crews and the work of replacing the ordinary trolley wheels with the sleet-breakers began. Every car had been equipped by nine o'clock and the normal schedule was being kept until except in a few instances.

The Postal and Western Union Telegraph Companies reported much damage to wires outside of the city, stating that the damage was extensive and reaching. During the morning through wires, to New York, Boston and Chicago were available.

The telephone company during the early morning hours were not so alert in the city, only having 23 trouble calls from local subscribers up to 9 o'clock. Shortly after 10 o'clock, however, in addition to the poles falling in scattered areas, a large force of men were at once dispatched to the spot but it will require some time before they can be permanently replaced.

The fire department reported that lines all throughout the city had been torn asunder by the falling of heavy branches from trees. From midnight the wire-men were continuing the work of repairing the breaks. At 6:30 every box was reported to be in order, but throughout the morning stray blows were being struck and the department was kept on the alert.

The New Haven road officials reported that the electric service had stood up well under the test, their motor pantographs being sufficiently strong to break the ice from the wires and keep the main lines in operation. Train 275, a local express due at Bridgeport at 8:30, was the only train the officials this morning would admit was at all delayed. This was said to be due to a break sticking. The damage was repaired at Bridgeport.

Harbormaster Paddock reported that many barges were held in the harbor by the storm, the tug Green J. McWilliam having been locked in since Friday. It was said that the tide yesterday was one of the largest recently experienced, and that today's high-water might seek a new mark with a strong wind piling it up against the breakwater and the wall at Seaside park. The waves dashing high at these points attracted much attention and made a picturesque spectacle for those who were fortunate enough to get a view of it. High water was about 1:30 this afternoon.

A big tree was blown down on State street near West avenue early this morning, falling into the street. Other fallen trees were reported to police headquarters from Harriet and Maple streets, Arville and William, Arville near Caroline and Nichols streets and Hough avenue. Bricks were blown from a chimney on a house on Noble avenue near Maple street. No damage was done to the roof.

Reports from Fairfield indicated that the storm severity was not so great there as inland. But four telephone wires were reported down though the branches of many trees littered the streets.

Trumbull suffered severely, wire service being nearly eliminated. Bedding was also hit hard according to reports reaching Bridgeport today. The telephone trunk lines between Bridgeport and Danbury were entirely cut off, all communication being switched at Bridgeport via other Connecticut cities.

The police department reported little trouble with their call box system though the wires to third precinct station were not operating this morning.

The United Illuminating company reported that their big feed wires had withstood the storm well. In Bridgeport harbor, the storm did not do a great deal of damage, principally because there were not many vessels anchored within its shelter.

The sloop Barrie, being used by Captain Lewis as an oyster boat, dragged her anchor during the night and early today was drifting off the inner pier. She was deeply laden with oysters and in a helpless condition. The tug John Glen went to her assistance and brought her to a safe berth.

At 8 o'clock a motor houseboat was swinging about the harbor off the steamer Nausa's landing. A large party had dragged from her anchorage at the Mohawk Yacht club. At noontime today reports from Walnut Beach indicated that in addition to much of the bulkhead along the shore being destroyed, cottages at Walnut Beach and Seaview were in danger. Many owners were called from the city to rescue what possessions they had in the houses, but owing to the high water they found difficulty in entering.

At Silver Sands it was reported that the protection afforded by Charles Island to the surf was not endangering property.

## BATTLESHIP KANSAS TO RIDE OUT STORM

New York, Dec. 7.—The Sandy Hook Marine reporting station stated today that the battleship reported as being on a voyage to the United States ship, Kansas, the Kansas, according to the observer, is lying at anchor awaiting moderation of the weather, and is not ashore as was believed. The Kansas has reported here whereabouts to the Philadelphia naval station.

Steamer in Distress.

New London, Dec. 7.—The freight steamer New York, of the Central Vermont line, started out from this port for New York Sunday night and when outside the harbor her steering gear broke, leaving her helpless in the storm. The T. A. Scott Company heard her distress signals and sent out a tug which towed her into port.

The New York anchored until repairs could be made and at 1 o'clock she resumed her trip.

The New London, of the same line, upon arrival reported a very rough trip last night from New York during which heavy seas battered her considerably and damaged the port gangway floor. Some was shipped with the cargo.

The steamer Georgia, of the Bay State line from New York for Fall River, put in here and landed passengers for Providence and Fall River. No actual damage was done but it was not thought wise of the steamers' officers to attempt to round Point Judith.

New Haven, Dec. 7.—The traffic department of the Southern New England Telephone Company reported at noon that the sleet storm was causing interruption of circuits in southern, central and western Connecticut which seemed to be increasing owing to fall in temperature and further delays in traffic were looked for.

Boston, Dec. 7.—The southern storm which first made itself evident on the New England coast early Saturday, was raging furiously today and up to noon today had caused three marine accidents.

The six-masted schooner Alice M. Lawrence, of Portland, grounded in Nantucket Sound, the Nantucket Lightship was wrenched from its mushroom anchor and a similar accident happened to a little schooner in Point Judith harbor on Friday. The (Continued on Page Two)

## CONGRESS BACK AT WORK AFTER BRIEF RESPITE

### Crowded Galleries Greet Law Makers as They Start Final Session

### HOUSE ADJOURNS IN HONOR OF DEAD

### Senate Chaplain Includes a Prayer for Peace in His Invocation

Washington, Dec. 7.—Congress got back to work again today after a six weeks' rest, to what promised to be a billion dollar session. With crowded chambers confronting both houses, senators and representatives settled down to passing the big appropriation bills and the administration program which President Wilson will outline in his annual address tomorrow in the hope that a special session may not be necessary after March 4.

In the House, crowded galleries and congressmen of three parties on the floor united in a remarkable ovation to Speaker Champ Clark as he mounted the dais and dropped his gavel at sharp noon. A few bills were dropped in the hopper, some new members were sworn in to fill vacancies and a large number of members departed to attend the funeral of the late E. A. Merritt, Jr., of New York. The House Chaplain, the Rev. Harry N. Couden, in his invocation prayed that "We may be at peace among ourselves and with all other nations."

In the Senate, Chaplain Pretyman prayed: "Almighty God, we pray that our messages to all the people may be the message of peace and our influence in all the world that of universal brotherhood."

In the Senate, Vice-President Marshall indulgently delayed the session while the senators held an informal reception and exchanged greetings. After Senators Kern and Gallinger had been appointed to join a House committee to formally notify President Wilson of the opening of the session, the former Senate took a recess until 3 p. m.

The House named Representatives Underwood, Fitzgerald and Mann to wait upon the President with Senators Gallinger and Kern and then a (Continued on Page Two)

## WILSON OPPOSES GARDNER'S PLAN FOR WAR INQUIRY

### Investigation Now, Says the President, Might Make Unfavorable Impression

### PROBE RESOLUTION WILL BE OFFERED

### White House Says Department Facts Are At Disposal of Committees

Washington, Dec. 7.—President Wilson announced today he was opposed to Representative Gardner's plan for investigating the preparedness of the United States for national defense, because he thought it was an unwise way of handling "a question which might create very unfavorable international impressions."

Representative Gardner called on the President today at the latter's request, to discuss his resolution for an investigation commission. After Mr. Gardner's call, the following statement was given out at the White House:

"The President's representative Gardner that he was opposed to the method of inquiry proposed by Mr. Gardner because he thought it was an unwise way of handling a question which might create very unfavorable international impressions. He stated to Mr. Gardner that he was entirely in favor of the fullest inquiry by the committee of Congress and that there were no facts in the possession of the executive departments which were not at the disposal of those committees."

"During his call, Mr. Gardner read the following two questions to the President:

"There are two ways of defeating my resolution. It can be defeated on a square yea and nay vote or it can be defeated on the basis of resolutions. Which course do you advise?"

"Will you authorize army and navy officers to testify before the rules committee on my invitation either with or without restrictive instructions?"

When Mr. Gardner left the President, he refused to say what answer had been given to his questions. White House officials said the formal statement given out today was the only comment on the subject.

Mr. Gardner said he was not surprised at the President's position and would continue to press for passage of his resolution. He will consult with other members of Congress to learn their views.

Prior to Mr. Gardner's call, Chairman Tillman, of the Senate naval committee, discussed national defenses with the President. Later he said he and the President agreed that the United States should have an adequate navy in accordance with the declaration of the last Democratic platform. He added that the naval experts would have to determine what an adequate navy was.

## BELGAN BATTLE RENEWED AS GERMANS WIN IN EAST

### Last Minute News Of The War

London, Dec. 7.—Progress has been made toward an understanding in the Balkan states which will be satisfactory to the allies, according to the Athens correspondent of the Telegraph, who understands that a basis has been reached for a rapprochement between Serbia and Bulgaria.

London, Dec. 7.—A despatch from Stockholm to Reuter's Telegram company, states that the Swedish steamers Luna and Everilada struck mines off the Finnish coast and that both steamers sank. The crew of the Luna was saved but all seamen aboard the Everilada except one man, was lost.

Paris, Dec. 7.—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Petrograd says "the Germans have destroyed the monastery of Lenezycza about 15 miles northwest of Lodz which has been in existence for a thousand years, on the pretext that the ringing of the Angelus was a signal to the Russians. In the attack a priest and two monks were killed."

## OFFICIAL REPORTS ON THE WAR

### FRENCH

Paris, Dec. 7.—The French war office gave out an official communication this afternoon as follows:

"In the region of the Yser we continue to attack the few entrenched positions still held by the enemy on the left bank of the canal."

"In the region of Armentieres and off Arras, as well as in the Oise territory, in the Aisne region and in the Argonne, there is nothing to report except in general terms of the superiority of our offensive."

"In Champagne our heavy artillery, on several different occasions, has shown marked superiority over that of the enemy."

"There is nothing new on the eastern front of our line where the positions of preceding days have been maintained."

### GERMAN

Berlin, Dec. 7.—By wireless to London, 3 p. m.—The German official statement given out in Berlin this afternoon says that in northern Poland German forces were successful in prolonged fighting around Lodz, in defeating strong Russian forces stationed to the northwest and to the southwest of this city.

## GERMANS RETAKE CITY OF LODZ IN DESPERATE BATTLE

London, Dec. 7.—A comparison of the reports from Berlin and Petrograd leads to the conclusion that the Germans again occupy Lodz from which city they were driven on their first retreat from Warsaw. Berlin makes the announcement that Lodz is in their hands while Petrograd admits that the situation there is desperate.

If the fall of the city is a fact, it indicates that communication with Warsaw and seriously menaced by a semi-official statement from Petrograd reports that the Russians are strong enough to hold invaders in northern Poland and will content themselves with doing this while devoting their main energies to reduction of Cracow and the invasion of Hungary.

Hungary, according to reports from the Russian capital, is the weak point in the armor of the Teuton allies. These messages from Petrograd say that even as early as the fall of Lemberg, Austria asked Russia for terms of peace. The negotiations to this end, if any really took place, apparently proved abortive. The story is again revived in Petrograd in the form of a report that the Hungarian prime minister, on a recent visit to Emperor William, demanded better terms of protection for Hungary, the lack of which would cause the loss of the kingdom.

The latest French official communication declares there is nothing to report on the western front as yet, with the exception of a special despatch to the effect that Ostend is burning nothing has been received in London to dispute the accuracy of this laconic statement.

On the water some minor activity has been noted, resulting in the reported destruction of Turkish auxiliaries in the Black Sea and submarines; the mining of two Swedish merchant ships off the Finnish coast and the crippling by a mine of the famous Turkish cruiser Hamidieh, which is said to have gained Constantinople with considerable difficulty.

## OFFICIALS BARE RECORDS IN THE SULLIVAN CASE

Washington, Dec. 7.—Following publication today of charges against James M. Sullivan, American minister to Santo Domingo, and formerly a Connecticut lawyer and newspaper man, officials made available for inspection on a mass of correspondence, including endorsements given to Mr. Sullivan and a former resident of this city. Two brothers, Albert and Theodore Pinkerman of this city, and two sisters, Mrs. Charles Buckley of Bridgeport, and Mrs. Sarah Martin of New York, also survive.

### Line Extending from North Sea to Switzerland Again Scene of Fierce Fighting—Both Sides Claim Advantage—Allies on Offensive

## BRITISH VESSEL SUNK IN PACIFIC

### Merchantman Sent to Bottom by German Transport—Capture of Lodz After Most Desperate Fighting Encourages German Army in Eastern Theatre

An offensive movement of the allies against the German armies on French and Belgian soil apparently is being extended gradually and now, according to the best available information covers a large part of the battle line from the North Sea to Switzerland. Today's official French statement, while worded with the caution that has characterized these communications recently, specifically mentions offensive movements in Belgium, in the regions of Armentieres, Arras and the Aisne, and in the Argonne. At all these points, it is said, the superiority of the French offensive has been shown.

The German forces which succeeded in pushing their way across the Yser canal, in the battles last month in which both sides suffered so severely, are said by the French war office now to have been forced out of their positions, with the exception of troops in a few entrenchments still under attack.

Another British merchantman, the Charcas, which sailed from New York, Oct. 1, for western South American ports, has been sent to the bottom by German guns. The transport Prinz Eitel Friedrich sunk the Charcas off the Chilean coast. It is not clear whether the German transport was accompanied by other warships or whether she was alone. The main German fleet has been reported recently to be in the south Atlantic.

### In Russian Poland

In Russian Poland, where more than anywhere else the fortunes of battle have been unevenly distributed, there apparently has been another of the swift changes which have made the situation a confused one since the beginning of the war. The success with which the Germans succeeded in rallying their forces and renewing the offensive after escaping from the Russian enveloping movement is indicated by the Berlin announcement which has not been contradicted in Petrograd, that the important Polish city of Lodz has been retaken by the Germans.

From Lodz the road leads to Warsaw, the objective in the two previous German advances.

From Russian sources comes the information of a new plan of offensive Cracow, it is said, is now under fire of Russian artillery and Russian strategy contemplates a shifting of the main attack from central Poland to the south, involving an attempt to push on from the region of Cracow, and enter Germany across the Silesian border, with Breslau the objective.

It has been reported that would involve a large reinforcement of the Russian army in Galicia.

The battered Serbian army apparently has rallied before the advance of the Austrians who have been sweeping northwestern Serbia bare of defenders.

Official statements concerning the fighting in the west still are confined to references to detached engagements, with conflicting claims of small advantages. In the main the situation today appeared to be much the same as for the last month.

## Elks Pay Tribute To Absent Brothers

Members of Bridgeport Lodge of Elks paid an impressive tribute to their "Absent Brothers" in their home in State street yesterday. More than 300 members of the lodge were present at the annual memorial service of the lodge. Addresses were made by John F. McDonough, exalted ruler, and Maurice Deiches, esteemed leading knight of New York Lodge, No. 1. An inspiring feature of the exercises was the playing of 24 musicians under the leadership of John J. Reynolds. Many of the players had been his pupils.

A six masted schooner went ashore in Nantucket Sound, near Vineyard Haven, Mass.