

THE UP OF FREIGHT IS WORST EVER

Five Miles of Trains Held Up By Congestion—Steamer Naugatuck Faces Serious Problem in Unloading of Its Cargo.

Confusion Reigns As Great Mass of Shipments Clogs Big Receiving Stations Here—Surplus May Have to Be Dumped in Snow.

Freight conditions in this city reached the acute stage today and some radical action is demanded by shippers and consignees.

Unless a great change is made in conditions at the Naugatuck dock the steamer Naugatuck will not be able to unload this afternoon.

The Whiting street freight house is packed to the roof. Freight is bulging out the doors and persons there today said that the surplus will have to be dumped in the snow outside.

Confusion reigns at the Water street house. Nobody is able to find his freight because it is all piled up in an inconceivable mess.

Lack of sufficient cars is given as the reason for the conditions at the Whiting street transfer house. It is impossible to enter the doorways and it is likely that no more shipments will be piled into the house.

Handlers attribute the situation to a shortage in rolling stock. There are many cars on the side tracks but they are not being moved because there isn't the help with which to do it, or cars in which to transfer the freight.

All manner of stuff is piled high at Water street. Freight that wasn't called for by the consignees has been pushed back into the freight house.

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The tangle seems hopeless and an embargo on certain shipments is likely to be made. The biggest problem seems to be to get the trucks and consignees to call for goods that have been blocking progress.

All this was apparent at the three houses today. Railroad officials, however, deny there is any congestion, although a scattering group of shippers at each house were shouting loudly of conditions today.

Added to all this, approximately five miles of freight trains were held up for several hours this afternoon.

Eight trains, extending from the center of the city all beyond Fairfield, were stalled. Trainsmen said there were two trains in front of them and five behind.

Officials of the Hartford & New York Transportation Co. say there is no likelihood that the company will run its steamers between Saybrook Point and New York when navigation of the Connecticut river closes for the season.

They admit that the demands of freight traffic are very heavy this year and would like to keep their steamers plying to and from Hartford throughout the winter, but say that in view of all circumstances it would not be advisable to make Saybrook Point a transfer landing.

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'PHONE CALL OF WIFE DISCLOSES MAN'S SUICIDE

Barthelma, Plumber, Takes Life in Hartford Hotel With Carbohc Acid

Couple Expected Christmas Reunion

Man Scrawls Farewell Note on Telegram From His Wife in Bridgeport.

The suicide of William C. Barthelma, aged 45, a plumber, was disclosed in dramatic fashion today, when his wife telephoned to the hotel where he was lodging in Hartford, and learned, after a few minutes delay, that her husband lay dead in his room, a victim of carbolic acid.

Barthelma formerly conducted a plumbing business at East Main and Jane streets, but lives at 127 Cedar street. Differences with his wife, and business opportunities combined to cause a separation that resulted in his working at his trade in Hartford while his wife continued to reside here.

Recently their differences were patched up, and arrangements were made for their removal of the family furniture, which was in storage, to Hartford. It was shipped yesterday, the couple having agreed to be settled in a new home in Hartford by the holidays.

Mrs. Barthelma telegraphed her husband yesterday of the shipment of the furniture and awaited an answer until this morning, when she decided to telephone to his hotel, the Clifton. There was no telephone connection with the room, and a clerk hurried there to summon the lodger to answer his wife's call. He hammered at the door to no avail, and finally, obtaining a pass key, entered the room to find the plumber upon the bed, dead.

The room was heavy with fumes of the deadly draught. In the room was a message hastily pencilled upon the envelope that brought her telegram. It directed her to his employers, who still owed him a few days' pay.

News of the tragedy was broken to Mrs. Barthelma over the telephone. She left Bridgeport soon afterward to make funeral arrangements.

The furniture truck arrived at the Hartford hotel later and the truckmen reported the matter to the police at about the same time that Mrs. Barthelma was leaving Bridgeport.

Barthelma was born in Hamilton street. He learned the plumbing business from his father, Herman, who is now living in Chicago. Later he opened his own concern and flourished. He retired about two years ago after which he worked for the Singer Sewing Machine Co. of this city.

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CONFESSES GUILT TO SAVE FRIENDS FROM JUDGMENT

John Stacey, Charged With Manslaughter, Admits Committing Deed.

Dramatic Scene in City Police Court

Sacrifice Fails When Bartlett Refuses to Discharge Prisoners.

To save his companions, John Stacey, of 1123 Railroad avenue, rose in the prisoners' pen at the city court today, just when Judge F. A. Bartlett was about to pronounce a decision, and called out that he alone is guilty of the serious assault committed upon Alex Mikelonis.

Five men were charged with manslaughter as a result of the death of Mikelonis, who lived at 1126 Railroad avenue. Stacey decided to sacrifice himself this morning when he saw that, on the evidence presented, his friends were likely to be bound over to the superior court.

The assault was alleged to have been committed by John, Patrick and Joseph Collins, of 1123 Railroad avenue, Arthur Malmstrom of 1824 State street and Stacey. They had been arrested and held awaiting the finding of Coroner Phelan, who declared the act manslaughter.

All prisoners were in city court today and each of them have repeatedly denied committing the assault. The hearing was nearly concluded and the court about to pronounce disposition of the case, when suddenly Stacey sprang from the bench in the prisoners' pen, with a wild look in his eyes and his voice trembling, he cried:

"For God's sake, your honor, don't blame the other fellows for killing Alex. I'm the one that hit him with the wooden tent stake. Please don't sentence the other fellows, but do with me what you wish."

With his hands trembling as he clung to the wooden rail, Stacey awaited the answer of Judge Bartlett, who was astounded at the confession. Before the court could answer Stacey and others, he again proclaimed his innocence. He was quieted by Court Officer Christopher Finnegan.

Turning towards the pen Judge Bartlett said he was very sorry that he could not order the contingent released in view of the fact that they had already confessed to being among the crowd that committed the assault. He then ordered the bonds in each case reduced from \$4,000 to \$1,000.

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AUSTRIA MUST MEET DEMANDS OF U. S., IF GOOD RELATIONS ARE TO CONTINUE, SAYS NEW NOTE

This Country Not Disposed to Argue Case, Says Latest Message to Vienna—Admissions of Austrian Admiralty Held Sufficient to Warrant Claims For Disavowal, Punishment of Submarine Captain and Reparation—Note Reaches Vienna Today.

Washington, Dec. 22—The United States will not argue the Ancona case with Austria. Good relations between the two countries depend on Austria's immediate action on the demands of the United States for a disavowal of the attack, punishment of the submarine commander and reparation.

The official admission by Austria that the Ancona was torpedoed after she had stopped and while passengers were still aboard is sufficient for the United States demands.

Such is the gist of the second note from the United States to Vienna, in relation to the Ancona sinking. The first note elicited a reply from Austria that State Department officials termed "unsatisfactory and unacceptable."

The second note was made public here today. It was transmitted previously to Ambassador Penfield at Vienna, and, according to London despatches here, its receipt at the Austrian capital was announced today.

The note is brief. It reiterates the demands of the previous note, and while diplomats here do not refer to it as an "ultimatum," it brooks of no evasion.

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VON PAPAN, SAILING, SAYS HISTORY WILL REFUTE 'CALUMNIES'

New York, Dec. 22—Captain Franz von Papan, Germany's recalled military attaché, left New York for Rotterdam today on the steamship Noordam. Before parting he issued a statement to the American people:

"In leaving this country, where I have received so many proofs of kindness and hospitality from Americans and others, I deem it my duty to thank all those who did not permit their friendly, personal feelings to be poisoned by the hatred created by the war among nations.

"My thoughts return back today especially to those unforgettable days when I had the honor and good fortune to spend some time with the expeditionary force at Vera Cruz, where I learned to admire the splendid soldierly qualities and devotion to duty of the United States army.

"Personally speaking, no greater satisfaction could be given to me than the fulfillment of my ardent desire to be called home where soldiers are far more urgently needed than here.

"I leave my post without any feeling of bitterness because I know too well that when history is once written it will establish our clean records despite all those representations and calumnies spread broadcast at present.

"The New York World, which certainly is not open to the suspicion of harboring friendly feeling for my country, stated very fairly, when discussing my recall, 'now that the matter is settled, the fact should be emphasized that the state department made no charges against Captain Von Papan and Captain Boy-Ed which reflected in slightest degree on their honor as officers. Certain newspapers have made reckless charges which have not been supported by evidence but intimated that it believed these charges the United States government never to be true.'"

"To this I have nothing to add. After all, this war will not be won by the Evidence Journal and the Evening Telegram with their hyphenated supporters. It will be decided by the success of the invincible German arms."

The captain was accompanied to the pier at Hoboken by a few friends, with whom he chatted while his baggage was being examined. The examination of all baggage going aboard ship was put in force for the first time today by the Holland-American line. Officials of the line declined to give any specific reason for the examination.

Captain Von Papan has a ticket for the steamer Noordam, which sails today for Rotterdam by way of Falmouth, Eng. The entrance agent has given him safe conduct across the Atlantic.

It is reported that Captain Boy-Ed will leave here for Rotterdam, Dec. 23, on the steamer Rotterdam.

UNITED STATES TROOPS AT BORDER ORDERED TO RETURN MEXICANS' FIRE

Washington, Dec. 22—American troops at El Paso, the War Department announced today, have been given orders to "return vigorously any further deliberate firing" from the Mexican side of the border.

General Pershing, in command at El Paso, has reported that the firing which resulted late yesterday in the death of an American car inspector was the deliberate act of a squad of Mexicans who appeared half a mile east of the International bridge.

American troops, the report added, were covering the whole river front. During the rioting in Juarez, the report said, there has been little firing and none towards the American side. General Avilla, who was in charge of the troops in Juarez, ordered several of the rioters shot, according to military reports from the border.

A State Department agent at El Paso reported that the American car inspector was killed by an irresponsible soldier, who was afterward killed by his own men.

Letter Writer, Who Threatened Turk, Jailed

Washington, Dec. 22—Harry Nevelan, a Turk, arrested on complaint of A. Hussein Bey, the Turkish chargé, was sentenced today to serve six months in the workhouse or give bond to keep the peace for having sent the charge a threatening letter last month.

Janitor Resigns

Joshua Fox of this city, assistant janitor at the county court house, has handed in his resignation, which will take effect Jan. 1. The county commissioners declared this morning that Fox's successor had not been decided upon yet.

ARMY OF 4,000,000 FOR BRITAIN VOTED AFTER LONG DEBATE

London, Dec. 22—The debate in the House of Commons on the supplementary estimate of the government providing for the raising of one million extra men for the army continued until 5:30 o'clock