

BRIDGEPORT EVENING FARMER

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SATURDAY, JAN. 29, 1916.

EXPECTED BY FARMER READERS

THE 41,000 TAXPAYERS who have received notice of large valuation increases, a little later will get notice of the largest tax rate in the history of Bridgeport, since it entered upon full valuation, more than 20 years ago.

It is to be presumed that a few of these taxpayers are not readers of The Farmer. These may, perhaps, be astonished. But the others, who do read The Farmer, were prepared for what has happened. Through the columns of this newspaper they have long been familiar with the extravagance, the financial recklessness, the Warrenite contracts, the cold bottles and the warm birds, the automobiles and unnecessary placemen of a machine administration of Bridgeport's affairs.

Mayor Wilson's notion that a policy of debt would, or could, reduce the tax rate has been proved in practice to be as unfounded and ridiculous as The Farmer has many times declared it in theory to be.

The grand list has been swollen in an unprecedented degree.

The tax rate has been increasing as never before. But the fifteen mill tax rate, which Mayor Wilson solemnly promised, if his policy should be adopted, is not realized.

City Auditor Keating estimates the rate at 20.7 mills. Only by the most rigid economy, at points where economy is still possible, can the rate be kept as low as this high figure. There can be no two platoon system and no large increase in the police force, unless the rate is to go above 20.7.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE BRANDEIS

CONNECTICUT'S INTEREST in her own favorite son, Justice George W. Wheeler, will not prevent her from heartily approving the selection of Louis D. Brandeis as associate justice of the supreme court.

After all, Connecticut's interest was to place in the vacancy created by the death of Justice Lamar a jurist of lofty ideals and intelligence splendidly equipped, whose weight should be thrown upon the side of the people in those great decisions which it is sometimes the destiny of the supreme court to make.

In Mr. Brandeis, President Wilson has found such a man. His services to New England have been great. Had his advice been taken, New England would not now be in the agonies of a transportation famine. The widows and orphans of New England would be drawing just dividends from their honest investments in facilities for transportation. Many men of light and leading, whose fair fame is tarnished by the misconduct of others, would not so have suffered. Mr. Brandeis' endeavors to expose and prevent the New England railroad catastrophe are too well known to need rehearsal here.

His appointment is satisfactory in another respect. It exhibits to mankind the certain knowledge that merit will be recognized in the high places of government, regardless of race, or creed. Well is it for a republic when promotion depends upon knowledge, merit, integrity and good service.

THE COST OF RENT

THE PRESENT FISCAL arrangements for the raising of sums necessary to carry on the city, or to meet the necessities of politicians in the government, will undoubtedly be followed by a wholesale increase in rents. Indeed, many landlords already have given notice that more rent will be expected beginning with Feb. 1.

It is sincerely to be hoped that landlords will take no more than is sufficient to reimburse them for the extra sums they are required to pay to the government.

Temperance in this matter will prove wisdom in the long run. This is an industrial city. It is imperative that rents here should be reasonable. The owners of industries cannot afford to have it otherwise. Should greed lead to exorbitant increase, more than are warranted by the conditions, there would follow a large building of company houses, on the plan already adopted by the Remington Arms & Ammunition Company.

The amount of increased rent actually required by the increase in the budget, will vary in various cases, according to the increase in the valuation upon which the rate is laid, and the size of the rate itself. No more than the actual increase should in justice be taken.

The home owner is in the situation of the rent payer. He cannot recover from others the increased payments, as those who rent property can.

TIME TO THINK IT OVER

SINCE THE SUBJECT of taxation is now so exceedingly present in the minds of the citizens, the time is opportune to refer again to the shifting of taxation, which ought to be paid by the New Haven Company, to the shoulders of others, who ought to pay their own share to the support of government, but not the share of others.

In 1906, the New Haven paid in taxes to Connecticut more than \$1,171,000.

In 1905, by a process of legislative juggling, this sum fell to \$509,000, although the value of the property, as exhibited by its owners, was three or four times greater.

In 1906 Massachusetts received less in tax payments from the New Haven Company, than Connecticut got, but last year received about \$1,000,000 more, although the property is apportioned between the two states about as it always was.

Bridgeport is paying this year, to the state, \$390,000. This payment would not be necessary if the New Haven Company had been required to pay upon the same scale as in 1906, or upon the same scale required by Massachusetts.

Why should Bridgeport pay \$390,000, mostly a tax upon homes, to aid a railroad monopoly, which no other state is willing to aid in the same way?

Two hundred employees of the Warren Foundry & Machine Co., at Phillipsburg, N. J., went on strike for a wage increase of 10 per cent.

A bill providing for compulsory investment in war loans is expected to be introduced in the British Parliament when it reconvenes.

Standard Oil Co. of California has purchased the oil land holdings and other property of the Monte Cristo Oil & Development Co.

Single men of the ages from 27 to 30 years, enrolled under Lord Derby's enlistment campaign, will be called to the colors Feb. 3.

Carnation Day Commemorates Birth of William McKinley

There is every indication that Carnation Day, which commemorates the birth of William McKinley, will be more widely observed here than ever throughout the United States today. The Carnation Day observance was originated by the late Joseph Adams, of Kalamazoo, Mich., soon after the death of the "martyr" president, and suggested that on each January 29th every one wear a carnation, the favorite flower of the slain statesman. The suggestion was taken up by the entire country, and each year has witnessed an extension of the observance. The Carnation League of America was formed to foster the movement, and its efforts have been attended with great success.

Interest in the McKinley Day celebration naturally centers in the Ohio cities of Niles and Canton. The body of the former President rests in the tomb on Monument Hill in Canton, where McKinley long resided. At Niles, where he was born, the cornerstone was recently laid for a National McKinley Birthplace Memorial. This edifice, when completed, will be a two-story building, severely colonial in architecture, flanked by wings, and with a marble figure of McKinley, twelve feet in height, in front of the structure. Ionic columns will support the main portico. The Niles memorial project was initiated by J. G. Niles, of Canton, Ohio, who was largely responsible for raising the funds to carry it through. Henry C. Frick was the largest contributor to the fund, giving \$50,000. The house in which the future chief executive was born was a frame structure of two stories which stood on the main street in Niles. The site is now occupied by a bank. The house was removed to another site, where it was permitted to fall into ruin, vandals helping in its demolition. A few years ago the building was purchased by the city of Niles, and the crumbling shell of the house which was the first home of one of Ohio's most distinguished sons.

Frederick Palmer, War Correspondent, 43 Years Old Today

Frederick Palmer, the most famous of the American war correspondents who have been permitted to observe at close range the work of the French and British armies on the western front, was born forty-three years ago today at Pleasantville, Pa. For more than a year he was continuously with the Allied armies in France, having been chosen as the official representative of the American Press. Mr. Palmer began his newspaper career in Jamestown, N. Y., and began his career as a war correspondent in Greece twenty years ago. Since then he has "covered" wars in the Philippines, China, Central America, Macedonia, Manchuria, the Balkans and western Europe. His experience in the line ranges from the Macedonian insurrection and the Boxer uprising to the greatest armed conflict in all history.

Mr. Palmer has written one of the best of the numerous "war books," since "My Year of the Great War" is based on the experiences and observations of a man who has received a thorough training in military matters. It is evident from a perusal of the work that all of the famous correspondents' sympathies are with the Allies, but there is no evidence of blind partisanship or over-enthusiastic prejudice. Mr. Palmer's visit to Berlin convinced him that the Germans are not very serious in their plea that the war is not of their making, and that they are "the defensive" of a people who think only in the offensive.

Mr. Palmer spent some time in Belgium, and the plight of the people of that unhappy land has interested his sympathies. There is a lighter side to the German occupation, however, as evidenced in the correspondent's account of a body of Belgian boys who, wearing old bowler hats with carrots stuck through the tops to represent helmets, marched through a street shouting "on to Paris!" doing the goose-step backward. He also records a conversation with an Irish soldier, who, on being told that some of the Irish in America are pro-German, exclaimed: "Now will ye listen to that! Did ye ever see an Irishman on the right side without one doing the talking for the devil for the joy of argument?"

THE BOOKWORM HABIT

One of the prominent ideas of modern school life is to interest the pupils in good books and help them acquire the reading habit. The discarded old reading books of former years, with their haphazard selections of poetry, philosophy, and oratory, have disappeared. In many schools the reading books consist of high class standard works of fiction and other classics that young folks should enjoy.

With the majority of children this creates a familiarity with the printed page that otherwise they might not acquire. But there is always a certain proportion of children who are impatient to books. You take them visiting, and instead of joining in other children's plays, they burrow in book shelves. They waste their eyesight in poor light, and their cheeks fade in the dim-door life. Such children live in a dream world. They walk, talk and think in the book atmosphere. Their heroes are creatures of fiction. They are so busy seeing what other and imaginary characters have done, that they have no power left to start things of their own. Turn such children out-doors for some fresh air, and they dawdle around and soon come in and ask their mothers what they shall do. This is not meant as an argument against the cultivation of the reading habit in schools. For every one bookworm, there are half a dozen to whom any book seems like a school task, formidable and repelling. They need all possible encouragement to find the pleasures and inspirations of Book-land.

The little bookworm is a separate problem. Teachers should see to it that they join with their comrades in the sports around the school grounds. Such children should be given baseballs and footballs for Christmas instead of books. Every time they can be forced out into active play with other children, their power for action in the world has been assisted.

Again the nation is called on to deplore the fact that the Birthdays of Washington and Lincoln can be the defense of the government with their pitchforks.

HATTERS REJOICE AT THEIR HOMES ARE SAVED THEM

Munificence of Fellow Workers Give Them More Than Enough To Pay.

Danbury, Jan. 28.—Scenes of joyous confusion marked the receipt of news yesterday that the homes of the Danbury hatmakers had been saved through the munificence of millions of union workers throughout the country. The great joy was manifested not only by the 160 men whose homes were to be taken under foreclosure in the Danbury case, but also among their 3,000 co-workers in factories here.

Great crowds gathered outside the headquarters of the Hatters' union. For a time the scene resembled a riot. Gray haired men, whose days of active labor are over and who constituted a majority of the defendants whose homes were about to be taken, were surrounded by the younger ones. Thousands pressed around to grasp their trembling hands.

Tears rolled down the cheeks of these veterans in service when it was announced that the Hatters had come forward with \$350,000, well in excess of the amount necessary.

Officials of the Hatters' union suggested that new homes be built for the defendants in the city rather than bid in the old homes at the foreclosure sale. The defendants, however, do not take kindly to the suggestion, as they have lived in these houses practically all their lives and are loath to give them up even for better ones.

THOMAS PAINE

A pioneer in many domains was Thomas Paine, who was born in Thetford, Eng., 1793 years ago today. The first article he wrote in an American publication in the Pennsylvania Magazine in 1776, was an attack on negro slavery which inspired the formation of the first American abolitionist society. The first open denunciation of duelling, the first "Protest Against Cruelty to Animals" appearing in any influential American publication, and the first plea for "The Rights of Woman" ever published in the New World, issued from his prolific pen. He invented and superintended the construction of an iron bridge, the first of its kind, across the Wear, at Sunderland, England, in 1788, and in the same year he was the first to propose steam navigation in America. He was the first to suggest a union of the colonies, and he was the first to write the words, "United States of America." He was the first to suggest the title of "The Royal Admiral of Italy."

The Royal Admiral of Italy

Admiral the Duke of the Abruzzi, the royal commander in chief of the Italian navy, will pass his forty-third birthday today, having been born Jan. 23, 1873. He is the third son of Amadeo, Duke of Aosta, son of King Victor Emmanuel II, of Italy, and was born in Madrid during his reign as King of Spain. Amadeo I, was elected to the Spanish throne in 1870, and abdicated on Feb. 11, 1873, when the present chief of Italy's navy was about two weeks old. Prince Louis Amadeo Giuseppe Maria Ferdinand Francesco of Savoy, Duke of the Abruzzi, to give him his full name, is famous as an explorer and geographer. Twenty years ago he visited America and ascended Mt. St. Elias in Alaska. In 1900 he led a polar expedition which penetrated nearer to the North Pole than had been done at that time, his party reaching a point closer to the goal than had Nansen. His explorations and mountain climbing feats in Central Africa and in the Himalayas added to his fame. He has discovered 9,000 feet in the Himalayas, the highest point ever reached. While visiting in America with an Italian squadron some years ago he met and fell in love with Miss Katherine Elkins, the West Virginia heiress. For months the papers of America and Europe were filled with reports of their impending marriage, but the romance came to nothing. His elevation to the chief command of the Italian fleet was very popular in Italy, for the Duke had demonstrated his fitness for the post in the Italo-Turkish war, when the Turkish gunboats were torpedoed in Durazzo harbor by the torpedo squadron which he commanded.

THE SWEDENBORGIANS

The Church of the New Jerusalem observes today the 228th anniversary of the birth of the founder, who was born in Stockholm, Sweden, Jan. 23, 1688. The Swedenborgians in the United States and Canada, now number over 10,000, with more than 150 churches. England is the greatest stronghold of the sect, but the church has a considerable following in Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Germany, and missions in other countries. The works of the Swedish theologian have lately undergone expurgation at the hands of his American disciples, who have eliminated the "doctrine of concubinage" taught by their great leader. This doctrine teaches that under certain circumstances certain relations outside of marriage are not a violation of the Seventh Commandment. The general convention of the American church renounced this doctrine, declaring that "any minister doing these things would be expelled from the body as a disturber of our peace, a defiler of purity, a blasphemer of God's word and a scandalizer of our doctrines."

The Swedenborgians believe that the founder of their sect witnessed the last judgement, or the second advent of Jesus, whom they consider the only God embracing Father, Son and Holy Ghost; and that Swedenborg's works contain revelations which constitute the key to the Sacred Scriptures, which they hold to be the true Word of God.

While the army and navy may lack shells and other ammunition, it is believed that the farmers would rush to the defence of the government with their pitchforks.

Centenary of Nathaniel P. Banks, Factory Hand, General, and Statesman

One hundred years ago this Sunday, on January 30, 1816, Nathaniel Prentiss Banks was born in Waltham, Mass. The centenary is worthy of commemoration not only because of the honor due to a man who served his country faithfully and well both as soldier and statesman, but because the career of Banks affords another illustration of the truth of the statement that America is the land of opportunity, where birth and blood count for nothing.

The toilers in the manufacturing establishments of the busy industrial city of Waltham may claim Banks as their own, for he was the son of working people, and started life as a factory hand. His education was confined to the common schools, but after becoming a workman he continued to study privately. His earliest ambition was to go upon the stage, and he was the "star" of the local dramatic club, and also of the village debating society. Not finding an opportunity to display his histrionic talent on the professional stage, he entered the lecture field, and was quite successful in his tour of village lyceums. After that young Banks entered journalism and was for a time the editor of newspapers in Waltham and Lowell. In those days every editor had to be active in politics and every newspaper was a political organ. During the administration of President Folk, Banks held a public office in the Boston Custom House. After years of vain effort, he was elected to the Massachusetts legislature, entering that body in 1849, and becoming speaker of the lower house two years later, being at that time the leader of the Democratic-Free Soil coalition which triumphed over the Whigs. In 1853 he was elected to Washington as a member of Congress. There he voted against the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and withdrew from the Democratic party. He was re-elected to Congress by the new Republican party and the "Know Nothings."

After a memorable contest which lasted for two months and aroused the passions of the whole nation, Banks was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives. It has often been asserted that his administration as Speaker was characterized by an impartiality never before or since surpassed, and at the end of his term all parties joined in paying tribute to his ability.

In 1857 the former Massachusetts factory hand resigned from Congress and returned to his native State as governor, and was re-elected in 1858 and in 1859. The following year Banks retired from public life to become the president of the Illinois Central railway, then the greatest of western transportation systems, operating more than 700 miles of track between Chicago and Cairo, Centralia and Dunleith. The Illinois Central, built at a cost of nearly \$25,000,000, was considered a wonderful system in those days, although many predicted that Illinois would never become sufficiently well settled to support a railroad built at such a tremendous cost. The career of Banks as a railway president was cut short by the outbreak of the civil war. He immediately offered his services to President Lincoln, and in 1861 was created a major-general of volunteers and appointed to command the Annapolis military district. His first big battle was at Winchester, to which place he had won a race with "Stonewall" Jackson. It was not permitted to rest there, however, for the Confederates, 20,000 strong, were close behind his force, which numbered only 7,000. General Ewell attacked Banks before the dawn of a May morning in 1862, and a furious battle ensued. The Confederates were held in check for five hours, but Jackson's whole force approaching, Banks gave the order for retreat. The Union army passed rapidly through the town, men and women firing upon them from windows. After a forced march Banks reached the Potomac opposite Williamsport, where the Curtiss rifle system was abandoned at Martinsburg, twelve miles away. Within forty-eight hours Banks and his little army had marched fifty-three miles and fought one severe battle and many skirmishes, losing only thirty-eight killed, 155 wounded, and 717 missing. Only fifty-five of his 500 wagons were lost. It was one of the most masterly retreats of the war, and Banks, although vanquished, won high praise.

In the following July Banks commanded the attacking force in the battle of Cedar Mountain. Again he was outnumbered, having only 3,000 men to hurl against the 20,000 veteran Confederates drawn up in line of battle. The battle raged for an hour and a half, and was characterized by deeds of great valor on both sides, but the Union army was pushed back. Banks was then called to Washington to command the defenses of the national capital, but in the Fall of 1862 he was sent to New Orleans to succeed General Butler, who was bitterly hated by the citizens of the Crescent City. Butler's "woman order," to the effect that "when any man shall be guilty of word, gesture, or movement, insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States, he shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation" aroused widespread indignation in the Confederate States. It also led to much criticism of Butler in the North, with the result that he was supplanted in New Orleans by Banks. The latter was much more successful than his predecessor in winning the respect and confidence of the officials and people of the conquered city.

In 1864 Banks was placed in command of the Red River expedition, which had for its object the reoccupation of Texas by an invasion via the Red River and Shreveport. This project was undertaken against the judgment of the protect of General Banks. A fleet of gunboats and an army of troops dispatched by General Sherman co-operated with the force led by Banks. Alexandria, on the Red River, was taken, and the Union army met with no opposition until it had passed Nachitoches, a hundred miles from Shreveport. Confederates from Texas and Arkansas were gathering, however, and soon 25,000 strong, with seventy cannon, they opposed the advance of the Federals. The first battle resulted in disaster to the Nationals, but at Pleasant Grove and again at Mansfield Hill Banks was victorious. In spite of these temporary successes, Banks was forced to retreat, and constantly harassed by sharpshooters, the Union army made its way back to Alexandria after many difficult miles. Porter's gunboat fleet and Banks' army reached the Mississippi. The Red River campaign had proved futile and disastrous, as the "Dardanelles" campaign of the Allies in the present war. Although Banks had

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advised against the plan. He came in for much censure. He next undertook the reconstruction of the civil government of Louisiana, but did not succeed, and was relieved of his command.

The Jefferson County Bank of Birmingham, Ala., capital \$500,000, has been taken over by the State Banking Department for liquidation.

After the close of the war Banks was re-elected to Congress from his old district and was returned several times to his native city in Congress having been from 1889 to 1891. In the intervals between his legislative service he was United States marshal in Massachusetts. General Banks died in his native city in 1894, leaving behind him the memory of a long and useful life, largely spent in the service of his country.

HOT WATER BOTTLES Every one guaranteed. 60c to \$2.00. FOUNTAIN SYRINGES 60c to \$2.00. RUBBER SHEETING The kind that gives satisfaction 45c per yard up. ELASTIC STOCKINGS For years we have had a large business in these goods. Prices and quality guaranteed.

PERSONAL MENTION. The home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Carleton Sterling has been blessed by the arrival of daughter, born at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon. Mr. Sterling, assistant advertising manager of the Warner Brothers Co., is receiving congratulations from his numerous friends in this and other cities, while Mrs. Sterling, formerly Miss Catherine Calhoun, is resting comfortably.

DEAF MUTE SOCIETY BALL PROVES SUCCESS The annual ball of the Park City Deaf Mute society, enmasque, was a pleasing success at Eagles' hall last night. About 125 couples participated in the affair and others who waited for the unmasking later joined in the merriment. The costumes were varied and many unique.

"BLACK BOWS" BANQUET. The Black Bow society, composed of local trolleyman, held their annual banquet at the Fairfield restaurant last night. After many humorous remarks of the society attended. Speeches were made by T. D. McCarthy, chairman of the committee; Charles H. Chapman, general manager of the Connecticut; W. P. Bristol of Bristol, and M. E. Stack.

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