

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

VOL. 52—NO. 58

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1916

PRICE TWO CENTS

GERMANY TO DROP NEW SUBMARINE POLICY IF ENGLAND WILL RESPECT REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, BERLIN NOTE DECLARES

BIG CHEMICAL PLANT AT NIAGARA FALLS WRECKED BY SEVERAL EXPLOSIONS

Series of Blasts Last Night Are Followed By Another Terrific Explosion Today Which Almost Completely Destroys Plant—Officials Blame Outside Agencies.

Niagara Falls, March 8.—Fire followed an explosion in the chorate department of the Niagara Electro-Chemical Co. shortly before 9 o'clock today and threatened to complete the destruction of the plant began last night, when several explosions and the resultant fires inflicted damage estimated at \$1,000,000.

The explosion was heard for several miles around and across the Niagara Cataract in Canada, when it caused a hasty mobilization of the militia guarding the frontier. The police roped off the streets in the vicinity of the chemical plant as the fire was driven toward chemicals of a high explosive nature.

The firemen were helpless to cope with the spreading fire because water making with the chemicals only added fuel to the flames.

Dr. Hector R. Carvath, manager of the company, issued a formal statement today to the effect that the plant

had been "bombed."

"I am," he said, "convinced the explosion in our plant was the result of outside agencies. Careful investigation has shown us the first explosion was not such as would have occurred had chemicals stored in our buildings let go.

"I believe a bomb with only a small amount of explosive was set off just inside the peroxide plant, the slight explosion that followed giving most of the factory a chance to escape. The second explosion was also caused by a bomb but those that followed were those of the stores of chemicals in the plant."

Dr. Carvath has asked the police to make every effort to find the dynamite. He was making an inspection of the plant when today's explosion occurred. No one was injured. In the incidental explosion last night one man was killed and another badly injured.

HAINES IN DEFENCE SAYS MIND IS BLANK AS TO HIS WIFE'S MURDER; MOURNS

Trumbull Farmer Says Loss of Helpmeet, Depriving His Little Ones of a Mother, Has Affected Him Deeply.

Knows Naught of Incidents of Fateful Day, Nor Many Days Thereafter He Tells the Jury in the Superior Court.

"I don't remember," was the keynote of Jason S. Haines' defense when he took the stand in the criminal superior court this morning to tell his version of the murder of his wife.

"I don't remember shooting my wife," he declared. "I didn't intend to shoot her and leave my four boys motherless without a relative in the world."

Haines was calm in manner during his recital. He spoke in a low tone and sometimes his voice was so inaudible that his counsel, Attorney Jacob E. Klein, had to request him to speak louder. Haines claimed he couldn't remember much of anything that happened on the Saturday preceding the murder until the day of his arrest. He had been drinking steadily at this time.

He recalled coming to this city from Trumbull but didn't remember returning to his home and slaying his wife. His next clear recollection was waking up in jail and hearing about the murder. He said "he went to Newtown with two detectives who were making animals." When asked what he meant by that statement Haines finally changed it by saying he thought he saw animals.

Haines testified that he is 48 years old. He was married 19 years ago to Annie Bobbick, who worked at Minor Smith's Stratford resort at the time. Their married life was generally pleasant, he said, although they had some disputes when they had been drinking. One time he told his wife that if she would stop drinking, he would. He declared that when his wife had been drinking she often struck him. Once she hit him with a frying pan and at another time threw stones at him until he hit her with a pall.

Upon cross-examination by State's Attorney Cummings, Haines admitted he had four guns about the house, but didn't think more than one was loaded. In regard to his drinking habits he said, "I guess I drank more than my wife." He denied Mrs. Haines had asked him to stop drinking.

He didn't know, he declared, that his wife complained to one of the neighbors, Mrs. Waller, about being beaten by him. He said that on the occasion when he struck his wife on the head with the pall that the pall had slipped out of his hand. Haines claimed he didn't remember saying to his son, "Some day you'll come home and find your mother dead."

The cross-examination was resumed this afternoon.

HURT IN CRASH, FINISHES WORK FOR UNCLE SAM

Sub Carrier Completes Mail Deliveries After Half Hour Unconsciousness.

Unconscious for half an hour after being catapulted from his seat on a parcel post delivery wagon that was struck by a southbound trolley car last night, John F. Goulding, age 26, a substitute letter carrier, completed his rounds last night, when he recovered his senses. He later went to his home at 23 Wilmot avenue, where he is in a serious condition today.

Goulding is a substitute, and as such he is assigned to the collection of mail in the northern part of the city. His route covers all streets north of St. Vincent's hospital. Shortly after 10 o'clock last night he was returning to the post office with a large collection of mails.

He was driving south on Main street. He heard the clang of the motorman's bell on a south bound trolley car near the foot of Hospital hill and he endeavored to leave the railway. The motorman of the car put on the brakes coming down the hill but they failed to hold and before Goulding could get a clear of the tracks, the trolley car crashed into the rear of the parcel post wagon, overturning the vehicle and scattering the mail in all directions. Goulding was catapulted from his seat and he struck headfirst. He was knocked unconscious.

Pedestrians revived him and he went to St. Vincent's hospital where he received treatment. A four inch laceration to the scalp and possible internal injuries were found. Then he completed his rounds of collection and brought the mail matter to the post office. He informed his superiors he would be unable to return to work today.

The mail wagon was a new vehicle, owned by Walter Stapleton, and was valued at \$250. The horse suffered severe lacerations to the forelegs. It was treated by Dr. C. E. Atkins, veterinarian, who said the animal is not seriously injured.

Stapleton today expressed his intention of bringing civil action against the Connecticut Co. The damage is estimated at \$300. The mail was intact.

TONG LEADERS WARNED

San Francisco, March 8.—Tong leaders in San Francisco's Chinese quarter received warning today from the chief of police that unless peace was made immediately between the Sun On and Hop Sing Tong he would declare a blockade upon Chinatown and warn all tourists to stay away from the quarter.

Speaker Champ Clark celebrated his 66th birthday. He was loudly cheered in the House.

FAIRFIELD'S TAX WILL REMAIN AT FOURTEEN MILLS

Citizens To Make Effort To Keep Assessment Stationary For Year.

GRAND LIST MAKES JUMP OF \$600,000

School Facilities For Southport Among Town Meeting Problems.

(Special to The Farmer.)

Fairfield, March 8.—When the voters gather Monday evening, March 13, at the town hall for the adjourned town meeting it is expected that the tax rate for the coming year will be allowed to remain the same as last year. The tax rate is 14 mills.

It became known today that the grand list for the year is \$7,415,300. Last year the grand list was \$6,815,300. An increase of \$600,000 has been made by the assessors who have just completed their lists.

Other questions to come before the voters are: To consider and act upon the naming of new streets in the town; of placing new fire hydrants; of providing new lights for the streets of the town; of improving Mermaid avenue from Spring street to Mermaid avenue; of added school facilities to the town of Southport; of the acceptance of the highway known as Black Rock turnpike, from the north to the residence of Charles E. Phelps to the Easton line. A resolution will be presented to authorize the selectmen to borrow in behalf of the town, \$5,000, as they judge needful, and to authorize them to give notes of the town for such moneys borrowed.

BOYS' REPUBLIC TO GET BEQUEST OF BRIDGEPORTER

Late Harry A. Hubbell Left \$14,000 to Be Used For George Junior Work.

(Special to The Farmer.)

New Haven, March 8.—Announcement was made at the meeting of the trustees of the George Junior Republic of Litchfield, here yesterday that through a bequest of Harry A. Hubbell of Bridgeport the organization will receive in the neighborhood of \$14,000.

Henry C. Hubbell who died here on May 4, 1913 left an estate estimated at \$123,873.30 and in ordering the distribution of it he made many bequests to public institutions and to charity. The estate has not yet been settled. An application for an extension of time until April, 1916 recently was granted the Bridgeport Trust Co., trustee of the estate. The trustee asked for the extension in order to make a more advantageous sale of about \$23,000 worth of real property which is part of the estate. According to the appraisers John T. King, William J. Nichols and John A. Rusling, Mr. Hubbell was possessed of bonds valued at \$33,135; stocks worth \$60,127.97 and \$7,604.33 cash.

Harry Hubbell was the only son of Capt. John Hubbell, one of the pioneer steamboat men of Bridgeport. For many years Capt. Hubbell managed a steamship line between Bridgeport and New York. For a number of years he was secretary of the Bryant Electric Co. He never married and his heirs-at-law were Leon H. Hawley of San Francisco, an uncle, and Fannie P. Marsh of Bridgeport, an aunt. He left a legacy to each and also bequests to a number of cousins and other distant relations as well as bequests to male friends whom he also distributed his valuable jewelry.

He left a bequest of \$12,000 to endow a free bed at St. Vincent's hospital. He also left bequests of about \$7,000 each to the Y. W. C. A., the Tubercular hospital at Wallingford, Bridgeport Boys club and Bridgeport Christian Union.

NEW STATE ROAD PLANNED

Hartford, March 8.—The continuation of the work of reconstructing the New Haven turnpike from New Haven northward a distance of nine miles which Highway Commissioner Bennett authorized today will bring the reconstructed highway to a mile beyond the south boundary of Wallingford. It is expected the work will be finished by June 1.

The Norwegian-American line steamer Christianiafjord arrived at New York from Bergen with 550 passengers.

FRANCE AWAIT'S BATTLE

Terrific Struggle For Verdun Is Nearing Issue and Whole Nation is Watching For Decision.

Germans Report Further Gain With Capture of Many Prisoners—Paris Hopeful of Result.

Paris, March 8.—France awaits anxiously but confidently the issue of today's battle. Yesterday's attacks left the situation undecided. Corbeaux Wood, in which the Germans succeeded in establishing themselves, is within a hollow between Deadman and Goose Hills and as neither position is endangered the German success is of little import.

It is known here that the Germans set aside 200,000 men to capture Verdun. Only 200,000 having been employed up to yesterday, it was a question whether the remaining 100,000 would be used to make a sudden descent on part of the French line developing the offensive against the fortress.

The heavy attack west of the river however, leaves that question no longer to be settled. The impression of members of parliament who keep regularly informed as to the progress of the battle, is that the defense will be able to resist all onslaughts the Germans may make and that Goose Hill, on the left bank, will play a role similar to that of Douaumont on the right. It is expected the battle will reach its climax tomorrow or Friday. Not until then will it be possible to judge which way the battle will go.

GERMANS PUSH DRIVE

Berlin, March 8.—The capture of a French position west of the Meuse on the sides of the Forges Brook below Bethincourt, six kilometers wide and three kilometers deep was announced today by German headquarters.

It was also announced that the villages of Forges and Regneville, the heights of Raben and the Camiers Woods were in German possession.

The capture of 58 officers, 3,277 men and 10 cannon is officially reported.

In the Weevre district the French were driven out of the last houses they held in the village of Fresnoe. More than 700 prisoners were taken.

LITTLE CHANGE AT VERDUN.

Paris, March 8.—In the Champagne the French have captured portions of the trenches lost on March 6, according to semi-official announcement made here today.

The situation north of Verdun is unchanged. No infantry attacks were made last night, the announcement says. Artillery fighting continues.

BAKER OFF FOR WASHINGTON TO TAKE UP DUTIES

Cleveland, March 8.—His nomination already confirmed by the Senate, Newton D. Baker, former mayor of Cleveland, left today for Washington, where tomorrow he will take the oath of office and enter upon his duties as secretary of war.

To some of his friends Mr. Baker said jokingly, just before leaving: "I shall have a great deal to learn. Why, as a boy I never even played with tin soldiers."

Washington, March 8.—Taking of the oath of office was all that was necessary today to make Newton D. Baker, former mayor of Cleveland, secretary of war. His nomination was confirmed by the Senate last night just six hours after it had been sent in by the President. Mr. Baker is expected here today to assume his new duties.

PACIFIC STEAMER WRECKED

Vancouver, B. C., March 8.—The United Steamship Company's 1,500-ton steamer Camosun, which ran aground yesterday on Digby Island near the entrance to Prince Rupert Harbor during a heavy snow-storm, probably will be a total loss, shipping men here said today. The Camosun's passengers were taken off and landed at Prince Rupert.

GARY AND STEEL COMPANIES HELD FOR WAGE TRUST

Indictments Returned Today Follows Probe of Youngstown Rioting.

SIX CONCERNS ARE NAMED IN CHARGES

Grand Jury Holds They Conspired to Fix Wages of Common Labor.

Youngstown, O., March 8.—Indictments were returned today by the Mahoning county grand jury against the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co., the Republic Iron & Steel Co., the Carnegie Steel Co., the United States Steel Co. and Judge E. H. Gary, executive chairman of the U. S. Steel Co.

The defendants are charged with having formed a trust to fix the wages of common labor in violation of the laws of Ohio. These indictments followed a sweeping investigation of the East Youngstown riots and labor troubles of January.

SPENDS CASH OF LITTLE ONES TO BUY INTOXICANTS

Frank Takas Loses Children Through Frequent Approaches to Bar.

Because the father drinks and will not support his family, five children of Frank Takas and Mary Dobumas were today committed to St. Francis' home by Judge Miller in the probate court. Although no marriage ceremony was ever solemnized for them, the couple has been living together in Bridgeport for 19 years. The family has had nothing to eat for the last 24 hours and Mrs. Mabel L. Godman, the family visitor of the charities department, had to borrow clothing to cover them in order to bring them into court. They had been living at 427 Osborne street. One boy, Andrew, aged six, possessed only a suit of dark colored underclothing. It was necessary for Mrs. Godman to borrow coat, trousers, cap, shoes and stockings for him. The others committed are: Helen, aged 15; Mary, 13; Frank, 12, and Michael, 5. There are two other children, Steve, aged 17, who works in the American Graphophone Co. factory, and Katie, two years old.

The father of the children objected to their commitment but Mrs. Godman told Judge Miller that the family had received aid from the charities department until it was discovered the husband was not working and was getting intoxicated on part of the earnings of his son and his wife. When Mrs. Godman went to get the children today one hid under a bed and another in a closet. The oldest girl, Helen, although 15 years of age, has advanced only as far as the fourth grade in Longfellow school. The other children do not attend a school regularly.

Rev. Stephen Chernitzky, pastor of St. Stephen's R. C. church, told Judge Miller that the family had not attended church in 15 years, and that Takas is worthless, lazy and a drunkard.

After the hearing Judge Miller called up Prosecuting Attorney DeLaney and requested him to issue a warrant for the arrest of Takas on the ground of non-support. Takas had told Judge Miller that he had a wife living in Hungary when he came to America. He was never divorced he said, and no wedding ceremony was ever performed between himself and the woman who bore him his children in this country. The children raised such strenuous objection to being separated from their mother that Judge Miller called on City Sheriff Brown to accompany Mrs. Godman to New Haven.

Steve Takas seemed satisfied to have his father arrested and committed to jail.

"The old man won't work and he spends all the money he can get his hands on for booze," he said. He asked that the little girl, Katie, aged two, and the boy, Mike, aged five, be allowed to remain with the mother. He promised that with the aid of his mother he would support them. Mike, however, was committed to the home with the other children.

THE WEATHER

Snow or rain tonight, probably snow; Thursday probably fast. Strong shifting winds, probably east gales tonight.

Memorandum on Submarine Issue Contends That Measure Was Adopted in Reprisal—Willing to Conform to Law of Seas Existing Before War, If England Concedes Same, Says Message—Ambassador and Secretary Lansing Both Silent on Documents Which Are Laid Before President Wilson For Consideration.

Washington, March 8.—Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, today at the instruction of his government, handed to Secretary Lansing a long memorandum explaining in detail the German position in regard to the armed merchant ships and the causes leading up to the decision of the central European powers to torpedo without warning all armed merchantmen of their enemies.

Both Officials Are Silent.

Secretary Lansing and Count Von Bernstorff declined to divulge its contents.

It is understood to contain the allegation that Great Britain had taken advantage of the contention of the United States that Americans must be safe on defensively armed merchantmen to have those ships act offensively toward enemy submarines.

The German government, it is understood, concedes that as submarines are a new engine of warfare, international law as at present constituted, makes no provision for their use.

The German government is understood to express a willingness to operate its submarines in accordance with international law prevailing prior to the war, provided Great Britain does not violate the same laws.

It also is understood that the memorandum contends the evidence appended to the late German announcement proved that British ships armed ostensibly for defense have been instructed to act, and have acted, offensively and that they are not peaceful traders as the United States was assured they would be by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador.

The memorandum is also understood to reiterate the previous declarations that submarine warfare was begun by Germany in reprisal for the announced intention of Great Britain to starve the civilian population of the central empires.

The memorandum also is understood to refer to the long standing friendship between the United States and Germany and to express the hope that the American people will, when familiar with the explanations offered fully appreciate the position in which Germany finds herself as a result of the blockade.

By way of supporting the contention that Germany's reprisals are justified, the memorandum is said to enumerate various actions of Great Britain which have operated against the interests of neutrals and their citizens. These are cited to show that Great Britain has violated international law.

To sustain the German contentions it is pointed out that Germany agreed to abide by certain terms of the Declaration of London but that inasmuch as Great Britain has not restrained her actions to conform with the terms of that declaration, Germany could not be expected to agree to operate under a code which Great Britain disregarded.

It is probable that the complete text of the memorandum will be given out for publication soon. It undoubtedly will be laid before President Wilson some time today.

LIGHTSHIP CREW, ADRIPT IN SMALL BOAT, RESCUED BY TRANSPORT CAPTAIN

Fort Terry, N. Y., March 8.—Unconscious and almost dead from exposure, R. L. Perkins and Walter Wallace of New York, members of the crew of Bartlett's Reef Lightship, were picked up this morning by Quartermaster's steamer General Pickering in a small sailboat which was drifting helplessly in the raging waters of Plum Gut.

The rescue effected by Captain Chas. N. Eglise, of the transport and his men was of the most thrilling character. Alfred Greenwood, one of the crew, being nearly drowned in an attempt to rescue the men.

The Pickering was returning from Fort Terry to New London and on passing Bartlett's Reef a sign of distress was noted on the lightship. The Pickering ran as close as possible and was informed that two members of the crew were adrift somewhere in the vicinity. After a long search Captain Eglise found the boat tossing about close to the Gut.

The steamer ran up to the sailboat and discovered the bodies of the two men stretched out in the water which was rapidly filling her. It was impossible to get close to the sinking craft. The only method available was for seamen of the Pickering to get into the boat which, in view of the conditions was a difficult operation. In endeavoring to do this Greenwood miscalculated the distance and leaped into the Sound. He was rescued with difficulty.

Eventually two of the crew of the Pickering got into the sailboat with lines and the men were hauled on board the transport.

First aid treatment was given and then the men were brought to New London.

Thirty thousand employees of the large Chicago packing houses have been given an increase in wages.

MRS. TRUMBULL WILL HAVE PRO RATA INDEMNITY

Counsel For Lusitania's Victim's Estate Awaits State Department.

Mrs. Isaac E. Trumbull, whose husband was killed almost a year ago when the Cunard liner Lusitania was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland, will receive a pro rata share of the lump sum to be paid as an indemnity by Germany for American lives lost in the disaster.

The claim of Mrs. Trumbull was filed with the State Department several months ago by Judge E. K. Nicholson. With the question of the amount of indemnity practically the only thing standing in the way of a final settlement of the case, Mrs. Trumbull's claim should be paid shortly.

According to Judge Nicholson, the procedure in the awarding of indemnity in such cases is as follows: The disputant governments fix upon a lump sum to be paid as an indemnity. This money is transmitted to the proper department of the aggrieved government—in this case, the State Department of the United States—and it is then apportioned pro rata among the claimants. The division is made on a strictly pro rata basis, every claimant receiving a like share.

There are more than 100 claims, in behalf of deceased Americans, before the State department.