

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1916

PRICE TWO CENTS

U. S. TROOPS TO CROSS LINE TO-DAY; CARRANZA PROPOSAL TO BE ACCEPTED

FATALLY INJURED AS TROLLEY CAR HURLS HIM DOWN

P. J. Pendergast, Crossing Crescent Avenue, Receives Skull Fracture.

OFFER LITTLE HOPE FOR HIS RECOVERY Crew Declares Brakes Were Set But Vehicle Couldn't Be Stopped.

Crossing the street at Crescent avenue and William street on his way from the main office of the Wheeler & Howes Coal Co. to the coal yards on the south side of the street, Patrick J. Pendergast, 62, of 1028 State street, was struck by a trolley car at one o'clock this afternoon and critically injured.

Witnesses say that Pendergast was crossing the street as the trolley car rounded the curve near Challenger's newsroom. They also that the brakes of the car were set but before the trolley could be brought to a stop Pendergast and knocked down. One of the wheels grazed a leg. He was removed to Bridgeport hospital in the emergency hospital ambulance. He suffered a fracture of the skull at the base and internal injuries. At Bridgeport hospital it was said that his condition is critical and little hope held for his recovery.

The crew in charge of the car were Motorman P. H. Jones, 380 Stratford avenue, and Conductor A. L. Gilday, 352 State street. They reported the accident to Supt. C. H. Chapman and continued on duty.

Officials of the Connecticut Co. say that Pendergast was running across the street in front of the trolley car at the time, and that it was impossible to stop the car before he was struck. Pendergast is an old employe of the Wheeler & Howes Co., where he was employed about the yards. He lives with his son-in-law, Hugh Gregory, 1028 State street, employed at the Public Market. In the summer Pendergast works for the city. He had just returned from his lunch when the accident occurred.

Lawyers Who Fought For Durkin & Laas Sue For Their Fees

Durkin & Laas, the New York contractors whose affairs have furnished plenty of lawsuits since they failed to complete their contract to build the High school, are defendants in an action scheduled to be tried before Judge Gager in the superior court tomorrow morning. The contractors are being sued by Attorneys Marsh, Stoddard & Day, who claim \$1,500 damages.

The lawyers claim they did legal work for Durkin & Laas but so far have received only \$225.51 compensation. They declare they examined all the defendant's contracts with the city, gave much legal advice and wrote letters to the newspapers in behalf of Durkin & Laas. Property on Congress street opposite the High school and owned by Durkin & Laas has been attached in the present action.

CHICAGO FIRM OFFERS TAXIS AND CHAUFFEURS

Chicago, March 13.—A local taxicab company operating 200 cabs in this city has offered the war department the use of all its machines, with chauffeurs. A telegram sent to the war department today stated that the chauffeurs had all volunteered for service in case of need on the Mexican border.

SPARKS START FIRE.

Sparks escaping from a furnace in the cellar at the home of Louis Ruoss, 360 Center street, set fire to the woodwork of the coal bin at 2:30 this morning. The blaze was extinguished by chemicals used by firemen from No. 4 Engine Company, who answered a still alarm. No damage was done.

EXPLOSIONS, FOLLOWING FIRE, CAUSE SINKING OF BRITISH LINER AT PIER

St. John, N. B., March 13.—The British steamer Matatusa, after being on fire for more than 24 hours, was sunk at her dock today soon after a series of explosions during which her commander and designer, Captain L. B. Githam was killed. Captain Githam's body was recovered. It is expected that the hull of the vessel may be raised and refitted.

The cargo, which was destined for New Zealand, was probably destroyed. Fire was discovered in the forehold early yesterday. Matatusa was in the

BOOTH, OLDEST LOCAL PLUMBER, IS DEAD AT 77

Head of F. & F. C. Booth Co. Succumbs to Short Illness—Native of Stratford.

Frank Booth, the oldest plumber in Bridgeport and proprietor of a large business, died this morning at his home, 1345 Park avenue, after a brief illness. Mr. Booth was in his 77th year, having been born in Stratford on April 16, 1838. He was the son of James and Mary Beardsley Booth, both natives of that town.

Mr. Booth came to Bridgeport in 1854, going to work for his cousin, Alfred Hopkins, as an apprentice in the plumbing business. He continued with Mr. Hopkins until the latter's death in 1884 when, with his son, Frederick C. Booth, he became proprietor of the business which then became known as the F. & F. C. Booth Co.

Mr. Booth was of a quiet, home-loving disposition who had never been in politics or associated with fraternal organizations. He was a member of the Master Plumbers' association since its organization, but had not been active in his membership. He was a member of the South Congregational church for a great many years. While of a quiet disposition, he was known to hundreds of people throughout the city and was widely liked for his kindly disposition.

He is survived by his widow and son, also by two daughters, Mrs. Dow R. Beebe of this city and Mrs. Elmer T. Judd, of Cando, North Dakota; also by two brothers, Frederick J. of Easton, and Henry Booth of Stratford.

Carmelite Fathers To Give Mission For Local Women

A mission for women only will be conducted all this week at St. Mary's church by the Carmelites, Fathers Devlin and McCaffrey. The services will be held at 5:30 and 8 a. m. and 7:45 p. m. daily.

AMBASSADOR GERARD GIVEN PERMISSION TO TAKE VACATION

Washington, March 13.—Word has gone to American Ambassador James Gerard at Berlin authorizing him to leave his post for a vacation. Secretary Lansing has had no word from Mr. Gerard as to when the ambassador will take his leave or where he will spend it.

State department officials say there is absolutely no political significance in the granting of leave to Mr. Gerard at this time.

FLYNN ESTATE.

An inventory of the estate of Anne M. Flynn filed in the probate court today shows \$1,100 equity in real estate situated in Freeman street. Secretaries Harrington and Vincent M. Whitney are the appraisers. The property in question is valued at \$2,900, on which there is a mortgage of \$700.

SPANISH STEAMER AGROUND.

London, March 13.—The Spanish steamer Maria, 2,153 tons gross, Marseilles for Hampton Roads, owned in Bilboa, has grounded off Cezimbra, Portugal, and is considered a total loss.

FREDERICK—CRAFT

A marriage license was granted today to Alfred Frederick, 21, machinist of 395 John street and Frances Craft, 19, of the same address. The bride had the consent of her guardian.

ARMED LINER SAILS.

Washington, March 13.—Collector Malone at New York was instructed today to allow the Italian steamship America to clear from that port with the two guns aft which she carried on her arrival several days ago.

ASSERT ROONEY IS A VICTIM OF VENGEANCE PLOT

Friends of Special Policeman Declare He Was Tempted Into Drinking.

Special Policeman John Rooney of 287 Pequotnock street will be arraigned before the board of police commissioners at their next meeting on the charges of intoxication while on duty. At the meeting, it is expected, either he or his friends will attempt to show that Rooney is a victim of a plot.

Rooney was the victim of a Spanish and Mexican capital of California and the presidio occupied the site of the ancient military headquarters. The post consisted of old wooden barracks sufficient to accommodate a regiment.

These were of the type common at the presidio of San Francisco, where several persons, including the wife and three daughters of Brig. General John J. Pershing were burned to death.

The headquarters safe and the contents of the postoffice were saved; all other records were destroyed. Major James G. Harbord, in charge of the post, refused to discuss the origin of the fire until he had made his own investigation.

Much weight was given by military authorities; it became known owing to the fact that the fire started in the headquarters building.

Rooney was always able to defend himself even in the days of the memorable fights between the gangs of the Whyos and the Tigers of East Bridgeport. In those days, Jack Rooney was a champion and his friends were many. The recent crusade against improperly conducted cabarets caused Manager Freyer to procure the services of a special policeman. He chose Rooney to act in that capacity.

"A week ago last Saturday night, shortly before midnight, four prominent young men of this city became boisterous in the Fairfield cabaret, and Rooney was called to quell the impending disturbance. He had most of the party ejected. One of them returned to the cabaret and was telling how he had licked cops from here to Arizona back again. He was suddenly grabbed by the neck by Rooney and hustled off to police headquarters where he was charged with committing a breach of the peace and abusive language. The father of one of the young men not arrested furnished a bond of \$100 for the release of the prisoner. The latter failed to appear in court the following morning and the bond of \$100 was declared forfeited.

LIQUOR CLUB REMONSTRANCE HEARINGS SOON

There are nine clubs from this city and one from Stratford whose applications for liquor licenses have not yet been heard by the county commissioners. It was stated today in the commissioners' offices that hearings on the remonstrances against the 10 organizations would be assigned at a meeting to be held in a few days. Applications of three clubs already have been denied.

The names of the clubs whose applications are still pending are: Oxford, Acorn & C., Pembroke, East End A. C., Liberty, A. C., Bridgeport Gaelic, Bridgeport A. C., Young Emmets, Bridgeport Musical Protective union, all of this city and the Industrial Taxpayers' club of Stratford.

Commissioners Will Act Within Few Days on Pastors' Protests.

Mr. DeLoss was not ready today to make known his views on the matter but some time ago it was known he favored retaining a board of seven members to handle educational matters. He considers the present board of twelve members too unwieldy to be practical. Lately however Mr. DeLoss has come to the conclusion that a board of five members would be better able to handle school matters.

It is said that his report on this matter and his plan would have been forthcoming sooner but that President Elmer H. Havens of the board had not attended meetings which his committee had held. Col. Havens is not enthusiastic for commission government and he prefers to have the board as it is with twelve members.

Commissioner DeLoss was elected to the school board on the Citizens' ticket last fall. Dr. C. C. Godfrey the other member elected with him on the Citizens' ticket is also a member of the committee to make the special charter provision mentioned. Although the Citizens' party and its candidates were supposed to stand for commission form of government, Dr. Godfrey is not in favor of the abolishment of the board of education but believes it would be better to continue the board as a separate commission of five members.

NATIONAL BANK CALL ISSUED FOR MARCH 7

Washington, March 13.—The comptroller of the currency today issued a call to all national banks requiring them to report to him their condition at the close of business on Tuesday, March 7.

TROOPS OFF TO BORDER, U. S. HEADQUARTERS AT MONTEREY, CAL., BURNED

Monterey, Cal., March 13.—The headquarters building of the Monterey presidio was totally destroyed by fire today, about six hours after being vacated by troops of the first cavalry who left for the Mexican border. Firemen who attempted to extinguish the flames found that the water supply had been shut off at the source.

An investigation was started immediately. Monterey was the Spanish and Mexican capital of California and the presidio occupied the site of the ancient military headquarters. The post consisted of old wooden barracks sufficient to accommodate a regiment.

U. S. LIKELY TO ACCEPT CARRANZA PROPOSAL ON TROOPS CROSSING LINE

Washington, March 13.—The United States will reply to General Carranza's request for a reciprocal arrangement for crossings of troops at the Mexican border late today after Secretary Lansing has conferred with President Wilson. It was indicated that Carranza's proposal would be accepted.

In that way American officials expect the situation will be relieved of its chief menacing feature. They expressed the view today that a great deal of unnecessary pessimism exists as to the attitude of the Mexican people themselves, however, there is some concern, but it is realized that only the developments of the next few days can clear up that phase of the situation.

Senator Stone and Senator Salisbury, of the foreign relations committee, discussed the Mexican situation in the Senate today and learned that the President believes he can make a reciprocal arrangement for pursuit of bandits on either side of the boundary without the consent of the Senate.

The President has under consideration one proposal from a member of the cabinet that a zone 40 miles wide be established along the boundary between Mexico and the United States in which authorities of both nations would have the right to pursue outlaws.

The war department was still without advice early today as to whether American troops had crossed into Mexico. Secretary Baker said he had not heard of any crossing and reiterated his promise to make the news public as soon as it reached him. He added that the morning's dispatches contained nothing of importance that could be given out.

There was no indication at the war department that negotiations for reciprocal arrangements had in any way altered the situation on the border. Publication of Carranza's manifesto declaring that armed invasion of Mexico in pursuit of Villa would not be reciprocal except on a reciprocal basis, apparently has not resulted in any change of General Funston's instructions to proceed with the pursuit of Villa in his own way and at such time as he thought best.

FAVORS PLAN TO PRUNE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO 7

When the board of education meets tonight it is likely that Harry H. DeLoss will present his plan for a reduction in the number of members of the board of education to seven. The board of education is composed of 12 members, but its personnel is made smaller. Mr. DeLoss who is chairman of the committee on this matter has been at work on it for a long time past. He cannot agree with John S. Pullman and other members of the committee appointed to draft a charter for commission form of government, that the board of education should be abolished and this department placed under the direction of one commissioner.

Mr. DeLoss was not ready today to make known his views on the matter but some time ago it was known he favored retaining a board of seven members to handle educational matters. He considers the present board of twelve members too unwieldy to be practical. Lately however Mr. DeLoss has come to the conclusion that a board of five members would be better able to handle school matters.

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THE WEATHER.

Partly cloudy tonight and Tuesday. Somewhat colder tonight; moderate to fresh west to north winds.

Several Troops of Cavalrymen at Arizona Line Will Cross Boundary Immediately, Says Report To El Paso, Despite Gen. Funston's Announcement That Movement of Expeditionary Force May Be Delayed—Carranza General Confers With Pershing—Town Raided By Villa Will Be Base For Punitive Expedition.

El Paso, Tex., March 13.—In spite of official denials, reports persisted here today that American cavalry on the Arizona state line had gathered for immediate crossing of the Mexican border and that they might go across at any moment today.

An advance guard of several cavalry troops was collected on that border two days ago with the prospect that it might be the first force into Mexico.

The point where the cavalry expedition is reported gathering to enter Mexico from the Arizona boundary is near San Bernardino, Mex.

Won't Start Today, Funston Says

San Antonio, Tex., March 13.—No movement of the expeditionary forces that will search for Francisco Villa is probable today, Major General Funston announced today. The General said the preparations for the expedition were going on despite Carranza's notification to the Washington government that he would not consent to American troops entering Mexico unless Carranza troops were allowed to enter the United States.

Carranza General Meets Pershing

El Paso, Tex., March 13.—General Gabriel Gavierra, commanding the Carranza forces at Juarez, came to El Paso this morning to hold a conference with General Pershing, in command at Fort Bliss. General Gavierra said the meeting would be held at the Mexican consulate here.

CARRANZISTAS TO AID COLONY OF MORMONS

El Paso, March 13.—Troops of Mexican cavalry have been despatched from Lugo, for Chihuahua to aid the 500 members of the Mormon colony concentrated at that point but now cut off from communication with either Chihuahua City or Juarez.

General Gavierra, commanding at Juarez, received news of the new cavalry movement from General Garza this morning.

Five Leave Fort Wright For Stations In Texas

Fort H. G. Wright, N. Y., March 13.—The first effect of the Mexican difficulty insofar as the New London artillery district is concerned was left Sunday when Captain R. Jones, surgeon at the Fort Wright hospital, left under orders for Fort Sam Houston, Tex. Today four first class privates in the hospital service left for the same destination.

During the previous Mexican crisis all of the 1,200 coast artillerymen were held in readiness to go to the front at a moment's notice.

SMALL GARRISON AT FORT. Chattanooga, March 13.—The last of

TOWN RAIDED BY VILLA LIKELY TO BE BASE OF EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Columbus, N. M., March 13.—Actual concentration of United States troops for an expedition into Mexico to try to capture Francisco Villa was begun here today.

From the heavy troop movement to Columbus, it would seem according to this point is to be made a base of operations. It was believed here that Brig. General J. Pershing, commanding the eighth brigade, would be designated to take charge of the expeditionary force and would make Columbus his headquarters.

The force of General Pablo Bestam, commanding the Carranza Garrison at Palomas, on the Mexican side of the border south of here, was increased today by the arrival of 800 men, bringing his force to a total of 2,000.

By tonight or tomorrow it is expected that the American garrison here of 1,100 men will be augmented by the arrival at El Paso of two regiments of infantry, a signal company, a hospital detachment, and some mountain artillery from Fort Bliss and a battery of the sixth field artillery from Nogales, Ariz. Two squadrons from the 12th cavalry from Fort Robinson, Neb., are expected later. All save the cavalry from Fort Robinson, which is to go on station here, are apparently to be available for the expeditionary purposes.

Reports were received here also that a squadron of 10th cavalry and a second battery of the sixth field artillery is on its way east from Douglas, presumably bound for Columbus. It was reported that all available forces of the 7th cavalry, 400 men, are in the field in the Alamo, Nuevo district, near Nogales, and Benson, southern Arizona.

IRON WORKS BURNED.

Lansing, Mich., March 13.—The Tri-Mountain Iron Works of the Copper Range Corporation, near Houghton, was burned today with a loss of \$290,000.