Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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U.S. TROOPS IN BATTLE WITH VILLA'S BAND

DOCTORS AND DRUGGISTS INVOLVED IN DISCLOSURE MADE BY SECRET SERVICE MEN'S INVESTIGATIONS IN THIS CITY

Several Professional Men Are Alleged to Have Infringed Upon New Federal Law Regulating Traffic in Insidious Drugs—Prosecution is Promised.

Others Probably Will Pay Fines to Government in Hope of Avoiding Publicity—Medical Society To Name Drug Dispenser To Treat Dope Fiends.

Following investigations of the drug traffic in this city by a United States revenue agent, government action already has been taken against two Bridgeport physician, one physician in a town near here, and a Bridgeport druggist.

Violations of the Harrison narcotic law are alleged. At least one prosecution will occur in the United States district court in May and the others involved have received official notification from the government that their violations are known.

One physician is so deeply involved that his case has all the appearances of one of the most serious exposed in the city's history. A report covering his activities and alleged violations for the last few months has been submitted in comprehensive form to the revenue department.

For several months a special agent of the government has been making investigations in this city, aided by the State Pharmacy association. The records of every drug store have been examined closely, comparisons were made with the records of manufacturers of narcotics, and suspected physicians were made the subject of rigid espionage.

As a result, during the last few weeks, reports have been made to the Revenue Department that implicate persons well known in the medical profession and one druggist.

One case is so serious that it is likely a prosecution will be resorted to. In the others, the suspects have been notified that the government has evidence of a damaging nature and they should show cause why they should not be fined the amount stipulated in the law.

"Faking" records will be one count against one physician. It will be alleged that while his records show he purchased a gram of narcotics on a certain date, the manufacturer's record shows that the amount was an ounce.

"Dope fiends" are assumed to have received the "dope" not recorded. The tendency of the evidence against this physician will be to prove he has been supplying victims of drugs with narcotics in a manner contrary to law and has failed to make a record of his dispensations.

Similar charges will be made against the others. The druggust may suffer a loss of his pharmacy license.

The quiet action of the Federal authorities in this city is known to be one of the first acts of the revenue department, collaborating with the State Pharmacy association, to wipe out an insidious traffic that has prospered in Bridgeport despite the clean-ups made by state officials during the last two years.

Notwithstanding the great penalty that might be inflicted under the newest Federal laws, some physicians and a druggist or two have carried on the trade with dope users. Scores of the latter have left the city, but a few remain who are willing to take chances. One woman of unsavory reputation in the old Tenderloin was known to have carried on a trade with victims of drugs, until warnings made her activities more guarded.

Adding its power to the force of the

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REPRESENTATIVE BUCHANAN FACES CONTEMPT COUNT

Washington, March 31—United States Attorney Marshall's recent letter to the sub-committee investigating Representative Buchanan's impeachment charges, will be submitted to the House without recommedation and a resolution to find the attorney in contempt of the House will be offered.

THOMAS COX IMPROVING.

Thomas F. Cox, clerk of the board of charities, who is ill at his home, 790 William street, with pneumonia, shows improvement today. His temperature has fallen from 106 to 98. His physicians believe now he will recover. He is yet unconscious.

U.S. TROOPS HAVE CLASH WITH VILLA

El Paso, March 31.—Mexican Consul Garcia announced today that he had been informed by General Gaviera, Carranza commander at Juarez, that the latter had received word that the American troops had been engaged in battle with Villa's forces.

According to General Gaviera's information, which was supplied in a telegram from Lieut.-Col. Refugio Davila, at Casas Grandes, the fight took place yesterday at San Gerronimo, between the Seventh cavalry and 500 Villa forces, the latter losing their commander, Eizdeo Fernandez and men.

The Americans suffered several wounded.

Col. Davila also wired General Gaviera, according to Consul Garcia, that confirmation had been received that Villa had been wounded in the leg in the last fight with the Carranza forces and is in hiding north of Guerrero.

VILLA BANDITS MURDER THREE FOREIGNERS IN FLIGHT TO WILDERNESS

El Paso, March 31—A man named Herman Blankenburg and two other foreigners, were murdered yesterday at Minaca, Chihuahua, by Francisco Villa and his followers, according to private but authentic sources here. Details of the killing are lacking.

RAILROAD IN BAD SHAPE.

Columbus, N. M., March 31—Operation of the Mexican Northwestern Railroad south of Casas Grandes was accomplished only with the greatest difficulty, according to soldiers arriving from the field today.

Light rails, dilapidated rolling stock, destroyed bridges and culverts were described as being the chief handicaps in the utilization of the 140 miles of track below Casas Grandes. For ten days military engineers have been at work making repairs to the road.

AEROPLANE CHAIN COMPLETE

Field Headquarters, American Punitive Expedition, Colonia Dublan, Chihuahua, Mex., (by motor), March 31.—A complete chain of areoplanes from the American border to the front where troops are on Villa's trail, has been established. The main base is at field headquarters. The advantage of the relay is that it enables the planes to travel with fairly light loads from one station to the next. It also serves, in part, to overcome the problem of altitude which the aviators had contended with.

FUNSTON TRIES PLAN.

Washington, March 31—General Funston has instructions to make the first test today of General Carranza's plan for the commercial use of the Mexican Northwestern Railroad for shipment of supplies to the American troops pursuing Villa. By tendering his first consignment to the railroad Funston will begin the fair trial that is to be given the de facto government's concessions. In the meantime the United States will not press for an extension of the arrangement, although doubt regarding its adequacy is expressed in official quarters.

The state department got an unofficial and unconfirmed report that the bandit chieftain is reported to have killed 172 men of a Carranza garrison, had to do with a revolt in the garrison in which some 300 men were involved. Some of them are reported to have joined Villa.

BRIDGEPORT IS FIRST CLASS IN POSTAL SERVICE

Postmaster Chas. F. Greene Will Have $200 Raise In Salary.

With a surplus of more than $2,000, the postal receipts of Bridgeport for the fiscal year ending today, passed the $450,000 mark. This figure places the Bridgeport office in what is known as the "first class," in which only leading cities of the country are rated. Incidentally, Postmaster C. F. Greene's salary hereafter will be $4,000 a year instead of $3,800 and it is expected that the salary of each of the supervisory officials will be advanced considerably.

The amount is $452,254.60, which includes only postal receipts. It is an increase of $82,971.99 over the year ending March 31, 1915. At that time the receipts totaled $369,282.61.

For a long time, postal officials dared only hope to pass the $400,000 mark, but as the year increased and there was a continual large growth in the receipts, they began to look ambitiously toward the $450,000 mark. During the past few weeks it was feared that the figures would short by a couple of thousand, but the last few days carried them well over the coveted mark.

This splendid figure gives an entirely new standing to the city, postal wise. It shows how the city is growing and is eventually on its way to becoming the metropolis of Connecticut. It also means that a larger working force will be granted to the local office.

JESONIS GETS DAMAGES

Judge Walsh of the common pleas court today handed down a decision awarding K. C. Jesonis of Huntington damages of $347.83 in a suit brought against William Schovenec of Stratford. The action was brought to recover $800 alleged to have been due on a contract for building a house on Hollister Heights.

COPPER FORTUNE ENTERS HARBOR OF BRIDGEPORT

Million Dollars Worth of Metal To Be Trans-Shipped to Waterbury.

More than a million dollars worth of copper has entered this harbor this week, most of it consigned to the Scovill Brass Co. of Waterbury, which is getting around the freight embargo by shipping supplies to this harbor by boat and reshipping by rail to Waterbury. During the week four barges, each containing about 400 tons of the metal have arrived at the Crane Co.'s dock and there is another barge bringing nearly 500 tons of copper due to arrive tonight or tomorrow morning, making a total of more than 2,000 tons that has come in within a few days.

As copper is worth between 27 and 30 cents a pounds the value of these consignments totals well over a million dollars. The barge which arrived this morning was the McAllister No. 7, towed by the J. P. McAllister. The entire 1,600 tons have been sent to the Scovill Co. and it is said that a part of the amount which is on its way here will go to them and the rest to the Bridgeport Brass Co.

Chicago Investigator Expected Monday To See Milford Suicide

Milford officials, still unable to effect the identification of the corpse found hanging in the woods near Woodmont last week, are awaiting arrival of a person delegated by the Chicago police department to view the suicide in the suspicion that it may prove to be Jean Crones, sought for poisoning soup at a banquet tendered to Archbishop Mundelein. It is expected that by Monday it will be known definitely whether or not the body is that of Crones.

WAIT FOR EVIDENCE ON 'SUBS'

Cabinet Officers, After Meeting Today, Say That Complete Details Are Lacking In Sussex Case.

Action Will Be Delayed Until Full Reports Are Available—Berlin Denies Any Knowledge of Attack.

Washington, March 31—Following today's cabinet meeting officials said complete evidence had not been received in the cases of vessels carrying Americans attacked recently, that no action would be taken by the American government until such facts had been received and that no action leading to serious consequences would be taken at all unless conclusive evidence was established that an attack had been made by a German submarine contrary to international law.

Officials declared they were not worried because they had not heard from Ambassador Gerard, who was instructed to make inquiries of the German foreign office whether a German submarine torpedoed the steamers Sussex and Englishman. They added that they would not be surprised if they did not hear from the ambassador for another day or two.

Meanwhile, the situation may accurately be described as a waiting one. Aside from the slowness of communication between Washington and Berlin, it was pointed out today that the American minister may not have carried his request to the foreign office while it was engaged in the delicate situation in the German Reichstag over the submarine policy, which has been likened to the situation in the American congress over the armed ship controversy.

Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, delayed presenting a communication to the state department for two days while the administration was engaged in a fight with Congress, and it was suggested today that Mr. Gerard, confronted by a similar situation, may have taken a similar course.

Chairman Stone said that no complications in the situation inspired his call, early today, upon Secretary Lansing.

"The fact that Chairman Flood, of the House committee was also at the department was a mere coincidence," said he, explaining that he had gone to the department only to secure only additional information on the situation.

"I found that the secretary of state had nothing more than I already had," he said.

Chairman Stone stated emphatically there was nothing involving Congress at present and that Secretary Lansing referred no question to the foreign relations committee but arranged to keep both chairman in close touch with developments.

BERLIN IN DARK

Berlin, March 31.—(Delayed)—Inquiries in government circles developed the statement that nothing is known here concerning the explosion which damaged the cross-channel steamer Sussex beyond the newspaper reports from abroad. Officials are refraining from comment in the absence of definite information.

TEUTONS' DRIVE TAKES VILLAGE OF MALANCOURT

Aviators Reported To Have Dropped Bombs on Swiss Town.

Berlin, March 31—Capture of the village of Malancourt, in the Verdun region west of the Meuse, was announced by the war office today. The Germans took 328 prisoners.

Swiss Town Shelled

Berne, March 31—Two aeroplanes of unknown nationality dropped five large bombs at dawn this morning on the small Swiss village of Porentruy, near the French frontier. Some damage to property was caused.

British Losses Heavy

London, March 31—British casualties in March, as compiled from the published lists, amounted to 1,107 officers anad 19,317 men.

MILITARY HYDRO-AEROPLANE WRECKED AS IT SKIMS OVER OUTER HARBOR; TWO PASSENGERS RESCUED BY LIGHT KEEEPER

John D. Cooper and Gas Engine Expert Are Flung Into Icy Waters of Sound When Forward Pontoon Crashes Into Unexpected Obstacle.

Passenger Saves Inventor, Stunned By Being Flung Against Steering Wheel, and Lighthouse Keeper Rescues Both From Floating Wreckage.

In view of hundreds of pedestrians lining the seawall at Seaside park, John Dale Cooper, 540 Seaview avenue, builder of a new type of military hydro-aeroplane, and Ivan Stengel, of Montclair, N. J., a gas engine expert, fell from their aeroplane into the outer harbor at 10:15 this morning, when the forward pontoon of the dipping craft struck a piece of driftwood and wrecked the machine.

Flung violently against the steering post, Cooper was rendered almost helpless. But for the timely aid of Stengel, who struck out sturdily through the icy waters and seized Cooper by the hair, the inventor might have perished. Stengel helped Cooper to a piece of the wreck which helped them to keep afloat until many minutes later Keeper Baldwin of the Bridgeport light reached them with a rowboat.

The machine, buoyed by its pontoons, remained afloat, but was so seriously crippled that it was towed ashore in sections. Cooper, not much the worse for his experience, this afternoon said he believed $200 would cover the damage.

This is not Cooper's first close call from death. He has had an adventurous career. Famous first as a bicycle racer, he entered the realm of aeronautics at the Curtiss school at Hammondsport, N. Y., where he mastered aviation so thoroughly that Glenn M. Curtiss selected him for the important mission of introducing the Curtiss biplane in the Russian army. Scores of aviators of the Russian army owe their skill with aircraft to Cooper's instruction, for he remained abroad many months schooling the Czar's soldiery in the intricacies of navigating the air.

The machine wrecked this morning is designed for military use. Thrice had the inventor and his passenger arisen many feet above the water, then dipped gracefully. They had circled the lighthouse, and were returning towards the hangar, near the Connecticut Co.'s. powerhouse in Seaview avenue, when Cooper decided to dip once more. The machine carries a pontoon fore and aft.

As the craft, skimming over the water, settled into the harbor, the forward pontoon crashed into a log of driftwood, and the buoyant support was torn from the structure. Instantly the forward part was submerged, and in the sudden halting of the craft, which was making nearly a mile a minute, Cooper was thrust forward so violently upon the steering wheel that the breath left his body.

Stengel was perched on the stabilizer, or tail, of the machine, and though he was tossed into the water, he escaped contact with the wreckage, and was quickly at the side of Cooper, who was bobbing about almost helpless in the icy water.

Baldwin raced through the calm waters of the outer harbor in his little rowboat, and in a few minutes reached the imperiled twain. Cooper had recovered from the shock of his collision with the steering apparatus, and except for a bruise on the face, was not hurt. Stengel had no injuries.

News of the mishap quickly reached the Bridgeport Towing Co.'s office. Robert Ferrett, the manager, hastened out on the tug Robert McAllister with Captain Frank Hancort, but before they reached the scene the men had beeen rowed ashore, on Seaview avenue, by the lighthouse keeper.

Employes of the employment office of the Locomobile Co. of America witnessed the accident. They sent a hurried call for help to police headquarters and the automobile patrol wagon with Driver Denis Toolan and Policemen Simon McCullough and Samuel Gregory and Sergt. James O'Neil hurried to the seawall at Seaside park. Several lines of rope were brought along in the patrol wagon. There was no ambulance called.

The trip this morning was the first to be made in the ship with a new equipment. Cooper had just installed two 90 h. p. engines, and when he saw the weather conditions this morning, he decided to try them out at once. The trip was highly successful, until the last dip brought the pontoon into collision with the drift wood.

The wrecked plane was towed to the hangar shed this afternoon and will be repaired by the workmen employed there. The plane is valued at several

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CALLED "CROOK", PECK ROUTS FOES AT G. O. P. CAUCUS

Merry Battle in Stratford Sees Crushing Defeat For Morehouse.

IVAN NEARLY GETS "PUNCH IN THE EYE"

Town Prosecutor Is Target For Blow From Irate Town Constable.

(Special to The Farmer.)

Stratford, March 31—Republicans of Stratford held their annual caucus in the town hall last night. Up to noon today the net results were thus summarized:

Prosecuting Attorney Ivan L. Morehouse threatened to hand a punch in the eye to Clifford B. Kearney, former justice of the peace.

Constable George Ash intercepted a stiff right swing, started by Kearney, with Morehouse's jaw as its prospective destination.

Judge Charles H. Peck, chairman of the caucus, was openly called "Crook, Robber," by voters believed to be antagonistic to him.

Judge Peck answered these epithets by announcing that he'll be a candidate for Ivan Morehouse's job as assemblyman.

Judge Peck also announced that he'll run for judge of probate, too.

Judge Peck's clan routed the Morehouse cohorts, 194 to 76, in the contest for control of the town committee.

Judge Peck was elected to head the Stratford delegation to the state convention.

Judge Peck made a speech of thanks to the caucus.

Unofficial, specially prepared check list used, say Morehouse followers; contest may be made against delegates in convention.

When the session was ended, the Peck-Conine crowd voted it a most enjoyable evening. The Morehouse-Beardsley faction, routed by an overwhelming vote, spoke most unpleasant things about the judge and his political ways.

The caucus was one of the largest

(Continued on Page 9.)

WAITE INDICTED FOR MURDER OF RICH DETROITER

Grand Jury Holds Dentist While Hunt is Made For Bribe Money.

New York, March 31—The grand jury today returned an indictment charging murder in the first degree against Arthur Warren Waite, accusing him of poisoning his father-in-law, John E. Peck, a millionaire drug manufacturer of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Men from the district attorney's office were supposed to be digging for buried treasure today somewhere in the sands at the end of Long Island—the $9,000 in bills which Eugene O. Kane, the man who embalmed the body of John E. Peck, said last night he received from Dr. Waite.

The money was "forced" upon him, Kane said, as a bribe to induce him to swear that the embalming fluid contained arsenic, the poison from which Peck died, and to place the poison in a sample of the fluid which the district attorney had asked for. After Kane had told where he had buried the money Assistant District Attorney Dooling and several detectives, armed with spades, started late last night for the scene in automobiles to verify the story.

TAUSCHER'S AIDS IN CANAL PLOTS ARRESTED BY U.S.

Washington, March 31.—Department of justice officials announced today that two alleged conspirators with Captain Hans Tauscher in the plot to blow up the Welland Canal, were under arrest in New York, that a third was under surveillance in New England and that they expected to arrest a fourth in a few days.

HARBOR HAPPENINGS.

The schooner Bill Nye arrived with fireproof brick from Woodbridge, N. J. The tug William E. Gladwich brought in seven loaded boats.

The tug Isis is being painted and fitted up for the summer.

SINGLE-HANDED, CONFESSED SPY CAPTURES SHIP

Youth, in Delaware Jail, Says He Acted Under Orders From Berlin.

SAYS HE'S READY TO BE PUNISHED

Holds Big Crew at Mercy, And Heads Big Liner Back to Port.

Lewes, Del., March 31.—The young German who captured the British steamer Matoppo and terrorized her crew of 56 men on Wednesday night, shortly after the ship had sailed out of New York harbor for Vladivostok with railroad supplies for the Russian government, declared today that he was a spy for the German government.

Ernest Schiller, the prisoner, weary from all the excitement he had undergone in his efforts to escape from the steamer yesterday after he had held the crew in his power with pistols all of Wednesday night, threw himself upon a cot in the Lewes jail early today and sought sleep.

"Yes, I am a spy for the German government," he said. "You can believe it or not—it makes no difference to me. I got my instructions from the German government to go aboard the ship and blow her up to prevent her cargo from reaching Russia. I could have blown her up but the captain's plea for his wife and daughter was too much for me and I hadn't the heart to do it. I am ready to take the consequences but I ask that they keep me ashore instead of sending me back to the ship for the captain to take charge of me."

Schiller had been told that as his daring exploit occurred outside the three-mile limit he would in all likelihood be taken to British possessions in the West Indies for trial for piracy. Federal authorities and representatives from the British government came here today to examine Schiller and to decide what to do with him. If the United States finds it has no jurisdiction under international maritime law he will be turned over to the representatives of Great Britain.

An examination into Schiller's mental condition will be made. Those who have talked with him believe he is irresponsible and that his story of his career is not true. Schiller was reluctant to tell his history.

"I was born in Germany," he said. "Never mind the town or my parents' name. I was sent by the German government to England soon after the war started and enlisted in the British navy and was assigned to the training ship Conway at Liverpool.

"I want to say right now that there are several good Germans in the British navy.

"I know what this means to me. It's the Tower of London if they get me back to the Matoppo. But I won't go, just bear that in mind."

Captain Richard Bergner, of the Matoppo, said he was convinced Schiller was a former British naval officer.

Despite his assertions that he had not concealed any bombs on the Matoppo and that he made threats to blow up the ship merely to frighten the captain and crew into obeying his commands, a thorough investigation of the cargo of barbed wire and farm implements will be made before the vessel proceeds on its voyage to Vladivostok.

"I spent three weeks in Hoboken preparing for this," said Schiller. "I went along the docks buying drinks for the sailors and learning from them what ships were sailing with contraband.

"I lay in the lifeboat on the upper deck waiting for the ship to sail from Thursday until the following Wednesday night. For two days I did not eat. I had only brought some sandwiches with me but I stuck it out."

Dr. Messick, who examined the prisoner after he had been captured by the crew of the Federal coast guard launch as he was being conveyed ashore from the Matoppo, declared that he believes the man is mentally responsible.

AUTO BEARING OLD MARKERS IS STOLEN.

An automobile, owned by Harold Fish of Stratford, was stolen from in front of the Seaside club last night. The machine bore 1915 markers as Fish had failed to procure 1916 markers for the machine. He was warned not to operate the machine on the streets of the city by police Lieutenant Charles H. Suckley yesterday. No trace has yet been found of the machine.

THE WEATHER

Connecticut: Fair tonight; Saturday partly cloudy. Gentle to moderate winds, mostly northeast.