

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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## PRESS OF BRITAIN HOPEFUL

### Peace Probabilities Hinge Largely Upon Character of Entente Allies' Reply to President Wilson—Criticism of Allies' Reply to Germany.

### Members of Triple Entente May Not Make Collective Statement of Their Views Balfour is Suggested to Draft British Specification of Terms.

London, Jan. 1.—The hope is expressed by the Manchester Guardian that the forthcoming note of the entente to President Wilson will be written by a different hand and in a different spirit than the reply of the Allies to Germany.

"Several things must be remembered in extenuation of the poor quality and poorer expression of the allies' reply to Germany," says the Guardian. "Obviously it is not a good translation from the French. Moreover, the French original clearly is not the finest of the French."

"Aside from these blemishes, in substance the reply was very much what was expected and inevitable. We venture to think nothing was added to its course by the verbal embellishments with which it was enlarged and weakened. These emotional appeals continue throughout the note until the postscript which is strong, clear, logical, convincing and obviously by a different hand, dealing specially with Belgium."

"Nevertheless, we see no reason why, if Germany is willing publicly to state what she is prepared to offer, we should not follow with a statement of what we demand. The next exchange of views will be between the allies and President Wilson. This is a different and in many respects a more critical matter. The reply of the central powers was collective, but we see no reason why the reply of the allies should be. At least, we hope it will be drafted in this country and addressed, as we alone know how, to the mind and heart of the people of the United States. If it is to win American opinion it must be couched in a different spirit and different terms than the documents just made public. The drafting should be by Foreign Secretary Balfour. There is none better able than he to put forward our noble cause and purpose in worthy language."

The Westminster Gazette says: "The reply of the allies to the central powers by no means winds up this debate. We have now to reply to President Wilson's note, and we hope we shall do so in the careful, reasoned and courteous manner which is due to a friendly neutral. In this we have not merely to inform President Wilson on questions at issue but to make ourselves clear to the American public which is not and cannot be expected to be familiar with European policies unless it is so instructed. . . . There is nothing in history quite analogous to the manifestos between belligerents while the armies are still at grips but let us be sure it is going to play a highly important and possibly useful part in the last stage of this war."

## ANARCHIST PAPER PLANT IS RAIDED TO GET EVIDENCE

### District Attorney of San Francisco Acts in Conspiracy Case.

San Francisco, Jan. 1.—Officials of the district attorney's office raided the editorial room of The Blast, a local anarchist organ, last Saturday and seized the subscription list, private correspondence and cartoons, it was learned today. The raid was made, it was said, for the purpose of procuring evidence to be used in the trial of Thomas J. Mooney, alleged leader of the conspiracy which had its climax July 22 last in a bomb explosion, when ten persons were killed during a preparedness parade.

Mooney's trial will begin Wednesday. District Attorney Charles Fickler said: "The Blast had some information we wanted and we got it. The bomb plot was hatched in 'The Blast office.' Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald, assistant editor of The Blast, said the officers were in possession of the office for three hours."

"Their conduct," she said, "was illegal and without justification. The Blast office was raided by the district attorney's deputies July 29, but on that occasion they got nothing of value."

## MAYOR RICE VERY ILL

New Haven, Jan. 1.—The condition of Mayor Rice, who is critically ill after an operation, was comfortable today.

## SWISS READY TO DEFEND BORDERS, PRESIDENT SAYS

### Rumors of Forthcoming Violation of Neutrality Are Answered.

### NEUTRAL POLICIES WILL BE CONTINUED

### New Year's Message to U.S. Hopes For Peace Treaty During 1917.

Geneva, Jan. 1.—President Schultheiss, of Switzerland, sends the following message for 1917 to the American people through the Associated Press:

"Switzerland, surrounded by four great nations at war and faithful to its secular traditions, is determined to maintain her absolute and loyal neutrality in this terrible conflict. The Swiss people, banded about their flag, are ever ready to sacrifice for their independence, the integrity of their territory, their honor and national dignity. They are convinced that all their neighbors will respect their decision but whatever happens never will they allow a foreign army to invade their soil."

"The oldest democracy in the world sends fraternal wishes to her sister republic to the American people and to their illustrious President. Switzerland hopes to be able to salute with the United States the coming of peace in the year which commences. In the meantime, Switzerland finds her moral satisfaction in giving hospitality and caring for the victims of the war, regardless of their nationality and also in foreshadowing a happier future by showing that peoples of different languages and races cannot only live in peace but even for massing the nations."

Statements in Paris and Rome papers that Germany might violate Swiss territory have caused some anxiety among the Swiss, which President Schultheiss and several state councilors thought it necessary to counteract by stating publicly that they had no fear that Switzerland would be forced from her neutrality. Movements of Italian troops near the Swiss border have been interrupted by the alarmists as proofs that Italy feared an attack by way of the republic but high government officials emphatically ridiculed such an assumption.

## "BAD MAN" GETS SOJOURN IN JAIL OF FIVE MONTHS

### "Shot Up" North Washington Avenue Saloon But Nobody Was Hurt.

James August who gave his address to the police as 115 North Washington avenue when he was arrested for shooting up the saloon of James Chio, on that thoroughfare Saturday, was given a jail sentence of five months in the city court.

The police are investigating a report that "August" may be identical with a New Haven prisoner who was sentenced for an indeterminate period of from 1 to 10 years for a similar offense.

## VIOLENT DEATHS IN CONN. DURING MONTH ARE 110

New Haven, Jan. 1.—Unofficial records of deaths from violence in Connecticut during December show that no less than 23 persons were killed on the railroads and two on trolley lines. Fatalities due to automobiles were less than in the preceding month, 15 persons at least having succumbed to their injuries, the same number as of persons who had been burned with fatal effect. Twelve persons were asphyxiated, three electrocuted and three drowned. The accidental deaths of the state exceeded 84, the suicides 11 and the homicides five, a total of 110 as against 79 in November.

## Policeman Has Merry Chase After Fugitive

Nathan Telowitz, of 1888 Main street, refuses to recognize the authority of the Animal Rescue league to place him in custody. Though Agent A. W. French had him placed in custody by Traffic Officer Higgins at Main street and Fairfield avenue yesterday and was conducting him to police headquarters by proxy, Telowitz broke away at Harrison street and was captured only after an exciting chase that led to George and Oak streets. In court today the charges of cruelty to animals was noted by the court upon payment of \$2 and costs.

## BRITISH GUNS OF ALL SIZES UNITE IN 1917 'GREETING' TO ENEMY

With the British Armies in France, via London, Jan. 1.—The arrival of 1917 was welcomed on the western front by the British and French soldiers as a beginning of the end of the great world war. There may be varying views and theories as to how the end is to be brought about, but there is no question that throughout the British army there is a conviction that the next 12 months will bring a victorious peace to the allies.

Opinion among the British and French fighters as to how the war will end is divided into two schools. The one believes that Germany will be willing to grant extraordinary concessions and the other that only military pressure will bring them the fruits of victory. Both schools are, however, agreed that this is the decisive year.

On most sections of the British front the new year made its bow with little ceremony. So many flares and rockets are sent up from the trenches on these long, dark winter nights that it was impossible to say how many of these last night were in honor of 1917. There is one sector, however, where the British artillery followed the practice adopted last year of welcoming January first with salvos against their enemy from guns of all calibers. Along this front everything from machine guns to the biggest of the "heavies" joined in firing, first one round, then nine, then one, finally six.

## IF YOU'VE GOT A LITTLE ARMS PLANT TUCKED AWAY ANYWHERE, WATCH FOR U. S. TAX AGENTS

Washington, Jan. 1.—New federal tax on incomes, munition manufacturers, corporation stocks and certain businesses became effective with the new year today and revenue collectors are making vigorous efforts to obtain early returns. The taxes are provided by the emergency revenue bill enacted by Congress September 8. Unmarried persons with net incomes of \$3,000 or more and heads of families with incomes of \$4,000 or more, are subject to pay a normal tax of 2 per cent, instead of the present rate of 1 per cent, and additional taxes are imposed on incomes of more than \$20,000 by a graduated scale running from 1 to 3 per cent. A tax of 2 per cent is made on the income of corporations with stock valued at \$75,000 or more; the former rate was 1 per cent. A graduated tax of from 1 to 10 per cent is laid on estates of \$50,000 or more when they are transferred. Munition manufacturers are taxed 12 1/2 per cent of their net profits. Corporations are subject to a special excise tax of 50 cents a year for each \$1,000 of fair value of capital stock in excess of \$20,000.

## MANY FINES AS CELEBRATIONS WITH PISTOLS PROVE COSTLY

### Judge's New Year's Gifts to Prisoners Leave Them Somewhat Short.

Following the soaring tendency of all prices of foodstuffs and commodities during the latter months of the old year, the high cost of being arrested, became apparent at the first session in the city court today.

Many handsome New Year's fines were imposed upon the large batch of prisoners arraigned before Judge Frank L. Wilder this morning, few escaping fines that ranged from \$5 and costs to \$70 and costs.

## HARBORS BILL, NEARLY READY, ASKS MILLIONS LACK JURY ROOM FOR CIVIL SIDE SUPERIOR COURT

### Judge May Have to Excuse Special Panel Until There is Vacancy.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The House rivers and harbors committee will meet this week to determine finally upon a bill which it will report for passage at this session of Congress. A tentative measure, carrying about \$29,000,000 for the continuance of maintenance of existing waterway projects, with possible additions of \$10,000,000 for new projects, has been completed by Chairman Sparkman, of the committee.

The committee has before it new projects which have been favorably reported upon by the army engineers, calling for an outlay of \$135,000,000, or an initial application of \$28,615,000. From the list Chairman Sparkman has selected those which he believes to be the most urgent. Among the new projects most vigorously pressed before the committee include:

New York harbor, where \$13,000,000 is sought for East river and Hell Gate with the initial \$500,000.

REV. M. S. NASH DEAD.

Boston, Jan. 1.—The Rev. Melvin S. Nash, 59 years old, of Hanover, manager for the Universalist Publishing house in Boston, and formerly state senator, died at the Homoeopathic hospital. He suffered a paralytic stroke.

CAPTAIN HEAVEY DEAD.

Plainfield, Conn., Jan. 1.—Captain Robert Brown Harvey, 87, died at his home, near Wickford, R. I. He was the oldest and most prominent citizen of the Alton section.

## COMPLAINS HIS BRIDE IS GONE WITH \$70 CASH

### James Motte of Pembroke St. Says He Would Rather Die Than Live.

### BLAMES SLAVER FOR ENTICING WIFE AWAY

### Stranger Promised Her Furs, Fine Clothes, Jewels and Travel.

Loss of a bride of but a few months holding, the theft of \$70 hard earned savings, considerable personal wardrobe, and the odium which will be cast upon his name by the disappearance of his pretty wife, James Motte, of 1222 Pembroke street, today is seeking revenge against white slave slavers of Bridgeport.

To the police Motte related today the fact that he was married to a widow last April, going the choice among several suitors for her hand who awaited the passing of an invalid husband.

"For her I worked by day and night to save money that she might have pretty clothing," he told the police "with tear-filled eyes. "I was a good husband to her in every way and she loved me until last Wednesday when she confessed that she had met a handsome man—a white slave—who openly told her that he would place her among other women controlled by him and that she could wear jewels and furs and travel in other cities until she had seen the whole of the United States."

After using all the arts of persuasion to show her the error of such ways, Motte believed that he had won a great victory but was deeply surprised when his wife was absent from the home Friday night when he returned from work. Also missing was \$70, which was kept in a small tin bank in the house, two suits of his clothing newly purchased and a handsome overcoat.

Motte says he would rather die than live now.

After a vain search all Saturday and Sunday, Motte learned that she was seen on Friday night in company with a local man having the reputation of being in the councils of white slave slavers in other cities. The police have been furnished with his name but returned today he is not to be found in his usual haunts.

When told that the laws of Connecticut do not permit of the arrest of a woman who has taken money from her husband, it being construed that their possessions are jointly owned, Motte declared that he will institute the law of his countrymen.

He left police headquarters swearing vengeance upon the man who has alienated his wife's affections though he had been warned of the consequences of such rash acts.

## BIG DEMAND FOR 1917 MARKERS IS CAUSING DELAYS

### Office of Secretary of State Cannot Furnish Them Rapidly Enough.

Joshua A. Starin, who gave the police the address of 1050 Chapel street, New Haven, which is that of one of the most prominent Elm City tailors, was arrested in this city yesterday for driving an automobile without having a license on his person.

Upon the information that he would be able to produce the necessary document in court next Monday, the case was continued until that day. Notice has been received by the police officials of this city from the office of the secretary of state that owing to the largely increased application for 1917 markers it will be unable to furnish these plates as rapidly as heretofore.

The law has been tentatively suspended for 10 days that automobilists may utilize their 1916 markers until Jan. 10, 1917, after which car owners become liable for penalty in not displaying the new ones.

## TEUTONS GET NEW HEIGHTS IN MOLDAVIA

### Violent Counter-Attacks by Austro-Russian Forces Repulsed.

Berlin, Jan. 1.—On the Moldavian front yesterday the Austro-German forces, continuing their heavy attacks, captured several high positions and two towns in the Zabala valley, the war office announces. Violent Russian and Rumanian counter-attacks were repulsed.

In Wallachia, the enemy was driven back to positions between Rimnic Sarat and Fokshani. The Danube army has driven the Russians to the Brailau bridgehead. In Dobruja the Teutonic allies captured 1,000 men, four cannon and eight machine guns.

THE WEATHER

Snow tonight; Tuesday fair.

## FORTY-SIX PERISH AS INSANE ASYLUM IS RAZED BY FIRE

### Sisters of Charity Brave Death and Rescue 166 Women and Girls From Burning Structure—One Nun Gives Life Trying to Rescue Aged Inmate—Water Pipes Frozen and No Fire-Fighting Facilities at Hand, Structure Burns Quickly.

Quebec, Jan. 1.—Forty-five women inmates and one Sister of Charity were killed Saturday night in a fire that destroyed the St. Ferdinand De Halifax insane asylum at St. Ferdinand de Halifax, Megantic County.

The old institution was in a remote district and not a man reached the place until the 46 women had perished. The Sisters of Charity saved 136 other inmates and 30 girls who attended a school conducted in a wing of the structure.

Meagre advices arriving here today picture the nuns as braving every danger in an effort to save their charges when the fire broke out. The sister who lost her life died while trying to save an inmate.

The fire, fanned by a high wind, swept rapidly through the structure. There were no fire-fighting facilities nearby and the water pipes were frozen.

There was much suffering as the night was intensely cold. After the flames had reached all parts of the building, so that no further attempts

at saving lives could be made, the sisters turned their attention to caring for the survivors. There was difficulty in calming the inmates but finally the women and the girls were sheltered by the Sisters in the hospital building a short distance away.

The building was owned by the Quebec branch of the Sisters of Charity. It was maintained as a government establishment for insane women.

Advices received here today indicated that the loss would not exceed \$100,000. The cause of the fire was not known.

## FIFTY-FOUR ARE LYNCHED DURING 1916, IS RECORD

### More Than One-Quarter of Whole Number Take Place in Georgia.

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 1.—Fifty-four persons were lynched in the United States during 1916, according to records of Tuskegee Institute here, made public today. Fifty were negroes and four were white persons and included in the record are three negro women. Sixty-seven persons were lynched in 1915, 13 of whom were white men.

In a statement presenting the report, Robert R. Moton, president of the institute, said: "Fourteen, or more than one-fourth of the total lynchings occurred in the state of Georgia. Of those put to death 42, or 77 per cent of the total, were charged with offenses other than assault."

## PICK OUT WRONG PLACE TO PAWN A STOLEN WATCH

### Fairfield Couple Walk Into Arms of Detective Looking For Them.

Joseph Johnson and James Joyce, colored, of Fairfield, stepped right into the clutches of the law this morning. Both are now held under charges of theft for the Fairfield authorities.

Detective Martin Kane has just concluded his description of a missing watch to a local pawnbroker this morning when Johnson and Joyce stepped to the counter, and presented the timepiece for a loan.

The watch is alleged to be the property of Wallace Shelton, colored, of Fairfield, who declares that it was stolen from him when his coat was laid on the ground for a few minutes.

## Health Department Will Exculpate Meat In Poisoning Inquiry

Dr. W. H. Brown of the health department said today that a bacteriological examination of the meat that was suspected of having caused illness in a Read street, Stratford, family, failed to show anything that would warrant branding the meat as unfit to eat.

Dr. Brown said such an examination was attended by unusual difficulty. Three or four days elapsed before the case was called to the attention of the health department, and the meat was cooked. Besides the health department here has no chemical laboratory.

## Newark Man Held For Embezzlement

Frank Higgins, who gave his address to the police as 129 Union street, Newark, N. J., was arrested in this city today upon a charge of embezzlement. He is held for the police of that city. It is alleged that while a driver for Strauss & Co. he embezzled various amounts of money.

## PRESIDENT SEES SIAMESE PRINCE AT WHITE HOUSE

### Sends Congratulations to Ruler of Siam, Whose Birthday is Today.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Celebration of New Year's Day in Washington was without many of the official features which have marked the advent of the New Year in the past. President Wilson held no New Year reception, a custom he omitted when he came in office and Secretary Lansing did not give the customary diplomatic breakfast.

Secretaries Baker of the war department and Secretary Daniels, of the navy, however, held receptions. A cablegram from rulers of the world arrived at the White House. They came from heads of the belligerent and neutral nations of Europe as well as from the presidents of South and Central American republics, containing New Year's greetings.

President Wilson's only formal greeting for the day was a call of courtesy by Prince Mahidol, brother of the King of Siam, who was presented at the White House by the Siamese minister, Phya Prabhakara-vongse.

The President sent a cablegram to the King of Siam congratulating him on his birthday which falls on today. Government departments were closed all day.

## "YOU FELLOWS MAY'VE HEARD THIS BEFORE"

### But There Was an Undertaker Who Laughed So Hard His Jaw Dislocated

Even an undertaker has the power of laughing, though those who witness them in the performance of their grim duties may entertain an opinion that their faces are graven with austerity.

That they may laugh so hard at some witty remark was demonstrated shortly before 2 o'clock this morning when a guest at The Stratford whose name is withheld by the management, but who admitted to Dr. C. C. Taylor that he was a Hartford undertaker, went into such hilarious paroxysms that his jaw was dislocated.

Over an hour's hasty telephoning about the city disclosed the certainty that many medical men were busy celebrating and the patient had to be sent to the emergency hospital.

When his injury had been reduced the victim refused to relate the story which caused his mishap, fearful that others might suffer the same fate.

## SEEK FORECLOSURE

Foreclosure of property in Lordship Savings bank in a suit filed today against Joseph Runderker, Jr., and Frank L. Curtis of Stratford. It is claimed Runderker borrowed \$1,800 from the bank and gave two notes, one for \$1,500 and the other for \$300. The Lordship property was mortgaged to secure the notes, which the bank says are unpaid. Curtis is named as co-defendant because he claims to have an attachment on the property. The action is returnable to the January term of the superior court.