

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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PRICE TWO CENTS

STANLEY BLAMED FOR GAG

Head of Police Board Who Is Also Interested in Munitions Plant Criticized by Citizens for Denying Right of Free Speech at Proposed Mass Meeting.

Bluecoats Wouldn't Let Socialists Hold Discussion of Principles—Protest Made to Supt. Redgate But That Official Is Mute—Ultior Motive Suspected.

That the police committed a serious blunder when they interfered and refused to recognize the constitutional rights of a party of pacifists to hold a meeting yesterday afternoon in Bohemian hall is today admitted in official circles.

Denying the right to hold a meeting, to Jasper McLevy, John Sullivan, Fred Cederholm, William Kovacs, R. J. Davis and Roger Payne, Socialists—who emphatically deny they intended making unpatriotic or un-American speeches—a squad of traffic policemen, and members of the detective bureau headed by Capt. E. O. Cronan, closed Bohemian hall and refused to allow anyone to enter the building.

Supt. Redgate, who got his orders from John C. Stanley, chairman of the police board and president of the American & British Co., decided yesterday to squelch any attempt of the Socialists to hold a meeting.

The committee in charge of the gathering had engaged Sokol hall, but Stanley told Redgate to inform the owners of Sokol hall that he had better not incur the displeasure of the police by allowing the meeting in their building. The Sokol hall management then refused to let the hall, and the committee engaged Bohemian hall.

Supt. Redgate when asked to make a statement on the illegal and high-handed proceeding replied this morning, "I have nothing to say."

A committee of Socialists this morning protested to Redgate. The latter when asked what justification he gave the committee or what conversation took place between him and the committee replied:

"I told them just what I am telling you, 'Nothing.'"

The subject which circulars stated would be discussed at the meeting was, "Shall We Be Led into War? Refused to Be Slaughtered: War on War." Nearly 200 persons had assembled to listen to the addresses, but found on their arrival with the speakers, that a policeman was stationed at each door.

It was asserted to-day that Stanley, as the president of a concern manufacturing war munitions, would naturally oppose any efforts on the part of Socialists or other organizations to keep the nation out of war, but they maintained that inasmuch as pecuniary interests, make it impossible for him to act impartially as head of the police commission, he should resign from office.

Stanley refused to-day to discuss the case or make any statement. Inasmuch as Redgate was merely carrying out his orders the entire blame for the blunder rests with Stanley. Intense feeling has been aroused by the action of the police and an indignation meeting, where resolutions will be passed calling for the resignation of the manufacturer of war munitions, whose absolute control of the police department has resulted in the stifling of free speech and the robbing of citizens of their constitutional right," is being arranged.

Apparently realizing the blunder he had made, Mr. Stanley this afternoon hurriedly made a statement in which he claimed the committee failed to obtain a permit to hold a Sunday meeting, and the gathering was dispersed because of the attempted violation in this way of the laws of the municipality.

Out Throat to Make "Somebody Mad," He Declared to Doctor

Found in the bathroom of his home, lying in a pool of blood, his throat cut and a razor clutched in his hand, John Masovic, was removed from 540 Lafayette street, this morning to the emergency hospital, where Dr. C. V. Calvin, took three stitches in his throat.

The physician obtained from Masovic a statement to the effect that he was "mad as somebody" and he wanted "to scare somebody," so he cut his throat with the razor. He was removed to the Hillside hospital where his injuries had been treated and will be kept under observation for a week, it being thought he is mentally unbalanced.

OELSNER ESTATE \$5,000.

Berthold Oelsner the chiroprapist, left an estate estimated between \$3,000 and \$5,000. In the probate court today his widow, Sarah Oelsner of 1483 Park avenue, was named administratrix. Herbert Loewith and Nathan C. Herz are appraisers. A daughter, Lina E. Oelsner, is one of the heirs.

HUNDREDS READY FOR SERVICE IN OUR HOME GUARD

Military Emergency Board Meets Today to Begin Enlistments.

NEW LONDON REPORTS 750 MEN AVAILABLE

Little Trouble Expected in Recruiting Guard to Full Strength.

Hartford, March 12.—The military emergency board, appointed by Governor Holcomb on Saturday to perfect the organization of a home guard, will meet this afternoon to appoint recruiting officers to obtain enlistments in every town of the state. The work of enlisting will be begun immediately. The term of service will be two years. Members of the committee have been besieged by persons and organizations offering their aid, and no difficulty is expected in organizing the guard. New London, the committee has been informed, has 750 men waiting to enlist, and patriotic societies all over the state have offered their services.

The committee consisting of Judge Lucien F. Burpee and Benedict M. Hosen of this city, and Major J. Moss Ives of Danbury will have its headquarters in Hartford and the work of enlisting will be directed from here. An attempt is made to obtain space in the old city hall, not only because of its central location in the city but because of the associations which the building has.

The recruiting officers to be named will be men who have seen military service. Enlistment blanks are printed and as soon as these can be distributed to the officers they will start work. Although every town in the state will not have a recruiting officer, the majority of them will and all the others will be reached.

Judge Burpee said today that it is believed many men who have seen military service, but who cannot now be had for service in the national guard will enlist in the home guard. The bill creating the guard provides that it shall be formed from the unorganized militia which cannot be held for service in the national guard. An enlistment in the home guard, however, will not prevent a man from leaving it to enlist in the national guard if he so desires.

U. S. NAVY BUYS DIRIGIBLES FOR COAST DEFENSE

Washington, March 12.—Purchase of 16 non-rigid dirigible airships for coast and harbor patrol work at a total cost of \$649,250 was announced today by the navy department.

The Curtiss Aeroplane Co. of Buffalo was awarded three for \$122,250; the Curtiss Aeroplane Co., New Haven, two for \$34,000; the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Akron, O., nine for \$360,000; and the B. F. Goodrich Co. of Akron, two for \$33,000. Deliveries will begin within 120 days. The airships are the first of such a type to be bought by the navy under the recent \$5,000,000 appropriation for aeronautics.

Under the designs drafted by naval constructors the dirigibles will be able to operate from shore bases and alight on water surface in good weather.

JAMES DAWSON, TRUCKMAN, DIES FROM INJURIES

As a result of injuries received when he was thrown to the ground from the truck on which he was riding, Friday afternoon, James Dawson, veteran truckman of this city and one of its most prominent Scotch residents, died this afternoon at his home, 42 Commercial street.

Mr. Dawson, with one of his employees, was sitting in the back part of one of his trucks which was loaded. Going down Main street at 2:30 Friday afternoon another truck swung into the lane on which Mr. Dawson was sitting, knocking both men into the street. Mr. Dawson struck on his arm and his head. He was dazed, but not unconscious. The ambulance was summoned to remove him to his home. There he walked about the house and seemed not seriously injured. About 5 o'clock in the afternoon his side became paralyzed and he lapsed into unconsciousness from which he never recovered.

Mr. Dawson was born in Haberdenshire, Scotland, 68 years ago. He came to Bridgeport 50 years ago and had been in the trucking business 45 years in this city. Saturday. He was a member of the Forty-Nine club, belonged to the Arcanum lodge, I. O. O. F., the Grand Lodge of Masons in Stumehaven, Scotland, and was a charter member of the Caladonians. He is survived by his widow and two sons, George Frederick and James Henry Dawson.

THE WEATHER

Connecticut: Cloudy tonight, slightly colder on the mainland; Tuesday, partly cloudy; moderate to fresh northwest to north winds.

U. S. NAVY YARD IS MENACED BY GERMANS' PLOT

Secret Service Men Uncover Conspiracy of Wide Ramifications.

EXPLOSIVES ABOARD INTERNED STEAMERS

Arrest of Alleged Smugglers Aids Government Agents in Halting Plot.

Philadelphia, March 12.—Government agents today continued their investigation into the activities of persons under arrest charged with smuggling ships' chronometers from the German auxiliary cruisers interned at the Philadelphia navy yard and of persons suspected of having had a hand in the alleged violation of the customs laws.

There are reports that federal authorities have discovered a plot with many ramifications to damage property at the navy yard in the event that there is war between the United States and Germany. Government officials, however, are maintaining silence, neither confirming nor denying reports that explosives have been smuggled on board the Kronprinz Wilhelm and the Prinz Eitel Friedrich, tied up at the navy yard. The two ships, it was said, would be searched today for explosives. Up to this time, it is said, the navy department has only the assurance of the commanders that there are no explosives aboard.

Adebert K. Fischer, his wife, Helen, and Henry Rohner, head of a wholesale grocery concern here, are out on bail charged with smuggling the chronometers from the two German ships. Other arrests may be made. Rohner's friends declared he had been persuaded by Fischer to permit his motor truck to be used for bringing boxes from the navy yard when Rohner's employees delivered groceries to the interned ships.

Many papers and documents taken from the Fischer home in the suburbs are examined by the federal authorities. It was said that the Fischers are distantly related to the Hohenzollern family, of which the emperor of Germany is the head. Mr. Fischer is said to be related to Koertling, the German iron master. What part she took in the alleged smuggling has not been revealed.

The arrest of the Fischers and Rohner given impetus to a movement to have the two German ships removed from the navy yard. It is declared that in the event of war the 750 interned German sailors would be a serious menace to the yard and South Philadelphia.

NINETY THOUSAND PAID FOR CORNER IN CITY'S CENTER

Southwest Corner of Fairfield Ave. and Broad St. Changes Hands.

In the neighborhood of \$90,000 is believed to have changed hands through the sale, completed yesterday, of the property at the southwest corner of Fairfield avenue and Broad streets to Henry L. Blackman, Lacey R. Blackman and Stiles E. Goodrich.

News of this transaction transpired today, and although the purchasers are reticent, it is known that the block will be remodeled, and a series of stores will be established there. The brick wall in Broad street, it was reported to-day, will be demolished, and glass fronts will be installed.

The corner is occupied by a drug store formerly the Jamieson Pharmacy and now conducted by J. A. Levery and Bro. Above are the real estate offices of Henry L. Blackman & Son, and above that are apartments. In Fairfield avenue, Dr. W. Arthur LaField has offices.

The corner property was owned by Forrester F. Bishop, including 23 feet in Fairfield avenue and 15 feet in Broad street. Twenty-five feet in Fairfield avenue was owned by the estate of Mrs. Emma Collard, mother of Dr. LaField.

This property transfer, it was reported today, will result in an arrangement unique for Bridgeport. Dr. LaField and Dr. George W. Hawley will lease the top floor of the Meigs court to-day his widow, Sarah Oelsner.

Gerard And Party Off For Key West

Havana, March 12.—James W. Gerard, former American ambassador to Germany, and a party of 54 sailed for Key West at 10:40 a. m. today on the steamer Gov. Cobb. Mr. Gerard was escorted to the wharf by West E. Gonzalez, the American minister; Guillermo Patterson, assistant secretary of the Cuban state department; Lieut. Col. Edmund Wittmayer, the American military attaché; and the captain of the port of Havana.

HIT BY AUTO.

Thomas Carl, of Westwell avenue, confused by the approach of an automobile driven by J. A. Pease, a real estate operator, while passing in front of the United Illuminating Co., in Fairfield, last night at 8 o'clock, was struck by the machine and suffered bruises to his face and hands and knees. He was treated by Dr. W. H. Donaldson and sent home.

UNITED STATES GIVES NOTICE OF PLANS FOR ARMING MERCHANTMEN

SUBMARINES GET 14,000 TONS OF ALLIED SHIPPING IN THREE DAYS, IS CLAIM

Berlin, March 12, by Wireless to Sayville.—The following statement on submarine operations was issued today by the Overseas news agency, the official German news bureau:

"The official report for March 11 says that 42,000 tons of shipping was sunk. Together with the reports of March 7 and 8 this gives a total of more than 114,000 tons."

RELIEF SHIP CREW SAFE.

London, March 12.—The sinking of the Norwegian steamer Storstad in the service of the American commission for relief in Belgium, occurred in the Atlantic off the southern end of Ireland. The submarine fired about 15 shots. The Storstad stopped and hoisted the Belgian relief signal. The submarine submerged, but half an hour later the Storstad, which had not resumed her voyage, was torpedoed without warning as she lay stationary in the water.

The crew, including one American, has been accounted for in its entirety, but the fourth engineer died of exposure.

UNITED STATES REGULARS LAND AT PLEASURE BEACH TO PROTECT BRIDGEPORT MUNITIONS PLANTS

The first step in the preparations to protect Bridgeport, "the Essen of America," against attack by hostile war vessels was taken yesterday when Lieut. C. R. Jones, another commission officer and 27 enlisted men from the United States Coast Artillery corps from Fort H. W. Wright landed on Pleasure Beach.

The party came to the island on the U. S. quartermaster steamer Gen. Nathaniel Greene. They brought with them three six-pounder field guns. Today they were busy preparing to fortify the island and to place enormous searchlights on the island for the purpose of illuminating the sound.

One large searchlight will be placed on the roof of the ball room. Another will probably be placed on the roof of the old pavilion. Others will be placed at the factory of the Locomobile Co. at Seaside park and at the factory of the Lake Torpedo Boat Co. at the foot of Seaside avenue.

Many arrangements are expected within a few days. The field pieces will be planted to defend the search lights against capture and destruction by landing parties from possible invaders.

Through arrangements with the lessees of the beach, the regulars will take up their quarters, the officers occupying the office and the men taking the building opposite the office, which was used last summer as a restaurant. This building is being boarded up and made more habitable against the elements.

The steamer which landed the regulars yesterday stuck on the sand bar immediately afterward and had some difficulty getting back into the main channel again.

The soldiers who came are in campaign field uniform with field hats and overcoats. They brought their cook and commissary sergeant with them and will mount guards about the island to prevent anyone landing there and interfering.

Lieut. Jones today selected the points where the guns are to be mounted. No information was given out as to how the searchlights will be used. Workmen for the United Illuminating Co., which will furnish the electric current, last week inspected the cables leading to the island and placed them in proper order. When the other detachments of regulars will arrive has not been determined.

Today it was rumored that the local battalion of the Connecticut Coast Artillery might be called to assist the regulars by mounting guards to keep off intruders. Lieut. Col. Vincent M. King, the ranking C. A. C. officer here, had not received orders at press time today.

JAMES P. KELLY TO GET JOB OF LIEN EXAMINER

Will Take Arthur Connor's Place When Latter is Made Tax Commissioner.

James P. Kelly, assistant city clerk, will be the new examiner of liens to succeed Arthur F. Connor after the job of tax commissioner is created. The salary is \$2,200 per year. Mr. Connor is also clerk of the board of appraisals of benefited and damaged property receiving a salary of \$800 for that position. If the office of clerk of the appraisal board is continued Mr. Kelly will have that position also with a total salary of \$3,000.

At present with the charter undergoing revision for a city manager plan there is some question about the continuation of the appraisal board.

If a proposed charter amendment can be enacted into law, the tax assessors will go out of office April 1. The term of Frank J. Hughes, president of the board does not expire until August 1st this year. Mr. Hughes is a lawyer and does not believe that any law can be enacted which will put him out of office before his term expires.

The other members of the board are William F. Russell whose term expires in August, 1918; Julius W. Knowlton, whose term expires in 1919 and Thomas O'Brien, whose term ends in 1920. The latter is secretary of the board of assessors.

Arthur F. Connor will receive \$4,000 per year as tax commissioner. John J. Fitzpatrick now in the office of secretary of state will be deputy commissioner at \$2,000 salary. Loren Delbridge will be clerk at \$2,000, and John W. Dowling will again take charge of the block map system at \$1,800.

No successor to Mr. Kelly as assistant city clerk has yet been decided on.

ANNIVERSARY OF BLIZZARD.

Twenty-nine years ago today what is now known as "The Big Blizzard" was beginning. Snowfall lasting for several days completely tied up traffic in this vicinity.

Formal Announcement is Made By State Department and Handed to Representatives of All Governments—Swiss Legation at Capital to Notify Germany of Program—Liner Rochambeau With Guns Mounted Fore and Aft Is Granted Clearance Papers.

Washington, March 12.—Formal notice that American ships traversing the German submarine zone are to carry "armed guard for the protection of the vessel and the lives of the persons on board" was sent by the state department today to embassies and legations of all foreign governments in Washington.

Following is the text of the communication as made public by the state department:

In view of the announcement of the Imperial German government on Jan. 31, 1917, that all ships, those of neutrals included, met within certain zones of the high seas would be sunk without any precaution being taken for the safety of the persons on board and without the exercise of visit and search, the government of the United States has determined to place upon all American merchant vessels sailing through the barred areas an armed guard for the protection of the vessels and lives of the persons on board.

The notification, it is expected, will be sent to Germany by the Swiss legation here. No obstacle will be placed in the way of such action. State department officials did not want to make it clear whether it was mandatory for all American vessels to have arms or whether they might sail without them if they so desired. Previously the navy department under its policy of silence as to such questions had also refused a ruling.

The navy department's position is that it will equip with arms all ships whose owners apply to it.

Permission for clearance of the French liner Rochambeau from New York, the first belligerent merchantman to arrive in an American harbor with guns mounted fore as well as aft, was granted today by the state department, which ruled that the Rochambeau as a passenger carrying vessel plying usual routes was a peaceable merchantman entitled to take adequate precautions against illegal attack.

Undoubtedly the Rochambeau ruling will lead to a general policy of arming vessels to the fore. It was thought at the time that she had been sent into port largely as a test of the policy of this government, and now that a wide armament is allowed it is assumed that other Entente merchantmen will follow suit.

MOBILIZATION OF U. S. NAVY'S FULL STRENGTH SOUGHT

Officials Urge That Complete Fighting Strength Be Called Out Now.

Washington, March 12.—Mobilization of the complete fighting strength of the navy has been recommended by naval officials. The approval of President Wilson is required before orders can be sent calling out the reserves, assembling the naval militia and releasing all active officers now on shore duty for sea service.

Immediate graduation of the first class at Annapolis would be included in the plan in order to make up as far as possible the threatened shortage of officers.

In addition to mobilization of forces already enrolled in the militia or reserve, an active recruiting campaign would be necessary to supply all ships of military value with full complements. Officials believe they would have little difficulty in obtaining the men if mobilization were ordered.

State to Pave Part of Barnum Avenue

The state highway department has announced its intention of coming to the rescue of Bridgeport through the pavement of Barnum avenue from Main street, Stratford, at the railroad viaduct to Central avenue, Bridgeport.

As now planned, the roadway will be of solid cement similar to that now laid in Stratford and along the Milford turnpike.

Because of the poor character of the roadway between the Mill Hill district of Bridgeport and the Center at Stratford it has been nearly impossible for vehicular traffic to pass over Barnum avenue with any degree of speed or safety.

The action of the state road authorities which will include co-operative support of the Connecticut Co., the Town of Stratford and the City of Bridgeport, will bring joy to the host of residents that have recently taken up domicile in the Remington City and outlying sections of the East End. It is believed generally in this city today that it will take a large traffic burden from the Stratford avenue bridge which is now forced on that highway to and from Stratford.

The town of Stratford will act on the matter tonight.

Eight cases of trichinosis, a disease caused by eating underdone pork, have been discovered in Elizabeth, N. J.

WAR-TIME LABOR TROUBLES TO BE HALTED QUICKLY

Civic Federation Outlines Plan to Prevent Any Tie-Up of Work.

New York, March 12.—Plans for averting labor strikes in case of war were announced here today by the National Civic federation and will be placed before the national council of defense.

Conciliation committees composed jointly of employers, labor leaders and the public would be formed in every industrial center. In this connection a statement by the civic organization's mediation committee today says:

"There is need of early precaution on this subject, not only on account of the publicly announced intentions of certain radical organizations to promote strikes and riots in every manufacturing locality where they can possibly get a hearing, but also on account of the experience in England, where it was found, after the South Wales miners' strike, involving 200,000 workmen, that the only means of settling and preventing strikes was through voluntary efforts, the munition compulsory act having proved futile."

The executive council of the National Civic federation at a meeting in Washington on March 8 will outline its plans prepared at the invitation of the advisory commission of the national council of defense.

Christian Union Fund \$37,448.56

Today was the banner day of the Bridgeport Christian Union campaign. According to figures announced at the unusually enthusiastic luncheon in The Stratfield this noon, a total of \$7,864 was collected. The executive committee announced it had received \$2,000, the women's division, \$3,776.25 and the men's division, \$2,487.75. This added to the previous total of \$23,580.56, makes a grand total of \$37,448.56.

Team No. 17, of which Miss Chary Smith is captain, won the banner today with a collection of \$1,128. Team No. 8, under Postmaster C. F. Greene, led the men's division with a total of \$700.

James G. Ludlum, president of the Manufacturers' association, made a spirited address at the meeting this noon.

John B. Lennon, labor leader and treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, is seriously ill at Bloomington, Ill.