

MANY STORES THREATENED WITH CLOSING

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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PRICE TWO CENTS

DROWN 7000 IN PETROGRAD; BODIES SHORN OF CLOTHING

TURN 200 PEOPLE AWAY FROM FUEL BOARD DOORS

Barbers and Other Small Store Keepers Assert They Must Close Their Shops—Intense Suffering in Households.

The Bridgeport coal situation has taken on a serious aspect and is practically a famine. Virtually half of the retail dealers are absolutely without hard coal and the Bridgeport branch of the United States Fuel Administration encounters difficulty in distributing supplies in small quantities to families urgently in need. More than 200 persons, applying for coal cards, were turned away from the committee's office this morning, the daily allotment having been exhausted before 10 o'clock.

When the office opened at 9 o'clock more than 200 persons formed a triple line from the office in the Stratfield building to Golden Hill street. Persons recognized by Postmaster Garrity as those who were turned away yesterday were first accommodated. Several women wept as they pleaded with the policeman to get them a place in front of the line. Secretary Murray Caldwell was forced to go beyond the daily allotment of 500, but would not guarantee deliveries.

Following a report that the dealers were not co-operating with the fuel board and would not deliver coal only to their regular customers, reporters requested an explanation from John J. Fisher, a member of the board, who said, "How can they give what they haven't got?" Asked how many dealers were without coal Fisher replied that he believed there were at least those of four. Queried as to how much coal other dealers had on hand Fisher suggested that the reporters go and look at the bins themselves. The suggestion was followed and the bins of three dealers on the Pequotock river were found to be bare, save for a few tons of pea coal and screenings. At the office of Wheeler & Howe Co., at the eastern end of the Congress street bridge a sign reading "No Coal" hung on the door. Investigation showed that this company's bins, the largest retail yards in the city, were absolutely bare with the exception of a few tons of screenings that were being carted away. (Continued on Page 13.)

BATTLING KUNZ KNOCKED OUT; AUTO THIS TIME

South Norwalk, Dec. 13.—Charles Taylor (Battling Kunz) of this city, state lightweight champion boxer, who was defeated by Johnny Dundee in Bridgeport on Monday evening, when he was knocked out in the fifth round, was again knocked out last night, but this time when he lost control of the automobile that he was driving with the result that the car crashed into a telegraph pole and Taylor was flung through the windshield and his head, striking an iron support for the top. He was rendered unconscious. He was picked up and taken to a nearby doctor, where he was treated. His right knee was severely bruised and he has a gash six inches long and very deep, being a slanting cut, on his right cheek. He will be out of the ring for some time.

POOR MEAT AT DEVENS

According to reports from Camp Devens, more than 30,000 pounds of meat was rejected as being unfit for army consumption during the month of November, and that 20,000 pounds were thrown out in October by inspectors from the department of agriculture.

THE WEATHER.

For Bridgeport and vicinity: Probably more tonight and Friday; slight snow tonight, colder Friday.

Family Solves Fuel Troubles By Taking Team and Contents

At least one family found a temporary solution of the heating problem without resorting to appeal to the fuel administration, today, by annexing without so much as a "by your leave," a wagon-load of coal belonging to Abraham J. Reich, a junk and coal dealer, of 85 Frank street. Reich, after starting out for business at an extremely early hour, dropped in at a saloon on Water street, about 7 o'clock, to get warm. Coming out a few minutes later, he discovered that his wagon was gone, and reported to the police. The rig was located at 8:15 o'clock at Allen and Lafayette streets—but minus its load of coal.

RUN-AWAY AUTO IMPERILS LIVES OF YOUNGSTERS

Lives of several school children were imperiled, and some damage was done to property when a motor truck belonging to Hickey Bros., of 187 Thompson street, started coasting down hill from in front of the Morehouse apartments on Pequotock street, at 9:10 o'clock this morning. The thoroughfare was crowded with youngsters on their way to St. Augustine's parochial school at the time, and the mad scramble to reach points of safety, five of them fell, almost in the path of the swiftly approaching truck. Fortunately they escaped being run over when the machine ran up onto the sidewalk before reaching them, and then swerved to the other side of the street, where it crashed through a fence surrounding the property at No. 148 and landed against a porch.

ARRIVES SAFELY WITH \$2,000,000 PLATINUM LOAD

A Pacific Port, Dec. 13.—In boxes, carried as luggage, F. W. Draper, an American engineer, brought from Petrograd 21,000 ounces of platinum, safe arrival of which at a Pacific port was announced in Washington yesterday. The metal, valued at nearly \$2,000,000, is consigned to the secretary of commerce and is urgently needed for war purposes. Draper in relating today the story of his trip, said he travelled alone and unarmed across Siberia to Vladivostok, where he took a steamer.

WARNS GOVERNOR OF OHIO TO KEEP HIS HANDS OFF

Washington, Dec. 13.—Fuel Administrator Garfield today informed Gov. Cox of Ohio that he would not be permitted to interfere with distribution of coal in Ohio under the direction of the state fuel administration. Dr. Garfield sent to Gov. Cox the following telegram: "I must respectfully but firmly request that you do not interfere with the orderly distribution of coal in Ohio under orders issued by my authority or Homer H. Johnson, federal fuel administrator for Ohio. He has full authority to act and F. C. Baird is co-operating with him. I must insist that the authority be not permitted to interfere with the action of the United States fuel administrator."

BALZARANO SENT TO PITTSFIELD

Waiving extradition proceedings, Joseph Balzarano, of New York city, arrested here yesterday for participation in the murder of Vincenzo Cresci in Pittsfield, Mass., over two years ago, agreed this morning to go at once to Massachusetts to stand trial, and left in company of Inspector Daniel J. McLaughlin, of Pittsfield.

Germans Assisting Austrians

Von Beulow's Troops Joins Forces of Austrians in Assault on Italian Lines North of Monte Grahpa.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Wednesday, Dec. 12.—By the Associated Press)—Gen. Von Below's German troops have joined the Austrians and Bohemians under Field Marshal Conrad Von Hoetzendorf in a series of heavy assaults during the last two days between the Brenta and Piave rivers, just north of Monte Grahpa.

The fighting has been severe and has been attended with large losses but in the main the Italian line has been sustained with one slight indentation at Monte Spinozza, where the enemy secured a temporary foothold which is still contested bitterly.

Artillery preparation early yesterday was followed by infantry rushes with the Austrians on the right and the Germans on the left. The Fourth Austrian division, on the right, had a number of Bohemian regiments in the front line. These were fresh from the Russo-Galician front. A desperate struggle went on around Colberetta, where the Austrians were aided by enfiladed fire from batteries on the western bank of the Brenta river in positions established when the lines were reformed last week. For some time the Beretta positions were in the hands of the enemy, but a brilliant counter attack has restored nearly all the Italian positions.

German reserve forces were engaged for the first time since they were used on the big Isonzo offensive. The fighting was bloody around Monte Spinozza and Col Grahpa—Bear hill—with the enemy gaining a foothold. The result of the two days' fighting has not advanced tactically the enemy's positions leading toward the Venetian plains, which is his real aim.

TRUCK LOAD OF AUTO MARKERS FOR THIS CITY

Hartford, Dec. 13.—In connection with the establishment of its branches in New Haven and Bridgeport the department of motor vehicles today loaded a large truck with markers and equipment for delivery in those cities on Friday. To make the truck service 100 per cent. efficient the commissioner made inquiries in Bridgeport for a return load and found one without any trouble whatever and without expense beyond a telephone call. Further than that, the manufacturer furnishing the return load made inquiry as to whether a regular service is contemplated, intimating that such could be used to advantage.

CALL HOME GUARD TO STOP RIOTING IN MINNEAPOLIS

Minneapolis, Dec. 13.—The authorities were prepared today to deal promptly with any disorder that might arise in connection with the strike of several thousand local union men in sympathy with Minneapolis and St. Paul street car employees who are demanding permission to wear their union buttons, which recently were ordered discarded by the state public safety commission. Besides several hundred special sheriffs, six companies of home guards were instructed to mobilize here and await call.

Recognize Fealty Of Austrians

Great Freedom of Movement for Local Austro-Hungarians is Granted By President's Proclamation.

Granted a freedom of movement seldom, if ever, accorded by a nation to its resident citizens of an enemy country, upwards of 20,000 Austro-Hungarians living in this city will be allowed, provided they behave, to continue the tranquil routine of their lives as though war against their native land had never been declared, under the policy outlined in the proclamation issued by President Wilson yesterday.

Recognition of the extreme loyalty of these people, and of their patriotic devotion to their adopted land prompted the President to take this liberal course, which is in accord with his recent statement before Congress that war against Austria-Hungary is necessary only because that nation happens to be within the path of America's prosecution of the war against Germany.

There are approximately 50,000 men, women and children in Bridgeport who are of either Austro-Hungarian birth or extraction, but many of these are naturalized citizens of the United States, and would not be affected by the declaration of war under any circumstances.

There are also thousands of Slovaks here, and it is doubtful if these would have been considered alien enemies, even though unaturalized, since they are known to be opposed to the Austrian government. However, careful estimates reveal the fact that there are about 20,000 here, who are citizens of the enemy country, and who would have suffered much inconvenience and hardship but for the President's attitude toward them. These people would have been classed as enemy aliens and would have been governed by all of the restrictions which now bind and hamper the movements of Germans. They would have been compelled to leave the barred zones circumscribed by a half mile radius about munition plants, government buildings, etc., and would have had their movements obstructed in many ways. Many of them would have suffered great financial losses.

SCHWABEN MEN OFFER SELVES AS LIBERTY CHORUS

Hartford, Dec. 13.—The Schwabenscher masenchor, incorporated, of Bridgeport, has volunteered its services in a body and offered its organization to the state of Connecticut as one of the Liberty choruses that are being organized throughout Connecticut. The offer was made to the chairman of the Bridgeport Liberty committee today without solicitation and the letter accompanying the offer expressed "strong hope for the success of the efforts of those who will participate in this duty." So far about 75 Liberty choruses have been organized under the supervision of the Connecticut state council of defense.

YALE BATTERY GUNS.

New Haven, Dec. 13.—A battery of four 2.95 inch mountain guns, it is announced at military headquarters at Yale today, will be shipped soon to the Yale artillery contingent from the Watervliet arsenal. The battery will be complete in its equipment and will be chosen from material turned in by a field artillery battalion.

DEAD ARE REMOVED FROM CANALS IN RUSS CAPITAL

London, Dec. 13.—A battle has occurred near Bielgorod, in southern Russia, between Bolshevik forces and troops under Gen. Korniloff, but the outcome has not been established and Petrograd advices are conflicting. The Petrograd correspondent of the Daily Mail reports that Gen. Korniloff was defeated and wounded and that his capture was to be expected. A dispatch from the representative of the Post, however, denied the reported Bolshevik victory, saying Gen. Korniloff has routed his opponents and soon will join Gen. Kaledines at Novu Tcherkask.

The Post correspondent, who received his information from an unnamed source, sends a detailed description of the battle. He says Gen. Korniloff had about 3,000 men, making up what is known as the "wild division" of cavaliers of St. George, "battalions of death" and some artillery.

In a communication the Russian situation the Petrograd correspondent of the Post says there is no prospect of a peaceful settlement and that henceforth force must decide everything. The secret of the successes throughout the country of the Bolsheviks, he writes, is that they represent the iron hand.

What is behind them is as yet undisclosed, but among the influential members of their organization are men who were prominent in the secret political police of the empire, which once ruled Russia. These men, according to the correspondent, are introducing dissension everywhere. He continues:

"Although floods of indignation are poured out daily on the Bolsheviks, it is beyond question that they are gaining ground in Russia, simply because they use a strong hand, which is the only thing the Russians in general appreciate. Their methods might horrify the west, but would be understood perfectly east of the Suez.

"For example, in the last three weeks there have been taken out of the rivers and canals of Petrograd 7,000 naked corpses of persons whose death was not caused by drowning. The injuries which caused death tell their own story. A suit (Continued Page 13.)

CONGRESS ASKS WHY WORK ON WAR MATERIAL LAGGED

Washington, Dec. 13.—Demands for specific explanation of delays in supplying arms and artillery to the nation's fighting forces were made today by senate military committee members in cross examination of Maj. Gen. Crozier, chief of ordnance, in continuing the senate investigation. From all sides of the committee table questions were fired at the ordnance chief for information on why money furnished by congress had not been more rapidly expended for ordnance. Time needed for manufacturing after funds authorized was the principal cause of delay, was the gist of Gen. Crozier's explanation.

WARNS AMERICA AGAINST PAPER MONEY INFLATION

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 13.—Warning against the danger of paper money inflation as a means of financing the war was given today by Chairman Frank A. Vanderlip of the war saving committee in addressing a bankers' luncheon in behalf of the war saving stamps campaign. The government faced a shortage of men and material, not money, he declared. "At no time in the world's history," said Vanderlip, "when paper money inflation has anywhere been tried was there a corporate condition such as we have today; a situation where there are many, many billion dollars of securities issued by public service corporations whose income is fixed by law. "The advancing price of all things which corporations must have to live, the price of labor, fuel, equipment, supplies of every sort, would show quick response to the inflation of the currency but the income of those corporations would still be governed by legal contracts or governmental regulations."

Court For Juveniles Is Certain

Concerted Efforts of Prominent Local People to Better Care for Child Delinquency in Bridgeport.

Bridgeport will, in less than a year, have a juvenile court for the handling of all matters pertaining to child delinquency if plans now under consideration by the Civic committee of the College club, are carried to successful accomplishment.

An organized movement has been determined upon to have an ordinance adopted by the City Council at an early session, which would create such a court after the order of those now in operation in New Haven and Waterbury. Provision for the establishment of juvenile tribunals was made at the last session of the state legislature, and the cities above named were quick to grasp the advantages of the scheme.

As proposed here, the Juvenile court would not only try cases in which children are the offenders, but all matters in which they are closely concerned. Parents whose neglect or conduct are contributing causes to juvenile delinquency, and child labor law violators would be tried there. A meeting of the Civic committee was held yesterday afternoon, in the home of Mrs. A. H. Bullard, on North avenue, and the subject was discussed with much enthusiasm. Measures were taken to bring about an early settlement of the matter, so that it may be presented to the Common Council as soon as possible. It is the purpose of the committee to have the court established by spring, if this can be accomplished.

New Haven was enabled to make an early start in the establishment of the court by a private gift of a building from two wealthy women. It is quite likely that a similar donation will be made by some local public-spirited citizen to facilitate matters here.

LEAVES NOTES FOR RELATIVES TURNS ON GAS

With two jets open, and several notes addressed to relatives lying on a table at his bedside, John A. Boyle, aged 59, rooming at 440 Pembroke street, was found dead in bed, at ten o'clock this morning, a victim of gas poisoning. Suicide is the theory advanced by the police as the cause of his death, it being the belief of authorities that the man had been drafted for military service and brooded so much over the fact that he decided to end his life.

Boyle worked nights at the Remington shop, but did not go to work last night. He retired at midnight, and fellow-lodgers found him dead today. The man has a family residing at 134 Convent Place, Yonkers, N. Y.

Attaches at the Emergency hospital said, this noon, that they did not think the case one of suicide, but rather felt that Boyle was the victim of a quarter-meter accident. They believe that the lights in his room may have gone out after he had fallen asleep, and that someone inserted a quarter in the meter, not stopping to ascertain whether his jets were closed.

FOUND DEAD.

South Norwalk, Dec. 13.—Clarence Henry Eberhardt, a railroad signal man, was found dead on the floor of his room by a fellow employe yesterday. Eberhardt had been sick for a few days and his mate had brought his pay envelope. Medical Examiner Huntington said he died from tuberculosis here, another today.