

WOMEN BEG FUEL BOARD FOR COAL IN VAIN

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

VOL. 53—NO. 295

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1917

PRICE TWO CENTS

GEN. KORNILOFF DISAPPEARS DRIVE AUSTRIANS OFF VENICE

Selection Of Lavit Is Ignored

International Machinists Order New Election for Business Agent—Lavit May Be Ousted When New Ballot is Ordered Taken.

In answer to a protest from the Scandinavian lodge of Machinists of this city the International body has repudiated the recent election of Samuel Lavit as local business agent and has ordered a new election.

In union circles it is said that the reason for the new election may be directly attributed to the opinion of many members of the machinists' lodges that Lavit is not a fit person to administer the affairs of the machinists.

The protest followed an action of the Lavit committee in refusing to permit the Scandinavian lodge to enter a candidate at the election. Neither was the lodge permitted to endorse a candidate. Lavit and his followers according to rumor had long prior to election laid elaborate plans for the election and carried matters through in a more or less high handed manner.

Lavit is reported to have stated that if the new election should be forced that he would not run again and at the time of this statement it was generally conceded that if Lavit should drop out all factions would readily harmonize. However, Lavit seems to have changed his mind and is again fighting hard for the place.

It is likely that recent developments in the case of Lavit after having been calmly considered by the thinking members of the Machinists' union will have some effect on the new election.

Thomas Egan, who has been elected assistant business agent, is expected by members of all lodges to make a stronger fight against Lavit than any other candidate.

While no official figures of the recent election have been made public, it has been stated that Lavit's majority was only 20 votes and should such have been the case it is probable that the more conservative members of the Machinists' unions will succeed in their efforts against Lavit.

FAILED TO USE FOR PURPOSES IT WAS RAISED

Washington, Dec. 14.—Examination today of Major Gen. Crozier, chief of ordnance, at an executive session of the senate military committee's inquiry into alleged delays in supplying the war army, went further into details of the rifle and machine gun situations. Several senators sharply questioned him in what were described as "somewhat heated" exchanges. Some of the members were said to be inclined to attribute to Gen. Crozier himself responsibility for the reduction of 50 per cent. in rifle production at private plants due to the change in type.

Failure to use appropriations for the purpose intended was also developed from Gen. Crozier. In particular an appropriation of \$5,000,000 made in August, 1914, for small arms and intended by congress for rifles, Gen. Crozier said, was used for pistols, some at high royalties from private contractors.

Gen. Crozier reiterated that rifle production will increase so that no American troops sent abroad will be without surplus arms and that soon there will be ample for training purposes.

Holcomb Advises Local Boys: "Take D— Few Prisoners"

"Take damn few prisoners," was the parting injunction delivered by Governor Marcus H. Holcomb to 2,000 men, mostly from Bridgeport, comprising the 30th Infantry at Camp Devens, as with Godspeed and good-wishes he bade them farewell on the occasion of his presentation of colors to the regiment, yesterday morning.

The solemnity of the event was intensified by the Governor's ardent prayer "May the God of Armies give you courage, nerve your arms, keep you safe for us and lead you unto victory."

DOOLING TRIES TO SHOW MOTIVE IN MEANS MURDER

Concord, N. C., Dec. 14.—John T. Dooling, assistant district attorney of New York, took the jury in the trial of Gaston B. Means along the pathway of the defendant's career as business manager for Mrs. Maude A. King, with whose murder he is charged, and pointed out today, and explained link by link, the chain of evidence which the state contends establishes the motive for the alleged crime.

Mr. Dooling pointed out from the evidence that when the defendant became connected in 1915 with Mrs. King's affairs he was living in a cheap flat in Harlem, had no considerable funds, his wife had about \$100 in bank.

BRICE TO SPEAK IN U. S. Y. M. C. A. HUTS IN FRANCE

With the American Army in France, Thursday, Dec. 13.—(By the Associated Press)—To strengthen mutual sympathies, arrangements have been perfected by which the British Y. M. C. A. in France is to send influential and well known British public men such as Viscount Brice, to speak in the American Y. M. C. A. huts. The American Y. M. C. A., in turn, will provide well known American lecturers to speak in the British huts. The interchange of speakers will begin probably about the first of the year.

DENY WOMAN SPY WAS EXECUTED BY U. S. GOVERNMENT

Washington, Dec. 14.—Persistent repetition of a story that a woman spy had been executed in the United States has caused the state department to send an official denial to American consuls and legations in the European neutral countries.

CHAPMAN SENT TO WATERBURY TROLLEY LINE

Charles H. Chapman, manager of the Bridgeport division of the Connecticut company for the last 10 years succeeding R. H. Smith, will be transferred to the Waterbury division on January 1. Chapman will be replaced here by H. L. Wales of Warehouse Point, now general manager of the Hartford and Springfield Street Railway Co.

INVESTIGATE NAVY

Washington, Dec. 14.—A house subcommittee to thoroughly investigate the conduct of the war by the navy was created by the naval committee today in executive session. Hearings will be arranged soon. Secretary Daniels, bureau chiefs and officers who have been on duty abroad will be called.

5 BARGES WITH BRIDGEPORT COAL LOST IN STORM

South Norfolk, Dec. 14.—The tug Bully of the Owen McCaffrey & Co. transportation line, New York, arrived in the harbor today and reported the loss of six barges, coal laden for Bridgeport and New Haven. The tug and tow had been inside the harbor for three days, waiting for the wind and snow storms to abate, but during the gale last night the barges broke away and went down. All the men, women and children on the barges were saved and taken on the tug.

190 DEATHS IN NATIONAL GUARD THE PAST WEEK

Washington, Dec. 14.—The measles epidemic in the camps of the 30th, 21st, 28th, and 36th divisions of the National Guard troops no longer constitutes a menace, according to a report for the week ending Dec. 7, made public today by Surgeon-General Gogas.

The epidemic has spread somewhat, however, in the 34th and 35th divisions, and to a greater extent in the 36th. Pneumonia following measles is particularly increased in the 36th division and slightly increased in the 34th, 35th and 39th. All other National Guard camps show a decrease in measles, although there have been several cases of pneumonia independent of measles in all National Army and National Guard camps.

CHICAGO BANK IS ROBBED; \$47,000 TAKEN IN STORM

Chicago, Dec. 14.—Two hundred pounds of money, totalling \$47,000, was carried off by five men who yesterday robbed the La Grange state bank in La Grange, a western suburb, it became known today after an indemnity insurance company had checked up the bank's cash.

BLAMES HOOVER; SENDING TONS OF SUGAR TO CANADA

Washington, Dec. 14.—Declaring there is no shortage of sugar in the United States and that the famine is local to the Atlantic seaboard, President Sprackles of the Federal Sugar Refining Co., testifying today at the senate committee's investigation, placed the responsibility on the food administration. Tons of sugar, he declared, was now passing through New York to Canada because of higher prices.

CORSET WORKERS TO HEAR SPEAKERS

John J. Flynn will be the guest and speaker at a meeting of the Polishers' and Buffers' union, No. 40, at Odd Fellows' hall, 1047 Broad street, tonight, when a luncheon will be served. The occasion is a rally of the Corset Workers' union and the Polishers. Mrs. Mary Scully of New York, will also be present and will talk labor conditions in Bridgeport.

DU PONT POWDER PLANT BLOW-UP KILLS ONE MAN

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 14.—One man is dead and five are injured as a result of a fire that followed an explosion today at an acid plant of the Du Pont Powder Co., 18 miles from here. William Crowe of Newark was killed. After the firemen had been summoned from Wilmington fire started in the Wilmington power house, necessitating the shutting off of all electric current in the city. Wilmington is without light and electric car service.

For Bridgeport and vicinity: Fair and much colder tonight and Saturday.

Policeman Saves Two From Drift

Hatch Digs Out Two Women After They Have Fallen in Snow Drift During Heavy Storm Last Night.

But for the courageous efforts of Patrolman Alexander Hatch, of the Second precinct, two women whose names could not be learned today, might have perished in the furious storm of last night, when they fell into snow drifts at Newfield and Seaview avenues and lay there, unable to arise.

Hatch, on his way home, discovered one of the ladies almost buried in the snow, and assisting her to her feet, escorted her to her home in Adams street. Himself barely able to make any progress against the wind and sleet, the officer negotiated the distance with difficulty, and all but carried the woman into her house.

Satisfied that she was safe, he resumed his homeward walk, when in again passing the corner of Newfield and Seaview, he saw the second woman fall, rise, and fall again, and a moment later almost stumbled over her prostrate body.

He followed the same course with her, and saw her to her home in DeForest avenue. Starting away, however, the effects of his experience began to make themselves felt, and when he reached the Connecticut company's power station, he was on the verge of collapse. He at once entered the station, and there employees made him comfortable, dipped his frozen hands in ice water to prevent trouble, and soon restored him to his normal condition.

Later he was able to go home, and having fully recovered his strength, is again on duty this afternoon.

FINDS PARTNER MISSING WITH ENTIRE STOCK

Business troubles of the firm of Unger & Freedman, clothing, of 1166 East Main street, were aired in the detective bureau, today, when complaint was made to Captain Edward Cronan, to the effect that the junior member of the concern, taking advantage of his partner's temporary absence from the store, had removed all of the goods from the establishment yesterday.

Unger went to New York to buy some merchandise, Wednesday, and returning yesterday, learned that his partner had had a truck take all the goods out of the store. Goods and partner are now missing, the police say.

USED CAR AUCTION IS POSTPONED

Due to the snow storm, the big auction sale of used and second hand cars to be held today will be postponed until next Friday at the same place, 278 State street. "Doc" Elwood is the auctioneer and he says that there are a great many good bargains in this lot of cars. List of cars for inspection may be had at 280 Fairfield avenue.

TSAR'S DAUGHTER ILL

Petrograd, Dec. 14.—It is reported from Tobolsk, Siberia, that Olga, eldest daughter of former Emperor Nicholas, is seriously sick.

NEUTRAL COSSACKS SHELLED; ANGERED, JOIN REVOLUTION

Petrograd, Dec. 14.—In the battle near Bielgorod, according to the Bolshevik staff representative, Gen. Korniloff's Cossacks were defeated. They retreated to Vasileika. In connection with the battle the evening newspapers report the Cossacks as victorious, the Bolshevik forces having retreated across the Don river to Nakhitchevan.

The staff report on the Bielgorod fighting says the Korniloff forces lost 50 killed and 80 prisoners. The report adds that Gen. Korniloff has disappeared.

A description of the Rostov fighting says shells fired by Bolshevik gunboats in the river missed their objective but landed in the barracks of a Cossack detachment which had decided to remain neutral, but which fought for Kaledines when disturbed by the shells. It is reported that Gen. Kaledines is preparing to negotiate with the Bolsheviks in order to avoid further bloodshed around Rostov.

Bolshevik troops have occupied Tamanoke and Kaluga. Tamanovka is near Bielgorod, in Kursk province, about 350 miles south of Moscow. There is a railroad town named Kaluga, in the province of the same name, which lies about 100 miles southwest of Moscow.

Tamanovka was occupied by troops from Petrograd, while Kaluga was captured without much fighting. The counter revolutionary troops there were disarmed and arrested and Bolshevik authorities assumed control.

The commissioners with the Black Sea fleet have telegraphed asking for the immediate dispatch by land and water of all Black Sea detachments now ashore. They also ask for a large number of machine guns. The commissioners report that military cadets are attacking Rostov with armored cars.

A telegram received at Smolna institute, the Bolshevik headquarters, says there have been riots in Rostov in which the Cossacks were put down by the Bolsheviks. The railroad between Rostov and Scheterinka has been cut and telegraph communication has been broken off.

Reports of the battle vary widely. Hostilities began Sunday and are said to continue with heavy losses on both sides. Artillery reinforcements have been sent the Bolsheviks, who are now reported to be under the personal command of Ensign Krytenko.

RAIN COMES TO AID OF ITALIANS; PIAVE FILLING

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Thursday, Dec. 13.—(By the Associated Press)—After three days of fighting on the mountain front between the Brenta and the Piava rivers the enemy is holding some trenches on Col Berek and the summit of Monte Spinozza, but all the rest of the Italian line is in its original position. This is the enemy's third successive attack with the object of breaking through to the plains.

The backward season continues to be an important factor. A downpour in the last two days has filled the river Piave, which had nearly run dry, obliterating the water barrier with the enemy trenches only a few hundred yards away. The water in the inundated section along the lower Piave has fallen. The rains again made the river a fairly deep barrier and the inundated section again effectively flooded.

Taking advantage of the low water, the Austrians occupied a villa near the lagoon of Venice, in the vicinity of Boro Cavallino. The Italian destroyer Sauro managed to work into the lagoon and landed a party of sailors, who destroyed the villa, together with the telephone and machine guns which had been installed.

WILL OF WOMAN THOUGHT TO HAVE DIED INTENTATE

Quickly following an application for administration of the estate of Bridget Feeley, which action indicated that the deceased had left no will, a document, purported to be the last will and testament of the deceased woman strangely appeared in the Probate Court.

Under the former action the estate, estimated at \$5,000, would go to the legal heirs-at-law, Thomas Lavin of 399 Gregory street, Owen Lavin of Ireland, brothers; Katherine, Peter and Anna Callahan, nephew and niece, of 357 Park avenue. The will bequeaths all but \$150 to Josephine Feeley, step-daughter.

A contest has developed and hearing will be held before Judge Paul L. Miller on Monday. The will was filed by the step-daughter, who asked to be appointed executrix. The will directs a bequest of \$100 to the pastor of Sacred Heart R. C. church.

No Relief Furnished By Board

Fuel Organization Unable to Assist Men and Women Who Beseech Them With Tears to Obtain Coal; Drive Them From Offices.

Coincident to the failure of the United States Fuel Administration to relieve the Bridgeport domestic fuel situation, the Bridgeport branch of the administration is in an apparent state of disorganization and is powerless to grant the demands of weeping women and men.

More than a score of foreign-speaking women refused to obey a policeman's command to "clear out" when the daily allotment of 100 half-ton lots exhausted at 10:35 o'clock this forenoon. From a reliable source there is no immediate relief in sight.

Carl F. Slemmon, chairman of the committee, refused to impart any information regarding the situation to the public. When accosted by reporters Slemmon said, "I have nothing to say. I'm too busy. I have other work more important than newspaper interviews." Several other attempts were made to get an official statement for the public, but without avail.

The board is apparently in a serious state of confusion. Many dealers are unable to supply coal on orders from the committee, because they have none in their bins. Orders taken yesterday and today will not be delivered until Monday or Tuesday. The committee is unable to supply immediate relief.

When the office doors opened at 9 o'clock this morning approximately 125 persons were standing in the corridors of the Stratford hotel annex and the lines extended to the entrance on Golden Hill street. When the last order had been taken there were still 45 or 50 persons unseated. At the policeman's announcement that no more orders would be taken today, seven women forced themselves into the office. One of them cried, "My babies freezing. Please give me coal." Several others told similar stories, but could not be accommodated. Men complained that they had already stayed away from work two half days and pleaded with the secretary to take advance orders.

ALL TRAFFIC IS CONGESTED; SNOW 12 INCHES DEEP

Bridgeport awoke this morning to find itself confronted by the task of shoveling its way out from under the worst snowfall that has struck this section of the country in many years. Obstruction of railroad and trolley traffic and interruption of wire communications were the principal effects felt for hours after the cessation of the storm.

Up to 2 o'clock this afternoon no trains had been reported arriving in this city from Boston, and there was nothing to indicate when travel from that city would be resumed.

Train service in all parts of the state was crippled, and where lines could be operated at all, there were such lengthy delays that schedules had to be completely ignored. Freight traffic had to be abandoned during the height of the storm last night, and was only resumed at a late hour this morning, when conditions began to improve.

For several hours during the night all trolley service was halted, it being virtually impossible for cars to force their way through the snow. Steam and electric plows were set at work in large numbers soon after daybreak, however, and by noon all railroad and trolley lines were in operation again. City plows were also sent out to clear the highways, and managed to clear the principal streets.

Schools in various parts of the state were shut down, all transportation lines tied up and the blizzard in New York and New England in general raised havoc.