

# FIVE BRITISH WARSHIPS SUNK BY RAIDERS

## Bridgeport Evening Farmer

VOL. 53—NO. 297

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1917

PRICE TWO CENTS

# ALL NIGHT WATER ST. GUN BATTLE WILL COST 2 LIVES

## ARMISTICE, BEGINNING TODAY WILL BRING PEACE TREATY, IS BELIEF AT PETROGRAD

**Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Between Russia and Central Powers is Predicted at Russian Capital—Suicide of Russian General Who Promoted Truce is Reported, But Petrograd is Silent on Rumor—Teuton Troops Already Moved to New Fronts, is London Opinion.**

Petrograd, Dec. 17.—Permanent peace between Russia and the Central Powers will follow the armistice which became effective today, according to views entertained in official circles here.

The signing of the armistice was announced here officially today. Simultaneous announcements were made in the other capitals of signatories to the armistice.

(The text of the armistice, as announced at Petrograd, will be found on Page 10 of The Farmer today.)

London, Dec. 17.—The predominant fact as regards the Russian situation at the moment is the signing of an armistice, which is announced officially at the capitals of all the countries concerned. According to dispatches from Petrograd everyone there believes a permanent peace between Russia and the Central powers will result.

Correspondents in general treat as negligible the undertaking of Germany and her allies not to withdraw troops from the eastern front. A Petrograd dispatch to the Times says large masses of Germans already have been removed and that probably the German command has transferred all its purposes to employ elsewhere, so that its plans are not likely to be deranged seriously.

The reported suicide during the armistice negotiations in Brest Litovsk of the Russian general Skatkov apparently has made a considerable impression in Petrograd, although the Russian national commissaries are silent in regard to it. A Petrograd dispatch to the Post says Gen. Skatkov was responsible for the armistice conditions, including the evacuation of Moon sound, which so offended the Germans at the first meeting of the negotiators and rendered nugatory the efforts of the first mission. Gen. Skatkov returned most unwillingly for the second meeting under imperative orders of his superiors. The correspondent seeks to show that there is nothing to prove that he committed suicide, which is most improbable, and insinuates that he was murdered.

There is no confirmation of last week's Bolshevik announcement regarding the arrest of Gen. Kaledine. The situation in southern Russia continues to be obscure, and news is fragmentary and contradictory. Communication by rail and wire with Rostov, in the Don Cossack territory, where fighting has occurred, is reported to have been stopped. Fighting is reported around Kharkov, in a dispatch to the Daily Mail, filed in Petrograd on Friday, although Kharkov itself is said to be calm.

The latest returns from the elections to the constituent assembly, as supplied by the Bolsheviks, show that of 237 delegates, 85 are Bolsheviks, 115 Social Revolutionists, 10 Constitutional Democrats and the others scattering. About 80 delegates now are in Petrograd, but no further attempt has been made to hold a meeting. The Ukrainian delegates are expected to arrive in Petrograd today. Referring to the numerical preponderance of Social Revolutionists among the delegates, the Petrograd correspondent of the Daily News says that the whole crux of the matter is what proportion of the delegates belong to the right and what to the left, the latter being mere tools in the hands of the Bolsheviks. The real meaning of the figures cannot be ascertained at present because the names of those elected are not available.

The official denial of the story, that former Emperor Nicholas had escaped from the Railway Men's union, playing the report was false, hold the field for the present against various rumors regarding the Romanoffs, who are becoming objects of increasing interest to a section of the population of Petrograd.

Comment: Fair and continued good tonight; Tuesday increasing cloudiness and warmer, probably snow increasing south winds.

## FACTORIES MAY CLOSE ALL DOORS

Slight relief for the Bridgeport coal shortage is given in the arrival of shipments totalling 2,590 tons of hard coal, but the sufferings of thousands of persons are not benefited because of the dealers' inability to get their teams through the snow filled streets. Applicants at the fuel committee's office today were told they could get coal if they furnished their own deliveries. The city is in the grip of a near-famine and it is threatened that several of the large department stores will be forced to suspend business on several of the "rush" nights this week, unless coal supply is obtained. The Model Tool & Guage Co., 139 John street, turning out work for the Frankford arsenal and the Winchester Arms Co., has only a day's supply of coal and unless relief is forthcoming tomorrow the plant will close for business on Wednesday, throwing 30 skilled mechanics out of employment, besides shutting off on government war orders.

## RED CROSS DRIVE MAY GET FIFTEEN MILLION MEMBERS

Washington, Dec. 17.—When the great Christmas membership campaign of the American Red Cross got under way today officials here predicted the present enrollment of 5,000,000 would be increased to 15,000,000 or possibly 15,000,000 new recruits. District workers in every part of the country co-ordinated their efforts in an intensive drive to swell the membership total to an unprecedented extent before Christmas eve.

## GARFIELD ASKS COAL MINERS TO WORK HOLIDAYS

Washington, Dec. 17.—To keep coal production at a maximum Fuel Administrator Garfield is preparing to appeal to operators and miners to forego the usual Christmas and New Year holiday. Every idle day in the mines costs the country nearly 2,000,000 tons of coal. Authority to shut down industries, if necessary, to supply households with coal was granted by the fuel administration today to W. K. Prudden, federal fuel administrator for Michigan. Many Michigan cities are said to be almost entirely without supplies for domestic needs.

## CONGRESS RECESS TO DELAY WILSON ON R. R. PROGRAM

Washington, Dec. 17.—It was indicated today that President Wilson will make no further move in the railroad situation until congress reconvenes after the Christmas holidays.

## ELEVEN SHIPS ARE SUNK IN ENGAGEMENT

London, Dec. 17.—One British and five neutral merchantmen, a British destroyer and four mine sweepers have been sunk in the North Sea by German naval forces.

The losses were the result of an attack on a convoy bound from Scotland for Norway, Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the admiralty, announced today. The total tonnage of the lost merchantmen was 8,000.

## THURSDAY AND SUNDAY WILL BE LIGHTLESS

Official orders, effective today, and designating Thursday and Sunday as "lightless nights" were received from Washington today by State Fuel Administrator Thomas W. Russell and on Thursday night. Bridgeport will experience its first "lightless night." White way lamps, street lamps, advertising display electrical signs, and store lights will be reduced to only so much lighting as is necessary for safety. The government urges householders also to use as few lights in homes as possible.

It is a plan of the government to save fuel. There is to be no outdoor lighting other than what is absolutely necessary for the safety of streets, passages and dangerous spots. Advertising signs, theatre signs and hotel signs are ordered discontinued completely on Thursday and Sunday nights of each week until further notice.

## REDGATE DIDN'T KNOW OF RESORT KEPT BY THOMAS

"I can't say that I ever knew what sort of a place 'Baby Doll' Thomas was conducting in his Keystone Club rooms, in Water street," was the statement made by Supt. of Police John H. Redgate, today, to a Farmer reporter.

"I didn't know much about what was going on there," he said, and beyond that refused to make further comment. The superintendent was asked whether he had known that the place was frequented by men and women of both colors, that gambling was going on there, and that the establishment was a disreputable one. At first he seemed on the point of saying that he had known of conditions there for a short while, but then made the above statement instead.

## CONGRESSMAN GOES TO NATIONAL ARMY CAMP AS A PRIVATE

Washington, Dec. 17.—Representative Royal C. Johnson, of Aberdeen, S. D., enlisted today as a private in the regular army and was assigned to Camp Meade. He has not resigned his seat in the house.

## A FEW PERTINENT QUESTIONS WHICH THE PUBLIC TODAY ASKS POLICE SUPT. REDGATE AND BRIDGEPORT'S PURIST POLICE COMMISSIONER JOHN T. STANLEY.

Why have you allowed "Baby Doll" Thomas to run from midnight until dawn, a cabaret show 365 days in the year, in violation of the liquor laws, at the same time illegally closing licensed cabarets which were conducted in strict accordance with the law?

Why have you allowed the operation of a dice game on the two pool tables in the rear of first floor of the building by "Baby Doll"?

Why have you allowed white women and men and colored women to be served liquor at all hours in this club, when the club charter specifically states only "colored men" shall be members?

Why have you permitted this den of iniquity frequented by the dregs of white womanhood to keep its doors open, a constant menace to the life and property of Bridgeport citizens?

Why was it not raided? Why did it take an occurrence which threatened the life of a police officer to force drastic action on your part?

Did the owner PAY PROTECTION MONEY and if so to whom?

Are you the persons who are responsible for the criminal neglect which will cost one life, has resulted in the wounding of five others and threatened the life of a score of brave patrolmen?

The public awaits your answer and the columns of this paper will gladly give publicity to your reply.

## PROHIBITION BATTLE IS BEGUN IN HOUSE; VOTE EXPECTED TO BE CLOSE

Washington, Dec. 17.—Both wets and dries predicted victory today when the house launched into a six hour debate which is to close at 5 o'clock this afternoon, on the prohibition constitutional amendment.

The dries admitted that the wets had been gaining strength for several days, but claimed 29 votes to spare over the necessary two-thirds.

The wets gave no figures and predicted the defeat of the resolution by a narrow but safe margin.

Although the resolution already has passed the senate, it will not be out of the woods with passage by the house, for it has been amended and if the house passed it today it would be necessary for the senate to vote again on the changes.

As presented to the house, the resolution requires ratification by three-

## TEUTONS AGAIN ATTACK SECTOR OF U. S. TROOPS

With the American Army in France, Sunday, Dec. 16 (By the Associated Press) Although German claims in an official communication regarding a raid in the Bures sector are not confirmed by a French source, it may be said that the locality described virtually is identical with the position where the Americans were raided recently.

## RECOGNITION OF BOLSHEVIKI NOT LIKELY BY U. S.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Recognition of the Bolshevik government by the United States still is remote, it was indicated today at the state department. Reports in Europe suggesting a developing sentiment in favor of dealing with the new regime as a de facto government have found no response here and it was made plain that the United States would continue its policy of awaiting developments. Reports from Ambassador Francis are now coming through with more regularity, but consults in many parts of the country appear unable to communicate with Petrograd. It was suggested here that one of the direct effects of the armistice between the German and the Russian armies might be the financing of the Bolsheviks by Germany with paper money. When the war began Russian money was printed in Germany and the plates are still in Berlin. Diplomatic dispatches to the state department from Teheran, Persia, contained an appeal for relief of the famine suffering people in that region. New Rochelle citizens housed 11,000 soldiers from Fort Stocum.

## "BABY DOLL," PAMPERED, PROTECTED PET OF THE KING MACHINE RUNS AMUCK---HOLDS ENTIRE POLICE FORCE AT BAY---BUILDING IS RIDDLED BY BULLETS' HAIL

William "Baby Doll" Thomas, pampered pet of the political powers holding sway in Fairfield county, and protected owner of an infamous Water street resort, is at the end of his career of vice.

Today, held without bail at police headquarters, fear-crazed, and facing a probable charge of murder, the negro awaits the stern justice he has so long eluded. Thomas was arrested following a reign of terror which he instituted early yesterday morning. For six hours he gave desperate battle to, and held at bay an army of policemen who tried to arrest him in his barricaded establishment.

Six persons were seriously injured in the affray. Two of them are expected to die. The remaining four are in considerable danger and have only fair chances for recovery.

More than 100 prisoners were taken with "Baby Doll" when the police finally overcame their resistance. They are held to testify in an inquest inaugurated at 11 o'clock this morning, in the city court room, by Coroner John J. Phelan. With the exception of the police, all witnesses were barred from the room, the purpose being to have each present only in his or her turn so that their testimony might not be affected by what they might hear.

At the coroner's hearing, "Baby Doll" was not present but was represented by Attorney Henry Greenstein, his counsel. The negro is kept alone in a cell, where he seems in a daze after the stirring events of Sunday. He escaped unscathed from the gun-battle which raged from 2:30 until 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning between the police on the one side, and himself and the frequenters of his place on the other. He is so afraid of the consequences of his misdeed, however, that he is hardly himself.

"Baby Doll's" arrest, it was claimed today, will have more far-reaching effects than those which concern him alone. From reliable sources it is learned that an expose threatens which will lay bare the whole rotten fabric constituting the political system which governs this county, and which is expected to reveal a condition of corruption for which there is no precedent in political history. Leaders of state-wide and even national prominence will be involved, according to report, in the scandals which it is confidently believed will be revealed in the investigations to come.

No intention to raid his establishment brought the police to Baby Doll's "club rooms," yesterday. Their only purpose in going there was to investigate the complaint of an unknown white man who had been viciously assaulted by Thomas himself.

(Continued on Page 10)

## SUPREME COURT UPSETS VERDICT AGAINST LABOR IN MAX AMS CIVIL SUIT

Partial victory for Union Labor is secured in a decision of the supreme court, in which the finding of the superior court granting damages to the Max Ams Machine Co. against Machinists' Union No. 39 and others is overturned.

The supreme court finds error in the trial of the case in the superior court last January before Judge William L. Bennett and a jury, orders the verdict set aside and a new trial granted.

The jury awarded damages of \$5,000, and Judge Bennett denied a motion to set aside the verdict. Appeal to the supreme court followed. The original action was for \$5,000 damages and a permanent injunction against the union to restrain it and its members from picketing the factory in Fairfield where a strike was in progress.

The original complaint cited the union, George Bowen, Peter J. Coleman, and William Seemar as defendants, alleging that Bowen as business agent and the others as members of the union had committed various unlawful acts during the summer of 1915. September 27, 1915, according to the complaint, they demanded that the company discharge Ervin Palmacher, not a member of the union, and the following day the members of the union left the employ of the company. Commencing September 23 the company alleges picketing was resorted to, and charges of conspiracy to damage the business of the company is alleged. The suit claimed damages of \$5,000, a temporary and a permanent injunction. At a hearing February 13, 1916, Judge Gaeger issued the temporary injunction asked for, and a motion for modification made by counsel for the defense was denied by Judge Webb in June. The temporary injunction was made permanent December 29, 1916, after a hearing, and the plaintiffs were allowed to claim ad damnum of \$15,000. The case was finally tried on its merits before Judge W. L. Bennett and a jury, the verdict of the jury being rendered January 24, 1917, in favor of the Max Ams Co. in damages of \$5,000. Motion to set aside the verdict was denied by the court, and the counsel for the union took an appeal to the Supreme court.