

# COLD AND FUEL LACK CAUSES SUFFERING

## Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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# THREE BRITISH TORPEDO VESSELS SUNK

## KING FERDINAND RENOUNCES HIS THRONE

### Hundreds Suffering For Coal

#### Shortage of Fuel in This City is Again Very Acute—Families Suffering Appeal to Local Board for Relief.

Following the wave of zero weather and the government's failure to provide daily shipments of anthracite coal, the situation in this city is gradually slumping back to the conditions of 10 days ago, when there were only a few tons available for domestic use. The sufferings of hundreds of persons is revealed in the appeals of family heads, which resumed at the office of the Fuel Committee today after a lull of several days.

According to the records of the harbor-master's office no shipments have been received by water for the last six days. It is reported that several barges are anchored in the harbor, but it is said only 5,000 tons of it are for Bridgeport's consumption. It was reported today that several dealers had stopped deliveries, because their bins were again empty. Many persons appealed to the committee, saying that dealers had refused to make deliveries.

Complaints were also made at the committee's office today to the effect that merchants were charging in excess of 12 cents for bags containing 40 pounds of coal, in violation of the committee's regulations. Further evidence of suffering are shown in letters from various factories reporting many families in dire need.

The visit of Mayor Clifford B. Wilson and State Administrator Thomas W. Russell to Washington has been fruitless, according to Carl F. Stinson, chairman of the local committee, who says that all shipments recently received were made through the efforts of the retail dealers. Attempts to get shipments by rail have failed utterly. Stinson declares that the situation will be most acute if hampered by storms. Rapid navigation was crippled today, but it is not known definitely that it will affect the Bridgeport situation as it is not ascertained whether or not any coal laden barges are destined to this city. Stinson will issue an official statement regarding the situation on Monday.

### MILLBROOK CO. BROUGHT INTO SENATE PROBE

Washington, Dec. 29.—The profitable "scrap sorting contracts" in connection with making of army uniforms, which testimony at the senate committee investigation of war activities has led into the committee of the senate of national defense, came up again at today's hearing while Quartermaster General Sharpe was still under examination.

It was developed that Samuel Kaplan, a member of one of the supply committees, had protested against cancellation of a sorting contract in which his brother was interested, and it was further developed that his brother was treasurer of the Millbrook Mill Co., owning one of the Connecticut wooden mill manufactured by the government.

Senator McKellar asked whether Emmanuel Kaplan, treasurer of the Millbrook Mill Co., was not a brother of Samuel Kaplan, a member of a supply committee. Gen. Sharpe said he thought so.

Senator Weeks brought out that on April 3 Boston wool dealers offered all their wool to the government at prevailing prices but the offer never reached Gen. Sharpe, being referred to the general sanction board by Secretary Baker.

### CROWNED HEAD OF RUMANIA VICTIM OF TEUTON PLOT

#### Political Crisis Believed to Have Been Caused by Spreading of Bolsheviki and German Propaganda—Crown Prince Charles Takes Reins of Government.

Petrograd, Friday, Dec. 28.—There are persistent rumors here that King Ferdinand of Rumania has abdicated in favor of Crown Prince Charles.

Disturbed conditions in Rumania were reported in a dispatch from Petrograd dated Monday. It was said that news of a revolutionary plot against King Ferdinand had been received at the Bolsheviki headquarters in Petrograd. Other reports, it was added, tended to confirm indications of a political crisis. Except for this there has been little news from Rumania since the Rumanian army was forced to agree to an armistice on the eastern front. It had been reported that Bolsheviki and German propagandists were at work among the Rumanian troops.

King Ferdinand, who is a member of the Hohenzollern family, succeeded his uncle, King Charles, in October, 1914, King Charles having died on October 16. Rumania declared war on Austria on August 17, 1914, and King Ferdinand took personal command of the army soon thereafter.

King Ferdinand is the son of Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen and two of his brothers are generals in the German army. He was born in Sigmaringen August 17, 1865.

Crown Prince Charles was born Oct. 3, 1893, and is an officer in the Rumanian army. He is unmarried, although early in 1914 it was reported that his betrothal to the then Grand Duchess Olga of Russia had been arranged.

Queen Marie of Rumania, who was a duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, is a granddaughter of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and was married to King Ferdinand on Jan. 10, 1893.

Since Rumania's entrance to the war more than two-thirds of her territory has been overrun by the enemy. The royal family fled from the capital, Bucharest, in the fall of 1916 and since that time has been in Jassy.

### SMITH CLAIMS CLIQUE IS WORKING TO FORCE CO. INTO BANKRUPTCY

Claiming that a bondholders' committee which for several years has had the voting of the stock of E. H. H. Smith, a stockholder of the E. H. H. Smith Silver Co. of Stratford, is seeking to force the company into bankruptcy through foreclosure proceedings with the intent to take over the business of the company, applications for a receivership of the company has been made to Judge William M. Malby of the superior court by Smith, and testimony to support his claim is being heard today. Henry Lee, manager of the company for the bondholders' committee, was questioned at length regarding the affairs of the business.

The Smith Silver Co. is located in Stratford upon the town line of Bridgeport. In 1913 it got into financial difficulties, having large assets, but little cash, and a receivership was applied for and granted. Henry Lee was named receiver and continued in that capacity for a period of nearly a year. His final report as accepted by the court showed assets of about \$100,000, and a bonded indebtedness of about \$85,000.

Through an agreement reached with the creditors, E. H. H. Smith turned over his stock in the concern to the bondholders who in turn elected a committee of themselves to vote the stock and manage the business. This committee is headed by Frank Miller of the City National Bank of Bridgeport.

Recently the interest upon the bonds has been defaulted, and some of the bondholders, including Frank Miller and a few others, the committee alleges, have sought to foreclose upon the shops, although it is claimed the business is solvent. Application for the receivership is made to prevent the foreclosure.

Bowers & Williamson appear for the applicant, and Foster & Morgan represent Frank Miller and other bondholders.

Henry Lee, testifying today said that about October 1 of the present year Frank Miller, of the City National Bank, asked him to assign to the bank bills receivable amounting to about \$43,000 to secure loans from the bank of about \$27,000. He said Mr. Miller told him he believed the government would soon take action to stop the production of non-sensitized, and he wanted to protect the money he had loaned to the business. He said his instructions came from the committee to do this, but were verbal and given through Miller, and was by advice of Attorney Carl Foster, his counsel.

Lee further said that it was necessary to have money to meet running expenses, and Miller told him he would not renew the company notes unless the assignments were made. Some of the bills were due, others were due in 30 days, and some at other times. The assignment included all bills due after October 1, and later bills due in September had been assigned.

Under further question Lee admitted he had told the bookkeeper of the concern not to give information to Smith concerning the business.

### BANKERS TAKEN BY BOLSHEVIKI GIVEN FREEDOM

Washington, Dec. 29.—B. R. Stevens, manager of the National City branch bank in Petrograd, and his assistant, a Mr. Link, arrested when the Bolsheviki seized the bank, have been released, American Ambassador Francis reported today.

Ambassador Francis' dispatches added nothing to yesterday's news cables on the seizure of the banks, but said that Stevens and his assistant, after being arrested, were marched through the streets to the bank, where they were released. What action, if any, because of the seizure, has been taken by the American embassy, was not mentioned.

### FOUR DAYS' SNOW HALTS ALL WORK OF U. S. SOLDIERS

With the American Army in France, Friday, Dec. 29.—(By the Associated Press)—Still another day of howling snow storm—the fourth—saw virtually the entire American expeditionary force within the army zone abandon preparations to battle the Germans and begin a fight to keep from being snowed under. All last night and throughout today the flakes fell, choking the roads and badly delaying traffic.

Virtually all training work was halted off, but will be resumed tomorrow unless more heavy snow makes it impossible.

### Farmer Readers, Your Attention! An Announcement.

Beginning with the new year this paper will be issued daily under the new name of The Bridgeport Times and Evening Farmer.

### DRAFT HELP FOR MINES, SNEAD SAYS

Washington, Dec. 29.—Although there has been suffering in the national capital for lack of fuel, A. L. Snead, distributor for the fuel administration, told the Senate investigating committee today enough coal had been shipped here to supply normal demands.

Coal was unavailable, he contended, because persons who could afford it overbought, local dealers did not co-operate with the fuel administration and distributing facilities were inadequate.

"The railroads are not entirely responsible for congestion due to cross-hauling," said Snead. "The operators desire it in many cases, as it often extends their distributing field."

Improvement in the New England situation may be expected, Snead said, as arrangements have been made for some additional water transportation for coal. He added that no relief may be expected from the New England railroads.

"I believe we not only are coming to government control of mines, but conscription of labor," Snead told the committee. "Co-ordinating of effort is essential to meet present demands." He could see no chance to produce the 50,000,000 tons that the fuel administrator estimated the country is short this year, and said restricted use was necessary.

### R. R. EXECUTIVES REFUSE INCREASE TO BROTHERHOODS

Washington, Dec. 29.—The railroads have definitely refused the demand of their organized employees for 40 per cent increase in pay and have turned the responsibility entirely to the government.

The railroad executives here today in letting their decision be known made no concealment of their feeling that government operation is a step toward government ownership, and made clear that they felt the public and the stockholders would demand it.

### GRAIN ELEVATOR FIRE THREATENS MUCH FOODSTUFF

Detroit, Dec. 29.—Fire that early today threatened to destroy the elevator of the Union Depot Elevator Co. was extinguished before it reached the main grain bins. About 750,000 bushels of wheat, corn and oats was saved. The loss was \$25,000. Officials of the company said the blaze was of a suspicious origin. Seven fire companies and a fire boat kept the flames from spreading.

### TORPEDOES FOR U. S. TAMPERED WITH IN SHOPS

New York, Dec. 29.—Paul Hennig, a naturalized German, who has been employed as a foreman in a Brooklyn factory engaged in the making of torpedoes for the United States government, was remanded to jail without bail in the federal court today, charged with treason.

Hennig, authorities say, superintended the assembling of the gyroscopes which control the course of the torpedoes. According to District Attorney Francis, some of these gyroscopes have been found "maliciously mutilated." This was done in such a way as to render useless the torpedoes in which the gyroscopes were installed.

"Not only would these torpedoes have been worthless or weapons, but it is possible that they would have proved to be enemies of destruction for their own users," said the district attorney.

### THIRTEEN OFFICERS AND 180 MEN ARE REPORTED LOST

#### British Destroyers Believed to Have Been Attacked by Submarines Off Dutch Coast the Night of December 22—Ships May Have Collided With Hun Mines.

London, Dec. 29.—Three British torpedo boats believed to have been attacked by submarines in the fog which prevailed the night of December 22, off the Dutch coast were sunk. The government admits the loss of 13 officers and the lives of 180 men comprising the crews of the vessels. The belief that the vessels struck a mine is scouted despite the official report of the Admiralty.

Following is official statement: "Three of our destroyers were mined or torpedoed during foggy weather off the Dutch coast on the night of Dec. 22. A total of 13 officers and 180 men were lost."

In the military theatre of war in Europe the war office reports:

"French aviators last night bombarded the railroad station in Mazieres les Metz and Thionville, and German establishments in the vicinity of Vouziers and Rethel."

A zeppelin and a seaplane which was accompanying it have been wrecked in the North Sea, according to a Central News dispatch from Copenhagen quoting advices from West Jutland. The zeppelin is said to have fallen in flames.

### 13 DELINQUENT DRAFTEES VISIT POLICE STATION

From lists published in newspapers and from other sources, thirteen men who had failed to return their questionnaires to the local draft boards within the specified time, learned yesterday that the police were searching for them, and voluntarily surrendered themselves to their district draft officials.

All of these men had excuses to offer, the majority claiming that they had not received their blank forms through the mails. Others said that they were ignorant of what was required of them under the law, but were willing to comply with the Selective Service Regulations if instructed as to what was required of them.

None in this group of thirteen felt their rights to claim exemption or deferred classification, their reasons being accepted as satisfactory by their local boards. The men were allowed to fill out questionnaires at once and file them.

Discretionary powers are given the local boards, it was learned today, to extend the time allotted for returning questionnaires in individual cases, if circumstances warrant such action. This right has already been exercised by at least one board, and all of the others will follow whenever need arises.

The law requires that questionnaires be returned to the local boards within seven days, but also allows five days to the police in which to make investigation and report after receiving the names of delinquents, so that at least before it is necessary to submit these names to the Provost Marshal General in Washington.

Usually more time is taken than twelve days, since several days may be consumed in preparing lists for submission to the police, and the boards may generally grant to individuals an extension of at least five days, if they deem the case worthy. No arrests have as yet been made and the penalty for technical violation is being overlooked by legal boards.

### U. S. CONSULATE IN COSTA RICA RAZED BY FIRE

San Jose, Costa Rica, Dec. 29.—The American consulate, the International Club, the principal department store of the city, and all the other buildings but two on the public square were destroyed by fire today. Most of the papers in the consulate were lost. There was no loss of life. The damage is estimated at \$1,000,000, mostly insured.

### Police Bd. Head Will Not Quit

#### Stanley Refuses to Yield to Pressure Brought by Republican Party Leaders—King Fails to Attend Caucus.

Under the pressure of dissatisfaction from district leaders, John C. Stanley refuses to resign as president of the Board of Police Commissioners, but it is understood he will voluntarily quit within three or four months or after "things have quieted down." That the administration has hinted for Stanley's resignation was revealed by men in close touch with the political situation today.

Mayor Clifford B. Wilson, it is said, was also willing that Stanley should resign. The matter was to have been threshed out at a caucus of the administration leaders yesterday afternoon, but the absence of John T. King upset matters. The Republican leader strangely disappeared yesterday afternoon.

After his lieutenants had been led to believe that he was in the city and would attend the caucus, he failed to show up and telephone and telegraphic communications with New York failed to locate him.

As a result the entire slate of appointments is still open as the mayor will do nothing officially until King is present. It is reported that attempts are being made for a caucus tomorrow afternoon.

The appointment of a member to the Board of Police Commissioners is the center of attraction. It is stated on well founded authority that John E. Lyddy will be ousted and the name of Attorney Robert G. DeForest, Democrat, has been mentioned as one who might succeed Lyddy.

Frank Anderson, a member of the Board of Apportionment, is a likely appointee to the Board of Fire Commissioners, and it is also anticipated that Carl Lindquist will be reappointed as a member of that board. Robert D. Goddard is mentioned as a new member of the Board of Apportionment.

### M'ADOO DRAFTS ASSISTANTS FOR R. R. OPERATION

Washington, Dec. 29.—Director General McAdoo spent today assembling a staff of advisers and executive officers to assist him in administering the railroads as a national unit. He conferred with John Barton Payne, counsel for the shipping board, and Interstate Commerce Commissioner Anderson. An announcement of plans is expected soon.

The railroads' war board went to work on a general scheme of operation. A few reports reaching here today told of first efforts by local railroad officials to haul freight by short-cut routes, as requested by the director general in his first telegram to railroad heads.

A cold wave accompanied by snow in many localities probably would prevent a noticeable improvement in freight congestion under government operation for a week or more, officials said.

It was understood today that Mr. McAdoo would use the various departments of the interstate commerce commission to execute most of his orders, and in addition would form an advisory cabinet including representatives of the war and navy departments, the shipping board, the fuel and food administrations and the federal trade commission.

### ARMY BALLOON LOST

San Jose, Costa Rica, Dec. 29.—A word balloon sent up here at midnight Thursday, carrying Capt. Paul McCulough, instructor, and several other men, was reported lost.