

BRITISH LOST A DESTROYER IN BATTLE

A Berlin Official Statement Says Nothing of Loss of One of German Ships but Admits That One Torpedo Boat Put into Port in a Damaged Condition

OTHERS RETURNED WITH SLIGHT DAMAGE

Official Statement Issued in London Declared That a German Destroyer Was Sunk in Engagement Between Light Squadrons on Monday Night

Berlin, via London, Jan. 24.—One British destroyer was sunk and another was observed to be in a sinking condition in the North sea naval engagement, the admiralty announces.

The official British account of the engagement, given out last night, said that one British destroyer was torpedoed with the loss of 47 men and that a German destroyer was sunk.

"Last night while our light forces were patrolling the North sea not far from the Dutch coast they met a division of enemy torpedo boat destroyers. A short engagement took place during which one of the enemy torpedo boat destroyers was sunk and the rest scattered, having suffered considerable punishment.

"During last night there was also a short, sharp engagement between enemy torpedo boat destroyers and our own destroyers in the vicinity of Schouwen bank. During this engagement one of our torpedo boat destroyers was struck by a torpedo, the explosion killing three officers and 44 of the crew.

AUSTRIA DODGING IMMINENT BANKRUPTCY

Proposed That the State Take a Fourth of Real and Personal Property and Give a Sort of Mortgage.

Paris, Jan. 24.—Austria has decided on an extraordinary measure to stave off "imminent bankruptcy" according to "The Petit Journal's" Geneva correspondent. The correspondent says a decree is about to be submitted to the emperor whereby a fourth part of the real and personal property of all subjects and inhabitants of the empire shall become the property of the state in exchange for a kind of mortgage bond.

SIX ALLIES' PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN ON WEST FRONT

Berlin Claims Advantage in Several Engagements That Have Been Fought in Riga Section on Russian Front.

Berlin, by wireless, Jan. 24.—Six enemy airplanes were shot down yesterday on the western war front, the war office announces. In most of the Franco-Belgian war area fighting, moderately active, has been renewed.

Fighting has broken out in the Riga region on the Russian front, the statement says. The result of the engagements has been favorable to the Germans. The withdrawal of Tenthon forces in the region along the Danube, north of Tulitcha, is announced by army headquarters.

FRENCH TROOPS BEGIN TO WORRY ENEMY AT MANY POINTS

Successful Raids Were Made Near Chilly, South of the River Somme—Patrols Active Near Sailla.

Paris, Jan. 24.—French troops made several successful raids last night near Chilly, south of the river Somme and in the Woivre District, the war office announces. Patrols were unusually active in the Sailla region near the eastern end of the front.

ITALIANS LOSE TRENCH

And with It 137 Men and Three Machine Guns.

Berlin (by wireless), Jan. 24.—An Italian trench with 137 prisoners and three machine guns was captured by Austrian riflemen in operations in the Gorizia area, the Austro-Hungarian headquarters announced in its report yesterday.

RUSSIANS PRESSED BACK

By Germans in Riga Region—Bulgarian Detachment on Danube Destroyed.

Petrograd, via London, Jan. 24.—Ger-

man troops in the Riga region succeeded by repeated attacks in strong force in pressing back the Russian lines about a mile and a half between the Tird swamp and the river An and east of Colozom, the war office announces. The battle is continuing in this region.

WILSON KEEPS "OPEN HOUSE" AT CAPITOL

Receives Delegation of Congressmen—Before Leaving White House To-day. He Met Independent Oil Men.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 24.—Further extending his plan of transacting business at the capitol, President Wilson arranged to-day to spend the entire afternoon in the office outside the Senate chamber receiving delegations in addition to the usual congressional callers. Before going to the capitol, the president shook hands at the White House with 100 independent oil producers and conferred with a committee from the Churches of Christ in America.

SENATE IS DEBATING

Whether or Not to Talk About Wilson's Speech for a Week.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 24.—Opening the debate on his resolution for a week's discussion in the Senate on the president's peace address, Senator Cummins said that the president's suggestions were the most important ever made by a chief executive of the United States, and right or wrong, the Senate owed it to the country to set aside a time for a full discussion of the issues involved.

Senator Stone, speaking in opposition to the resolution, argued that it would take more than two weeks if every senator took the proposed hour to discuss the subject and that nothing was to be gained since no official action was to be taken at this time.

"If three or four, or half a dozen speeches, should be made criticizing and disproving the address in whole or in part and another half dozen be made endorsing and approving it, how would the president be enlightened?" said Senator Stone.

In what way would the president's footsteps be guided by such a course? There is no desire on the part of the president's friends to prevent the fullest expressions on the subject. Let the country discuss it. Let the world discuss it, but for the Senate to set aside such an amount of time as the resolution proposes when no official action can be taken, seems to me to be a melancholy waste of time."

Before a vote could be ordered, Senator Shafroth, Democrat, urged a public hearing by the foreign relation committee and a debate in the special session to confirm appointments after March 4.

SCHOOL BOOKS BURNED.

Middlebury, Jan. 24.—When the pupils of one of the Ferrisburg schools arrived at the school house yesterday morning they discovered that most of their books as well as those belonging to the town were missing and an inspection of the stove in the room disclosed the fact that they had been used for fuel. There were also evidences that some one had slept in the room Monday night.

An investigation was at once started and it was learned that a camp had been set up in the vicinity of the school Monday evening. A description of the man was telephoned to Deputy Sheriff Noble J. Sanford of this town and when yesterday afternoon a man applied at the county jail for a night's lodging he was at once placed under arrest by Deputy Sanford, who was armed with a warrant issued by State's Attorney Allen K. Sturtevant.

The stranger gave the name of William Thomas but he refused to give his residence or tell anything further about himself.

It is alleged that the man broke into the school house where he passed the night and as the fuel provided for the school house stove was not dry enough to suit him he kept the fire going the greater part of the night, feeding in book after book, until he had nearly exhausted the supply.

MUCH SCARLET FEVER.

White River Junction Schools May Have to Be Closed.

White River Junction, Jan. 24.—The scarlet fever epidemic has reached serious proportions here. Several cases have been reported among the school children, two new cases being reported yesterday. The fourth grade, which seems to be the worst afflicted, has been dismissed until next Monday, and considerable talk is heard that the entire school may be closed until the epidemic is again in hand.

The parents of the children of the dismissed school have been notified that they must keep the children in on the home grounds.

TALK OF THE TOWN

An address remarkable for its clarity of expression and wholly interlarded with partisanship was given in the Pythian hall last evening by Rev. A. W. Hewitt, pastor of the Plainfield Methodist church, who spoke at length on some aspects of the suffrage question. Mrs. Alexander Duncan, president of the Barre Woman's club, introduced the speaker and some over 100 men and women listened interestingly to the clergyman's words. That an extension of the suffrage to include both sexes seems imminent was one of the conclusions reached by the speaker, who hastened to declare his opinion that the sum-total of results will not work any marked change, on the attitude and action of the body politic. Rev. Mr. Hewitt's experience as a legislator found a place in his address and his more serious remarks concerning the suffrage question was curiously interlarded with apt anecdotes, which were received pleasantly enough. One who heard the minister at his rather difficult task of presenting suffrage and anti-suffrage views characterized the address as one of the most concise he had ever heard.

BILL KILLING IS STARTED

The House Slaughtered Six Measures This Forenoon

AGRICULTURE BILL MEETS OPPOSITION

Senator Ricker of Caledonia County Was Most Outspoken

Sessions in both the House and Senate were brief and devoid of much interest this forenoon, the upper branch concerning itself with court matters and ordered to a third reading two bills tending to expedite the trial of cases in county court. The House rejected a number of bills, none of which appeared to have much merit.

The bills killed were H 28, relating to the disposition of license fees (except the motion of Mr. O'Sullivan of Colchester that the bill be ordered to lie); H 46, exempting burial lots and monuments from attachment; H 68, relating to contracts for the sale of real property; H 62, relating to the restraining of bills; H 65, relating to recovery of costs; H 82, relating to aiding in the apprehension and prosecution of persons accused of crime.

House bill 79, relating to liability of towns for damages on the highways was recommended to the committee, on motion of Mr. Matot of Poultony.

It is expected that the administration measure consolidating the six offices under the head of a commissioner of agriculture and forestry will be reported to the House to-morrow or Friday and it will probably bear the stamp of committee approval. A hearing was held yesterday afternoon and was attended by over three score persons, Cattle Commissioner Davis of White River Junction appearing before the committee and answering numerous questions. Commissioner Davis expressed the belief that the work could be done under the arrangement proposed by the bill but did not consider himself capable of doing it. Senator Ricker of Caledonia county came out flat-footed against the measure, being of the opinion that it would not be an efficient or economic move for the state. Senator Ricker wanted to be shown that the bill would be a benefit or advantage to the state. The senator from Caledonia wanted it understood, however, that he is not lined up against the governor's program, but simply did not believe in H 39.

The two movie bills, S 2 and S 3, are creating a good deal of interest and a lively hearing was held before the committee last evening. Senator Dunton, who introduced the bills, has recommended to the committee that amendments be made to S 2 so that the measure will prohibit children 13 years of age or under from lending movie show apparatus accompanied by parent or guardian, the bill as originally presented fixing the age at 15 years.

He has also recommended to the committee that amendments be made to S 3 so that the showing of pictures depicting train robberies or other acts considered a felony shall not be prohibited from being shown so that it would affect only pictures of vulgar or immoral character or prevent licentious vaudeville. Both bills may be amended and reported favorably.

The entire moving picture field was covered last evening at the hearing before the Senate general committee on the two bills introduced by Senator Dunton of Rutland, regulating the age at which children may attend motion picture theatres and prohibiting the exhibition of unfit motion pictures. Senator Dunton, Rev. William E. Shaw and Rev. J. O. Sherburne of Montpelier, Hiram E. Miller, a motion picture man of Lynn, Mass., and O. G. Cocks of New York, one of the secretaries of the national board of censorship, were heard. There will be another hearing on the bill Thursday evening. Senator Dunton introduced two amendments, the first placing the age under which a child must be accompanied by a guardian to visit a motion picture theatre at 13 instead of 15 years. The second completely changes S 3, and provides that a person who exhibits to the public motion pictures of a vulgar, an immoral character, or who presents licentious vaudeville shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

Bills Introduced in House. By Mr. Mott of Albany, an act to amend Sec. 555 of the public statutes, relating to the appraisal of improvements on realty. (It since last quadrennial appraisal, additional buildings have been erected or extensive repairs made, exceeding in value \$1,000, the listers shall make such addition to such appraisal as they deem just.) To committee on taxation.

By Mr. Cummings of Castleton, an act to amend sub-division A of Sec. 31 of No. 201 of the acts of 1912, extending the open season for pickerel. (Extends open season from March 1 to 15.) To committee on fish and game.

By Mr. Stewart of Lyndon, an act to amend Sec. 6161 of the public statutes, as amended by No. 188 of the acts of 1908, as amended by No. 229 of the acts of 1915, increasing the salary of the state fish and game commissioner. (Increases salary from \$1,500 to \$3,000.) To committee on state and court expenses.

By Mr. Leach of Rupert, an act to pay William O. Sheldon the sum therein named. (To reimburse Sheldon in the sum of \$101 for fine paid under protest for killing a doe claimed by the wardens to be a fawn.) To committee on claims.

Bills Introduced in the Senate. By Senator Vilas of Chittenden, an act relating to 122 criminal cases, as amended by No. 7, 8, 11, 15, 17, 24 and 25 of No. 91 of the acts of 1915. (Provides for board of civil authority of each town after annual town meeting to elect a trial justice for criminal causes, the only jurisdiction being in the town

in which he is elected. Appeal may be had to court from his court and any city or municipal court shall have jurisdiction within the territorial limits of a town or city within which another city or municipal judge resides.) To committee on minor courts.

By Senator Peck of Chittenden, an act to amend Sec. 11 of No. 81 of the acts of 1912, relating to the admission of persons to the state school for feeble-minded children. (Changes age limit of persons admitted from 25 to 40 years of age.) To committee on state institutions.

By Senator Vilas of Chittenden, an act to amend Sec. 1 of No. 107 of the acts of 1915, relating to the sale of opium, morphine and other narcotic drugs. (Amends so as to prohibit the sale or distribution of medicinal tablets, pills or powders containing not over a twentieth of a grain of morphine or a quarter of a grain of cocaine or any of their salts except heroin, to each pill, powder or tablet.) To committee on public health.

By Senator Demerit of Washington, an act to amend Sec. 14, 15 and 16 of No. 104 of the acts of 1915, relating to compensation to employes for personal injuries. (Employer to furnish surgical, medical and hospital services only for the first seven days of disability instead of first 14, such attention not to exceed \$100 instead of \$75.) To committee on commerce and labor.

"NOT PROPERLY LIGHTED," Station Platform at Montpelier Junction Also Had a Hole.

Rutland, Jan. 24.—The Central Vermont Railway Co. and the Rutland Railway, Light & Power Co. are made defendants in negligence suits in Burlington county court brought yesterday. Senator Wilson E. Aldrich of Rutland sent the railroad and George H. Johnson also of this city, sent the electric company. Damages of \$5,000 are claimed in each case.

While alighting from a train at Montpelier Junction on the evening of Nov. 17, 1916, Mr. Aldrich fell and sustained injuries to his left leg which confined him to the bed for several weeks, and will make him lame permanently, it is claimed. He declares that the Central Vermont company was negligent in not having the station properly lighted and not warning passengers against a hole in the walk.

Mr. Johnson, who is a teamster, alleges that he suffered a broken jaw, fractured shoulder and fractured leg when a 3,500-pound dynamo fell upon him on Dec. 13, 1914, in this city. He was drawing sand and walking beside his team when the dynamo, which was situated near the sidewalk, suddenly fell upon him. He maintains that the props sustaining the dynamo projected into the walk and were a menace to travel.

FORGERY CHARGED. Poultony youth Said to Have Secured Relative's Wages.

Rutland, Jan. 24.—William H. Livingstone of Poultony, 22 years old, is at the county jail, in default of \$700 bail, being held on charge of forgery, the complainant being the boy's father, Thomas Livingstone. He was arrested Monday and, after a hearing before Justice of the Peace Paul G. Ross, was committed to jail.

Young Livingstone, it is claimed, has figured in escapades in his village and some weeks ago, it is alleged, he forged his sister's name and drew her salary due at the shirt factory. Last week he went to the office of the Ruggles Machine company, by whom his father is employed, and, it is claimed, forged the latter's name and drew the amount of money due his father, which amounted to over \$15.

It is alleged he spent the money, his father being confined to the house by illness at the time. The warrant was issued by Grand Juror W. H. Rowland of Poultony, but the case is being investigated by State's Attorney C. V. Poulin.

THOUSANDS TURNED OUT

For Funeral Services of Rev. Thomas E. McCarthy of Rutland.

Rutland, Jan. 24.—Bishop Joseph J. Rice of Burlington was the celebrant of a solemn high requiem mass at St. Peter's church yesterday at the obsequies of Rev. Thomas E. McCarthy, curate at the Catholic church in Montpelier, who died at Rochester, Minn., last Friday. The bishop was assisted by Rev. P. J. Long of Montpelier as deacon, and Rev. J. J. Lynch of Northfield as sub-deacon. Rev. P. J. Barry of Burlington was master of ceremonies, and Rev. William Cassidy of Burlington gave the eulogy.

Several thousand people turned out for the services, Rutland being Father McCarthy's native place. Knights of Columbus and other societies affiliated with St. Peter's church acted as escort from the church to Calvary cemetery here, where the burial took place.

TWO FINGERS INJURED.

William Stevenson Got Hand Caught in Grinding Machine.

William Stevenson of Brook street, an employe of H. D. Stevens Co., Inc., underwent an operation at the City Hospital to-day for the partial amputation of the second and third fingers of the right hand. Mr. Stevenson was operating a grinding machine at the granite works of the firm on Smith street, when his hand came in contact with the swiftly revolving grindstone. Two other workmen accompanied him to the hospital and Dr. W. E. Lazell was called. An examination disclosed deep lacerations and bone bruises, necessitating the amputations.

SUSPICION AROUSED.

And Rutland County Authorities Will Investigate Death.

Rutland, Jan. 24.—Relatives of the late Miss Nora Benson, aged 26 years, daughter of Channery Benson of Granville, N. Y., who died in a Los Angeles, Cal., hospital two weeks ago, have asked State's Attorney C. V. Poulin to investigate her death. The remains were shipped from California to Fair Haven, where the girl's mother lives. The casket is said to have been marked "Pneumonia. Do not open." Relatives did open the casket and found that the body was clad merely in a hospital night dress and that there was an incision for an operation on it as well as several bruises, also a broken ankle. The young woman worked with a moving picture company.

BROKERS WILL TELL OF SALES

Some 600 Houses on the New York Stock Exchange Are Expected to Acquiesce

SAYS PRES. NOBLE OF THE EXCHANGE

Witness Then Goes on to Describe the Market Methods

New York, Jan. 24.—The members of the New York Stock Exchange who have been requested by the board of managers to make available for examination by the House rules committee of the records of transactions during the period when Wall Street is supposed to have received advance information on the president's peace note, are not expected to withhold the information. This assurance was given the committee by President Noble at the resumption of the lack inquiry to-day.

In reply to Sherman L. Whipple, counsel for the committee, President Noble said that some of the 600 or so brokerage houses probably would have the information ready to-morrow or the day after. He knew of none, he said, who would assume the responsibility of not complying with the request. Atty. Whipple then resumed the examination of Noble on stock market methods, particularly about short sales.

HEARD DAMAGE CLAIM.

Petition of James S. Spencer Against City of Barre.

Before the state industrial accident board this forenoon evidence was heard in the case of James S. Spencer, an elderly man, who is seeking compensation for injuries alleged to have been received while in the employ of the city street department July 22, 1916. Chairman Robert Simonds of St. Johnsbury and S. A. Daniels of Brattleboro, with Miss Laura Burbank as clerk, were present, the absentee being Fred S. Pease of Burlington. At 10 o'clock the hearing was adjourned from the law office of E. R. Davis, who appeared for the appellant, to the city court room. City Atty. William Wishart was the appearance for the city and before the hearing was finally adjourned at noon, four witnesses had been examined. Decision is reserved, pending a consideration of the evidence.

The appellant, Spencer, was the first to take the stand. He told of being employed as a helper on Boynton street while loads of crushed stone were being transported from the crushing plant to North Main street. Before the usual quitting time, he testified, he jumped aboard the street department auto truck and rode to the junction of Boynton street and South Main street, preparatory to going to his home in South Barre. Near the junction a sudden jolt threw him into the street and before he realized what had happened one of the foraged wheels of the truck had passed over his left leg. At the hospital, the injury was diagnosed as a bone fracture.

The statements of the witness tended to emphasize his apparent belief that he was in the employ of the city when the accident occurred, although he had knocked off work for the afternoon. Counsel for the city sought to show that Spencer was through work for the day and jumped aboard the auto as a quicker means of getting home. William Duprey, a foreman, testified that Spencer was not obliged to ride and that no more work was expected of him that day. Spencer had not been engaged at any time in unloading at the other end of the truck route, where the crushed stone was being spread over the highway, and it was the understanding of the witness that he was to alight from the truck before it headed down South Main street. The testimony of Supt. J. S. Wilson of the street department and George Stone, a helper, was of a corroborative nature.

DIED IN COUNTY JAIL.

John Wilson, Committed From Barre, Had Heart Disease.

A man named John Wilson, who was committed to the county jail from Barre on Dec. 20 for a term of 72 days for intoxication, died of heart disease in that institution last night. He had been subjected to the disease for some time, and last summer while he was in Montpelier he was taken ill and sent to Heaton hospital. Sheriff Tracy is trying to get into communication with the man's relatives, and if the body is not claimed it will probably be brought to Barre for burial. The man was 32 years of age and his home was said to be in Hoboken, N. J. Here in Barre Wilson was known to the police as a woodsman, an odd character, who turned up at infrequent intervals, after a season of hard labor in the woods.

His first appearance in city court, according to the records, was on Jan. 4, 1913. After that he served 20 days in the county jail for an intoxication offense. On the occasion of his first arraignment, he said he was 30 years old, gave Rotterdam, Holland, as the town of his birth and said he was a resident of Rochester. In December he was arraigned for a second offense and at that time he gave his age as 35 years and said he lived in South Royalton. Again he mentioned Rotterdam when the judge asked him where he was born.

At the request of State's Attorney E. Gleason, the case against Rodney Morrison of Grantville, charged with a breach of the peace offense, was postponed in city court this morning. When the respondent was arraigned Monday afternoon, his attorney A. A. Sargent, asked for a jury trial and arrangements were being made for empaneling a jury. Bail of \$50 was discharged by Magistrate H. W. Scott to-day when the state's attorney's wishes became known.

BETTER WORKINGS FOR WORKMEN RECOMMENDED

Mayor Gordon in Annual Message Declares That Such Plans Should Stand Foremost.

That efforts to lower the tax rate should be subordinated in an attempt to better the conditions of workmen in Barre is the keynote of Mayor Robert Gordon's annual message to the city, which was read before the aldermanic board at its regular session last evening. The mayor believes that any move which has for its first purpose the amelioration of conditions which endanger the health and menace the lives of men employed in the granite industry deserves priority over a program for tax reduction and he emphasizes his opinion at some length in the opening paragraph of the message. He deprecates the circumstances which inspire a natural desire in young men of the city to take their way from the granite industry and points to the fact that only one apprentice is working at the banker to-day where five were learning the trade 10 years ago.

Touching up street departments he characterizes as foolish some of the many complaints that have been received in the past year and admits that others have been well merited. He recommends that the city's highway system be divided into sections with a view to periodic inspection by the employes. For the police department he urges the addition of another regular patrolman. The water, charity and fire departments are commended for their efficiency. In closing, Mayor Gordon speaks of the zeal displayed by some of the ex-aldermen in carrying on their committee work with a view to making a good showing at the end of the year. The mayor's gentle satire is brought into bolder relief when he explains the custom of appraising at their original cost machinery and other city property that has been in use for years.

The message is given in full as follows: "To the Citizens of Barre: "A good many of our citizens have, through lack of employment, left our city during the last year. They have mostly all found an opening at other places and a great many of them find working conditions less dangerous to health and will stay away. "We all believe in low taxation but there is another matter of more vital importance to our little city than low taxes, namely, the health of our workmen. We hear of capitalists, who won't invest in Barre on account of a high tax rate, but the time is coming when the workman will sell his labor here on account of unhealthy conditions. Look around the granite sheds and see how few apprentices are learning the trade to-day, not one where there was five ten years ago. "As emigration is at a standstill on account of the European war, and will be at a low ebb for a few years to come owing to depopulation in European countries, and with most of our granite cutters of to-day watching an opening at some more healthful employment, where is Barre to get men to do the work when the great advertising of Barre granite brings in its full returns? Something has to be done to improve health conditions in the granite sheds, for men are learning that high wages don't mean much if you are down and out at fifty. "The ever increasing motor traffic makes the expense of the street department increase every year. Not only is travel made harder on the streets, but slight defects that were not noticeable in the older and slower traffic, are quickly made into real defects by the swift and heavy motor cars of to-day. There has been a great many complaints about the streets in this office during the year, and although many of them were foolish and without reason still some of them are deserving of consideration. "The original appropriation of \$10,000 has been increased from time to time until at the close of the year a total of \$16,800 has been used by this department. The \$3,100 expended on the motor truck, and the new motor for the stone crusher should be brought into consideration before passing judgment on the large addition to original appropriation. "I would recommend that the streets be divided into sections and sections to be gone over periodically by at least two men and a team, filling in and repairing all defects before they get large enough to be serious. "I hope the difficulties which hampered the present council last fall in their efforts to pave South Main street and erect a new bridge over Jail branch will be removed, and that mid-summer of 1917 will see the work completed. "We have been very fortunate in the fire department, in the small amount of loss during the year, also in the complete recovery of our chief from his unfortunate accident in the spring time. We were also fortunate to have had such an able fireman in Second Assistant Carpenter to carry on the work during the enforced absence of Chief Gladding. "With the two young horses purchased this fall, which are getting into good shape, and the addition of three regular firemen, this department is in good condition. "Would recommend a few more alarm boxes installed in the needy parts of the city. "The police department has been improved in the past year by the installation of telephone call boxes at convenient parts of the city, also by the appointment of a deputy chief. I believe that another regular policeman should be appointed in the near future, as the frequent hiring of special warrants the same. "The poor, like our chronic kickers, will always be with us. Although the department had to have an additional appropriation of \$1,000 over the original \$9,000 to carry them through the year, it does not reflect any discredit on the charity committee or overseer, as every thing in this department is handled in a very careful and economic manner; but the depression in our only industry has increased the number in need of help. "The water department has done a great deal during the fall of 1916 to improve the fire protection of our city, by laying larger mains and installing new hydrants in the stonished sections of both the north and south ends. "A good deal of the work as planned by the superintendent is to be done yet, but the work already done has remedied

TO ASK \$2.60 TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 1917

Finance Committee of Barre City Council Makes Unexpected Demand in Order to Put Through Various Improvements Which Are Planned and to Meet Increased Appropriations

By far the most jolting recommendation of 1916 with statements of what ought to be done in 1917 is the mention made of a \$2.60 tax rate in the annual report of the finance committee, which was received at the meeting of the board of aldermen last evening. A gist of reports, covering the year's doings in several city departments was handled by the aldermen, but the finance committee, in a meeting surfeited with dry statistics and formal rhetoric, contributed a recommendation feature at once startling and disconcerting. Added to the reports turned in earlier in the month, the aldermen have now heard from the mayor, who submitted his annual message (published in another column), the city attorney, the health officer, chiefs of the police and fire committees, and the health, finance, printing and street committees.

Words and figures combined in the following paragraphs and tables give the story as related by the finance committee: "The Finance Committee Report. "The year 1916 was remarkable for one thing, viz., a shrinkage in the city's grand list; it being the first time this has occurred since the organization of the city; the decrease in the list was confined to personal property, and was caused by the change in the statutes relative to the taxation of this class of property, and it had the effect of curtailing our income. A direct state tax of ten cents on the dollar, an extra county tax of two cents on the dollar and the share which the city had to pay for the maintenance of the county agricultural agent combined with the increasing cost of labor and material are largely responsible for the increase in last year's expenditures, and necessitated an increase in the tax rate over the amount your previous finance committee had estimated would carry them through the year. If it had not been for the issuing of the water notes it would have required an addition of 20 cents to the rate in stead of 10 as was levied to have met the expenditures of the year and left a small balance in the treasury. The present year does not promise any relief in this matter if the program of work to be done and improvements to be made, as has been proposed, are fully carried out. It will be necessary to raise a tax of at least two dollars and sixty cents to meet our expenditures, and it is on this basis that we have made our estimates. "Under our estimates for streets we have provided the sum of \$12,000 for maintenance, and \$2,000 for a new crushing plant; \$33,000 is appropriated for paving South Main street and \$5,000 for building a cement bridge over North Main street from Blackwell street northerly as far as the appropriation will allow; \$2,340 has been appropriated for building a cement road on Washington street from South Main street southerly as far as the appropriation will allow. A large share of the expense of this work should be paid for by the Barre & Montpelier Traction & Power Co. under the conditions of their franchise, and it paid for by them this year will largely increase our income over and above our estimates; but owing to the uncertain financial condition of the company at present we have not included this in our estimate of the income for the year. "Seventeen thousand one hundred dollars has been appropriated for the building of the proposed new bridge over Jail branch, the repainting and repairing of the other bridges in the city, and the maintenance of our culverts; \$2,000 has been appropriated for resurfacing some of the macadam roads that are now greatly in need of repair; motor traffic which is increasing at such an abnormal rate and the increased demands for the public in general for better roads is largely responsible for the expenditures which we believe to be necessary on our streets, and for which we have made provision as above stated. "Following out the policy started last year to improve the water system and provide better fire protection throughout the city it is proposed to complete the plans mapped out last year and we believe that the ultimate result will fully justify the expenditures made in this direction. The city has already authorized the issue of bonds to carry out this work, also for the paving on South Main street and bridge construction, and the same will be issued sometime during the year. "Supplementing the improvements in the water system we have added three more regular men to the fire department, which we believe will greatly improve the service and place it somewhat nearer the standard required for a city of our size; the appropriation of \$12,000 made