

SEVEN HUNDRED ARE LOST IN MEDITERRANEAN SINKINGS

The Weather Report

For Bridgeport and vicinity: Fair tonight; Thursday fair somewhat warmer; moderate west winds, becoming variable.

The Bridgeport Times

and Evening Farmer

The Want Columns

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23, 1918

PRICE TWO CENTS

ALL NORTHERN RUSSIA THREATENED WITH DEATH FROM FAMINE AND COLD; FRICTION BETWEEN TEUTONIC ALLIES

40,000 MEN RETURN TO LABORS; COAL PEDDLERS ARE DRIVEN OFF STREET

Siemon Reports That He Has a List of Small Factories Which Resumed Operations Today That Will Have to Close Within 48 Hours Unless Fuel Arrives.

The wheels of Bridgeport's industrial life, after five days of suspension revolved again today, and 40,000 men returned to their labors in plants. How long they will work is problematical. Fuel Administrator Siemon stated today that owing to the soft coal famine, many officials of factories have told him they must suspend operations in 48 hours unless fuel arrives.

Scarcity of anthracite coal still exists and although the nation generally is reported to have received great benefits from the five day suspension ruling, Bridgeport is as bad, if not worse off, than previous to the issuance of the order by Fuel Administrator Garfield.

Local attempts to get fuel have proved an utter failure. The street peddlers, because of their alleged misdealings, have been shut off entirely by the fuel committee and a substitute plan is announced by Administrator Siemon.

The bins of at least 15,000 Bridgeport families are bared to the floors and a score or more of factories are threatened with involuntary closing. The city's supply was saved from absolute exhaustion only by the arrival of four barges of soft coal, one barge load of anthracite today, and three carloads of bituminous, the latter arriving yesterday afternoon.

Mobs of coal seekers are storming every coal yard in the city and will not be turned away until the bare bins are shown to them. Several hundred were turned away from the fuel committee's office this morning, but more than 200 were accommodated with orders for quarter tons. Administrator Siemon announced today the committee would be able to distribute more than 50 tons tomorrow because the new coal arrivals will be handled by three or four dealers.

The city industries, with the exception of 18 exempted plants, closed for five days by the fuel administrator's order for the conservation of coal, reopened today and 40,000 workers returned to their places. An improvement in the general situation is reported from other parts of the country, but locally the conditions are such that it is problematical how long these 40,000 workmen will be kept employed.

The five-days' shut down resulted in the delivery of approximately 125 tons of bituminous coal in this city. This came over the rails yesterday and while hundreds of other trains of coal

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DESERTER FROM ARMY GLAD TO SURRENDER SELF

Declaring that every time he saw a policeman's uniform he almost got heart failure and lived the life of a hunted animal since he deserted from the United States army last October, John Ragala, of 333 Spruce street, Bridgeport, gave himself up to the police and was today sent to Fort Jay, Governor's Island, to stand trial on the charge of desertion before a court martial. Ragala has been working as a trolley-car conductor for the past several months, but he saw so many policemen both on the street and on his car that life was one continuous nervous spell for him. Every time a policeman boarded his car he started with fear thinking that he was coming to get him. He used to walk blocks out of his way to avoid the bluecoats, and finally unable to stand these train any longer he went to police headquarters and surrendered. He was held for the federal authorities and as soon as his case was looked up the police were notified that provision had been made to send the man to Governor's Island to stand trial before a military tribunal.

BUILD CONCRETE SHIPS FOR USE AT THIS HARBOR

In the early spring a line of concrete coal barges will be put in operation between Bridgeport and New York, according to a statement made today by Harbor Master Lamond, and the first boat of the line to be completed has already arrived in New York in connection with the Motor Boat Show. From descriptions furnished the barges will have a capacity of nearly a thousand tons of coal and will be equipped with power.

The barge now in New York was built in the incredibly short time of three weeks, with but a few men working on her construction but this is by no means the limit as to speed, as after the moulds have been made it is but a very short job to build them in hatches and the only time consumed is the waiting for the concrete to set.

There is quite a controversy going on among local shipping men as to the ability of steel and concrete it is asserted that they will be sturdier than either wooden or steel boats.

It has not been stated definitely how many barges will be in the new service, but it is expected that there will be at least twenty of the new type of vessel, and already there is talk of erecting a plant in Bridgeport for the purpose of constructing this type of vessel not alone for the local traffic but to supply the constantly increasing demand for concrete construction which is springing up all over this country and Europe.

ENGINEER FALLS THROUGH SHAFT; BREAKS HIS HIP

Percy H. Best, an engineer, 41 years and residing at 35 Joseph street, this city, was removed to Bridgeport hospital this morning suffering from injuries inflicted by falling down an elevator shaft at the plant of the Acme Shear Co., where he is employed. Dr. Keegan, who answered the call from the Emergency hospital, found upon arriving at the scene of the accident that Best was suffering from a fractured hip, although he had fallen but a distance of 10 feet.

ROOSEVELT RECEIVES

Washington, Jan. 23.—Col. Roosevelt received calls from congressional friends today at the home of his son-in-law, Representative Longworth of Ohio, where he is making a four-day visit, but otherwise he spent the day quietly. Mr. Roosevelt did not go to the capitol.

TEUTONS TORPEDO 2 VESSELS

London, Jan. 23.—By the sinking of two steamers by the enemy in the Mediterranean about three weeks ago 718 lives were lost, it was announced officially today.

The announcement was made in the house of commons by Thomas J. MacNamara, financial secretary of the admiralty.

ONE BARGE SUNK BUT SIX ARRIVE SAFE WITH COAL

Another coal barge laden with 800 tons of coal consigned to Bridgeport went to Davy Jones' Locker last night when the barge Charles Mulford, being towed by the tug George McCaffery, succumbed to the battering of the heavy ice and foundered off the Stepping Stone Light. This, however, did not discourage the shipping men as six barges of coal were reported in Bridgeport early this morning, and there is a likelihood of more being on its way here.

Tugboat crews have been busy for the last few days trying to improve the armor on the boats plying around the harbor or along the Sound, for the ice while it has been broken up in spots is piled many feet high and tears copper plating and ricks off the hulls as though they were made of paper.

THREE AMERICAN INFANTRYMEN ARE KILLED IN ACTION

Washington, Jan. 23.—General Pershing reported today that three American infantrymen were killed in action on Jan. 21. He gave no details of the engagement.

The dead were: Private Albert Cook, nearest friend Delbert Coats, West Almond, N. Y. Private Harry V. Garman, Catawba, Va.

Private Leo E. Radi, Cleveland, O. These are the first reports of men killed in action in more than two months. In the opinion of army officers here the appearance of "killed in action" in the reports does not necessarily mean that American battalions have returned to front line trenches for further training after an absence of some weeks, but that is the interpretation generally placed on the news.

SPENDS \$37,000,000 DAILY

London, Jan. 23.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, announced today in the house of commons that the daily average of national expenditures during the seven weeks ending Jan. 12 was 7,517,000 pounds.

LABOR IN ENGLAND TO FIGHT

"Must Battle on," Says President of British Workingmen's Party, Citing Germany's Adhesion to Militaristic Plans.

Nottingham, Eng., Jan. 23.—At the opening today of the annual labor conference Frank Purdy, the president, said that if Germany would not accept the terms President Wilson, Premier Lloyd-George and the Labor party had laid down as the minimum, "we must fight on."

President Purdy said that in view of the declarations of President Wilson and Premier Lloyd-George, Germany could claim no longer that she was fighting a defensive war.

"We see no signs yet," he added, "that Germany and her allies are willing to accept the principles enunciated by Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. Wilson and the Labor party."

Mr. Purdy said peace by negotiation while Germany was occupying territory of other countries would be a victory for Germany.

The conference is larger in point of membership than its predecessors. It is attended by 300 delegates representing nearly 2,500 members of trade unions. The atmosphere was somewhat electrical, as it realized that the issues to be raised would have far reaching effect on the future of the party. The climax was expected to be reached on a vote as to whether the labor members would be called upon to leave the cabinet.

"Peace, when it comes, must be a general peace, a just peace, a lasting peace that will secure liberty and freedom for all nations, great and small; a peace based on the will of the people," said Mr. Purdy. "It must be a peace in which labor, nationally and internationally, must play its part in order to obtain full and fair consideration of its claims."

"We appreciate the lofty ideals which induced the United States to join the Allies," he said. "Whatever might be the view of the labor representatives as to the effect the Russian revolution had exerted on the course of the war, he said, they welcomed it heartily because it had released the Russian people from thralldom. He continued:

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WILL PUNISH VIOLATORS OF FOOD SAVING ORDERS

Flagrant violations of the requests of the food administration are daily occurring in the same restaurants of this city, according to D. Fairchild Wheeler, local food administrator, and unless these violations cease very shortly measures will be taken to force delinquents to recognize the food order.

In a few cases in this city restaurant proprietors are rigidly adhering to the requests of the administration. Meatless Tuesday, wheatless Wednesday and porkless Saturday are observed and the managers of these places report that as soon as their customers are informed of the reason for the inconvenience they readily co-operate with the movement and express satisfaction with the adherence to the food rules. There are, however, many other restaurants and lunch rooms in this city, also boarding houses, at the present time doing as great a business as the average hotel, where the requests for the conservation of food are merely ridiculed, both verbally and in practice.

FREIGHT EMBARGO ORDERED

McAdoo Bans Everything Except Food, Fuel and War Munitions on Three Big Lines, to Get Coal Into New England.

Washington, Jan. 23.—An embargo on all freight except food, fuel and war munitions on the Pennsylvania lines east of Pittsburgh, Baltimore & Ohio east of the Ohio river, and the Philadelphia & Reading was authorized today by Director General McAdoo.

The action was taken on the recommendation of A. H. Smith, assistant director general in charge of transportation in the east. No action was taken on the recommendation submitted last night by Fuel Administrator Garfield. The embargo is temporary and is to continue only a few days.

"On account of the extremely severe weather which has particularly affected operation of railroads crossing the Allegheny mountains," said the railroad administration announcement, "Director General McAdoo, on the recommendation of Regional Director Smith, has authorized him to place an embargo on all freight except food, fuel and such war munitions and war supplies as are specifically approved by the war department, on the Pennsylvania lines east of Pittsburgh, the Baltimore & Ohio east of the Ohio river, and the Philadelphia & Reading, for the purpose of enabling those lines, which are the heaviest bituminous coal carriers, to continue specializing on coal for the double purpose of supplying the acute conditions in New England and the harbor of New York and elsewhere and in the provision of empty cars for mines and coke ovens.

"This embargo is a temporary one. It should last only a few days if the weather moderates." A threatened serious coal shortage in New York also is said to have hastened the decision. Many industries, it was expected, would continue to operate on part time as a result of the embargo order today. This will tend to save coal further for domestic use and bunkering of ships.

Diversion of coal shipments to the preferred list of consumers, including householders, ships and strictly war industries, fuel administrators say, has improved the coal situation materially.

GERMANY ANGERED BY AUSTRIAN DESIRE TO PROCURE PEACE

Inspired Newspapers of Kaiser Criticise Affairs of Dual Monarchy—Fuel Shortage Acute as Slav Transportation Fails—Eggs Only for Children.

Death by starvation and freezing threatens the population of all northern Russia, and the desire for peace expressed by Austria has created turmoil in Germany, according to today's war dispatches from Europe. Austria's desire for peace has resulted in 14 meetings of a pacific nature being held in Cologne and the Pan-German press, which never speaks without the authorization of the military powers is condemning the principal ally of the Kaiser.

Democratic nationalism is reported fast springing to the surface and strike after strike is reported to have been fomented as a result.

Petrograd, Jan. 23.—All of northern Russia is in a critical condition because of lack of food and fuel. Starvation and freezing threaten the population.

The collapse of the transportation situation, the idleness of hundreds of thousands, and the closing of the banks contribute to the situation. In Moscow the allowance of bread has been cut to a quarter of a pound a day. Eggs have been restricted to children under three years of age, and each child may have only four eggs a month. Eggs, however, are impossible to get at any price.

A complete suspension of passenger trains has been tried in an effort to speed up food transportation from Siberia and from southern Russia. This has been greatly interfered with, however, by wandering companies of soldiers, who insist that their trains have preference over freight. Every train coming into Moscow and Petrograd is crowded with soldiers.

Bank withdrawals are limited to 50 roubles a day for each depositor. Long lines stand constantly at the banks, because of the delays in cashing the checks. Agents of the Bolsheviks have opened safe deposit boxes and concealed hoardings of gold and silver and turned hoarded paper money into the current bank accounts of the owners.

The situation is desperate, but the populace has been quiet so far.

London, Jan. 23.—The peace agitation in Austria-Hungary is receiving a great rousing in Germany. The Socialist newspaper Vorwaerts of Berlin emphatically declares the solidarity of the German proletariat with Austrian labor in the peace struggle and maintains that events in the dual monarchy must have a deep reaction in Germany.

"We have been walking on the edge of a precipice in the last few days," it says, and goes on to demand that the German government resolutely take its place by the side of its Austrian ally.

"As the fruit of Pan-German propaganda," it continues, "we are menaced not only with the wrecking of the peace negotiations with Russia, but also with complete political isolation. This danger can be averted only if the German government declares itself in agreement with Foreign Minister Czernin's declaration (respecting adherence to the principles of no annexation and no indemnities) and draws therefrom practical conclusions, which must be drawn honestly. If the government acts otherwise, the consequence would be that, while Austria-Hungary and Russia enter lasting relations of friendship, Germany will remain excluded therefrom and we shall lose our last neighbor and friend."

Among the newspapers of a different complexion there are indications

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POLICE SUPPLY 100 FAMILIES WITH CORDWOOD

Owing to the snowfall and the inability to obtain fuel at any price, police headquarters was today deluged with applicants for cordwood, and in the neighborhood of one hundred orders were issued. It was announced that ten orders were issued for coal by the Department of Charities this morning, and this latter will be delivered early this afternoon. There was no excitement or any case of acute distress brought to the notice of the police, but the people who appealed for wood orders were in the main people who could well afford to pay for fuel if they could procure it. The police worked smoothly and efficiently and it is expected that all the orders will be filled today. In the Department of Charities it was said that the ten orders issued for a quarter of a ton of coal each, were cases where the families on the books of the department had run out of the last consignment, and the sudden rise in the number of applications was in no way connected with the falling temperature.

RACES DEATH IN DARKNESS OVER FROZEN HARBOR

In answer to an urgent call for help from the barge Blue Beard anchored in Bridgeport harbor, Dr. Frank E. Gavias, entered a futile race with death from the emergency hospital to the foot of Henry street, and then over the frozen surface of the harbor for the distance of a mile at 2 o'clock this morning. Upon arriving on board the craft he found John Harris, 30 years of age, a bargeman from 82 Fulton street, dead from pulmonary hemorrhage. Owing to the darkness and the bitter cold Dr. Gavias, ran considerable risk in making the trip from the shore to the anchored vessel. With the aid of a pocket flashlight he was able to avoid fissures which had opened up in the ice, but unfortunately arrived too late to prolong the life of the stricken man, who it is said has been ailing for some time and was laying unattended in his bunk on the