

# HEAVY FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS TO BATTER HUN

The Weather Report

For Bridgeport and vicinity: Unsettled, probably showers tonight; Thursday fair; cooler.

## The Bridgeport Times and Evening Farmer

SATURDAY IS Liberty Loan DAY PUT OUT YOUR Flag.



VOL. 54—NO. 80—EST. 1790

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1918

PRICE TWO CENTS

# BRITISH IN DETERMINED ASSAULTS RECAPTURE AYETTE BELOW ARRAS; FRENCH ADVANCE NEAR MONTDIDIER

## AUSTRIA WON'T LEAVE ALLY IN LURCH U. S. MECHANICS ARE WITH BRITISH UNITS ON PICARDY'S FIELD

Count Czernin Asserts Loyalty to Cause of Hun Ally.

NATION RECENTLY WAS NEAR PEACE

Terrible Revenge Will Be Inflicted Upon Italy and France.

London, April 3—Austria-Hungary recently was "almost on the point" of beginning peace negotiations with the Entente, Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, declared yesterday in an address to the Vienna municipal council. The wind "suddenly veered," he added, the Entente deciding to await developments in his country which caused it to hope the dual monarchy "would soon be defenseless."

The foreign minister's words were: "Recently we were almost on the point of entering negotiations with the western powers, when the wind suddenly veered round, and as we know with certainty, the Entente decided it had better wait, as parliamentary and political events in our country justified the hope that the monarchy would soon be defenseless. Czernin declared Premier Clemenceau of France had asked Austria-Hungary on what basis she would negotiate peace. Austria replied that the only obstacle to peace with France was Alsace-Lorraine and Premier Clemenceau said it was impossible to negotiate on that basis."

"Some time before the western offensive began," Count Czernin said, "Premier Clemenceau addressed to me an inquiry whether and on what basis I was prepared to negotiate. In agreement with Berlin I immediately replied that I was prepared to negotiate and that as far as France was concerned, the only obstacle I could see in the way of peace was the French desire for Alsace-Lorraine. The reply from Paris was that it was impossible to negotiate on this basis. Thereupon there was no choice left. "I do not intend to go begging for peace or to obtain it by entreaties (Continued on Page 2)

COUNT CATSPA W IN PEACE MOVE

Washington, April 2—Count Czernin's statement that France had suggested peace discussions with Austria-Hungary was characterized by officials here today as the beginning of a new German peace offensive with the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister acting at Germany's behest.

### BURNING FLESH ODOR STARTLES SHOP HANDS

A battery of boilers was closed down and work stopped in several departments of the Liberty Ordnance works today when several workers declared that they smelled human flesh burning.

RUSSIAN SCHOOL MARMS ON STRIKE

Petrograd, Jan. 31—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—Russian school children are rejoicing. Not only have the school teachers gone on strike, but the Bolshevik government has adopted phonetic spelling, which will eliminate some of the difficulties of Russian orthography. The national commissioner of education, with a view to raising the general standard of education, has issued a decree that from Jan. 1 the new simplified spelling is to be taught in the schools.

### SPEED UP CALLING MEN IN DRAFT

NOYON CATHEDRAL REPORTED BURNING; HUNS BLAME FRENCH

Amsterdam, April 3—The cathedral in Noyon is afire, according to a semi-official statement from Berlin. The blaze is attributed by the Germans to the French bombardment.

The cathedral in Noyon is one of the most beautiful French examples of the transition style of architecture of the 11th century. A portico was added in the 14th century and the chapels of the nave were built in the 14th-16th centuries. Round and pointed arches are used throughout the building and the two western towers, which are unfinished, are 20 feet high.

### JUDGE MALTBIE SUSTAINS JURY IN HUGHES CASE

Judge William M. Maltbie of the Superior court today handed down a decision on a motion asking him to set aside the verdict of the jury in the case of Frank J. Hughes against Hugh Keegan and George Burns, in which he denies the motion and sustains the verdict. He points out that Burns has a remedy in appeal to the Supreme court.

In his decision Judge Maltbie finds that the verdict was in accord with the evidence and that it was not excessive. He also finds that a section of the charge, which attorneys for Burns argued was erroneous, was misquoted in the argument. Frank J. Hughes was injured in an automobile accident May 23, 1915, at Connecticut and Central avenues, and sued to recover damages of \$10,000. He sued Hugh Keegan, driver of the machine in which he was riding at the time, and George Burns, driver of the machine which collided with Keegan's. The jury found Burns at fault for the collision, and rendered a verdict for Hughes to recover \$8,600, one of the largest amounts ever granted by a Fairfield county jury in a damage suit. It is probable the case will go to the Supreme court.

ELECTRIC PIANO GIVES FIRE ALARM

Grand Rapids, Mich., April 3—Six persons, awakened by an electric piano, escaped from flames that destroyed the Owashaning club and Ross pavilion early today. The loss was estimated at \$135,000.

### CLEVER WOMAN MAKES VICTIMS OF FAMILIES RENTING APARTMENTS

MRS. SWITKA ACCUSED OF GIVING LEASES OF MANY HOUSES OWNED BY REMINGTON CO. AND COLLECTING RENTS FOR SAME.

John Patrichinko, employed at a munition factory, complained to the police today he had been swindled of \$190 by Mrs. Ellen Switka, lately of 491 Helen street, and now of parts unknown.

According to John's story she sold him the contents of her home and told him the rent was paid. Now he finds the beautiful furniture was from an installment house and the landlord is positive he has received no rent. From what can be learned Mrs. Switka, an English woman, quoted the terms in such moderate figures, the prospective tenants, mostly newly married couples, jumped at the chance to secure model apartments lately erected by the Remington Arms company for employees. What methods she employed to make the deals with such rapidity are at present unknown to the authorities. There was considerable argument and consequent confusion, with a few touches of pathos thrown in, when the would-be tenants tried to install themselves in the homes they had picked out. It appears Mrs. Switka's husband, a Russian, is in Philadelphia, where he went after the big lay-off at the local plant. His wife has been living alone for the last three months and (Continued from page 1)

DREW TO SERVE 30 DAYS IN JAIL

Frank Drew, who was arrested last October, charged with the theft of an automobile, was found guilty and given a sentence of 30 days, but had sentence suspended, was again before Judge Wilder in the City court today, charged with violating his parole. The charges against him this time were being drunk and disorderly, so Judge Wilder ordered that he serve the term of 30 days.

TO INVESTIGATE DISCREPANCIES

Washington, April 3—A special investigation was begun today by the government to locate large apparent discrepancies in alien property returns. There is a severe penalty for concealment of any kind of enemy property and the alien custodian's office announced today that it would enforce the law to the limit.

MISS MULLEN IS STILL MISSING

Paris, April 3—Miss Emma G. Mullen, a member of the American colony, has been missing since Good Friday, when the Germans bombarded a church here. Should Miss Mullen prove to be among the dead, the number of Americans killed by the German shell will have been increased to five.

### TRAIN LEAVES STATION MINUS BASE WORKMEN

New London, April 2—As a result of a controversy with three special railroad agents at the union station here this morning 1,200 men employed at the submarine base refused to take the train which carries them to their work.

The train, which leaves here at 6:45 a. m. makes up west of the station and two carloads of men got aboard before it pulled up to the starting point. Three special agents locked them in and declared that they were under arrest for trespassing on railroad property.

The conductor let them out and the whole force refused to make the trip, jerking the train as it pulled out empty. Two officers from the submarine base came down and addressed the men, appealing to their patriotism to continue their work, and arranged to have them cross the river on the ferry and be transported to the base by automobile. The men went that way, and business is going on as usual at the base. Two men who tried to stir up trouble were arrested. The men are employed erecting buildings and doing other work at the base.

### SWINDLES LOCAL MERCHANTS WITH BOGUS \$7 CHECKS

The cities of Bridgeport and Hartford were flooded with spurious checks last Saturday by a man who wore the uniform of a United States army lieutenant and said that his name was Leslie R. Stanton. The victims were mostly storekeepers who taking the uniform man were as sufficient recommendation, obliged him by cashing the checks, as it was after banking hours.

All the checks were for seven dollars and were signed George W. Willett. They were all drawn on the Connecticut National bank, and the First-Bridgeport National bank. Simultaneously with the reports from local victims coming to police headquarters, inquiries began to come in from Hartford, and it now appears to the local police that the man calling himself Leslie R. Stanton, has simply smothered the entire state of Connecticut with bad checks.

Captain E. O. Cronan refused to state the amount so far reported as being the loss of the local victims, but stated that he expected the figure to be a large one as there are a number of people who have been victimized who will never say anything about their loss. He understands that the swindler has made a rich haul in Hartford, where the uniform he wore gained him ready access to the confidence of the merchants.

800,000 Will Be Summoned to Colors Sooner Than Formerly Planned.

TO HAVE 2,500,000 SOLDIERS BY 1919

Will Be Shipped to France With Shortest Possible Delay at This End.

Washington, April 3—Measures to speed up the draft program are in contemplation and an official announcement is expected soon.

The intention is to meet the emergency in France. For that reason the 800,000 men who are to be called this year will be called rapidly, more so than was previously planned.

The War Department officials said no arrangements were in sight looking to calling out more than the 800,000 men it was planned to take into the service.

Reports that the draft would be raised from 800,000 to 1,500,000 were denied.

Officials do not regard it as possible that more men will be sent abroad this year than the department already has arranged to summon, even with additional British shipping made available as troop transports. There are now under arms here and in Europe more than 1,500,000 American soldiers. The number will have been raised to about 2,500,000 by the end of the year, counting drafted men, volunteers and special technical forces to be enlisted.

The present effort is directed more toward getting the men to France early in the year to meet the emergency there than toward increasing the number to be sent during the year.

UNITED STATES TO HELP SWISS

Washington, April 3—In trying to protect neutral European nations from the consequence of the ruthless submarine warfare, the United States is preparing to go even farther than its original promises to keep Switzerland supplied with food and if necessary will allow that country to take grain through France.

LENROOT LEADING IN 66 COUNTIES

Milwaukee, Wis., April 3—Unofficial returns from 66 out of the 71 counties in Wisconsin, including 17 counties with complete returns and all of Milwaukee county and city except four precincts, gave: Lenroot, 128,028; Davies, 120,258; Berger, 87,096. The Milwaukee city and county figures were: Lenroot, 15,442; Davies, 29,997; Berger, 31,907.

ASKS DAMAGES OF \$1,500 FOR HURTS

Damages of \$1,500 for injuries received is claimed in the suit of Mary Graham of State street against Kory Nemis of this city being heard today in the Superior court before Judge John P. Kellogg. Mrs. Graham was crossing State street the evening of September 2, 1916, and alleges she was struck by a bicycle ridden by Nemis, thrown down, and her leg fractured, besides suffering other injuries. She claims Nemis was riding recklessly. Mrs. Graham conducted a lodging house and was unable to care for her house after she had spent seven weeks in the Bridgeport hospital. The defense is a general denial of the complaint.

### FRANCO - ENGLISH FORCES IMPROVING POSITIONS FOLLOWING SMASHING OF GERMAN DRIVE—HUNS RESUME SHELLING OF PARIS.

Local attacks on several parts of the battle front in northern France yesterday and last night kept both sides fairly busy in the outpost areas, while back of the lines the preparations went on for the renewal of the engagement on a vast scale to which the logic of the situation points.

Fortified by the news that the powerful Allied reserve is as yet virtually intact and by apparent evidences of Teutonic nervousness, Entente opinion views the outlook hopefully.

American aviation mechanics, part of the forces trained in England, now are reported by the U. S. Army Headquarters to be co-operating with the British royal flying corps on the battle field in Picardy. Several were within an aerodrome west of Peronne when the Germans heavily bombed it.

REPULSE TENTATIVE THRUSTS The reports from the field show the Allied lines as established after the first German push had spent its force, holding firm against newly launched tentative thrusts here and there, while at two or three points the Franco-British forces were able to push back the hostile line for short distances in operations to improve the tactical position.

This latter process resulted notably on the British side in the reoccupation of the town of Ayette, on the front below Arras, which the Germans a few days ago declared had been cleared of British forces and in attempting to hold which they had made heavy sacrifices. On the French side the notable gain was on the southern side of the Montdidier salient north of Plemont, where the French position was appreciably extended. French troops repulsed a German attack south of Moreuil and the British drove off the Germans who assaulted near Fampoux, in the northern part of the battle area.

CZERNIN SPEECH PEACE FEELER The speech delivered yesterday by Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister again took up the series that has excited much comment. The address, it is noted, came at the moment when the great western drive, widely advertised to the people of the Central powers as a "peace offensive," has largely lost its impetus and has been forced to halt.

In Washington official circles the speech is regarded as a political maneuver timed to follow the breakdown of the Teutonic military offensive with the Austro-Hungarian minister acting as Germany's spokesman. It is declared that Teutonic suggestions that the time for peace discussions is near will find no favorable response in this country.

### UNABLE TO AGREE, HEAVY VERDICT JURY IN ROSWELL SUIT DISCHARGED AGAINST LOCAL CABLE COMPANY

Unable to agree after two hours' deliberation the jury in the Common Pleas Court which heard testimony in the suit of Andrew R. Roswell, Supt. of Hillside o'Home, and Roberta Roswell against the Ira Gregory Co., Inc., was discharged and the case dropped as a mistrial.

The Roswells sued for damages of \$500 for injuries to an automobile which collided with a truck owned by the Gregory Co., October 10 last at High street and Washington avenue. Each party blamed the other for the accident, and the Gregory Co. made a counter claim for damages of \$700. Testimony was heard yesterday, arguments were made this morning and the case was given to the jury about 11 o'clock. Its members reported at 1 o'clock they were unable to agree, and Judge John J. Walsh discharged them from further consideration of the case.

New Haven, April 3.—A verdict of \$10,000 in favor of the plaintiff was returned by a jury in the United States court today in the suit of Mary Englesbe of Bound Brook, N. J., against the Electric Cable Co. of Bridgeport, the action being one to recover damages for the death of Joseph Englesbe, husband of the plaintiff and an employe of the company. Englesbe was killed while handling a portable electric lamp. The allegation was that insulation of the wire of the lamp was defective and this permitted a current of 208 volts to enter the employe's body. The widow is administratrix of the estate. The United Illuminating Co. was made a co-defendant but the complaint against it was dismissed by Judge Thomas. A motion to set aside the verdict made by Carl Foster, attorney, was denied by the court. The verdict is said to be the largest ever returned in a Federal court in this state in a case of this nature.