

Washington, Jan. 1.—South-  
ern New England: Fair, not  
quite so cold tonight; Wednes-  
day partly cloudy and fair.  
Moderate northeast to southeast  
winds.

# The Bridgeport Times

and Evening Farmer

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1918

Do you want to know about  
clothes? Housewives, do  
you want to obtain some use-  
ful hints? See Page 8.

## FRENCH ARMS IN ITALY VICTORIOUS NO COAL RELIEF PROMISED FACTORIES

### TEACHERS LEAVING VOCATION

**Fifty Local School In-  
structors Will Become  
Government Steno-  
graphers — Salaries  
and Future in U. S.  
Service Better.**

Lured by the government's  
wage rate, which is greatly  
higher than the average school  
teachers' salary, approximat-  
ely 50 teachers of public schools  
in this city are fitting them-  
selves as stenographers and  
typists and will soon enter the  
government service in Wash-  
ington. The government will  
start these women at the rate  
of \$1,000 per year, which  
amount is paid to teachers of  
eight years' experience under  
the schedule of the Board of  
Education.

The advisability of school teachers  
entering this service is urged by Mrs.  
H. Willard Fleck, chairman of the  
Women's activities of Bridgeport,  
who has just returned from Wash-  
ington, D. C.

The demand for women steno-  
graphers, typists and clerks for gov-  
ernment work to replace young men  
who have gone to the front is fast  
increasing and the minimum sched-  
ule of \$1,000 a year is backed by a  
maximum of unlimited figures to  
women who qualify. The present  
minimum wage for school teachers is  
\$600 a year under the Bridgeport  
schedule, which is comparatively high  
in comparison with other cities of its  
size.

After graduating from Normal  
school, the graduate is started at the  
minimum and she must serve two  
years at that figure. Her salary is  
increased \$75 annually until the max-  
imum of \$1,250 is reached, which  
comes after her tenth year as a  
teacher. To obtain the maximum a  
teacher must pass special qualifica-  
tions, which are obtained by attend-  
ing special summer courses.

Special Saturday morning classes  
have been installed at the Gutesha  
Business college and the Bridgeport  
Business college, each of which has  
at present 15 teachers in attendance.  
The Booth & Bayless school has about  
15 school teachers in its stenography  
and typewriting classes, while four  
are attending the Union Business col-  
lege. Each of the colleges heads ex-  
pects more teachers to join the  
classes.

The school teaching forces being  
already crippled by the inability to  
obtain teachers, the Board of Educa-  
tion faces a serious problem, which  
may result in wholesale salary in-  
creases as an inducement to retain  
the present forces.

### SIXTEEN MILLION NEW MEMBERS ON RED CROSS ROLLS

Washington, Jan. 1.—Sixteen million  
new names were added to the mem-  
bership roll of the American Red  
Cross as the result of the Christmas  
membership drive, Henry P. Davison,  
chairman of the national war council  
announced today in New Year greet-  
ings forwarded to workers whose ef-  
orts made the drive a big suc-  
cess.

"The wonderful achievement of en-  
rolling one-fifth of the entire popu-  
lation of the United States as mem-  
bers of the American Red Cross," said  
the message, "is less a triumph than it  
is a call to greater service. The Ameri-  
can Red Cross is carrying a message  
of love and sympathy to American  
soldiers and sailors and to the troops  
and civilian population of our allies  
in all parts of the world. It is seek-  
ing to shorten the war and it is seek-  
ing to lay a foundation for a more  
enduring peace when the war is  
over."

### WILD NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Leonard Costigan of 292 Hollister  
avenue celebrating the coming of the  
New Year last night by firing a re-  
volver loaded with real bullets. Some  
of the missiles went into the home of  
Mrs. Clancy, who lives near by, and  
she made a complaint to the police.  
Costigan was fined \$75 in the city  
court by Judge Wilder today, and  
said the fine. Fortunately no one  
was hurt by the flying bullets.

### PLANTS PREPARE TO CLOSE DOWN IN TEN DAYS

**After Exerting Every Influence the Local Fuel  
Board Finds Itself Unable to Promise Coal to  
Factories—Economic Disaster Impending.**

Having exerted every possible influence to obtain relief  
from the shortage of bituminous coal, which threatens to  
cripple Bridgeport's munitions industry, Carl F. Siemon, chairman  
of the local fuel committee; State Fuel Administrator Thomas  
W. Russell and members of the Manufacturers' Association are  
anxiously awaiting some word from government officials that  
will throw a ray of hope on the situation.

Details of the conditions have been laid before the highest  
officials in Washington including Secretary of War Baker, Sec-  
retary of Navy Daniels and Fuel Administrator Garfield. The  
manufacturers are prepared for the worst and anticipate closing  
their doors.

Besides the personal appeals by Governor Marcus H. Hol-  
comb in Washington, scores of other appeals have been sent by  
telegram by manufacturers of this city, Siemon and Russell.  
Unless substantial shipments are received within the next 10  
days more than half of Bridgeport's skilled labor will be walk-  
ing the streets, and 30,000 will be idle.

Siemon in a statement today said, "We are all waiting for  
word from Washington and can only hope that some relief will  
be forthcoming. I have been trying for several hours to get in  
touch with Mr. Russell to learn if he has heard anything." Rus-  
sell attended a meeting of the manufacturers yesterday and ob-  
tained much data regarding the Bridgeport situation.

Four government departments in  
Washington today are co-ordinating  
their efforts to relieve the acute coal  
shortage in New England. Rail and  
water facilities will be supplied liber-  
ally to restore the greatly diminished  
fuel supply.

Secretary McAdoo has ordered the  
immediate release of 1,500 coal laden  
cars standing on Pennsylvania railroad  
sidings between Harrisburg and New  
York and has directed that they be  
sent immediately to New England cities.

One large lot of soft coal—about 750  
tons—arrived in the harbor today  
together with two large loads of  
hard coal for domestic use.

The price of hard coal at the re-  
tail dealers was raised from \$10 to  
\$10.50 a ton at a meeting of the  
fuel committee yesterday afternoon.

Explaining this increase Siemon said:  
"This could not be avoided in view of  
the increase of 35 cents a ton, re-  
cently allowed the miners by Presi-  
dent Wilson." The committee fixed  
the price of one-half ton at \$5.50;  
quarter-ton at \$3, and the following  
prices for pea coal: Ton, \$9; half-  
ton, \$4.75; quarter-ton, \$2.50.

### LOCAL SOLDIER SUICIDE WHILE VISITING HERE

For no known or apparent reason,  
George P. Bastedo, aged 23, of 251  
Park street, a soldier in the ordnance  
corps of the United States army, sta-  
tioned at Camp Upton, Yaphank, L. I.,  
committed suicide by taking a small  
quantity of potassium cyanide, early  
this morning.

His dead body was found in the  
bath room of an apartment occupied  
by Archie Parkhurst, of 2105 North  
Main street, a friend with whom he  
had been visiting for one day. Park-  
hurst made the gruesome discovery at  
9:45 o'clock, and promptly notified the  
emergency hospital.

Dr. J. F. Keegan responded to the  
call, and pronounced the man dead.  
On Bastedo's person he found a small  
box containing the deadly substance.  
Bastedo had used, and on the floor  
near the body he picked up several  
photographs of the soldier's children.  
The discovery of the photographs gives  
rise to the belief that the man may  
have had some family trouble.

Bastedo had been out, last evening,  
celebrating the advent of New Year  
with several friends. When last seen  
to, he seemed to be of normal mind  
and in good spirits. The poison he  
took was purchased at Hindle's drug  
store in this city, and it is thought that  
the man may have obtained it after  
leaving his friends.

### XMAS TREE BLAZE KILLS 3 PERSONS

Toltdo, Jan. 1.—Fire in a two story  
apartment house here early today  
caused when a lighted candle fell  
from a Christmas tree, trapped three  
persons who were burned to death  
before firemen could reach them.

### 6 ARMED ROBBERS IN RIOT

**Hold-up New Year's  
Celebration in Pine St.  
—Failing to Get Store  
Receipts They Open  
Fire With Six Revolv-  
ers and Terrorize Men.**

Interrupting a hilarious New  
Year's celebration which was  
in progress at the time, six  
armed desperadoes perpetrated  
a daring raid upon the coffee-  
house conducted by Freedman  
Lakatos, at 361 Pine street, in  
the early hours of this morn-  
ing, and failing in an attempt  
to rob the proprietor of his  
day's receipts, wrecked the  
place by opening fire with half  
a dozen revolvers.

They fired into tables, chairs, coun-  
ters, show-cases and other fixtures,  
at heads of dishes at the cash re-  
ceiver, at the desk and everywhere.  
Then they went about finishing  
their hands the work of destruction  
started with their weapons, and when  
they had finished, they had left hard-  
ly a thing that resembled its former  
self.

Property worth several hundreds of  
dollars was found to be damaged  
when, after the intruders had gone,  
Lakatos and his employees made a  
hasty inspection of the premises. The  
kitchen and dining room were almost  
completely demolished, and conditions  
were such that the proprietor was  
unable to reopen his place for busi-  
ness today.

This morning Lakatos reported the  
occurrence to the police, and an in-  
vestigation is in progress. The man  
gave a fairly complete description of  
the six gunmen, and every effort will  
be made to apprehend them. Lakatos  
told the authorities that he had  
taken in quite a bit of money during  
the day, but had placed it in safe-  
keeping before resuming business for  
the night, and consequently this  
money escaped the hands of the  
thieves.

The establishment was crowded with  
patrons, but none were injured, every  
person finding shelter behind some  
upturned table or other piece of  
furniture in time to escape the rain  
of bullets. Firing continued for  
several minutes, and about 50 shots  
were discharged before the marauders  
withdrew, none the richer for their  
bold effort.

It was just 20 minutes after mid-  
night when the gunmen, six in num-  
ber, entered the place in a boisterous  
manner, and walked up to the cash-  
ier's desk, where Lakatos sat. They  
were laughing and shouting, and to  
the merry-makers seated at the tables  
they appeared to be merely a  
crowd of young fellows out for a good  
time and somewhat under the influ-  
ence of liquor.

Suddenly a man, who appeared to  
be the leader, whipped a pistol from  
his pocket and pointed it at Lakatos,  
at the same time commanding the  
lighted proprietor to "shell out."  
Lakatos sat as though stunned, and  
made no move to comply. The com-  
mand was repeated and this time the  
man opened his cash register and in-  
vited the robber to inspect it.

A quick glance showed the hold-up  
man that the till was almost empty,  
save for a small amount of silver, and  
that the amount was not worth tak-  
ing. He gave expression to his dis-  
appointment, and muttered something  
to the five with him. Almost in-  
stantly afterward, a revolver appear-  
ed in each man's hand.

Pointing their weapons at the pa-  
trons, the desperadoes ordered them  
to throw up their hands, and when all  
had done so, commanded them to  
leave the restaurant. Then, without  
waiting for all to escape in the mad  
scramble which followed, the six  
thieves commenced shooting.

### REICHSTAG MAIN COMMITTEE FOR TERMS OF OFFER

Rotterdam, Jan. 1.—Mathias Erzber-  
ger of the Clerical party; Friedrich  
Ebert of the Socialist party; and Herr  
Fischer of the Progressives, have  
informed the Berlin correspondent of  
the *Neuwe Rotterdamse Courant* that  
the German declaration in Great  
Lithovik is approved unreservedly by  
the members of the reichstag main  
committee. The members of this com-  
mittee represent the majority of par-  
ties responsible for the reichstag  
resolution of July 13.

### BOLSHEVIKI LOSE GREAT BATTLE IN SOUTHERN RUSSIA

Stockholm, Jan. 1.—Ukrainian  
and Cossack forces in a great battle on  
the southwestern front have defeated  
Bolshevik troops, taking 400 prisoners  
and capturing eight big guns and 328  
machine guns according to a dispatch  
received by the *Twens Nyheter* from  
Petrograd by way of Haparanda. The  
Cossacks are in hot pursuit of the  
Bolsheviks.

### TEUTONS ARE ON DEFENSIVE NEAR PIAVE PLAINS

**Austrians Lose Men, Officers and Booty to Assail-  
ants in Monte Tomba Region—New Blow  
Marks Change in Tide of Battle.**

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Jan. 1.—(By the As-  
sociated Press)—The magnitude of the achievement of the  
French troops in the Monte Tomba region grows as full details  
are received. In addition to 1,483 men, including 44 Austrian  
officers, several of high rank, made prisoner, and seven large  
guns captured, the booty includes 60 machine guns, several  
trench quick firers and a great amount of miscellaneous war  
material.

But the chief significance of the stroke is the change from  
defensive to offensive tactics, and the stirring enthusiasm and  
sureness with which the French delivered their initial blow  
against the enemy. So far the enemy has been on the offensive  
with the Italians delivering telling defensive blows.

Now, however, the French have turned the scale and the  
enemy is attacked in this sector for the first time since he  
reached the Piave.

The story of the fight shows thoroughness of preparation  
and heroic bravery in execution. The scene was southeast of  
Monte Tomba, a low, snowless mountain just west of the Piave,  
where the Allied lines turn into the mountain region. Here the  
artillery preparation began Saturday, but the main bombard-  
ment began at noon Sunday and increased hourly until the  
enemy was deluged by the French fire.

It was then that the crack French  
infantry swung forward in steady  
lines from Osteria di Monfenera and  
Maranzine, a front of about two  
miles. The heaviest forces were on  
the right wing. Italian and British  
airmen at the same time attacked  
the enemy from the air.

The struggle was comparatively  
short and sharp with most of the  
fighting on the right wing. The ar-  
tillery had so damaged the enemy  
positions that he was unable to make  
any effective resistance. The French  
losses were comparatively insignifi-  
cant.

Austrian soldiers made up the en-  
tire enemy force engaged, which is  
taken to indicate that the German  
contingents are moved farther west  
toward the Brenta river. It also has  
been established that no forces are  
moved away from this front and that  
no new forces are brought here.

### ART RELICS BOMBED

Padua, Italy, Jan. 1.—(By the As-  
sociated Press)—The third successive  
night raid Sunday night scattered  
havoc among the famous churches  
and art monuments of Padua. The  
front of the 18th century cathedral  
was demolished.

The Santo, or the basilica, where St.  
Anthony of Padua is buried, lost its  
bronze doors and the sepulchre of  
St. Anthony was missed narrowly by  
a bomb.

Donatello's famous equestrian  
statue of Gen. Gattamelata, which  
stands in the square before the  
Santo, had been removed to a place  
of safety.

The paintings and fresco in the  
Santo by Titian and other masters  
were torn and scratched by the con-  
cussions. The rose windows and the  
renaissance stained glass were shiv-  
ered to fragments. The building op-  
posite the Santo where the guild of  
St. Anthony issued leaflets to be sent  
throughout the world was destroyed.

A pilgrimage to the sepulchre of  
St. Anthony was in progress when the  
bombs struck the Santo. The cathed-  
ral was struck above the gable fa-  
cade, the entire gable and the upper  
part of the facade falling in the  
street.

The raiders came at three different  
times, at 8 and 11 o'clock at night  
and at 3 o'clock this morning.

### WHITE SEA WILL BE OPENED FOR TEUTON SHIPPING

London, Jan. 1.—The German na-  
vial delegation in Petrograd accord-  
ing to the correspondent of the *Daily  
Mail*, has reached an agreement with  
the Bolshevik government for rais-  
ing the "blockade" of the White Sea  
and for the regulation of maritime  
commerce which is expected to be-  
gin with the impending arrival in Pe-  
trograd of the Russian fleet. A dis-  
patch to the *Daily Express* from  
Petrograd says German ships already  
have free access to Russian waters  
and the government is taking precau-  
tions to protect them from British  
submarines. The first commercial  
squadron is expected before the  
Russian Christmas, on Jan. 7.  
Dispatches from Petrograd refer  
again to the subject of food shortage  
which is steadily becoming more  
critical. The correspondent of the *Daily  
News* says the hotel in which he is  
staying is piled with crates of provi-  
sions bearing Berlin stamps. He adds  
that the German delegation, expecting  
an immediate famine, brought its own  
food.

Berlin newspaper reports received  
in Amsterdam say Foreign Secretary  
Von Kuhlmann while coming to Ber-  
lin from Bresl. Litovsk stopped in  
Warsaw to confer with the Polish  
premier. The Polish government, it is  
said, will share in the future negotia-  
tions in Bresl. Litovsk in an advisory  
capacity.

After being closed 10 days, during  
which time an inventory of stock was  
taken, the Remington Arms & Am-  
munition Co.'s plant will re-open to-  
morrow.

### U. S. DEBT NOW OVER 5 BILLION

**Nation Begins the New  
Year With a National  
Net Debt of \$5,615,-  
000,000 — Enormous  
Cost of War is Reason  
for Increase.**

Washington, Jan. 1 — The  
United States enters the new  
year with a national net debt  
of \$5,615,000,000, more than  
five times greater than when it  
entered the war nine months  
ago, but only one-third of the  
debt that promises to develop  
by the first of next year. The  
debt per capita is about \$51  
and the percentage of debt to  
estimated national wealth is  
2 1/2.

The treasury financial summary  
statement, issued today for the first  
time since June 30, shows that actual  
disbursements during the first half  
of the fiscal year have fallen far below  
the estimates, particularly for the mili-  
tary establishment. An enormous  
prospective increase in war depart-  
ment expenses, for munitions and ma-  
terial contracts to be filled in the  
spring will raise the government out-  
lays at that time, but officials feel some  
doubt whether ordinary disbursements  
will reach the \$12,316,000,000 esti-  
mated for the fiscal year ending next  
June 30.

The actual outlay for the military  
establishment up to Dec. 1 was \$1,-  
211,000,000; the estimated outlay for  
the whole fiscal year is \$3,790,000,  
000. The navy spent \$426,000,000  
and the estimate for the year is  
\$1,300,000,000. Shipping board ex-  
penditures were \$118,000,000 while  
the year's estimate is \$301,000,000.  
Each of these three principal depart-  
ments has outstanding contracts for  
which big expenditures will have to  
be made within the remaining half  
of the fiscal year, however, and the  
aggregate of these is the uncertain  
element that makes it impossible to  
determine at this time precisely how  
many additional Liberty bonds must  
be issued between now and next  
June 30.

Great as the national debt seems  
to this country, whose debt before  
the war was only a little more than  
the billion dollar mark, it is only  
about one-fourth that of either Great  
Britain or France or Russia or Ger-  
many. The debt of all of America's  
co-belligerents is about \$4,000,000,  
000 or 14 per cent of the estimated  
wealth of those nations, and the Teu-  
tonic allies' debt is about \$400,000,  
000,000, or 28 per cent of their es-  
timated wealth.

### NEGLECTS CARE OF FROZEN FEET WILL LOSE LIMB

His neglect in failing to procure  
medical treatment when his feet froze  
in the intense cold of last Saturday  
morning may now cost Andrew Ker-  
estury, of 14 Burr court, one of the  
members.

The sufferer is in a serious con-  
dition in St. Vincent's hospital, having  
been taken to that institution this  
morning by Dr. J. F. Keegan, of the  
emergency hospital staff. "One foot  
is very badly affected, and will prob-  
ably have to be amputated to save the  
man's life.

Kerestury is an employe of the  
American Tube and Stamping com-  
pany, and when the cold attacked his  
feet, Sunday, he sought to relieve the  
condition with home remedies.

John Thomas, a lodger in the Grand  
house, State street, also applied at the  
emergency hospital this morning, for  
treatment for frozen feet, and after  
being given relief, was sent home.  
His condition is painful but not seri-  
ous.

### FORECLOSURE OF MORTGAGE NOTE

Foreclosure on property in New  
Fairfield is asked in a suit filed in the  
Superior court by Anna Schappals of  
New Fairfield and David Schappals of  
New York against August C. Schap-  
pals of New Fairfield. May 26, 1914,  
the defendant owned the plaintiff's \$2,-  
300 secured by a note and mortgage,  
the agreement being that payments of  
\$100 annually should be made. The  
payments for 1916 and 1917 have been  
defaulted and foreclosure and posses-  
sion of the premises is claimed.

### RESISTED OFFICER.

Resistance to Policeman Lynch,  
who was trying to arrest him last  
night on charges of breach of the  
peace and violation, brought a fine  
of \$25 and costs in the city court to-  
day to John E. Johnson of 16 Nichols  
street. Johnson was fighting drunk  
and put up a stiff battle.