

WOMAN DISAPPEARS AFTER SWINDLES TOTALING \$200,000

The Weather Report

For Bridgeport and vicinity: Unsettled tonight; Friday fair, colder.

The Bridgeport Times

and Evening Farmer

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., THURSDAY, JAN. 31, 1918

"Smatter Pop"

The Times has obtained for its readers, the famous "Smatter Pop" comic cartoon. It will appear in this newspaper daily. See Page 8.

PRICE TWO CENTS

STREET FIGHTING IN BERLIN; 700,000 IN CITY ON STRIKE

SMART WIDOW POSING AS HEIR TO FORTUNE MULCTS BOTH POOR AND WEALTHY

Mrs. Charles T. Chapman Played No Favorites in Her Cassie Chadwick Bunco Games—She Cleaned Up Barbers and Bankers, Society Women, Maids, and Housekeepers.

Posing as being the heiress to \$7,000,000, owner of five big factories and as being a cousin of Ex-Governor Charles Hughes of New York, Mrs. Chas. T. Chapman, who has been living in a palatial residence at Lordship Manor, "Cassy-Chadwicked" Bridgeporters, from bankers to barbers, out at least \$200,000.

Detective Captain Cronan of the Bridgeport Detective Bureau is already in possession of many of the facts covering the "frenzied finance" campaign which Mrs. Chapman is alleged to have carried on in this as well as other cities. Capt. Cronan expects that before twenty-four hours have elapsed, quick and drastic action will be taken by the local authorities.

In answer to the many inquiries as to who bequeathed her the vast estate, she invariably answered that she was under a bond of \$50,000 not to divulge the name of her benefactor. She also said that the private papers of inestimable value were locked up in the safety deposit boxes of the Bridgeport Trust Company.

Notice was first attracted to the actions of the woman by the return here of William Rich, one of her chauffeurs. She had borrowed \$4,000 from him and had given him power of attorney to manage a factory she claimed to have in Chicago. Rich traveled to Chicago and spent many fruitless hours trying to locate the factory. At last he decided that the plant was a myth and returned to Bridgeport only to find that Mrs. Chapman had left for parts unknown.

Inquiries started by Rich aroused the deep suspicion of all those with whom the woman has had dealings. Now a flood of creditors are daily besieging the deserted mansion at Lordship Manor.

The Lordship Manor home of Mrs. Chapman was built by John Sullivan, "The Policy King" of Waterbury, at a cost of \$100,000 and rented for \$10,000 per year. It appears that it was (Continued on Page 2.)

LANTERN LIGHTS ON HEAD, SEEKS \$15,000 AWARD

Claiming that she has been made deaf and otherwise injured through negligence of the defendant, Lillian N. Sherwood, of Fairfield, has brought suit in the Superior Court against the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Co., asking \$15,000 damages. Trial of the case was begun today.

The complaint alleges that, on June 25, 1916, Miss Sherwood, about noon, walking on a highway in the town of Fairfield and was about to pass under the railroad bridge at the Rubber Works crossing. She stepped aside before going under the tracks to allow an automobile to pass. A lantern fell from a train passing overhead and struck her on the head.

GAS CO. COAL SUPPLY IS ALMOST EXHAUSTED

The Bridgeport Gas Light Co. is the first public utilities corporation in Bridgeport to feel the serious effects of the shortage of bituminous coal. The company has only a three days' supply ahead. A shipment of 10 carloads is relied upon to prevent the city's gas supply from being shut off. At present this shipment had not been reported in transit.

Shipments by rail and water under the government's orders are expected to reach this city within a day and consequently the shutting up of more than a score of Bridgeport's factories, as predicted by Administrator Carl F. Slemmon a few days ago, will be averted.

Harry Walker, an associate member of the fuel committee, is in Washington, and Administrator Slemmon hopes his trip will be more productive than the last. Administrator Slemmon has promised that several barges of both soft and hard coal are billed for this city.

TAGS FOR COAL INSTEAD OF FOR SHOVELS ASKED

The distribution of coal shovel tags in Bridgeport is regarded as a "joke" by householders who have been given the tags to tie on their coal shovels. In the coal line this morning one woman said, "We're all trying to be patriotic and everybody knows enough to conserve coal, because we all know how hard it is to get. How are we going to conserve what we haven't got?"

Here is a letter, to which a coal tag was attached, received at the fuel committee's office today: "Perfectly ridiculous to allow such a thing to be circulated amongst people unable to get a shovel full of coal to save. We are lucky to have our rooms at 50 degrees let alone 68 degrees." It was signed, "A wife and mother of three children."

SEEKS RETURN OF REALTY SHE GAVE DAUGHTER

Restitution of property alleged to have been deeded while she was ill and not competent, is asked in a suit filed today in the Superior Court by Della B. Legere against her daughter, Mary Lynch. There are three pieces of property, one in Main street, one in Waller Place, and one in Ezra street.

In the complaint it is alleged that, on August 19, last, Mrs. Legere owned the property in question, and was seriously ill. Yielding to representations of her daughter, Mrs. Legere consented to execute deeds transferring the property to Mary Lynch. It is charged that there was no adequate consideration.

Since recovering from the illness Mrs. Legere has asked for a reconveyance of the property, but Mrs. Lynch has refused.

GREAT EXPLOSION FOLLOWS RAID ON ZEPPELIN WORKS

Zurich, Wednesday, Jan. 30—A tremendous explosion, accompanied by gunfire and followed by a huge column of fire, was heard in the direction of Friedrichshafen this morning, a telegram received in St. Gall from Rosenberg, on Lake Constance, reports. The explosion probably was the result of an aerial attack on the zeppelin works in Friedrichshafen.

Boston, Jan. 31—The snow storm predicted for New England for last night and today passed out to sea during the night.

TAXPAYERS WILL ASK FOR CUT

Board of Relief to Meet Storm of Protests at First Meeting.

The Board of Relief is prepared to meet a throng of disgruntled property owners at its first meeting tomorrow. The official total of the grand list to be filed with the town clerk today will be near the \$195,000,000 mark, an increase of approximately \$32,000,000 over the list of last year. Seventeen million dollars of the amount of increase is levied on dwelling house property. It is predicted that 75 per cent. of the owners whose valuations were raised will appeal to the Board of Relief for a reduction.

It is estimated that the board will make reductions of more than \$2,000,000, bringing the net grand list between \$193,000,000 and \$194,000,000. The rest of the increase is divided among manufacturers, which were hit to the extent of \$12,000,000 and the other million has been taxed on automobile owners, many of whom had never listed their machines.

BRIDGEPORT FIRM SUES TO COLLECT ON WAR CONTRACT

Payment for work and materials furnished in the manufacture of gun sights is demanded in a suit filed in the Superior court by the Lindstrom Die, Tool & Gauge Works of Bridgeport against the Driggs Ordnance Co. of New York, and Charles E. Tucker Manufacturing Co. The amount of the bill is \$7,500.

A contract for the work is alleged, the plaintiff performed its part, and payment has been demanded of the Tucker Manufacturing Co. and refused. The Driggs Co. guaranteed the payments, according to the complaint.

LOSES 4 FINGERS IN MEAT CHOPPER, YOUTH SUES BOSS

Alleging that a meat chopper upon which he was asked to work in the market of Louis Dubin, in Milford, was defective, and through this defect he lost a part of his thumb and three fingers, Edward J. Joy, through Cullinan & Cullinan, has filed suit against Dubin for \$10,000. Joy is 12 years old.

In the complaint Joy recites that he was employed in the market, that it was Dubin's duty to furnish tools to work with, and that they should be in good condition. The meat chopper, he alleges, was not in good condition, and due to its defects the accident which disabled his hand occurred.

1918 WILL DETERMINE WAR ASSERTS WILSON

Washington, Jan. 31—To the farmers of the United States President Wilson sent a message today in which he called attention to the country's need of their assistance during the coming year in winning the war. The message was sent through the Farmers' Conference held at the University of Illinois in Urbana.

The message was delivered by President James of the university, in the absence of Secretary of Agriculture Houston, who was to have represented the President. The President had expected to attend, but his disposition made it impossible and he delegated Mr. Houston, who was prevented from participating by the tie-up of transportation.

The President's message said: "I am very sorry indeed that I

AMERICAN TRENCHES RAIDED

Two U. S. Soldiers Killed, One Missing and Four Wounded in Enemy Attack.

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, Jan. 31—(By the Associated Press)—An American position on a certain section of the French front was raided during a heavy fog shortly after daylight this morning. The attack was preceded by a violent artillery barrage. Two Americans were killed and four wounded. One soldier is believed to have been captured.

Casualties have been occurring almost daily for several days on this sector. It now is permitted to disclose that all the recent casualties given out from Washington occurred in this sector. The deaths were caused by shell fire, mostly shrapnel. Last night was fairly quiet throughout the American sector. The usual number of shells came over, doing no damage, and there were the customary sporadic outbursts of machine gun fire from both sides at points where the opposing lines are nearest.

At daybreak this morning the heavy fog that had been enveloping the whole position and the country for miles around for several days, became still thicker, blotting out all except the nearest enemy positions. At 7 (Continued on Page 2.)

LAST OF CITY'S DRAFTEES START FOR FT. WRIGHT

Twenty-six Bridgeport youths, representing the city's last contribution of its quota of 2,125 men for the first National Army of 687,000 men, left shortly before noon for New London, from where they will go to Fort Wright to replace Bridgeport draftees rejected for physical defects. When the roll was called, every man was present. They assembled at the station shortly after 9 o'clock, but the train did not leave until nearly noon.

The youths were proud in spirit and nearly all had friends or relatives to see them off. Scenes similar to those exhibited at previous times when the train whistled over the roller lift bridge, tear-filled eyes followed it until it was lost to view.

The local boards have practically completed their work on the first draft and are ready to begin examinations on Sunday for men of the next quota.

HUN BOMBS SLAY 20 IN PARIS

Fourteen Tons of Explosives Dropped From Air on French Capital.

Paris, Jan. 31—German aeroplanes raided Paris last night. The alarm was given at 11:30 o'clock. Bombs were dropped in various points in Paris and suburbs. Twenty persons were killed, 50 were wounded, and material damage is reported, according to an official announcement.

One of the German machines was brought down. The occupants were made prisoners.

Berlin, Jan. 31 via London—"As a reprisal," says the official statement by the war office, "we dropped 14 tons of bombs on Paris." The official statement adds that the raid on the French capital was the first systematic attack from the air.

AUSTRO-GERMAN FORCES CAPTURE ITALIAN PATROLS

Berlin, Jan. 31, via London—The Italian attacks which were launched yesterday against the Austro-German positions southwest of Asiago, on the northern Italian front, broke down under the Teuton fire, the German war office announced today. In the recent fighting the Austro-German forces increased the number of prisoners taken to more than 600.

FRENCH SQUADRON OF AIRMEN BOMB RAILROAD STATION

Paris, Jan. 31—"French patrols operating at various points on the front took prisoners," says today's official report. "Otherwise there were no developments during the night." "On Tuesday a French squadron, including Capt. Guillemon and Lieut. Lancret bombed from a very low elevation the railroad station in Lansolet. A large fire was observed."

WAGE DEMANDS TAKE HALF R. R. OPERATING CASH

Washington, Jan. 31—Demands for wage increases pending before the railroad wage commission are for an aggregate average of 40 per cent., it was disclosed today. The demands represent a total of nearly \$500,000,000 this year, or about half of the railroad operating income of last year.

TURBULENT MOBS CLASH WITH SOLDIERS AND BLOOD IS SPILLED

Germany in Throes of Incipient Revolution—Army Units When Ordered to Fire on Strikers Refuse to Obey—Industrial Tie-up Spreads—Incendiary Pamphlets Distributed.

(LATE BERLIN STRIKE BULLETIN) London, Jan. 31—The Socialist party leaders in Germany have asked President Kaempff of the Reichstag to summon the Reichstag immediately in view of the alarming events of the last few days.

London, Jan. 31—The industrial disturbances and strikes reported throughout Germany, have ignited the flaming torch of revolution in various parts of the empire. Troops called out to disperse and shoot down rioters who have adopted the slogan, "An immediate peace. No annexations; no indemnities," have in some instances refused to fire on the mobs of marching workers.

Turbulent scenes are being enacted in the suburbs of Berlin. Street fighting has occurred between striking munition workers and soldiers, in which lives have been lost. Some soldier units are reported to have ignored the orders of their officers when commanded to fire upon the workers.

In Berlin alone, 700,000 persons are on strike, 58,000 of these being women. The government has caused the arrest of large numbers of Socialist leaders in various towns. Revolutionary literature is being distributed in pamphlet form in Berlin, and the efforts of the authorities to prevent this, has been entirely thwarted, owing to the fact that the city is enveloped in a very thick fog.

SUSPEND SAILING OF 5 PASSENGER SHIPS TO SPAIN

An Atlantic Port, Jan. 31—The sailings of five passenger steamers making ready here for voyages to Spain were suspended today it was announced, on orders from Washington.

WILSON FORECAST ON WAR AFFECTS STOCKS FAVORABLY

New York, Jan. 31—President Wilson's letter to the farmers' conference today, expressing the opinion that the issue of the war would be determined this year, favorably affected the stock market.

Gains of two to three points during the forenoon were substantially increased after the publication of the letter at noon, railroads and representative industrials featuring the movement. There was urgent covering of short contracts and buying of standard stocks was reported to be of an impressive character.

J. W. FOLK QUILTS AS CHIEF COUNSEL FOR I. C. C. OF U. S.

Washington, Jan. 31—Joseph W. Folk sent to the interstate commerce commission today his resignation as the commission's chief counsel, to take effect before Feb. 15. He will return to his home in St. Louis to become general counsel for the chamber of commerce there.

Mr. Folk has served as the commission's counsel for four years. He directed interstate commerce commission investigations into business conduct of the New Haven, Rock Island and Louisville & Nashville railroads.

NEW OIL STOVE FOUND BY "COP" ON MAIN STREET

Patrolman Tobias found a new oil stove in the doorway of Kreszes' Five and Ten Cent Store, on Main street, early today. No one in the store knew who owned the heater, so it was brought to police headquarters, where it now awaits its owner.

RECEIVER STARTS SUIT TO COLLECT FOR CONTRACTORS

James F. Quinn, receiver for the Dowling & Bottomly Co., has brought suit in the Superior court against the Churchill Co., of Boston, to recover a balance of \$2,648.98, alleged to be due for work and materials on a school being erected in Stratford. The contract was made previous to November 9, 1917, when Quinn was named receiver. Up to that time work had been done and materials furnished amounting to \$10,515.61. Of this only \$8,866.63 has been paid. Payment of the balance has been demanded and refused, according to the complaint.

GRAND CHAPTER OF O. E. S. OPENS ANNUAL SESSION

New Haven, Jan. 31—The grand chapter of Connecticut, Order of the Eastern Star, held its 44th annual session here today. The gathering was opened by Past Grand Matron Mrs. Jennie Margroff of Waterbury, and Leonard J. Nickerson, grand master of Masons in Connecticut, made an address of welcome. The necrology report for the year included the death of Mrs. Ida Flake of Hartford, grand treasurer. Officers were elected during the afternoon.

DESIGN RED ARMY TO FIGHT IN BIG EUROPEAN REVOLT

Petrograd, Jan. 31—An official statement issued today by the Bolshevik government says that the "new workmen's and peasants' Red army will serve to support the coming social revolution in Europe."