

The Weather Report

For Bridgeport and vicinity: Fair and continued cold tonight; Saturday increasing cloudiness and slightly warmer.

The Bridgeport Times

and Evening Farmer

The Kaiser's Reply

His Satanic Majesty in a letter to the Kaiser advocates his throne in favor of the Hun Terror. Read the latter's reply on Page 5.

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PRICE TWO CENTS

WOMEN MOB FUEL OFFICE FOR COAL; SALTS MILLS UNABLE TO OPERATE; AGENT GOES WEST TO SEEK AID

MEMBERS OF WORKERS' 'SICK BENEFIT SOCIETY' PLEDGED TO RESISTANCE

Department of Justice Investigating Organization Believed Teutonic in Nature, Following Discovery Made Through Draft Questionnaire—Subscribers Agree Not to Join Forces of America or Any Other Country—Federal Agent Raids Headquarters in Fairfield Ave.

If the citizens of Bridgeport were told that two companies of the famous Brandenburg Guards, of the Kaiser's army, were stationed in Bridgeport, they would be surprised. Yet according to facts unearthed this morning by the officials of the Department of Justice, who are investigating the activities of the Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit Society, such a state of affairs apparently exists, and we have over two hundred servants of the Wilhelmstrasse in our midst.

The members of this organization, according to the admission of Otto Volger, bartender in the Adams House, which has clubrooms at 319 Fairfield avenue, take an oath upon joining which reads "Will you pledge yourself not to join the regular United States army or navy, or army or navy of any other country, state militia or police force in any form?"

20 PER CENT BOOST FOR CITY TAXES

By placing a front-foot valuation upon all property within the city limits, the city administration plans to keep the tax rate within distance of the 21 mill mark by boosting the grand list from \$168,000,000 to near the two hundred million mark.

Charles H. Lane, agent of the Department of Justice, raided the headquarters of this society, this afternoon, seeking literature and other evidence to be examined and used according to the nature of the evidence revealed.

At the Federal building nothing would be said as to the nature of the evidence collected. The Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit Fund has branches in 18 cities in this state and the membership of each branch runs all the way from 40 to 50 to several hundred.

KALKERT SAYS HE WAS ASSAULTED

On his way home from work, at 5 o'clock last evening, Edward Kalkert, of 302 Maplewood avenue, a machinist employed at the Bullard plant, stopped in at a Fairfield avenue saloon for a drink.

In addition to the enormous additional expenditures levied by the administration in the last few weeks, including the salary grab, the two-platoon system for the fire department, and the creation of several city offices, the city has also to pay bond interests, primarily for warrents, to the extent of several hundred thousand dollars.

The Board of Relief faces a record breaking session. The tax commissioner has boosted centrally located property to more than \$3,000 a front foot, while the residential districts will suffer accordingly.

BROOKLAWN CLUB WILL SAVE FUEL

Desirous of conforming to the express wish of Coal Administrator Carl F. Siemon, that fuel be conserved wherever possible, the Brooklawn Country club announced today that the dinner dance and program of moving pictures scheduled for tomorrow night will be cancelled.

Two Thousand Cossacks Killed When Exploding Munitions Wreck Train

Stockholm, Jan. 4—A Haparanda dispatch says the munition depot on the Russian southwestern front was blown up recently and that all buildings within a radius of two kilometers were destroyed. Two trains loaded with Cossacks on the way to the Don district were wrecked, causing the death of 2,000 men.

2 CHILDREN DIE; MOTHER IN HOSPITAL

Zela and Louise Tibador, aged 9 and 11 years, respectively, are dead, and their mother, Mrs. Zela Tibador, of 23 Ebbett's Lane, is in a dying condition at the Bridgeport hospital today, as the result of a gas leak from a broken fixture in their home.

The three were found lying in bed, unconscious, by a neighbor, about 12:30 o'clock this noon, and the emergency hospital was notified. Dr. J. F. Keegan immediately responded, and arriving, found the younger child, Zela, dead.

According to report, the gas pipe in their room was broken, and a rag was twisted about the opening to prevent the escape of gas. Failing to see the children out in the street as usual this morning, the neighbor who found them broke into their house to investigate, with results as stated.

SAVE MUNITIONS SHIPS ANCHORED NEAR GREAT FIRE

Hoboken N. J., Jan. 4—Firemen, United States soldiers and civilians, aided by New York fireboats and railroad tugs, brought a stubborn blaze under control after a fight of several hours in the heart of the industrial section paralleling the government controlled water front here today. Ships loading war supplies were threatened.

A six-story manufacturing plant, containing paper and other mill supplies owned by the Gatti-McQuade Co., was destroyed with an estimated property loss of \$250,000. Numerous small fires, caused by sparks carried by a 40-mile wind, were checked by the soldiers and civilians, while the firemen, almost exhausted by their efforts at a blaze elsewhere earlier in the morning and handicapped by weak water pressure, fought the flames in the Gatti-McQuade building.

U. S. MAIL CARRIER ON SKIS

Harbor Is Frozen for Stretch of 90 Miles—Towing Company Boats Out of Commission—Shipping Completely Tied-Up.

With Bridgeport harbor so completely frozen that mail is being delivered by sleigh to the Lighthouse, and the weather bureau forecasting continued cold tonight and little hope of any great rise in temperature in the near future, the outlook is not promising for activities along the water front to resume their normal state.

All of the tugs of the Bridgeport Towing Co. were out of commission today as a result of trying to break the ice for the past forty-eight hours and a hurry call was sent out for steel shoes to fasten on the bows of the boats to prevent them being smashed any further.

Harbor Master Lamond received word that two big Standard Oil Co. tugs are on their way here with a large consignment of oil which will relieve the threatened famine in lubricants. The heavy steel boats will arrive here this afternoon and advance will be taken at the time of their arrival to widen the channel which they will break through the ice and keep it open so that coal barges can be brought in.

After fighting every inch of the way up the ice choked Sound the steamer Naugatuck came into Bridgeport harbor at 10:45 o'clock last night, hours late. In some places the ice was over eight inches thick and it was almost impossible to drive the bow of the boat through it.

Conditions along the water front are but very little worse than they are in the city proper. Lawyers and others who were obliged to be in the several hours in the fire fighting district while aiding in the fire fighting. Civilians were called on for patrol duty. A munition factory in the vicinity was not touched by the flames. Several firemen, overcome by cold, exhaustion and smoke, were removed to hospitals.

There was not a single boiler of the set in the building which showed any pressure today. All the pipes emptied of water and no attempt will be made to utilize the majority of rooms in the building again until a sufficient supply of fuel is on hand.

SCION OF WEALTHY FREEZES

Wrapped in Blankets Frozen to Her Body Mrs. Harriet Ward is Found in Her Fashionable Home After Four Days Without Food.

Wrapped in blankets and comfortables which had frozen stiff about her frail body, suffering from cold and hunger, and enjoying only the companionship of a little Japanese terrier, Mrs. Harriet Montgomery Ward, was rescued from death.

The scion of one of the oldest and finest families in Connecticut, and at one time a woman of considerable wealth, was removed to Hillside Home by local charities officials yesterday afternoon, when she was found virtually at the point of death, huddled in a chair in which she had sat without food or warmth for the past four days, in the flooded, frozen kitchen of her handsome residence at 539 Huntington Road.

Left in a decidedly weakened condition by the combined effects of her former spirit and arid when Pharmacist Alexander MacPherson, of the emergency hospital staff, called at her home to take her to Hill Side, and objected strenuously to going to the poor-farm. After an hour's argument, however, she was persuaded to change her mind, and when she was assured that her dog, "Toto," a valuable little animal, would be well cared for during her absence, she quite willingly consented to go. MacPherson was compelled literally to carry her to the ambulance, her own tottering limbs refusing to support her slight weight.

Evidence came to light after Mrs. Ward had gone to Hill Side, to show that she had been sitting alone in her frozen, cheerless kitchen for at least four days, and that during all that time she had not touched food to her lips. The conditions found by Pharmacist MacPherson in her home were pitiful in the extreme.

The house is a substantial, well-built structure, equipped with a costly steam-heating plant, but this was not in operation. The boiler in the heating system had burst, as had pipes and radiators, and these were coated with ice. The room in which Mrs. Ward sat was flooded, and part of the water was frozen. There was no fire in a kitchen range nor in a gas stove. Not a bite of food was to be found.

There was coal a plenty in the cellar bins, but the heating plant was not running because it needed repair, and the plumber summoned some time ago had not called to do the work. Furthermore, Mrs. Ward's housekeeper, a woman who had lived with her for some time, quit her employ about two weeks ago, leaving her aged mistress to shift for herself when last week's severe cold wave came on.

TROLLEY SERVICE MAY BE HALTED

Textile Plant Lays Off 500 Men This Morning, Being Unable to Run Several of Its Departments Owing to Shortage—Hysterical Women Rush Police.

Bridgeport today finds itself face to face with a fuel shortage which threatens the foundations of its industrial and economic life. With no relief visible to members of the local fuel committee, scores of factories are threatened with closing. The Salts Textile Mills today suspended 500 men, being unable to operate several of the departments of the mills.

The anthracite shortage, affecting the city at a time when it is experiencing a cold wave of record breaking length and bitterness, is causing intense suffering throughout the city. This morning hundreds of hysterical women, mobbed the local fuel offices.

Three policemen were swept aside and the frantic housewives pleading and threatening, demanded that they be given fuel or the death of their children would result. Few of the requests could be granted and the women were forced to leave the office unable to get fuel.

The city's bakeries are threatened with being compelled to suspend operations; the Connecticut Co. is reported to have about exhausted its supply; Siemon promised 50 barges of coal, has given up faith in the federal pledges of aid and has sent W. F. Severn, of the A. W. Burrill Lumber Co. to Detroit to investigate the pooling system in vogue in that city. It will be applied to Bridgeport and it is hoped will assist in solving both the household and factory supply conditions.

The suffering of families has been further increased by their inability to even purchase kerosene with which to fill the small stoves procured by the hundreds from local stores. Gas heaters in many homes were today out of commission, the fluid having frozen in the pipes.

The meagre coal supply for homes in possession of local dealers has dwindled until the bins are empty and the fuel committee this morning was forced to reduce its allotments from one-half a ton to one-quarter of a ton for each customer. The 30 licensed street peddlers were today cut off entirely, leaving the local fuel office the only headquarters where the suffering might apply for relief.

ENTENTE ALLIES LIKELY TO GIVE RECOGNITION TO BOLSHEVIK GOVERNMENT

London, Jan. 4—Developments in the Russo-German negotiations, the Daily Chronicle says, are likely to cause the western power to give de facto recognition to the Lenin government in Russia. A statement of Entente allied policy of a democratic character, it adds, soon will be sent to Russia.

M. Litvinoff, who has been appointed ambassador to London by the Bolsheviks, the Daily Chronicle continues, may receive de facto recognition as ambassador while Sir George Buchanan, the British ambassador to Russia, who is reported on his way home, may be replaced by a diplomat in sympathy with the ideas of revolutionary Russia.

The statements apparently are based on a contribution by "a diplomatic correspondent." The writer says that owing to the Bolshevik discovery of German duplicity anything may happen.

"There are," he says, "three courses: The Bolsheviks may give way, the Germans may give way, or there will be a rupture of relations. The first is hardly likely in view of Foreign Minister Trotsky's declaration. The second is possible, for the Germans are past masters in the art of specious compromise. But the third is most probable, since the Bolsheviks have exhibited a perspicacity which was hardly expected in this country. "Russia, the land of boundless sur-