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STRATFORD

(Special to The Times.) The school board will hold its regular monthly meeting tomorrow evening.

The annual meeting of the Parochial society of Christ church will be held in the parish house Tuesday afternoon.

Rev. C. C. Kennedy, pastor of Christ church, reached home Saturday afternoon at 5. Word was passed around the parish that he would occupy the chancel Sunday morning and his members turned out in full force to greet the pastor. The Rev. Dr. Smith and Rev. Mr. Walker were also present and assisted in the services. There was a celebration of the Holy Communion by the pastor, assisted by Dr. Smith. On entering the pulpit Mr. Kennedy said:

"In the name of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, I wish to thank the members of this parish for the way they have carried on during the war. It has seemed to those of us who have served abroad that those who remained at home have borne most of the sacrifices to make and I thank you for the work you have done and the sacrifices you have made in the cause of truth and justice and for our beloved country. I am not prepared to preach to you this morning, but if I were I think I should take the words of my text from the 10th chapter of John: 'He of good cheer, I have overcome the world.' He speaks of the great confession of man during the war. Faith in God and faith in Country. He told of a young soldier who was mortally wounded how when the stretcher bearers came to him they found that he had written on his forehead, in his own blood, 'I believe in God,' and that his spirit had departed. He urged upon his hearers the fact that the war had not yet been won and that only by faith could the world be overcome for righteousness and peace be established.

Mr. Kennedy returned to Camp Dix, N. J., last evening, but hopes to return in time to take up the Lenten work.

"EPHRIAM'S" STRATFORD GOSSIP

(From the Files of The Farmer 50 years ago.) The suggestions that the writer of these squibs make some two or three weeks ago in regard to the grading of some of our sidewalks has been effective, as is evident from the improvement which has taken place in front of the Methodist church and other localities equally prominent. Let the work go on steadily and surely. Our

people only want a dose or two of nervous to arouse them. We propose to prescribe, if the cases are inclined to become serious or numerous.

St. Valentine's day has come and gone with all its curious messages of esteem and rebuke. It is somewhat late to acknowledge those we have received but we do not hesitate to remind our readers that we have been pictured out in some of the most glowing as well as most humorous scenes imaginable. Would that we could catch each part as well as we have been represented to do then the satisfaction to be derived by our friends would be greatly increased. We are indeed grateful to the "subscribers" for their numerous remembrances.

News items for publication in The Times may be left at Carter Street, Stratford Garage, Main Street.

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OBITUARY

OSCAR L. JOHNSON. Oscar L., 15 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Johnson, died 3 1/2 days ago at the family home, 207 Spring road, Stratford, after a brief illness with pneumonia. He was an employee of the Buick Machine Co. as an apprentice. He is survived by his parents, four brothers, Walter, Carl, George and Edward, four sisters, Emma, Ethel, Edith and Gertrude.

GEORGE J. MURPHY. George J. Murphy of Pine Creek road, Fairfield, died yesterday at St. Vincent's hospital. He was employed as an inspector at the Columbia Graphophone Co. He was affiliated with the Thonsons Tribe of Red Men and the Locomobile Sick Benefit association. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, Christine and Marion; his mother, Mrs. Mary Murphy of Fairfield, and four sisters, Mrs. Edward Tierney, Mrs. John Brady, Mrs. William Sherwood and Mrs. John Shanley. Funeral services will be held from the home of his sister, Mrs. Sherwood, 2884 Fairfield avenue on Tuesday.

Jack Doherty, matchmaker of the National A. C. of Marlville, R. I., and Lowell A. C. of Lowell, Mass., is managing Billy De Foe, the St. Paul lightweight who is so well known here, having made Bridgeport his home for many months. Jack has matched Billy with Al Shubert at the Lowell club tonight.

NEW YORK FACES ITS MOST SERIOUS HOUSING SHORTAGE

New York City is facing the worst housing crisis in its history. Apartments are virtually unobtainable. Three hundred thousand persons—enough to fill 75,000 more apartments than are available—are crowded into the city to swell its normal number of home-renters. Causes are: The building of new apartments to keep pace with the growing population

ALL SOLDIERS PAID; NONE IN ARREARS

Receive Pay Immediately on Arrival at Ports of Debarkation.

Washington, March 3.—Soldiers returning from overseas, who for one reason or another missed the paymaster abroad, are now receiving their pay immediately upon their arrival at ports of debarkation, according to an official statement made to Representative J. M. Gallivan of Massachusetts by Brig. Gen. H. M. Lord, director of finance. Since the middle of December, General Lord explains, all men have been paid on the strength of their personal affidavits; that is, payment is not withheld if a soldier is without papers to show the status of his account.

There is no reason why any soldier in the United States should now be in arrears, says Lord. He explains and expresses the belief that none are failing to receive all that is due them, including their current monthly pay.

The failure to pay some men of the overseas force is attributed by General Lord to the "conditions of intensive campaign in France" and not to a lack of effort on the part of the military authorities to accomplish a prompt payment.

As a complete and authoritative statement on the subject, General Lord's letter to Representative Gallivan contains many facts and uniformed critics who have been attempting to make political capital of complaints concerning the delay in paying soldiers in the Expeditionary Force. A partial text of General Lord's letter follows:

"My Dear Mr. Gallivan—I am in receipt of your letter of the 27th inst. regarding the delay in the payment of the Expeditionary Force. A partial text of General Lord's letter follows: 'The payment of enlisted men in France is under the jurisdiction of the authorities of the American Expeditionary Force and is known to the War Department that there are a great many cases where sick and wounded men have been returned to the United States with several months pay due them. This, I think, may properly be attributed to the conditions of intensive campaign in France and not to any lack of effort by the authorities of the American Expeditionary Force in France to accomplish prompt current payment to the men.'

"From July to November of last year the troops were in a battle line and concerning those men who were returned to the United States I think that the statement is justified that the authorities of the American Expeditionary Force considered that the necessity of getting these men back to the United States, where they could receive treatment in the hospital here, outweighed any other matter, and that they did not feel that the return of the men should be delayed by attempting to collect the papers necessary to enable payment to be made to them.

"Those sick and wounded men reached the United States without any records of any kind showing the date to which they were last paid and the condition of their accounts with respect to allotments, insurance and other items which enter into the computation of pay. Their personal affidavits were, therefore, confronted with the problem of paying men who had no papers to show the status of their accounts, and the only way to meet this condition was to accept the personal affidavit of the man as to the other items affecting his pay, and to make payment on the strength of this affidavit.

"This has been done, and since the middle of December, 1918, all men have been paid on the strength of their personal affidavits. I may add also that the men are receiving their pay in full upon arrival at the ports of debarkation in the United States.

"I know that there are cases where, prior to the adoption of the policy of paying the men on their personal affidavits, men were discharged and paid travel pay only leaving the arrears of pay to be paid when their personal papers were received in the United States. The department is now applying to these men the same system of payment as is being applied to the men still in the service, that is, their affidavits are being accepted and papers prepared and paid on the strength of these affidavits.

"Instructions have been sent out by the department to have all of these cases reported to Washington with a view to having prompt settlement made of any arrears of pay which may be due, and if you receive any communications from any discharged soldiers, claiming that they have money still due them, I would think they very much if you would send them to this office, whereupon action will be taken toward adjusting the claims.

Thinks All Paid Now. "Under the instructions which have been issued by the department authorizing the acceptance of the man's affidavit for the purpose of establishing his pay status, there is no reason why any soldier in the United States today should be in arrears with respect to his pay, and I do not believe that there are any men who are not now being paid all that is due them and also their current monthly pay."

tion has been virtually suspended for two or three years. Sixty thousand families, or about 200,000 persons, have moved here, some to await the return of soldiers. Fifty thousand are kept here on government work, or as agents of foreign interests. Another 50,000 have come through the usual channels of migration. Every new hotel is filled before the decorators are through. Houses are about as scarce as apartments, but the question of house-renting is not so important. Two-thirds of the more than 4,000,000 New Yorkers live in apartments.

ELGIN SAYS SOVIET'S ROOT DEEP IN RUSSIA

According to Molsays J. Oigin, Russian revolutionist, who has lived through three changes in government in the past four years, Lennine and Trotsky, before signing the Brest-Litovsk treaty and definitely delivering Russia to Germany, agreed to throw the support of the Bolshevik government to the Allies, if America and the Allied nations would recognize them. The recognition never came, so the traitorous document was signed.

Mr. Oigin spoke at the Forum last night and they explained the Russian situation from the point of view of a Russian of the middle class. A writer of note, the speaker had no difficulty in laying the entire matter before his audience in such a way they could not fail to get the benefit of his experience.

Speaking on the political situation he said: "The revolution among the peasants was accomplished by the establishment of peasant councils by emissaries from Petrograd. The success of this revolution seems to me that it was driven by instinct. Perhaps it is the most phenomenal occurrence in history, this violent assertion of those people, who had so long been mere tools and exploited by the higher classes.

"Next to the peasants the army is the other great force in Russia. I understand conditions pretty well among the soldiers, because I was put out of the University of Kiev and thrown into the army for 'correction.' There were 200 others with me. And I want to pay a tribute to these brave fellows who made the Allies stand at the Marne possible. They were so poorly equipped in many of their campaigns that four or five soldiers had to use a single rifle.

"But like the peasants, the soldiers did not know what the war was for. They did not even understand the terms 'To make the world safe for democracy.' "All during the summer of 1917 the provisional government was thinking of one thing and the Soviets of another. Then along came the Bolsheviks, who were then regarded as the intellectuals. First they sought out the contentions of the Soviets and went to the constituents and advocated an immediate constitutional assembly.

"The Soviet represents the three classes in Russia, the workingman, the soldier and the peasant. The Bolsheviks are a political party which is striving to impress its influence upon the body. "But the Russian Soviets are deeply rooted in the very hearts of the masses and their strength lies in the fact that they represent the interests of the masses. And they are the people that are waiting for America to stretch her hands over the seas to help them and to see the problems as they really exist."

OUR NEWTOWN NEWS LETTER

(Special to The Times.) Newtown, March 2.—At the augmented committee meeting held recently at Newtown Inn in interest of a testimonial to the boys in service in army and navy the suggestion of a new high school is the most considered at the present time. A committee was appointed to look into all phases of the matter, kind of building, location, probable cost and manner of collecting funds. They are: Rev. Grzesbrock, chairman, Martin Corbett, A. J. Smith, M. P. Crowe, Miss Susan, Mrs. C. P. Brew, Mrs. E. Brewer, Mrs. Herbert Corbett, Eugene M. Peck, W. R. Curtis.

A mass meeting of the townspeople will be called when this committee is prepared to report and with the prospect in view of a much needed high school and the soldiers' testimonial to be presented it is believed Newtown will go "over the top" to secure this double monument to its own good name.

John Scanlon of the Johns Hopkins Sanitary Corps returned to his home on Walnut Tree Hill this week. He has been discharged from the service, and his many friends welcome him after an absence of 20 months. Mr. Scanlon is a graduate of St. Vincent's training school for nurses of Bridgeport and was, as is well known, with the 2nd to go overseas for relief work.

The final entertainment of the social season are the Pre-Lenten dance at Newtown this (Monday) evening and the grande whist Tuesday at Beech Memorial Library. A real live committee have these affairs in hand and a good time is promised to all who attend.

Charles J. Morris and son of New Haven spent Saturday and Sunday at their summer home in Zoar district.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pierce and children of New York are visiting in town, making ready their home in Hanover Springs for an early return this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Drew are visiting relatives in Brookfield.

Frank Wright was a visitor in Shelton for the week end.

Margaret Corbett of Queen street was a guest on Friday of Misses Helen and Gladys Campbell of Sandy Hook attending the minstrel show in the evening at town hall, Newtown.

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COLORED MEN LODGE PROTEST

Claim Discrimination in Places of Accommodation at Hartford Hearing.

Hartford March 3.—Urging the passage of a bill which they said would assure them equal rights in places of public accommodation, colored people from all over the state gathered before the legislative judiciary committee, Wednesday afternoon, asserting, "If we're hungry and we have the money to pay the price, give us the privilege of American citizens and allow us to eat where we choose."

More than fifty colored people appeared, led by George W. Crawford, a lawyer, of New Haven. "We would ask the committee, if you can't give us this measure, that will accomplish the object sought, not to give us any measure," he said.

J. L. Morgan, a colored lad, wounded seven times in action in France, and bearing the decorations of the United States, was among those who presented. "The colored people of this state have demonstrated by their honesty, patriotism and frugality that they have earned times without number, the right to enjoy their privileges as American citizens," J. P. Peaker, of New Haven, declared. "For 200 years here in America, the black race has not only fought for the nation, but has produced. Why is it necessary to ask the right of color? Negro blood was the first spilled in Boston harbor in the Revolution. Our people have never been unpatriotic, even in slavery."

He presented a petition bearing 1,000 names, urging the passage of the bill, which provides that negroes may sue any person who restrains them from places of public accommodation. "If you don't report favorably on this bill," Peaker continued, "we'll feel that the cause, even in this life will be when 40,000 of our boys joined yours in France, has been in vain. Not only is the consensus of the opinion of the dark-skinned people of this state in favor of this measure, but of all of the right-thinking people of the United States."

The Rev. C. F. Luther, white, of New Haven, chairman of the New Haven branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told the committee he represented 500 people, colored and white. "There is no argument for right," he said.

Dr. William Porter Norcomb, introduced by Mr. Crawford as a graduate of Yale, the University of Michigan Medical school, said, "We have relied on the faith born in us, that some time we would get what was just and right. Connecticut from time immemorial was known to us as the land of fair dealing, and we are looking to Connecticut to recognize us now. We don't want to be pampered. All we ask is that we are given the rights that are inalienably ours."

Among the others who appeared were William B. Reed, representing the Colored Men's Civic League of Hartford, the Rev. George Gougeon of the Colored Congregational church of New Haven, the Rev. James A. Wright of Hartford, R. R. Ball of Hartford and the Rev. C. Van Buren of Bridgeport.

Hite at Loan Sharks. "Where are there any loan sharks in Connecticut?" Attorney General Frank E. Hensley asked Clarence S. Holston, leading him in an appeal in behalf of a bill introduced by Senator Klett at Hodson's request, setting the interest rate on small loans at three and one-half per cent a month. Mr. Holston told the committee the bill was aimed at "the dirty, despicable loan shark." He said he represented the legal reform bureau to eliminate the loan shark evil of New York city. "I don't associate with loan sharks and they are not on my visiting list," he replied, answering the question of the attorney general, "but people must borrow, and they can't do it legally with the interest rate under the present statute."

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32 inches wide—Renfrew Gingham—featured in plaids, checks and stripes—most excellent from which to fashion spring garments for yourself and the children.

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