

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1917

PRICE TWO CENTS

MILITARY TRAINING IN B. H. S.

Bridgeport High School Pupils Will Be Taught Army Discipline and Evolutions, But Not Compulsory

Board of Education Likely to Allow Diplomas to Advanced Students Who Enlist in Federal Service.

Steps have been taken by the public school authorities of Bridgeport to graduate with a diploma advanced students in the High school who are called to the National Guard or federal service under the flag. The graduation, however, will depend upon the student's conduct during his previous school periods.

Though the intention of the school authorities has not been advertised in the effort to force enlistment, it is known that two students are now enrolled who may be subject to a call to arms.

Consideration of their cases has caused the decision to be taken warrenting their being given diplomas. This action is similar to that already taken by boards of education elsewhere through the country. It is likely that the Bridgeport board of education will approve the plan at its next meeting.

A committee of the school board met this morning to consider organization of the faculty and student body of the High school in the matter of military training pupils.

It was decided that enrollment, which will be upon a purely voluntary basis, will begin Monday next. The course to be prescribed has not been fully outlined by the committee as yet and is subject to revision according to the needs of this city. As far as possible it will follow closely the military training suggested by the Council of National Defense.

It is expected that several field units will be formed, and military evolutions will be taught, but there will be no equipment with regulation arms. The course besides being included in the winter curriculum will also extend into the summer periods if continued as now tentatively planned, Supt. Samuel J. Slawson said today.

"Bridgeport should fully understand in advance," said Supt. Slawson, "that this movement is not obligatory upon pupils but will be purely voluntary."

Boy Scouts Armed With Big Pistols

What is believed in some military quarters here today to have been a bold attempt to ascertain the contents of military despatches being transmitted for National Guard and United States officers from the Armory to the East Side, has resulted in the arming of all United States Boy Scout members on duty at the armory. Tuesday night a U. S. Boy Scout messenger carrying despatches in the vicinity of Seaview avenue, near the munition plant was roughly handled by three unknown men who took his papers from him and detained him in a place not as yet made public.

When his long absence was discovered a military patrol was at once sent in search for him. After several hours he was located and the matter is now under investigation by military authorities.

As a result the boys, while on duty, carry fully loaded .45 caliber revolvers of modern type strapped to their hips. They are instructed to defend themselves against attacks.

Col. Frank Armstrong, chief of the U. S. Boy Scouts, about 16 of whom are doing duty at the Armory declared today that the arming of the boys came as a military necessity. He refused to discuss the hold-up beyond admitting that it was committed by three men on the East Side and offered the explanation that "it was generally believed the incident originated in the form of a joke."

That the military do not consider the incident a joke is seen in the fact that the messengers are now fully armed when on the streets.

It is explained for assurance of the public that the boys now doing service are thoroughly acquainted with deadly arms, that all United States Boy Scouts are fully trained in their use when in summer camp and no boy under 16 is employed in the messenger service.

Goethals Accepts Task of Creating Merchant Marine

Washington, April 13.—Major-General George W. Goethals will accede to President Wilson's request that he take general charge of the construction of wooden ships planned by the shipping board to carry supplies to the Entente allies. While no formal reply from Gen. Goethals has been received, officials have information that he will undertake the work.

ENEMY VESSELS IN MEXICO GULF

Galveston, Tex., April 13.—Information that a German commerce raider, in the guise of a sailing ship, has entered the gulf of Mexico was reported today in Galveston. This news was received from an unnamed British steamer in a wireless message. It also has been reported that a German submarine is operating in the eastern gulf.

Washington, April 13.—Many reports of German raiders and submarines lying in waters near American ports to destroy commerce reached the navy department today through official channels, but official confirmation was consistently lacking. Secretary Daniels said the utmost vigilance was exercised and although hundreds of rumors had been investigated, no basis in fact had been found for any.

The most persistent report was that a German submarine was in the south Pacific. No official agency, however, has been able to confirm it.

KITCHIN IS CHEERED AS HE OPENS DEBATE ON GREAT BOND BILL

Washington, April 13.—Great applause from both sides of the house greeted Democratic Leader Kitchen today when he began his opening statement in behalf of the \$7,000,000,000 war revenue measure. It was interpreted as carrying the double meaning that the bill would pass without serious objection or delay and that all chance of Kitchen being deposed as majority leader for voting against the war resolution had passed.

UNKNOWN DEAD IN BIG EXPLOSION BURIED IN TRENCH IN CEMETERY

Chester, Pa., April 13.—Thousands of persons assembled in the Chester rural cemetery as rain fell today, to witness the burial of the two score unidentified dead of the explosion at the plant of the Eddystone Ammunition Co. on Tuesday, which killed 22 persons. Services were held at a long trench in which the unidentified victims were buried in oaken caskets. Clergy men of all denominations took part in the ceremony.

The Eddystone works shut down at 5:45 a. m. until Monday in respect for the memory of the dead. The locomotive plant of the Baldwin works, the Remington Arms Co. and numerous business places closed part of the day. Of the 50 injured still in the hospital, 12 are in a serious condition. The various investigations of the explosion continued today.

DRASTIC LAW GOVERNING AUTO TRAFFIC IN STATE WILL PASS AT HOUSE SESSION NEXT WEEK

(Special to The Farmer.)
Hartford, April 13.—In a general revision of the present motor vehicle law, reported by the committee on roads, rivers and bridges and tabled for the calendar in the House today the jitney is recognized as a public service conveyance, reaching laws upon the use and restriction of heavily loaded trucks are considered and the speed limit in Connecticut is raised.

Many other features being fully covered in the wide range of the proposed bill. It will undoubtedly pass the house next week.

Generally the bill contemplates the regulation of jitney licenses and drivers under an especially designated department, regulation of the increasing heavy traffic on state highways with damage charges for the proportionate damage done by heavy loads and drastic penalties for flagrant violators, while those who unintentionally violate the laws will be afforded the flexibility of the "Rule of Reason" provisions contemplated.

Jitneys are placed under a special class to be known as public service motor vehicles. The state leaves to the town the enforcement of certain sanitary regulations but requires that the operator must have a special license from the state for which he shall pay \$2. To get this license the operator of a jitney must prove his good character through the authorities of the town in which he applies for license.

Patrons in motor vehicles of the public service type must be fully protected by interior lights of not less than four candle power, which must remain lighted while the vehicle is being operated at night.

Stringent regulations are provided against overloading of heavy trucks and the consequent wear and tear on public highways. It has been found by investigation that motor trucks seldom carry more than seven tons to a day upon state highways but anticipating increasing loads in the future the lawmakers have included this regulation.

The maximum load shall be 12 1/2 tons except by special permit. Any vehicle carrying more than eight tons shall pay the state an increased license fee at the rate of \$100 per ton over the eight ton limit.

The act also provides that all commercial motor vehicles must be marked plainly upon the outside with the maximum capacity they may carry.

In the matter of the "speed limit" the maximum rate under which motorists may escape without having to assume the burden of proof at law is raised from 25 miles to a possible 30 miles per hour. The same restrictions as to speed limit with relations to traffic and general conditions of travel are maintained as heretofore. It has, however, been considered that the increasing rates of travel have demanded the additional five miles under the

After declaring that the measure "was most momentous," and carrying the largest bond issue ever proposed to any legislative body, Mr. Kitchen made a detailed statement of the contents of the bill.

The senate finance committee is expected to approve the bill in substantially the form in which it passes the house. It is hoped to report the measure to the senate the first of next week. No strong opposition is looked for there.

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Another important clause in the new bill provides for county hearings by the commissioner under compulsion or upon the complaint of a citizen. In part the act reads: "Any person who will make a certificate to the commissioner of motor vehicles as to any alleged violation of law may file such certificate with the commissioner and he shall investigate the complaint and shall act upon the evidence disclosed."

The commissioner also shall hold hearings in automobile cases in the various counties, unless all parties are agreed upon hearings outside of the county.

For dealers, manufacturers and repairmen, the law gives greater elasticity in the use of certificates and markers providing that the purchaser may utilize them for five days during which time his application may be filed. A clause restricts their use upon mere hiring of the vehicle however.

The penalties for misuse of licenses are drastic including both the suspension of the driver's and the car license.

The penalty for the operator of a motor vehicle driving while under the influence of liquor is greatly increased and extends suspension of operator's license from a period of one to a maximum of five years.

PLEDGE PLANTS TO U. S.

Memphis, Tenn., April 13.—Machinery manufacturers and dealers of the United States, delegates to the Southern Supply and Machinery Dealers' association, the National Supply and Machinery Dealers' association and the American Supply and Machinery Manufacturers' association, today pledged their plants and stocks to the government in the war against Germany.

DENY SHIP WAS SUNK.

New York, April 13.—Official denial by the Cuban authorities that the British vessel Trevel was sunk off Cienfuegos by a German submarine was made here today by the Republic of Cuba news bureau. The story of the sinking was given out last night in Key West, Fla., by C. Peterson, claiming to be a member of the Trevel's crew.

TERRY TO RECRUIT.

City Engineer Alfred H. Terry, has been named state recruiting officer for an engineering corps for the Home Guards. He will enlist civil engineers, surveyors and men of like professions throughout the state. Mr. Terry was one of the Bridgeport men who took the training at Plattsburg camp last summer.

HOLCOMB FURTHERS U. S. PLAN

In Special Message to Legislature, Executive Asks Power to Suspend or Change Labor Laws in Crisis.

Action Is In Accordance With Recommendations of War Secretary and the Council of National Defense.

Hartford, April 13.—By letter, which Gov. Holcomb sent to the General Assembly today, Secretary of War Newton D. Baker, for the council of national defense, has requested the assembly to delegate to the state's executive the power to suspend or modify restrictions contained in labor laws in the interest of the public defense for the period of the war.

The governor's communication follows: To the Honorable General Assembly: I have received a letter from Hon. Newton D. Baker, secretary of war, of such tenor that I have deemed it my duty to acquaint your honorable body with the same. The letter is as follows:

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.

Washington, April 9, 1917.

To the Hon. Marcus H. Holcomb, Governor of Connecticut:

Sir: I respectfully call your attention to the following resolutions passed at the meeting of the Council of National Defense and its advisory commission, held on Saturday, April 7:

That the Council of National Defense urge upon the legislatures of the states as well as all administrative agencies, charged with the enforcement of labor and health laws, the great duty of rigorously maintaining the existing safeguards as to the health and welfare of workers, and that no departure from such present standards, in state laws or state rulings affecting labor should be taken without declaration of the Council of National Defense that such a departure is essential for the effective pursuit of the national defense.

That the Council of National Defense urge upon the legislatures of the several states that before final adjournment they delegate to the governors of their respective states the power to suspend or modify restrictions contained in their labor laws when such suspension or modification shall be requested by the Council of National Defense, and such a suspension or modification, when made, shall continue for a specified period and not longer than the duration of the war.

Very truly yours,
NEWTON D. BAKER,
Secretary of War and Chairman of Council of National Defense.

You will note the request for legislation which is embodied in the last paragraph of the letter, and I submit the same to you for such legislative action and response to this request as you may deem necessary.

(Signed) MARCUS H. HOLCOMB, Governor.

The communication went to the Senate, which referred it to the committee on the judiciary. Senator Neebe had expressed a wish that the labor committee have opportunity to consider it. Lieut. Gov. Wilson said he thought that the labor committee would have this opportunity.

TEACHERS HERE WON'T HAVE TO PLEDGE FEALTY

Local Instructors American All Through, Says Supt. Slawson.

Bridgeport teachers in the public schools will not be questioned on their allegiance to the government of the United States, as has been done in some other cities of this country where they have been compelled to pledge unusual allegiance over their signatures in writing.

"All our teachers in Bridgeport are American-born and American all through," said Supt. of Schools Samuel J. Slawson this morning. "There is no question of their fealty and they will not be asked to sign any pledge."

Mr. Brady came here several months ago for his health. He was known about town in New York. He was regarded as the best salesman in the United States, having won the admiration of the business world by his marvelous success in selling railroad supplies.

Mr. Brady was a contractor in railroad supplies and was reputed to be extremely wealthy.

Mr. Brady was 64 years old and his only surviving relatives are said to be a brother and sister living in New York, where the body was taken today for burial.

New York, April 13.—James Buchanan Brady was perhaps the best known man about town in New York. He was regarded as the best salesman in the United States, having won the admiration of the business world by his marvelous success in selling railroad supplies.

"Diamond Jim" Brady had a passion for precious stones and his collection of jewels is valued at millions of dollars. He was especially fond of giving parties and was an ardent patron of boxing and horse racing. For years he was a first nighter. Brady became famous also for his enormous appetite.

Brady obtained his nickname of "Diamond Jim" from his display of gems on his wearing apparel.

After an operation for stomach trouble in Johns Hopkins hospital Brady gave \$250,000 to the institution to found the James Buchanan Brady Neurological institute.

Brady began his career as a baggage handler in the Grand Central station here, afterward becoming a salesman.

DISCHARGE RULE HITS HARD HERE

Consternation was occasioned among the members of the National Guard units here by orders from Gen. Leonard Wood, commanding the Eastern department, U. S. A., for the discharge before muster into Federal service of all married men who have dependents.

The orders permit no leeway, but state distinctly that married men with dependent families must be discharged whether they desire to remain in the service or not. If the order is carried into effect it will mean that the National Guard units of Bridgeport, and particularly the Second and Fourth companies, who are already in federal service, will lose nearly 20 per cent. of their best men.

The orders state that all married men are to be discharged from the National Guard before the organization of which they are members is called into the federal service.

If no mustering officer is called and the company is called into the service the men are to be discharged without waiting further instructions.

"Dependent families" as spoken of in the order, refers to wives, children and mothers, who are dependent for support upon soldiers. In both the Second and the Fourth companies there are a large number of married men who have been passed by the federal mustering officer. Most of these men have made adequate provision for their families before entering the service and they desire to remain.

Capt. Arthur C. Bennett, of the Fourth company has telegraphed Gen. Wood explaining the circumstances and asking for an interpretation of the order. Both he and Capt. Louis J. Brague of the Second company, desire to keep their married non-commissioned officers. Up to press time no reply had been received.

Each company has enlisted 10 recruits since the order came permitting recruiting again.

The officers of the Coast Artillery Corps who are not in federal service and who are taking examinations for promotions were busy on their papers today. It is expected the "exams" will end this afternoon. The results will not be announced until after the militia board at Washington, D. C.

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