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VOL. 57—NO. 100—EST. 1790

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

Weather: Showers

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stratford Will Try To Raise \$20,000 For Poor

Face to face with the most critical condition of immediate need upon that part of the town's poor in the history of Stratford, influential citizens of Stratford, working in harmony with the Town government, have taken action to take care of the urgent needs at once. The town has been expending an amount varying from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a month, but it is found that this sum is no longer sufficient to meet necessary needs.

To make matters worse all money set aside for charity work by the town has been used, and as many transfers as can be made by the selectmen from other sources will be carried out.

An organization has been perfected, headed by E. W. Peck, chairman, Mrs. Harry Wilcoxson, secretary, and Walter Goddard, head of the Stratford Trust company, as treasurer.

Two methods are under consideration, one of which will be carried out immediately, for especially among the children of the town

matters at this moment are of a serious nature. Either an additional tax of one or two mills will be levied, or an attempt will be made to raise by voluntary contribution, \$20,000.

Mrs. L. R. Taylor will head the financial committee; other committee heads chosen being as follows: Publicity, F. R. Townroy; investigating, Briggs Barnum; purchasing, Selectman Reinhold Persson; Production, Mrs. C. G. Gunther; employment, H. C. Lovell; distribution, Mrs. M. B. DeLacour.

Attempts will be made as far as possible to expend money in the nature of pay for work upon the streets and about the town, but in the cases of children, or any others in immediate need, no formalities will be allowed or red tape considered that will delay the assistance.

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AND EVENING FARMER

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Weather—Showers

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

COMPLETE PLANS FOR STRATFORD'S \$20,000 DRIVE

Plans have been completed for Stratford's \$20,000 drive to aid the starving and destitute children of the town. A permanent Charities Commission has been appointed, and will have charge of the campaign. May 9 has been tentatively set for the opening, when the entire town will be canvassers, not alone for funds but for food and clothing. The success of the drive is imperatively necessary, as the conditions among some of the families of unemployed workmen are deplorable.

Eliot [sic] W. Peck has been named president of the commission; Mrs. Harry Wilcox, secretary; and Walter E. Goddard, treasurer.

Two divisions have been appointed as subsidiaries, and will be known as the Finance and Publicity Divisions. Mrs. Thomas E. Taylor heads the finance division, assisted by Clark Lane, Harry Gregg, C. K. Adams, Arthur Gaynor, Paul Bedell, John Wilcoxson, Walter A. Hubbell, O. H. Rothwell, John Albright, Walter Redfern [sic], Joseph DuCody, R. D. Sammis, Mrs. P. J. Lyon, Mrs. Alice Trumbull, Mrs. Louis Weidlich, and A. L. Birks.

The finance branch has in turn been sub-divided into the corporations committee, Clark Lane, C. E. Adams and Walter A.

Hubbell; large contributors committee, Harry Greet, Arthur Gaynor, and O. H. Rothwell; and machine committee composed of all other members of the Finance Divisions.

Each member of the commission has been pledged to secure five new members, who in turn promise to secure 10 more.

Details—John Wilcoxson and Paul Bedell.

Publicity—F. R. Townroe, John K. Phelan, Vincent Sexton, E. F. Ludlow, Charles Wheeler, Miss Lydia Morehouse, Mr. R. D. Sammis, Francis Drew, Miss Dorothy Garner, Geo. Fairchild, George Bateman, C. C. Thompson, Mrs. C. C. Kennedy, Michael J. Goode. Investigations—H. B. Barnum. Supplies—Rheinhold Persson. Productions—Mrs. C. C. Gunther. Distributions—Mrs. M. B. DeLacour. Employment—Harold C. Rodell.

General headquarters of the drive will be maintained in the vacant store in the moving picture building, while the storage room will be located in the Stratford Realty Company building. The productions committee will have an office in the Grange Hall where they will receive, renovate and remodel all contributions of clothing.

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1921

Weather: Unsettled

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

Appalling Insight Into Condition Of Stratford's Poor

Appalling insights into the conditions of the poverty-stricken, destitute people of Stratford were given yesterday afternoon when 150 women gathered in the Grange hall to consider plans for the drive for a \$20,000 relief fund. Case after case was told where entire families are actually starving to death, where the sole existence of six and seven people is a few decayed vegetables a day where children daily alternate with each other for their meagre fare of crusts and water.

Although the drive for funds has not formally begun, many persons have already realized the urgency of the Stratford condition and have responded with checks. Some of these have come from out of the town, people having been spurred on by the publicity given the matter in The Times. One letter was received which enclosed a dollar, with a note from the donor, stating that he was in rather straightened circumstances but wanted to do something.

This is the spirit that those in charge of the various committees appreciate and want, for if everyone in the community would only do what they are able, the needed amount would soon be forthcoming. It is hoped to raise \$20,000, which it is believed will cover the situation until the depression has passed or work can be provided.

Several instances were unfolded by Truant Officer H. B. Barnum whose line of duty brings him into intimate touch with the poorer class of families. One case of particular interest he disclosed of a family consisting of a mother, father and six children of school age. The mother was ill, the father out of work, and the family devoid of funds. Their condition was first noticed when it was seen that but three of the six children were attending school each day.

One day three would come only to be absent the next when the other three would be present. An investigation disclosed the fact that there was not enough food in the house for all the children. One day three would partake of the scanty fare and attend school while their less fortunate brothers and sisters would remain in bed, their little vitals gnawed by the pangs of acute hunger. The next day they would alternate, and continued doing so until their condition was discovered.

Eliot W. Peck, chairman of the Charity Commission, addressed the women yesterday and explained the formation of the organization that is to conduct the drive. Selectman Rheonhold [sic] Persson also spoke and told of the cases that have officially been brought to his attention. He also told of the splendid work of the Women of the Argus Club who, at their Saturday night meeting unanimously voted to sacrifice their Sunday dinner, which they sent to the starving families. He further explained the drastic plight of many families, and told how the children actually fought for the food brought them by members of the club.

At a conference yesterday morning between First Selectman Lalley of Stratford and the Paradise Green jitneurs, the conditions of some of the poor people of the town was put before the jitneymen who readily responded. Each operator on the Paradise Green line, New Haven-Bridgeport line, and the Walnut Beach run will be assessed \$2 which will add about \$100 and possibly more to the fund, for the Derby line, in fact every regular run through the town will be asked to meet the assessment.

The purpose of the conference primarily was to set a data for the public hearing before the selectmen on the question of jitney routes in accordance with the jitney

legislation recently passed in Hartford. The time has been set for 8 o'clock next Monday evening at the Town Hall and it behooves all interested, and especially the jitney men and all who want the jitneys to be present, that the present routes may be retained in and through Stratford.

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AND EVENING FARMER

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1921

Weather: Rain

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASK PEOPLE FOR SPRING WORK TO AID UNEMPLOYED

An organization is rapidly being perfected that will take care of the emergency in Stratford with the greatest speed, and least loss of motion, with no wastage of funds whatever.

Manager Feldman of the Stratford theatre has donated the use of a new store room in the theatre building in the center to be used as headquarters of the charity commission, and as an employment bureau as well. A telephone has been installed, the number being S. 176. Cut this number out and keep it.

H. C. Lovell is acting as employment agent and he urges everyone who can locate a bit of spring work about their premises to decide to have that work done now. Men will be supplied for 35 cents an hour. The committee feels that there must be a lot of work of various kinds about the town, and any man in good physical conditions would rather work than accept

the community's support without giving in return.

Food supplies can also be delivered to this location. A truck load of food is expected today from the Empire Food Products company, 71 Barclay street, New York, the gift of a former ex-service man from Stratford. His name was ordered withheld but some may recall a Lordship resident before the war who is a stockholder in the company.

A peck of potatoes would help, and if that is all any one is able to give, the gift will be just as welcome, so send them along. The children will be taken care of in the schools for the present, but the committees intend to see the matter through if it is humanly possible, and no one can foresee how long the emergency will last.

Dig up some work, and call S. 176. Good labor will be sent, and all concerned will benefit.

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AND EVENING EDITION

VOL. 57—NO. 107—EST. 1790

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

Weather—Showers

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

SELECTMAN ACTS JUST IN TIME TO AVERT TRAGEDY

One case of destitution reached First Selectman Lalley of Stratford Tuesday evening just in time for him to prevent a tragedy. A man, who intended killing his wife, family and finally himself was thwarted by Lalley, to whom he had come for assistance.

This man applied at the Lalley home and was told there was nothing to do. Later in the evening Mr. Lalley happened to go in the yard and found the man leaning over the fence crying. He told what was on his mind. Lalley scouted around and found a temporary job and prevented one rash act.

Anticipating a long drawn out fight against the starving situation confronting many families in Stratford, a campaign is being waged that is hoped to excite sympathy and assistance from more fortunate communities in far away parts of the United States. The films will be utilized as well as newspaper publicity, which so far has been almost entirely responsible for awakening the people of the vicinity to the true conditions, which are not confined alone to the foreign born.

A meeting of the executive committee has been called for this evening in the Town hall when several details of the drive will be perfected.

An entire truckload from the Empire Food Products Co. of New York city, the donation of one man, an ex-service man of Stratford arrived but a few minutes after the headquarters of the drive had been formally opened in the Theare [sic] building. Representatives of the Charity Commission are on hand all during the day, and the headquarters will serve both as a means of receiving and distributing aid to the destitute.

Gratifying success is meeting the efforts of Harold C. Lovell, chairman of the employment committee, and yesterday positions were found for more than 20 men. Communications have been received from several factories throughout the county and state

offering heir [sic] cooperation with the drive and expressing a willingness to employ as many men as their limited means at this time permit.

First Selectman Lalley was interviewed about supper time yesterday, as he was on a route of distribution with an auto load of nourishing food. He stated that he and other town officials had been battling against odds all winter, using all available funds, transferring money from other departments, operating with a curtailed police department, and trying hard to cover the situation which he admits was getting to be too much for them with, the meagre facilities at hand.

Stratford didn't want to appeal for assistance and it made some of the staid and proud early residents rather "peevish" when the matter was first given such wide publicity by the press. It was a case of peevish some or starving others, and the alarm was given none too soon.

Residents of Stratford are responding in a splendid manner to the appeal of their less fortunate townfolk. Ill-timed criticism that the town was not able to support its own people is being countered in the most effective way, and when the results of the \$20,000 drive are made known there is no question but that the ability of the residents will be ably demonstrated.

There are cases where charity is misplaced, and offenders are not allowed to get away with a second "touch." One case was brought to light in which Bridgeport parties were moving in with Stratford folks to take advantage of the Stratford assistance, but they were quickly sent back to the proper authorities, for Stratford has its hands full without any extra customers.

Try to find some work about your place and 'phone S.176. It will help.

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., MONDAY, MAY 9, 1921

Weather: Fair.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONDITIONS IN STRATFORD ARE MUCH IMPROVED

Conditions in Stratford are greatly improved, and with the organization now in charge of the situation it is believed that the crisis has been passed. Headquarters are maintained in the Stratford theatre building where supplies are received and distributed. The telephone number is S. 176. The formal drive, will start tomorrow. The amount desired is \$20,000.

With the weather more favorable it is hoped by those in charge that more success will reward the efforts of the employment agent and that temporary work can be offered the great number of willing workers who have their names on the waiting lists. The committee feels that surely a great amount of work must be waiting to be done about the town, yards to

celan [sic] up, spring house cleaning to be done, fences to repair, odd jobs of building and painting, and various things that property owners have in mind that can be done now as well as a little later.

Men can be supplied at 33 cents an hour, and a little work at this time will do more to help during the emergency than anything else, and everyone concerned can be the place, then telephone S. 176. The unemployed are not in their unpleasant condition through choice, or through their fault. They are willing and anxious to work, all they ask is the chance.

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AND EVENING FARMER

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1921

Weather, Fair

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

485 STRATFORD PEOPLE WITHOUT MONEY OR FOOD

Drive to Raise Much Needed Fund Almost Ready to Quit—But \$5,200 of Necessary \$20,000 Has Been Contributed—This Will Be Refunded to Givers According to Agreement.

There are 485 people in Stratford today, without funds, without means of support, and without food, and it begins to look as though they will remain in that predicament for some days, at least. The charity commission that undertook to handle the situation, which is critical, regardless of reports to the contrary, have about decided to throw up the sponge.

Hopes that a fund of \$20,000 to take care of the situation could be raised by voluntary subscription from those of the town able to give without depriving themselves of food and shelter, have been shattered. The charity commission met in executive session last evening, and found each other to be a discouraged and disgusted lot.

Efforts to date have brought forth about \$5,200, just about a fourth of the amount needed. As it was agreed that this money would not be accepted unless the drive was a

success this amount will have to be refunded. The only hope for the town poor is that the selectmen will meet in special session and levy an additional tax of one mill to cover the emergency. All during the winter the selectmen have been doing all in their power, and it seems probable that this action will be taken to relieve the suffering.

From certain quarters there has been [sic] complaint upon the part of a select few because Stratford got such "shameful publicity." The truth was spread about in hopes that the wealthy and healthy would help the needy. Some have, to be sure, to great individual extent, preventing actual starvation, but a great many have failed, for the results of the drive, which is now a retreat, show that less than a fourth of the property owners, or those deemed able, have responded to the canvas.

Poor Still In Need of Aid In Stratford

The precarious condition and position of many poor in Stratford has not changed since the alarm was first sounded many weeks ago, and the charity commission, with headquarters now in the Town hall, working in cooperation with the selectmen, is doing everything it can to alleviate the situation, and make plans for a hard winter that is ahead unless conditions take a change for the better sooner than experts believe they will.

In the meantime, rumors and tales still persist that the immense [sic] amount of food sent early in the campaign by the Empire Food Products company of 63-71 Barclay street, New York city, was actually paid for and was not a donation at all. Nothing could be further from the truth as is attested by the statement of E. W. Peck of the Charity commission, who says that the food sent came just in the nick of time, and was absolutely and entirely a voluntary, unsolicited free-will offering.

F. D. deSales, 141 Spring street, Middletown, is the representative in this territory for the company, and to set aside rumors he took the matter up with the New York office of the Empire

company, and received the following reply:
Mr. F. de Sales Walsh,
141 Spring St., Middletown, Conn.
Dear Mr. Walsh—

We are enclosing the copy of the New York Record which gives an account of the Stratford incident.

There were about three truck loads which amounted to about a ton and a half of food, retail value of which was approximately three thousand dollars. Absolutely no payment was made for same.

Empire Food Products Co., Inc.
By J. H. Clare.

The accompanying picture shows the first truck load of food immediately after its arrival in Stratford. One of the officers of the Empire Food Products company is a former Stratford man. He enlisted from the town at the outset of the war. By his efforts the food was sent to Stratford, but his name has always been kept a secret, by his request. Several truck loads were sent by the New York company, and people well remember the cheers with which the first consignment of food was received in the old town.

