

What Food Administration Has Done

(Special to The Dispatch.)

Washington, Jan. 12.—War with Germany was declared by the United States on April 6, 1917. President Wilson appointed Herbert Hoover United States Food Administrator May 17, 1917. Congress had not at that time passed the Food Control Law and did not pass it until early in August.

In the meantime the President requested Mr. Hoover to do what he could to regulate the food situation in the United States, by voluntary agreement and moral suasion.

Much was accomplished, but the public got the erroneous idea, before the Food Law became active and while Mr. Hoover was working with the food people on a voluntary basis, that Mr. Hoover's object was a radical lowering of wholesale and retail prices.

This was not, could not have been, and is not today true. All prices naturally and inevitably have a tendency to higher levels in war time. What the Food Administration always has had in mind and will continue to have in mind is the regulation of the world's food supply, so that America and her associates in the war will be properly fed at as reasonable prices as it is possible to obtain. Reasonable prices are not necessarily low prices. The situation has resolved itself into the question of getting enough food produced and distributed to feed the people.

What the Food Administration has done with regard to prices to insure their prices on basic commodities to retailers, based on actual cost of production, preparation and distribution. This the Administration has accomplished by eliminating inflated prices due to market speculation in these basic food commodities, by arbitrarily stopping waste and hoarding through its system of licensing producers, distributors and retailers doing more than \$100,000 worth of business a year.

Control prices of retailers doing less than \$100,000 worth of business a year can be secured indirectly by making available to the consumer the reasonable prices at which the dealer received his supplies and advising the consumer not to pay the retailer more than a fair profit on these commodities, and by exercising the power over licensed wholesalers to shut off supplies from retailers who charge unfair prices.

The Administration also has sought to aid the distribution of all available supplies of food, while shipping to our European associates as much as we could spare of wheat, meat, fat and sugar, to make up their drastic shortages.

This is as far as the present Food Law permits the Food Administration to go. Further regulation of prices and commodities must be authorized by Congress before it can be effected.

Administration's Problem in 1918.

The problems of the Food Administration in 1918 promise to be equal, if not more important than in 1917 unless, perchance, the war should end immediately, as now seems improbable in view of recent results abroad. A stimulated production is absolutely essential in any event, but there can be no greatly stimulated production unless sufficiently alluring prices are maintained to make an increase in produc-

tion profitable. Low prices in America will not win the war; increased food production in America will.

The first problem of the Food Administration, therefore, is to encourage intelligent production next year, so that the food requirements of the Allied armies and nations and those of our own people may be met. It would now seem safe to prophesy that the future holds promise of further reduction in the prices of foodstuffs, but this should never be emphasized as the important aim of the Food Administration.

Within the short time the Food Administration has been in actual operation under authority of law, speculative profits have been entirely or nearly eliminated in many lines of food. The accomplishments of the administration, when measured by contemporaneous eras, form the most remarkable page in the commercial history of any nation during war.

What Has Not Happened.

The real accomplishment and benefits of the Food Administration to the people might well be best judged by that which has not happened rather than that which has. Both speculation in the exchanges and on the curbs and actual profiteering in foods have been or are being stopped on the staple commodities which go to sustain life. War has always heretofore, in all nations and with all peoples, meant unbridled speculation in foods, which has been stopped, an attempt, which now seems assured of success, has been made to curb the greed of speculators during a time of national peril.

It should be ever borne in mind that the most extraordinary food demands ever made upon our people are to be met, if we play our part in the destiny of nations, with a more nearly depleted larder than has ever been ours in our national history. The only era in our national history that might be used as a measurement as to what could be expected at the present time were it not for food control is that of the Civil War. Now, after three years of drain there is a known world-wide shortage in food, whereas as a matter of comparison during the Civil War there was no actual shortage in foodstuffs and yet prices not only went up very rapidly but continued ascending in the latter 60's after the war had ended. Many commodities in which there was then no real shortage, increased several hundred per cent. over the basic pre-war prices. These increases were almost if not entirely due to speculation rather than to any natural laws of commerce. It was partially to prevent a repetition of the disastrous experience that the United States Food Administration was created.

Course of Prices.

On the 6th day of April Congress declared that a state of war existed with Germany. On the 17th day of May following, less than a month and a half after, President Wilson appointed Mr. Hoover United States Food Administrator. When appointed Mr. Hoover had no power conferred upon him by law, but was directed by the President to accomplish whatever he could through voluntary agreement, and this was the program he followed until August 10,

Additional State Social

(Continued from page nine.)

Sons, of Wilmington, acts as shipping clerk for the chapter, though he disclaims any higher office than that of packer for them.

Red Cross headquarters have been moved from near the postoffice to the Bank of Maxton building.

MARION SOCIAL.

Marion, S. C., Jan. 12.—Misses Eunice Ford and Montague McMillan have returned to Limestone College. Miss Gertrude Davis and Mrs. James Smith, of Easley, spent the past few weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Cantey Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Pfaff have taken rooms at the home of Mrs. T. J. Monroe.

Mr. Edward Hamar, after a visit to his parents, has returned to an aviation school and will probably soon be in France.

Mr. F. F. Covington, Jr., has returned to York, after a holiday visit to Ridgeland, has returned to his work here.

Rufus Ford, Jr., left this week for Washington to begin training in the paymaster's department.

Mrs. R. J. Blackwell and Mr. J. Whilden Blackwell were recent guests of Mrs. William Murchison, in Dillon.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Fleishman, who were recently married, are expected home soon.

Mrs. P. L. Whittington left last week for her home in Portsmouth, Va.

Dr. C. S. Howell left this week for training at Camp Greenleaf. Mrs. Howell and children will go to Kings- tone to spend an indefinite time with Mrs. McCabe.

FAYETTEVILLE.

Fayetteville, N. C., Jan. 12.—Mrs. George B. Underwood and little daughter, Margaret, returned this week to their home in Charlotte after a short visit to Mrs. Underwood's mother, Mrs. J. A. Pemberton.

Miss Virginia Bidgood has gone to Baltimore after a visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Bidgood, on Gillespie street.

Mrs. W. T. Bowen has returned from New York, where she spent the past two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Whitlock have

when the food control law was signed. Prices, already high, ascended very rapidly between April 6 and May 7. Since that time, largely through the elimination of speculation, prices have been stabilized and on an average now show a slight decline, with promise of more healthy decline in the future.

Countries Compared.

A chart was recently issued by the Canadian Food Controller based on figures obtained through the Canadian Department of Labor showing that the highest increase in prices caused by the war was in Germany; the next highest was in England; and considerably lower than either of them was Canada, and lower yet was the United States. This based on a comparison of the average prices of commodities in the various countries with 1914 as a basis. The increase in Germany from 1914 to November, 1916, the last obtainable figures, showed that foodstuffs on an average were 120 per cent. higher than they were in 1914. With the figures carried up to the month of September, 1917, in England, prices on an average were 105 per cent. higher than they were in 1914; in Canada they were 60 per cent. higher; in the United States they reached 50 per cent. higher during the month of May, and are now about 40 per cent. higher.

What an Instance.

Wheat is another illustration of what might have happened. Between April 8, when a condition of war was recognized, and May 17, when Mr. Hoover was appointed Food Administrator by the President without powers of law, the prices of both wheat and flour increased very materially. The wheat that sold for \$1.80 per bushel in February was selling for \$4.40 May 17. Flour that sold for \$1.75 in February was selling for \$17.00 May 17. The wheat producers received but little or no benefit from this radical increase in price. In truth this was largely a speculative increase made at a time when there was only a rather vague understanding in the public mind of the wheat demands to be made this year upon the United States. Perhaps nothing more remarkable has ever been recorded in commercial history than the spirit of acceptance on the part of the grain exchange people of the country when the Food Administrator, without actual legal powers, in May called their representatives together in Washington to inform them that all speculation in wheat must cease. The price of flour at that time had risen to \$11.90 per barrel. It is now selling at an average price throughout the United States of less than \$10.50 per barrel. The normal consumption of flour in the United States is about 10,000,000 barrels per month, and estimating the saving at only \$5.00 per barrel, this would aggregate \$50,000,000 per month left in the pocket of consumers. In actuality, how much of a real saving has been accomplished cannot be put into figures, because no man's mind can accurately measure just how high flour or wheat would have gone through speculative influence had not this action been taken.

returned from a visit to Mr. Whitlock's parents in Indianapolis, Ind.

Mr. Francis Sheetz has returned to Cape Charles, Va., where he is with the Naval Reserve Corps.

Miss Ruby Melvin has returned to her home in St. Paul after spending several days with her sister here, Mrs. M. A. Bethune.

Misses Pearl Bethune, Margaret McQueen, Beatrice Stevens and Kato McQueen returned the first of the week to Charlotte to resume their studies at Queen's College, after spending the holidays at their homes here.

Miss Louise Powell has returned to Meredith College, Raleigh, after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Powell, at their home in this city.

Misses Janie and Mary Tolar have returned to their home here after a visit to relatives at Grand Ridge, Florida.

Miss Norris Alexander and Miss Annie Highsmith have returned from Greenville, S. C., where they were guests of Miss Alexander's relatives.

Miss Lucy London Anderson has returned to Raleigh to resume her studies at St. Mary's School, after spending the holidays here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Anderson.

Miss Maggie Willford has returned from New York city where she spent a couple of weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. John West, who spent some time visiting in Delaware, have returned to their home here.

GOLDSBORO SOCIAL NEWS

Goldsboro, N. C., Jan. 12.—A marriage of widespread interest in this city and throughout the county, owing to the popularity of the bride and groom, was solemnized at the beautiful country home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Benjamin Grant, in New Hope township, Wednesday afternoon, the contracting parties being Miss Bessie Grant, a young lady of charming personality, and Mr. D. J. Jones, a popular and wealthy planter, both of this county. The marriage was a quiet home affair and was witnessed only by the immediate family and a few personal friends. The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. A. Pliand, of the Goldsboro circuit.

An interesting business and social meeting was held Monday evening by the ladies of the First Presbyterian church, when the Woman's Society for Christian work met in the Sunday school rooms. Reports of the year's work were read and proved most gratifying. After other business matters had been disposed of, light refreshments were served.

The Woman's Missionary Society of St. Paul Methodist church held an interesting business meeting Monday night, during which plans for the new year's work was discussed.

The Home Economic department of the Goldsboro Woman's Club held a most delightful and profitable meeting for its members this week. A feature of the meeting was a demonstration in cooking given by Mrs. Estelle Smith, which was enjoyed with keen interest by the large number of members present.

The Senior Philatelic class of St. Paul Methodist church held its regular monthly business meeting this week at the home of Mrs. George Spence. Following the business meeting the guests were served light refreshments by the hostess.

Mr. Geo. W. Waters, a member of the stockholders of the Palace Drug store, now in the military service, stationed at Greenville, S. C., is in the city to spend a few days with relatives.

Mr. J. T. Lashley, who has been a patient in a local hospital for several weeks, was able to return to his home this week.

Mr. W. C. Massey, a popular business man of Princeton, is an operative patient at a local hospital, and is recovering nicely.

Dr. and Mrs. E. R. Warren have returned to the city from a visit to friends and relatives in Chatham.

Lieutenant Richard W. Spicer, of the surgical staff of the 117th Field Hospital, at Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C., arrived at his home here Thursday to spend several days with friends and relatives.

Mrs. Geo. L. Kirby is on a visit to the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. R. Crawford, in Raleigh.

Miss Cora Kornegay, of Faison, who has been visiting the home of her cousin in this city, Mrs. D. H. Dixon, has returned home.

Mrs. Lionel Weyl left this week to spend several days with friends and relatives in Baltimore.

Misses Lizzie and Mary Moore Allen and Miss Mildred Edmundson, who have been visiting school friends in New York city, have returned home.

Mr. Sam Hummell, of the Goldsboro military contingent at Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C., is in the city to spend a few days.

Mrs. Ross McElwee and children, who have been on a visit to Mrs. McElwee's parents in this city, Capt. and Mrs. Nathan O'Berry, have returned to their home in Statesville.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Jewell, of Lexington, Ky., are visiting in this city, and while here will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Chan. Lutes.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Peterson left this week to visit friends and relatives in Brooklyn, N. Y.

Miss Julia Maye, the interesting little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Roney, who has been quite ill for some time, is very much improved.

Mr. Heber Sutton and Mrs. C. A. Taylor, of Durham, were visitor here this week where they came to attend the funeral of Z. W. Sutton, who died in Oxford and whose remains were brought to this city for burial beside his late mother, Mrs. L. E. Sutton.

On Thursday afternoon from 4 to 6, Mrs. Charles Lutes entertained most charmingly in honor of her house guest, Mrs. A. H. Jewell, of Lexington, Ky. The guests were requested to bring their knitting and spent time happily in work and social intercourse. At 5:30 the guests were

Ice Mountains at \$1,000,000 Hoboken Water-front Fire



Firemen standing knee deep in a lush and water, surrounded by mountainous piles of ice-coated paper waste, and playing a stream inside the smouldering ruins. They were frozen in and finally had to be chopped out of the ice.

invited into the dining room, where a delicious salad and ice course was served. Those present were Mrs. A. A. Joseph, Miss Gertrude Weil, Mrs. W. H. Smith, Mrs. P. McIntyre, Mrs. Wilcher, Mrs. James Crawford, Mrs. John Fuller, Mrs. Arnold Borden, Mrs. Leslie Weil, Mrs. Walter Borden, Mrs. J. D. Langston, Mrs. A. H. Edgerton, Mrs. John Spicer, Mrs. Einstein and Miss Mary DeVane.

Mr. D. H. Dixon left this week to spend several days in Harrisonville, Va.

Her many friends will be pleased to learn that Mrs. G. W. Brown, who has been quite sick for the past several days, is now improving nicely.

MARIETTA SOCIAL NEWS

Marietta, N. C., Jan. 12.—School opened here Monday after a vacation of two weeks for Christmas.

Mrs. Bowls, of Hickory, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. W. M. Oliver. Mrs. Oliver's sister, also of Hickory, is visiting her.

Mrs. W. H. Oliver, of Raleigh, left for her home Tuesday.

Miss Helen Oliver, who has been teaching at Kings Mountain, has not returned to her work yet on account of coal shortage. She expects to go back next week.

Miss Ada Henley returned to Oxford for the spring session Tuesday. Miss Florine Rogers, who went to school in Florida in the fall, is going to Oxford for the spring term.

Messrs. Joe and Lenton Page left for Wake Forest Sunday, and Miss Alyce Page for New York to resume their studies.

Mrs. Fowler, of Hamlet, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Oliver.

Rev. Mr. Draper preached here Sunday. It was his first appointment here and the people are favorably impressed with their new pastor.

Mr. J. S. Oliver and Master Hal were Lumberton visitors this week.

Miss Lannie Oliver returned to her school near Nichols, S. C., Monday.

Mr. L. M. Oliver was in Wilmington Monday on business.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has this day qualified as Administrator of the estate of Maria A. Fosgate, deceased, late of the County of New Hanover. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate settlement. All persons holding claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same to the undersigned at Wilmington, North Carolina, on or before the 4th day of December, 1918, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This 4th day of December, 1917.
THOMAS W. DAVIS,
Administrator of Maria A. Fosgate, deceased.
ROUNTREE and DAVIS,
Attorneys.



BOSREE'S GERMAN SYRUP

Why use ordinary cough remedies, when Boschee's German Syrup has been used so successfully for fifty-one years in all parts of the United States for coughs, bronchitis, colds settled in the throat, especially lung troubles. It gives the patient a good night's rest free from coughing, with easy expectoration in the morning, gives nature a chance to soothe the inflamed parts, throw off the disease, helping the patient to regain his health. 25 and 75 cent bottles. Sold by Green's Drug store.—Adv.

NEOLIN SOLES

Makes Walkin a Pleasure Attached to SULLIVAN, King of Shoemakers, N. Front Street. Phone 523.

FOR SALE

300 Barrels Gore's Fancy Syrup, 50 Barrels Gore's Fancy Molasses, 500 Bags Gore's Fine Ground Meal, Different varieties Seed Oats, Wheat and Rye. Please write us for samples and prices.

D. L. GORE COMPANY Strictly Wholesale.

IF You Wish to Get Your DRUG ORDERS Filled Promptly. Call 520

PAYNE DRUG CO.

HARRY E PAYNE

COLD WEATHER ITEMS:

- Ash Cans
- Ash Sifters
- Coal Shovels
- Fire Shovels
- Hot Water Bottles
- Columbia" Sheet Iron Heaters
- "Vortex" Heaters
- Box Cast Iron Heaters
- Thermometers

N. Jacobi Hardware Co., 10 and 12 So. Front St.

Screenland

PHOTOPLAYS WILL URGE PUBLIC TO PURCHASE U. S. THRIFT STAMPS.

PRETTY girls in photoplays will urge patrons of every moving picture theater throughout the country to invest in War Savings Certificates and Thrift Stamps. On orders of Carl Laemmle, President of the Universal Film Mfg. Co., stars of each photoplay hereafter made by that concern will be posted in an attitude of smiling appeal to every "movie fan" through the medium of a sign she will carry, plainly lettered: "Help Yourself and Help Your Country. Buy Thrift Stamps. 25 cents. Ask the Postman."

Every star appearing in Bluebird or Universal photoplays will thus be pictured as a part of every screen-gramma the Universal presents in hundreds of theatres, two days out of the week, in communities ranging from the smallest hamlets to the largest cities. Millions of people, comprising the very class the Government most desires to reach, will thus have brought to their attention the "drive" for the \$2,000,000,000 War Fund.

The Universal Co., in this purpose, following up the campaign other large commercial firms have promoted in their newspaper advertising, by contributing exclusive space advocating the purchase of Liberty Bonds or War Savings or by urging the public to contribute through references to the War Loans in their regular advertising. Every class of citizen is represented in the audiences at picture theatres, and it is believed that sales of Thrift Stamps will be largely influenced through these suggestion shown upon the screen.

UNIVERSAL AIDS WAR WORK

The Universal has started a patriotic movement in connection with "The Mystery Ship." For the best ending to the serial, the producers will pay a prize of \$1,000 which will be sold in Liberty Bonds, savings certificates and thrift stamps, to the 338 boys and girls who compete in the contest.



CARL LAEMMLE

THEDA BARA NOW A BLONDE.

For the first time in her screen career, Theda Bara will appear as a blonde "vamp." Of course, Theda will not mar her raven locks to such an extent that they will ever remain a peroxide shade, but with the aid of a wig she hopes to play "Du Barry" as that lady was supposed to look.

Whether or not Theda will be able to "vamp" without her usual make-up is something we'll have to wait and see.

TOM TERRIS NOW A CITIZEN.

Tom Terris the Vitagraph director and son of the famous English actor of the same name is now a full-fledged American, having recently received his final papers as a citizen of the United States.