.H, N. C., THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 31, 1914.

#### PRICE 5 CENTS

## FIERCE FIGHTING AND SMALL GAINS ON WESTERN FRONT

Allies Make Snail Advance in France and Belgium at Some **Points** 

ARMIES OF NICHOLAS HOLD LIKE GIBRALTAR

On Bzura River and Shift To Heavy Artillery Fire and Oscasional Infantry Charges Farther South; Russians Claim To Have Annihilated Several Regiments Almost To The Man With Their Bayonets; Fleet of Aeroplanes Bombard Dunkirk

the Associated Press ! London, Dec. 10, 10:20 p. m.-Since the Russian defeat of the Austrians in Galleia, which, while not irreparable is likely to affect the whole Austro-German campaign in the East,

there has been in important develop-

ment on either front. The silles, although making no dra-matic stacks on the German lines, are steadily hammering away with their artillery and when opportunity offers push their lines a few yards forward. A French eye-witness de-scribing battles from December 15 to 24 gives a good idea of the fighting and records with which which seed and records gains, which, while each is only in yards, amount in the aggre-gate to a considerable advance at

Fight Man to Man. A few hundred yards in Flanders were taken by primitive methods. Having the breeches of their rifles choked with mud, the allies used them as clubs and in many cases fought

many points.

as cluss and in many cases fought the Germans with their fists.

In one little French village within sound of the guns. Princess Patricia's light infantry, the first of the Canadian contingent to go to the front, is billeted, waiting its turn to go into the trenches. The men were accordance an sulendid recention by their comed a splendid reception by their comrades in arms and the French villag-

Germans Retire on Baura. With the defeat of the Austrians in Galicia and South Poland and the retrerrient of the Germans across the lizura, Petrograd believes the turning point has been reached in the Partie f the Polish rivers. The chief dighting now is taking place on the Pilica where the Germans still are on the offensive and have brought up the

Losses in these battles have reached enormous figures in dead, wounded and prisoners and must have been largely increased by disease, for the men fought under dreadful climatic conditions and in mud, for which Po-

### Russians Slaughter Germans

Petrograd, Dec. 30 .- The following ficial statement was issued from general headuarters today: "Along the whole front of the ar-mies operating in the left bank of the Vistula, there has been a luli except in the region of Bollmow, In-

riodz, and south of Malagoszcz, here ferce fighting persists. "Taking the offensive from Boli-

mow, the Germans, under a heavy intense fire from our guns, made an assault on Hourgade, Heritmow, and our trenches near Goumin (Gombin). but our troops, by an impetuous country-attack, slaughtered with countey-sitack, slaughtered with their bayonets all of the enemy ex-cept a few, who were made prisoners. "In this engagement we captured German machine guns and inflicted enormous losses on-the enemy, who brought into action successively in this region regiments from divers

orps. Inowlods, our troops took session of German trenches south of Possuade, which they entered and

engaged in determined lighting.

"South of Malagoszcz an attack which the enemy delivered after a lengthy cannonading was repulsed by our artillery. Near the village of Bohkinetz the enemy captured our entrenched position but was disodged and overthrown by our counter

Troops Advance in Galicia. "In West Galicia our troops

we stormed several fortified of the enemy, making prison rs of 44 officers and 1,500 soldiers and capturing eight machine guns. Southwest of Dukla our troops dislodged the Austrians from positions

hich they had strongly organized. They fled in a panic. "We have realized also an important success south of Lisko near Gor-

We have repulsed counter attacks by the enemy in the Carnathians at Czsok Pass and also new sorties by

#### Aeroplanes Over Dunkirk. London, Dec. 31.-1:65 a. m.-News reached Dover last night that

a suadron of seven aeroplanes flow over Dunkirk yesterday (Wednesday) and Cropped bumbs. Austrian Official Report. Vienna, Dec. 30.-via London, De

cember 31: 12:05 a. m -- An official statement issued by the War Depart-ment today, gives the following sum-mary of the war signation: 'In the Carpathia is our troops de

livered an attack north of Uzsok Pass and occupied several heights. Our counter-attacks to the north of Lupkow Pass (Galicia) have brought a standstill the Russian advance. "Further west the enemy attacked me of the palses with small forces, orth of Gorlice (Galicia), northeast bakiteyn and on the lower course of the Nida, the Russian attack failed the region to the east and south-

(Continued on Page Three.)

## **CONGRESS AID TO** PLACE OLD GLORY ON ALLL THE SEAS

lis Heartily in Favor of The Ship Purchase Bill

SECRETARY REDFIELD SENDS STRONG LETTER

Germans Retire From Attack Now Is The Time To Strike For English Cabinet in Special Ses-Maritime Commercial Independence, It Sets Out, By Placing American Goods in American Bottoms: This Would Assure Us a Fair Chance in The Markets of The World: South America Is Calling Uncle Sam, His Wares and His Coin

> tiffs the Associated Press). Washington, D. C., Dec. 30 -- Initiating the aggressive fight to be wag ed in Congress for passage of the government ship purchase hill to free American commerce from European war Hmitations, majority members of the Senate Commerce Committee today filed a report recommending the measure in vigorous terms and transmitting a commendatory-letter from Secretary of Commerce Redfield.
>
> The committee report, filed by Acting Chairman Fletcher, quoted the re-

> port submitted yesterday by Secretries McAdoo and Redfield showing enor mous increases in ocean transporta-tion rates since the war began and at tendant falling off in oceas, tonnage facilities. The committee predicted that enactment of the ship purchase bill would go far to relieve that situa

> "Unquestionably " said the report "if we had additional ships under the American flag the situation would rapdly improve and much of the distress of producers, business men and bank-ers, not only in the South but through-out the country, would be relieved. The need is urgent."

The Need Most Urgent.
Secretary Redfield in his letter, written to Senator Fletcher to accompany the report, declared that for years the United States ocean shipping had been in the hands of its competitors, "like a department store without any delivery system except such as competitors were willing to supply." The result was easily to be foreseen, he argued, when twenty foreseen, he argued when twenty years ago American goods displaced German products in second place among South African sales, and American iron and steel entered into keen competition abroad with German and English products

"You cannot imagine Germany of England continuing permanently to

England continuing permanently transport on favorable terms to American goods on any such scale as to seriously threaten German and English markets," the letter con-

tinued. Ostrich-Like Capers "lake an ostrich with its head it the sand we have put our money and nierchandise at risk of the European

war. American capital invested in ships under European flags can be and has been destroyed by the acts of hostile cruisers. Two vessels under foreign flags on their way to be trans-ferred to our flag, were thus such. American capital in goods transported in vessels under foreign flags, which were not owned by American capital has been lost or injured when such vessels have been sunk or held up and American goods for which Americans long since paid are teday lying in foreign harbors.

"We know now that our commerce, while occur borne, it subject to war risks not of our making, but by which We suffer. The time has been when war risks shut off the movement of American wheat and delayed the movement of American cutton and it ability that such a time may recent An American merchant marine at the range of prot enough to 1 leve us from the lead such enough to 1 leve us from the leapardy in which we have stood and 11 which in some measure we now stand Commercial Bands of Steel.

"Indeed, so vital is the present time to America that it seems as if we were in the very transition from being a debtor to a creditor nation, and possibility opens to our lending t hand of financial fellowship to our fellow republics in Latin america which they so much need and by which we should the them to miresolver in commercial bands of stord which

all our people. Fixe-sire Orean Rates.

"Not only are our goods hampered by absence of shipping, but they also are hampered by the rates which are out of our control but which are not charged on such shipping as take place. Our competitors, who contro our ocean terminal facilities for such and any more are ocean at unship companies as related to railways) have seen fit for their own profit to advance their rates grow one-half in double or more. There are ports in double or more. There are ports in Europe today that carrierly seek our c. iton and we know that our brethien in the South desire to sell their cot-ton and the price abroad is, such as our producers would be thankful to receive. Between these two stands the excessive rate and the scarcity of ships. The reasons must be mighty and compelling which would lead any one to interpose between the food of American commerce seeking to be free and the needs of foreign buyers of any one or two or more groups of our people:"

### WAGE RATES UNCHANGED.

So Says Secretary Daniels, As Result Nation-wide Inquiry, (By the Americane) Press)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 30 .- Sec retary Daniels announced today that, after thorough investigation, he "had come to the conclusion that labor anditions affecting wages through out the country, have not experienced any essential change during the past year, and he has, therefore, decided ntinue the same schedules at the navy yards during the coming year."

Senate Commerce Committee Washington Is Sure That An Amicable Agreement an Be Reached

> NOTE FRIENDLY, BUT FIRM AND EMPHATIC

sion Begins Considering The Protest; England Still Much Disturbed and Divided On The Course British Will Pursue: Note Sets Out That Thirty Ships Have Been Unlawfully Detained and Many Cargoes Scared Off The Waves By British Policy

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, D. C. Dec. 30 .- While the American note to Great Britain protesting against interruptions the commerce of this country continued today to absorb official Washington, there was confidence that difficulties of the last five months eventu-ally would be amicably adjusted. Afready the discussian had tarned to measures the United States could

ake in ce-operation with Great Pritain to reduce the necessity for systemed search on the high zeas t became known that Treasury De-Great sertment agents, acting with the State Department, had inspected one cotton argo and that the inspection had satisfied the British Embassy and fadilitated progress of the shipment to its destination

The belief was held in official quar-lers that an understanding might be reached whereby cargoes could be certified before their departure and thus made immune from detention.

High officials of the Washington government were somewhat surprised the American note had been regarded as "brusque" in some London quarters. They said the British cabinet, after a single reading of the document, must be convinced that the United S ates had spoken in the most friendly spirit, though none the loss earnestly and emphatically. Those familiar with the note's contents say Friendly But Emphatic. earnestly and emphatically. Those familiar with the note's contents say it is a matter of fact and frank statement of the difficulties experienced by American shippers and the failure of the British government to more the protests which have been made.

Damage Has Been Great. Damage Has Been Great.

In all thirty American ships and cargoes, their value totalling millions, have been daintained. The note points out specifically, however, that reimbursements alone cannot cure the situation, as the British fleet's activity has restrained many American ex-porters, who fear risks involved in

shipments. With respect to cotton shipments, the case of one or two illegitimate the cargoes, it is recognized, has caused Kiev he British government to suspect al shipments

The United States has not evidence there has been contraband concealed in cotton cargoes, but England has made two specific complaints and the American government has issued a warning that one fraudulent ship-ment must produce embarrassment to cargoes generally.

cargoes generally.

Secretary liryan declined to give any dtails of the note today. He desched it as a general statement sumarizing the American position in several specific cases. Neutral diplomats were not given a copy of it, but were informed that the first news-paper report of it was accurate. They were told that the State department still regarded the note as confidential

The Points of Protest.

The general points on which the note complaints, and which have been theb asis of several specific protests hitherto are substantially as follows: I. American cargoes have been searched on the high sens—a belligent right that is not denied-but the ent right that is not denice—but the ships also have been diverted to ports for further examination, a circum-stance held not justified under international law unless full proof of hos tile destination is presented at the time. Serious loss, especially to per-ishable goods, has resulted from such delays in a ship's voyage

Great Britain has regarded abso- Great Eritain has regarded abso-lute and conditional contraband as in the same class. The general under-standing in international law has been that absolute contraband includes ar ticles intended for use by a believe ent force and directly destined to Conditional contraband, including foodstuffs, comprises articles suscep tible for use by an army or navy, but it must be proven that these products are destined for armed forces.

Neutrals Have Rights.

3-Irrespective of the centrovery over what constitutes absolute or conditional contraband in commerce between a neutra land a belligerent country the note sets forth that in respect to commerce between two nutral countries, there ought to b no quatton of contraband at all, for the relations are those of peace and not of war. Since the civil war the United States has upheld the doctrine of "continuous voyage" which per-mitted seizure of a cargo ever in its journey between neutral perts, provided eventually it was destince for a belligerent. The American note, a belligerent. however, takes the position that proof of such hostile destination must be shown at time of seizure.

4. The American government con-tends that a consignment sent to no specific consignee, known as a "to order" shipment is not of itself sus-picious. It claims that this may be an important circumstances in proying a case, but is of no nherent value other facts are adduced, also at the time of detention or seizure.

### British Cabinet Meets.

London, Dec. 30:—The British Cablust met in special session today to counider the American govern ment's protest against delay to Ameri-

(Continued from page three.)

The Russians Held Like a Stone Wall Before The Capital of Poland

GERMAN RETIREMENT APPEARS UNDER WAY

Failure of The Austrian Army That Crossed The Carpathians Unhinged All The Plans of The German Campaign. Stroke Was Planned To End The War So Far As Russia Was Concerned: Russia Now Commands The Principal Gateways To Hungary Over The Carpathians

(By the Associated Press) Petrograd, Dec. 26-Via London :35 p. m .- The Russian view of recent developments in Poland is that a definite check has been administered to the Germans. Their evacuation of Miatrzewice, five miles north of So-chaczew, is regarded by military critics as "ringing down the curtain on the Third German advance toward Warsaw" At a tremendous loss to themselves

At a fremendous to themselves the Germans had succeeded in estab-lishing a foothold in Mistrzewice, on the east bank of the lizura, but three weeks of persistent sledge-hammer at tacks falled to penetrate the Russian line before Warsaw. When it became evident that the Austrian advance from the Carpathian mountains had failed, the Germans evacuated the yillage. The Austrian Carpathian operations evidently fermed an integrations for the Warsaw campaign Heavy artillery is being brought up

by the Germans along their center be-tween Skier lewice and the Pilica river, but this is regarded as purely a defensive move to prevent breaking of the German line by Russian infantry operating there under the cover

of artillery.
Unofficial reports from the Warsaw front say that in comparison with the heavy artillery duels, infantry opera-tions are mere entendes.

Hold Gateway to Hungary.

In Galicia the Russians have taken

In Galicia the Russans have taken the important town of Gorlice, fifteen miles south of Tuchow, where the West Galician Austrian army recently was histed and prevented from joining that of General Boehm-Ermolli, advancing from Sanck-Lisko" (Gorlice is the junction point of several railroads runing east, west and south through the Corrotation district through the Carpathian distric Pursoit of the retreating Austrians ; the Sanck-Lisko district has bee through district carried as far as Yaslisk, on the ex-treme Austrian left. Yaslisk, now in possession of the Russians commands the most important highway into Hun-

Hungarian prisoners arriving at liev state that their commanders in ddressing the troops previous to the advance, said the result of the campaign would be reoccupation of Lem-bers by the Austrians and the capture of Warsaw by the Germans and that subsequent operations directed by the German general staff would decide th

### Austrian Campaign Fails,

Lemberg, Dec. 30.—(Via London 6.35 p. m.)—The simultaneous attack of the Austrians in Western Galicia and from the Carpathian's has proved Unofficial reports state that losses were enormous, and Austrian that the Russians have taken as many

Train loads of guns and war booty pass duily through Lembers

# FEDERAL OPENING

Assistant Attorney General Will Visit Raleigh; Several Other Officials Coming

### (W.-E. YELVERTON)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 30.—As-sistant Attorney General Samuel J. Graham will represent the Department of Justice at the opening of the new Federal building in Raleigh January He accepted today the invitation of the Raleigh bar association, Mrs. Graham will accompany " Former Governor John Burke States forth Dakota, new United Preasurer will represent the Treasury Department Secretary of the Navy Iosephus Danisis and Mrs. Daniels will also attend the banquet in Raleigh or the evening of the 18th.

### GET GENTLEMEN GAMBLERS.

Police Justice After Professional Crooks at Wilmington.

(Special to The News and Observer ) Wilmington, Dec. 39.-Rob Sneed and Pat Patterson, well known young men, have been arrested on charge of gambling and await trial in Jus-Harriss' court. Justice Harris says that he has information to the effect that there are uite a number of men in Wilmington having no means of a livelihood, who live entirely through their success in poker and other games of chance. Justice Harriss says that he learns that these men are especially active around the "pay days" of the large employing concerns of the city, and that many young wage carners get their salaries depleted through games with the pro-fessional gamblers. He says that the arrest of Sneed and aPtters is souly the beginning; that others are to brought into court to answer a simi lar charge.

Scenes of British Raid and the Managers of It



chief of the British fleet, and Sir David Henderson, chief of the Royal Flying orps, managed the raid of the British battleships on Cuxhaven, one head-quarters of the German fleet. In an-swer to great demands in Britaip for action, which followed the German at

TEN BILLION IN

Admiral Jeliicoe, commander in | tack on the east coast cuies, they sen test warships and a number of zero planes against German port. Bombs in account there was no damage In fact, that account has it that the only damage was that to the British vessels which were repelled by the

## **VOLLMER FAVORS**

This Year Broke All Previous Records For Value and Production

DESPITE COTTON LOSS

More of the Fleecy Staple Than Ever Before, But Value Loses Three Hundred Millions; Bumper Wheat Crop. Corn Still King in The Nation; Live Stock Big Item

(By the Associated Press

Washington, D. C., Dec. 30.-Amerfarm products during 1914 clipsed all records for value, with a otal of almost ten billion dollars. Secretary Houston announced today that the value of all farm crops, farm and mal products and farm animals sold and slaughtered aggregated 19,872,-936,000 That was \$33,000,000 more suble the value of all farm products in 1899.

Crops this year were valued at \$6,044,480,000 and farm animal products at \$3,828,456,000. The value of crops was slightly less than in 1913, on ac-count of the reduced value of cotton. The corn and wheat crops, however, were the most valuable ever produced They brought the year's crop value total to only \$88,278,000 less than the total for last year, despite the loss of more than \$300,000,000 in the value of cutton.

Animals More Valentile "The

"The estimated value of the antmal products of the farm in 1914,"
said the Agricultural Outlook today,
"is distinctly higher than in 1913,
which was itself a record year in the
value of this class of products. Thir is due to general, but slight increases in production, except for sheep and swine and in prices, more especially to a small increase in the average farm price of eggs, and to a more consider able increase in the farm price of cat-tle and calves sold and shoughtered. "It must be borne in mind that the

"It must be borne in mind that the amounts of these estimates do not stand for wealth produced nor for billites of the rapidly developing trade cash received, nor for profit, nor for of thins, as assainst the world. Some income in any sense Each product day this is no must be tried out in the is valued, as in the consus, when it reached commercial form, and the grand aggregate of all items is to be friend at her side."

The you think the German governative point of view."

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Sales of crops last year were esti-mated at \$2,928,000,000, sales of free stock, \$2,919,000,000, a total of \$2, \$48,000,000. The estimated value of total sales per farm was \$802, and

sales per capita of rural pepulation texcluding towns, \$129.

The value of the principal form crops this year was: Corn. \$1,162.
599 000, wheat, \$378,680 000, bax. \$779.968,000; cotton, \$519.616,000 oats, \$499,431,000; pointors, \$198, 609.000; barley, \$105,903.000; tobacco \$779.968.000 \$101,411,000; sweet potatoes, \$41 294,900; rye, \$37,018,900; sugar beets, \$27,900,000; rice, \$21,549,000; flax seed, \$19,540,000 and buckwheat, \$12.

Production Records Broker In the production of these fourteen principal crops, the aggregate was about ten per cent larger than in 1913 and six per cent smaller than in 1812, which year stands as the one of the greatest aggregate production in the United States. This year two import ant crops exceeded previous records— wheat, with \$91,000,000 bushels, fol-lowing the 1913 record of 782,000,000 bushels; and cotton, with 15,966,000 bales (preliminary estimate), the pres record being 15,693,600 bales in

The value per acre of all enumer ated crops averaged about \$16.44 this compared with \$16,52 in 1915 and \$16.15 in 1912.

Bank of France Back.

# EMBARGO ON ARMS

Iowa German Declares in Congress That War Could Soon Be Stopped

NEED GERMAN FRIENDS

Some Day The Pacific May Give Grave Concern and Two Members Declare Might Be Well For United States if She Shuts War Material From Allies

Tily the Amortated Prese Washington, D. C. Dec. 30.—That the United States could end the Euro-pean war in three months by cutting off expert of war material was the issertion of Representative Vollmer. of lows, today before the House For-cien Affairs Committee. With Repre-sentative Bartholdt, he endorsed a resolution to authorize the President n his discretion to prohibit such ex-

ports. s36,000. That was \$33,000,000 more than the grand total for 1913, the previous record year. It was more than double the value of all farm products the resident Wilson," he said. "sus pended the embargo on export of arms and munitions to Mexico in the double the value of all farm products."

cutrality on paper."
The right of Congress to impose an mbargo, he said, was fully establishd and the only question at issue was ne of "national policy

"I maintain," said Representative Vollmer, "that this resolution is in line with the historic reputation of this nation as the greatest advocate of peace. It is not in line with that reputation to supply the instruments of marder to European nations, We are now in the position of send-ing dollars for Helgium and dum dum

builets for Germany. Representative Voltmer emphatical-"Germany cannot s war. Her people this war. tatem in inited and determined to fight to the last drop of blood. If this war con-tinues it will go on and on until the world is dragged down to bankruptcy. Keep Eyes on Japan.

There is only one nation whose ines of national interest are hopelessly opposed to ours. I do not hesitate predict that Japan proposes to hold of only Kino Chew the sea which she has seized. She

been in Germany say," replied Representiative Voltmer, "that the Ger-man's book with grave displeasure on shipments of arms to the alliea." Representative Eartholdt told the committee that by "dollar neutrality," the United States was allenating the friendship of Germany and Austria. "That friendship has been up has been un broken since the beginning of this government," he said. "We ought he said. We ought The alliance of Great reserve it. Br. ain with the Yellow race is not good omen for our future in the

British gold. Mr. Bartholdt asserted shipments of munitions since the war began ag-gregated \$150,000,000. 'I am convinced" he said, "that by cutting off the exportation of these war supplies we can bring the war to a close very moon.

#### KNIFE BLADE SWALLOWED Mayor of Anderson Ate More Than

Oysters.

(P) the Associated Press

Anderson, S. C. Dec. 20.—Waking uesday night with sharp pains in

bis stomach after eating hearily of cysters from the shell, Mayor J. H. Godfrey consulted a physician, with the result that an X-ray photograpishawed a broken knife blade two and one half inches long and one half inches wide in the Mayor's intestines. The Paris, Dec. 20.—10:19 p. m.—A decree wiss Tidblished today abrogating the government's order of September 2d, transferring the bank of France from Paris to Bordeaux.

wide in the Mayor's intestines. The fourth to presidental class Jan 1st.

Representative Small said today to the Mayor's wille impossible to be in no danger.

(Continued from page three.)

Congressman Says Postmaster at Raleigh Is Not To Blame For Carelessness

ALLEGED PRACTICES THE FAULT OF CLERKS

Mr. Briggs Warned Them, Says Mr. Pou, and His Duty Ended There, As They Are Under Civil Service; Believes Mr. Briggs a Man of High Character and That He Should Be Given a Square Deal; If There Is Any Removing Done It Will Not Likely Be The Postmaster

W. E. YELVERTON.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 30.—Rep-esentative Fou told First Assistant costmaster General Roper today that the does not think Postmaster Willia Postmaster General Roper today that he does not think Postmaster Willis G. Briggs of Raleigh, should be removed and that the recommendation of Postoffice Inspector Gray for removal should not have been made on the allegations in the report. Mr. Pou read the report through today and declared he can find nothing in its warranting the removal of Mr. Briggs. warranting the removal of Mr. Briggs.

warranting the removal of Mr. Briggs,
Clerks May Be Removed.
The inspector's report prefers
charges against clerks in the office
and some of these will probably be removed by the department, but Mr.
Reper requested Mr. Pou to give no
information about the charges against
the clerks. As the report is refused
to newspaper men, it is not known
who the clerks are or what charges
are made against them. All the
charges against Mr. Briggs, however, are made against them. All the charges against Mr. Briggs, however, are made also against certain clerks who are responsible for the actual practices alleged. Mr. Fou thinks the postmaster is not responsible, except his clerks.

Mr. Briggs Commended.

"There is no suggestion of wrong doing by Mr. Briggs," says Mr. Pou-"The charge is that he has been guilty of gross negligence. Raleigh is a very important office. Midlons are paid out to rural carriers and to other persons during the term of a postmaster. He cannot do the work himself but must depend upon others. His subordinates are not appointed by the postmaster but are taken from the civil service cligible list. To remove from service eligible list. To remove from office a man of high character like Mr. Briggs because he did not or could not force the employes under him to do

their duty properly to my mind would be a very great wrong. "A careful reading of the report of the inspector led my to the conclusion that a remaider from the inspector of from the department would have been all the circumstances justified, so far as Mr. Briggs is concerned. When the negligence of the cierks was called to his attention he directed them to per-form their duty properly. He could do no more unless it were to warn them of the possible consequences of failure to do their duty. Favors Square Deal.

"Simple justice would not warrant the removal of Mr. Briggs. I con-ader the conclusions of the inspec-tor unnecessarily harsh. No feeling of sympathy should protect any man n the discharge of official duty, but very man is entitled to a square deal. Mr. Briggs has done nothing wrong. To remove him or any other man from office because he was unable to en-force punctilious performance of duty by the clerks in his office, during the losing months of his administration would, in my judgment, be very un-

"A good deal has been said about the source of these charges. I think it should be known that no one filed any formal charges. Mr. Bagley, busi-ness manager of the News and Observer, was asked to give certain in-formation. He complied, and that ap-pears to be the only connection he or ais paper had at any time with this

matter.

No Partisan Politics.

"No Democrat filed any charges against the postmaster and so far as against the postmaster and so far as I know or have heard no partisan politics have entered into the matter at all. What action, if any, the deartment will take, L. of course, do not know. I'do know this, however, Mr. Roper, the First Assistant Postmaster General is not only a very able flicial, but he is absolutely fair and

official, but he is absolutely tair and
just in his drainus with politicalfoes as well as friends."

No Removal Likely.

It is not believed likely that Mr.
Briegs will be removed or that his
resignation will be requested. In the first place \_ \_ hot ready to recommend his successor. In the next place, his time is so nearly out that fittle would be gained by put-ting in some one cise at this time. The natural delays in getting a new man appointed would be increased by the attitude of Mr. Pou. Then the question of whether or not the charges arrant removal is to be consider In view of the other features of the case, the last reason usually the most

important, is of secondary consequence so far as the department is concerned in this case.

Charges Against Sylva Man. Charges against John H. who bus been nominated for post-master at Sylva, were received by Senator Overman today. Several af-idayits allers that while Wilson was connected with a grocery in Sylva he failed to credit collections to individuals who paid him money on their ecounts with the firm. The charges have been referred to a sub-commit-tee of the Senate committee on post-offices and postroads.

Postnifices Advanced. The postoffices at Robersenville, artin county and Matthews, Macklenburg county, will be advanced from ourth to presidental class January

Representative Small said today that

(Continued from page three.)