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## MONROE DEALER VIOLATING LAW, MR. GRIFFIN INFORMED

County Food Administrator Receives Letter Containing Several Specific Charges Against Firms and Individuals—All Flour Bought in Excess of One Barrel Within Past Three Months to be Returned to Merchant, Who Will Reimburse Holder.

Food Administrator Lee Griffin has received from Raleigh a copy of a letter written by a party in this county, name not given, which declares that food regulations are being violated.

The letter specifically names one Monroe firm that is selling farmers all the flour and sugar they want; charging \$6 a sack for the former commodity when it only cost them \$5.25, and 12 1/2 cents a pound for sugar. Salt that cost this firm 80 cents is being sold at \$1.25, the writer charges. Similar charges are made against persons outside of Monroe.

A citizen on route 1 has 100 sacks of flour on hand, says the writer, and another man in the same community has 200 sacks on hand. Taking advantage of the shortage, he claims, those merchants in the county who are so fortunate to have a supply on hand are charging consumers \$6 and \$6.50 a sack, which is more profit on the grade they sell than the law allows.

If an investigation substantiates the charges made, Mr. Griffin will take action. In several of the cases cited by the writer, even if true, the County Food Administrator believes the violation of the food law was unintentional. The Monroe firm mentioned in the letter will be carefully watched with the view of a prosecution if violations of the Lever act are detected.

## DISTRIBUTING FLOUR

Hundreds of people have gone voluntarily to Mr. Griffin and reported more flour on hand than the law allows. They stated in every case that there was no intention to violate the act, but having been in the habit of purchasing large supplies of food at this time of the year, followed their old custom without giving any thought to the war. They were told to distribute their surplus supplies among their neighbors, or dispose of it to their merchant. This is being done in nearly all cases.

On learning that a certain well-known gentleman had a hundred sacks of flour stored away for future use, Mr. Griffin made a personal call to investigate. The man admitted having the big supply on hand, but stated that it was no more than he had been in the habit of buying at this season. After Mr. Griffin explained to him the purpose of the Lever act, and the imperative need of reduced food consumption in order to win the war, the man readily agreed to distribute it among his neighbors. He had already been doing this when he heard of needy cases, he said. The Food Administrator, confident that there was no intentional violation of the law, decided to drop the matter after the man promised to dispose of his surplus holdings.

Numbers of citizens, having varying amounts of flour ranging from ten to 100 barrels, have begun distributing it. A few carried it back to the merchant from whom they bought it, while others let friends and neighbors have as much as the Food Administrator would grant them.

The situation is well in hand, states Mr. Griffin. The next step contemplated is to secure a more general observance of whetless and meatless days. President Wilson placed the people on war rations yesterday, stating that all Americans should observe two whetless days a week—Monday and Wednesday—and one whetless meal a day, and two porkless days a week—Tuesday and Saturday.

## DRASTIC ACTION TAKEN

"Marse Henry" Page, State Food Administrator, has written Mr. Griffin urging him to demand of each retailer the names of persons who have bought more than one barrel of flour within the past three months. Following the receipt of this information, Mr. Griffin is to write each man having bought more than a barrel ordering him to return it to the merchant from whom he bought it,—the merchant being required to pay in return the same amount that it sold for.

The letter follows: "The food situation generally, and the local situation in many North Carolina counties with regard to hoarding demands immediate and vigorous action upon the part of the Food Administration. I am writing to request and urge:

(1) That you demand of each retailer in your county a complete list of customers who have purchased flour in excess of one barrel during the past three months.

(2) That you immediately notify the purchasers whose names are submitted to you or whose names you can secure that they must return all flour in their possession in excess of one barrel to the dealers from whom they purchased, these dealers being required to take it back at the price they received for it.

(3) That you take every means within your command to remedy this situation just as soon as possible.

(4) That you submit to us promptly for indictment and prosecution the names of any merchants who withhold information and any consumers who retain in their possession more than one barrel of flour after they are given an opportunity to return it to dealers.

"I cannot impress you too strongly

with the importance of prompt and firm action in this matter. Some of the largest sales of flour and sugar have been made by supply merchants and other dealers in the small towns. Do not overlook any of them."

## No Advance Towards Peace is the Washington View.

Washington, Jan. 25.—No advance toward peace is seen here in the speeches made today in Berlin and Vienna by the German chancellor and Austrian foreign minister upon the war aims of the central powers.

Formal comment will be withheld until the texts are put out by the authorized German agency, but after reading press accounts of the speeches, officials expressed the opinion that they were framed largely for internal consumption with the incidental purposes to plant seed of discord among the allies by suggestions of separate negotiations and to appeal to the sympathies of the radical socialist elements in the enemies' countries.

## AMERICA WILL HAVE HALF MILLION MEN IN FRANCE

And This Number Will be There in a Short While, According to Secretary Baker, Who Astounded the Country with the Magnitude of the War Department's Preparations in Answer to Senator Chamberlain and Other Critics.

Washington, Jan. 28.—America will have an army of half a million men in France early this year, with a million more trained and equipped ready to follow as quickly as ships can be provided to carry them, and the outlook for this is not unpromising.

Secretary Baker gave this information to the nation and to the world today in a statement before the senate military committee, baring much that until now has been carefully guarded with the army's military secrets, in answering charges that the government has broken down preparing for war.

From early morning until late afternoon the secretary addressed the committee and a crowd, including many members of both houses of Congress, gathered in a big hearing room of the senate office building. He spoke extemporaneously, beginning with the details of the mammoth task of building an army of a million and a half, answering such complaints of inefficiency as were cited by Senator Chamberlain in his recent speech and declaring that such instances were isolated and not general. Some questions were asked, and Mr. Baker, from time to time, had assistants go to the telephone for reports on specific questions.

Toward the close of the day, Secretary Baker delivered a dramatic general statement of the American war plan, telling of the coming of the allied missions, of the day and night conferences with men from the scene of battle in which the plans now being executed were adopted, and of success beyond the most sanguine expectations in building the army and its industrial support at home, transporting men across the ocean, constructing railroads in France and preparing to strike the enemy with every resource at the country's command.

When Mr. Baker closed, it was apparent he had created a profound impression. Chairman Chamberlain said so before he left the stand. There was no attempt at cross-examination. The chairman proposed that the secretary be given a rest, and it virtually was agreed to recall him for further examination later after the committee has completed its hearing of officers of the medical corps, aviation section and other branches of the service.

While many things disclosed impressed, the committee was frankly amazed when told that the men of 32 national guard and national army divisional camps are ready to go today at need. When members wanted to know why such things had not been given publicity before, Mr. Baker spoke of the reluctance of military men to reveal their war plans and quoted German remarks about America's advertisement of her preparations.

## Many Fires of Suspicious Origin Saturday.

New York, Jan. 26.—Indications of a widespread plot to cripple the war activities of the United States were seen today in a series of fires in shipyards, on munition ships, in war plants and storage buildings at various points along the Atlantic seaboard and further inland. Nearly all of them were of distinctly suspicious origin.

Fears that the flames may have been set by enemy aliens were given strength by the fact that they started within a few hours at widely separated points almost a week to a day after Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the United States shipping board, gave warning that the government had been given authoritative warning of a German plot to apply the torch to plants of all kinds, especially shipyards, which are producing implements of war.

Disastrous fires started only a few hours apart in shipyards at Newark, N. J., and Baltimore. The losses will aggregate \$2,000,000.

There has never been a similar body of men to lead as clean lives as the American soldiers in France, says Gen. Pershing in a cablegram to Secretary Baker, in reply to inquiries as to the truth of reports of immoderate drinking among the men.

## GERMANY PREPARING TO START SUBMARINE ATTACKS ON U. S.

Baker, in Weekly War Review, Gives Warning That Our Line of Communications Will Be Endangered.

Washington, Jan. 27.—Warning that the Germans are preparing for a great submarine offensive against the American lines of communication with France in connection with the impending Teutonic drive against the west front is given by Secretary Baker in his weekly review made public tonight by the war department.

Recently there has been a marked decrease in the number of allied merchant ships sunk by submarines. The explanation for this is found in the withdrawal of submarines in preparation for the coming thrust on land and sea. The review says:

"As the time draws near when once again the enemy will endeavor to strike a decisive blow in the west, it must be emphasized that he will not be content with mere military operations on a large scale.

"During the past fortnight enemy submarines have been recalled to home ports to be refitted and the most powerful submarine offensive hitherto undertaken may be expected to be launched against our lines of communication with France, to intercept the steady flow of men and munitions for our own armies and food supplies for the allies.

"During the period under review, renewed activity along the entire western front is noted.

## FIGHTING IN NORTH SEA REGION

"The region bordering the North sea has once again become the scene of severe fighting.

"A carefully co-ordinated operation undertaken by British monitors, acting in concert with land batteries in the area north of Ypres, subjected the German defense of Ostend and surrounding country to a severe bombardment.

"No infantry action was attempted in this sector by the British, but later in the week the Germans reacted sharply and directed a strong assault against the short sector of the line in the Dune area, which fringes the coast in the vicinity of Nieuport. This attack, which must be considered something more than a simple raid, broke into the French lines, and for a brief period, the enemy detachments were able to hold their ground in the advanced French outposts. The French speedily brought up fresh forces, drove out the enemy and were able to re-establish themselves in their former positions without difficulty.

## IN ITALIAN THEATRE

"In the Italian theatre the importance of the successful French assault in the region of the Monte Tomba three weeks ago is proven by the retreat of the enemy in this area.

"The enemy has abandoned an extensive tract of territory north of the Monte Tomba extending to the Piave. The Austrian lines now rest on the Monte Spionlica.

"It would appear that the enemy has for the time being abandoned his attempt to break through this channel, to the plain.

"The Austrians, while still strong in this sector, nevertheless no longer directly threaten the key position of the Italian line. Increasing liveliness of enemy artillery in the Val Lagarina is recorded. It is apparent that the Austrians are carrying out their plan of shifting their center of attack further to the west.

"The Val Lagarina offers peculiar attraction for an invasion of Italy. It is a classic path of invaders coming from the North. We may expect that should the opportunity seem favorable the enemy may attempt an operation in this area.

## RESTIVENESS OF AUSTRIA

"Reports reach us of the increasing restiveness of the Slav population in Austria, more particularly the Czechs.

"A general strike in Vienna and other upheavals throughout the monarchy are assuming serious proportions and they are no longer to be held of mere internal interest, but will inevitably react upon the general political situation.

"In Russia peace negotiations have continued with frequent interruptions.

"In Palestine the British are extending their line to the North and during the week advanced further in the neighborhood of Durah on a frontage of approximately 4 miles.

"The victory of the British over the Turkish naval forces off the Dardanelles must be mentioned as an event of special military significance.

"Observers coming from Constantinople very recently informed us that as long as Constantinople remained under the guns of the former German cruisers Goeben and Breslau, the Turks would necessarily continue under the domination of the Germans."

## World on Verge of Starvation in Two Years if War Goes On.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 26.—That the whole world will be reduced to the verge of starvation if the European war continues for two more years, is the opinion of European food experts, declared Dr. Maurice Francis Egan, United States minister to Denmark, and dean of the American diplomatic corps.

Dr. Egan, who has just returned from his post in Copenhagen, and came to Norfolk to attend the wedding of his niece, Miss Anna McCarrick, declares the people of Denmark are now living in practical slavery and that the same is true of the other small neutral European nations.

Dr. Egan declared the little nations are in dire straits and helpless.

## GRAND JURY RETURNED A TRUE BILL AGAINST NICK

The Greek Will be Tried on the Capital Offense Charge—Judge Harding Warns Against the Sale of Extracts—Two Negroes Charged with Same Offense Separately, and One Came Clear, While the Other Was Convicted.

The grand jury returned a true bill this morning against John Nick, the Greek hotel proprietor, on the charge of criminal assault. On the recommendation of Solicitor Brock, with the assent of the defense, Judge Harding ordered Sheriff Griffith to summon a special venire of fifty men. The court hopes to take up the case by 2:30 tomorrow afternoon.

Nick was arraigned on the charge at noon today. He pleaded not guilty to the charge after Clerk of Court Lemmond had read the indictment. His interests will be looked after by Messrs. Stack & Parker, who defended him at the preliminary hearing.

The two main witnesses for the State, Eunice Deese, who was the injured party, and her companion, Bertha Adams, returned to Monroe from Charlotte Sunday. Up until a few days before the convening of court, doubt was expressed in some quarters as to their returning to push the charge. A few hours before the preliminary hearing several weeks ago, it will be remembered, they attempted to make a get-away, but were stopped at Matthews by Officer Clifford Fowler. They claimed they had been paid thirty dollars to leave town by a certain party, who told them they would come in for a lot of unpleasant notoriety.

The Greek has been in jail since the time of his alleged crime, which occurred early Sunday morning in the Seaboard hotel, which he owns. His confinement, judging by the manner in which he faced the court today, has effected him very little.

## LEMON EXTRACTS SOLD

In his charge to the grand jury yesterday morning, Judge W. F. Harding stated that he had been informed that lemon extracts and similar concoctions had been sold in this county as beverages. He ordered them to make an investigation, and render indictments if sufficient evidence could be secured. The merchant who sells extract as a beverage is guilty of an offense, and a heavy fine is prescribed for convictions. Many merchants refuse to sell lemon extract owing to the difficulty they have in ascertaining for what use it is bought.

Judge Harding spoke for nearly an hour. In addition to his reference to reported violations of prohibition statutes, he urged a general enforcement of all laws. The usual recommendation as to the court house, county jail, county officials, and county home. Mr. T. C. Eubanks is foreman of the grand jury, and the following are members: Messrs. A. V. Baucom, L. C. Gardner, L. M. Riner, J. L. Winchester, J. V. Trull, F. B. Alexander, H. T. Moser, E. S. Nance, J. W. Hinson, J. R. Webb, C. W. Helms, S. J. Shannon, H. W. Pigg, G. F. Horn, H. W. Laney, and F. A. Austin.

## FICKLE JUSTICE

Justice is sometimes fickle. Will Hodge and Charles Jones, two negroes charged with breaking into a box car on the yards and stealing some meat several months ago, were tried separately at the request of Solicitor Brock. The same evidence was introduced against both at them. The pair denied breaking the seal on the meat, but admitted taking the meat, which they claimed was lying on the ground beside the car. While the jury was debating one case, another jury was called to the box to hear the evidence in the case against the other. With little variance, the same evidence was introduced against Jones as was related in Hodge's trial.

Before the jury finished its deliberation, the other had reached a decision. They returned in the court room about the same time, facing each other to give their decision. The jury that heard the evidence against Hodge declared him not guilty, while the other jury declared Jones guilty!

Judge Harding has not passed sentence on Jones, desiring time to make a thorough investigation. Officers state that one is as guilty as the other, and that the evidence which convicted one cleared the other.

Jones and Hodge are the darkeys caught in the act of retailing meat at Shute's gin for 15 cents a pound, while it was selling at double that price at grocery stores. The car robbery was quickly fastened on them, and at the preliminary hearing they were given road sentences on the minor charges.

## OTHER CASES

The court is engaged as The Journal goes to press with the case against Ely Collins, colored, charged with committing the unspeakable crime against nature. Messrs. Maness, Armfield and Vann are representing the defendant, while Mayor Sikes is assisting Solicitor Brock in the prosecution.

A nol pros was entered in the case of Maurice Rorie, charged with harboring a hired hand, while Harvey Baucom, who faced the court on a trespass charge, pleaded guilty and was fined the costs. He was also taxed with the costs in an assault and battery case.

Mose Massey, the darkey sent up from the Recorder's court for practicing medicine without license, came clear in Superior court. This darkey is the one with a professional air who passed off an ugly looking concoction

as a cure for all evils. The State, however, was unable to prove that he gave consultations, and recommended his medicine for certain ailments, or actually received money for his services. At the preliminary hearing several months ago he was also charged with abandonment.

Two cases against Joe Prince Houston for breaking and entering, and two for larceny and receiving yielded him a total sentence on the roads of eighteen months. The State took a nol pros against R. L. McWhirter on a perjury charge.

Josh Tomberlin came clear on the charge of failure to work the roads, but "Lygy" Redfern, who came next on the docket, received four months for two charges on breaking and entering. This is the little darkey who made a couple of night trips to Mr. Jim Meachem's store at the intersection of Wadesboro and Windsor avenues. Little was taken on either visit. "Lygy," from his action, must have entered the store only to satiate his craving appetite. A little cheese, a few crackers, candy, ale, and some pennies was all that was missed after each trip.

Frank Williams, colored, paid \$50 to his prosecutrix on the charge of abduction and carnal knowledge. Judgment against Lester Kiker, facing the court for forgery, was suspended on the payment of costs.

## WINGATE FOLKS WILL HEAR GOOD-BYE JOHN BARLEYCORN

The Postmaster Reports That Nearly \$900 Worth of War Saving Stamps Have Been Sold.

Correspondence of The Journal.

Wingate, Jan. 29.—A beautiful wedding was solemnized at Mr. Marshall Strawn's last Wednesday evening. The contracting parties were Press Hargett and Miss Mary Strawn. The groom is a son of Hargett of New Salem township and the bride a daughter of Mr. Strawn. The wedding was a quiet home affair, only a few intimate friends being present. The writer performed the ceremony. The fine young couple has our best wishes.

The recital last Saturday evening was quite a success, so say they who saw and heard it. We were sure that it was going to be fine. Miss Liles tries to do her part in everything she undertakes. Some of the medals were awarded. The one for the most improvement in the Gladstone society was given to Mr. Brady Capel of Rockingham, the one from the Philanthropic society was given to Mr. Piny O. Pusser of Unionville, the second best given by Alcus Hudson was given to Mr. Tom Baker of the Philadelphia section.

Mrs. J. D. Biggers was called to Charlotte yesterday to see her brother, Dr. James Austin, who is seriously sick. He has been sick for some time, but has not been so serious until recently.

There will be a prohibition rally at the school auditorium Wednesday evening at seven o'clock. Honorable Laughaum of Oklahoma will speak. He is a man of national fame. Let every one come and hear him on "John Barleycorn Good Bye." National prohibition is one of the most important things before us now, so let us get all the information we can, so that we may vote intelligently on this subject.

Mr. D. F. Jones has resigned his position as mail carrier on route seven from Marshville, and has accepted a position with an insurance company.

Mrs. Dr. Lovill is spending the week here. She went to see the doctor at Oglethorpe last week and stopped off here on her return. Dr. and Mrs. Lovill have many friends here, so we are always glad to see them.

Mr. J. B. Bass' baby has pneumonia, but we are glad to note that it is improving some.

Mrs. Baxter Williams has been sick for the past week. She is suffering with rheumatism.

If you hear anything about two preachers having to walk into Wingate Sunday night, leaving a good Ford standing right in the middle of the road, don't say anything about it for there is more truth in it than poetry. But they got home in good time, and their wives were so sleepy that they did not ask any questions until next morning. They had cooled off considerably by that time and could tell all about the occurrence without getting out of whack.

Miss Bright Bass has the measles, and the bad thing about it is that she is not at home. She went to Badin to visit her sister and took it while there.

Mr. Sylvester Strawn's family have the measles, and we understand that Maple Springs has the galore. May be it will play out for some time after this seige.

Wingate is doing her bit on the W. S. S. The postmaster told us yesterday that he had sold about nine hundred dollars worth here, and possibly more by this time. The biggest purchasers are Messrs. Jasper Helms, \$300; J. C. McIntyre, \$150; Mrs. Jonah Hartsell, \$100; L. J. Watson, \$100. Many took smaller amounts.

Mrs. Jonah Hartsell has been unwell for the past week. Mr. Hartsell has been sick since Christmas. He is past 80 years old.

Mrs. J. H. Thomas had the misfortune to fall the other day. She thought at first that she had broken her shoulder bone, but it proved to be a bruise.

William Gathings has been real sick for the past few days. It was thought he had pneumonia at first, but it now seems that it is a bad cold.—Glenalpine.

Save the quarters and see the dollars grow. Buy War-Savings Stamps.

## GERMAN SOCIALIST LEADERS WANT PEACE BEFORE SPRING

Peace Note Sounded by Scheidemann Following New Declaration of His Country's War-Like Policies.

The voices of peace advocates have again been raised insistently in the central empires, following quickly upon what is largely regarded as a new declaration of Germany's war-like purposes in her chancellor's speech.

Simultaneously a report is current that the Bolshevik government in Russia has decided to continue the Brest-Litovsk peace negotiations, and another, quite unverified, that Austria is prepared to make a peace with Russia independently from Germany.

The peace note in Germany was sounded by Philipp Scheidemann, the socialist leader, who in his remarks following Chancellor Von Hertling's speech, pleaded for peace before spring came with its renewed bloodshed.

Regarding Russia, however, Scheidemann's speech was more than a plea, it was a warning that the military leaders of the imperial government would be "hurled from power" if they did not bring about peace with her.

Scheidemann insisted that there was ground for a general peace on the basis of the program laid down by President Wilson, on 11 points of which agreement was easily possible. He was uncompromising as Chancellor Von Hertling, however, as regards Alsace-Lorraine, declaring this territory must remain German.

Scheidemann's words comprise perhaps the most radical utterance that has yet come from his wing of the party in the reichstag, the majority of moderate socialists.

In the foreign press comment on the speech of Chancellor Von Hertling, however, it has been pointed out that there is as yet no sign of acknowledgment on the part of the German government of any responsibility to parliament that to all appearances the military party is still in full control and determined to maintain its grip upon the situation.

The Bolsheviks are taking even more energetic action against General Kaledin and now report an organization of Cossacks from the front into a congress which has declared war on the Cossack chieftain, driven him and his staff from their headquarters, and announces its purpose of hunting him down.

In the military situation there have been no developments of note. Artillery duels at isolated points, occasional raids and plentiful airplane reconnoitering are reported. The French aerial activity has been somewhat marked, the official statements mentioning extremely successful photographic work carried out to a distance of nearly 20 miles behind the German lines.

## GERMAN WON'T LET FRANCE RECOVER ALSACE-LORRAINE

Count von Hertling, Foreign Minister, Antagonistic to Most of Wilson's Peace Terms—Austrian View More Moderate.

Germany, through her imperial chancellor, Count von Hertling, and Austria-Hungary, through its foreign minister, Count Czernin, have made replies to the peace terms of the allies and the United States as recently enunciated by David Lloyd George and President Wilson.

Although both affect to see the possibility of coming into agreement with their enemies on minor points, the concrete bases essential to peace are declared to be unacceptable.

Th German spokesman was uncompromisingly hostile to a majority of the peace aims as put forward by President Wilson, treating seriatim in his address those upon which Germany could not come into accord. Count Czernin was more moderate in his treatment of President Wilson's ideas, declaring the President's viewpoint, expressed in his latest address to congress, showed that there was less incompatibility between Austria-Hungary and the United States than had seemed the case.

From the German standpoint, according to von Hertling, the restoration to France of Alsace-Lorraine is beyond the realm of discussion. Regarding Belgium, he declared that its restoration could be settled only in peace negotiations, but that Germany would never have demanded the incorporation of Belgian territory "by violence." Likewise, methods of procedure in the evacuation of northern France must take account of Germany's vital interests and be agreed upon between Germany and France.

The chancellor said the fate of Poland and the Balkans and the readjustment of the Italian frontier lies with Austria, while the evacuation of Russian territory concerns only Russia and the central powers. Germany, he added, considered that the integrity of Turkey and the safety of its capital were closely connected with the question of the Dardanelles, which was of vital interest to Germany.

With regard to Russia, Count Czernin said Austria-Hungary desired no annexations or indemnities—"not a matter of territory, not a kretzer of indemnity"—and that Russia could have peace if she maintained the same standpoint, as she evidently intended to do.

Both Count von Hertling and Count Czernin thought it obvious that the exchange of peace views with the United States might form the starting point for a conciliatory discussion among all the states which had not yet entered the peace negotiations.