

GOVERNMENT FINDS VICIOUS HOLD'G UP OF FOOD PRODUCTS

'Illegal Collusion' of 'Certain Interests' to Rob Public

'DAMAGING EVIDENCE' HAD

Freight Car Shortage Comes In—Widespread Unlawful Speculation—Details Kept Secret by the Investigators

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 8.—The Government already has "damaging evidence" of widespread illegal speculation in the food markets of the country, a high official, intimately connected with the food price probe, today said to the United Press. Details were refused, except when this official explained that the investigation tends to show "gross abuse of transportation facilities."

He declared that the inquiry tends to show "certain interests able to control to some extent the movements of large numbers of freight cars which have been acting in vicious illegal collusion to withhold food supplies from the large markets, notably Chicago."

COMMUNITY TREE AT CHRISTMAS SURE

Kinston will have a community Christmas tree again this year. That is definite, although there has been very little publicity of it. The Mothers' Club Thursday afternoon discussed plans for the event. It is proposed to have a larger tree than last year, and have it elevated on a platform. The full plans will be announced shortly.

METHODISTS OF STATE IN FAVOR UNIFICATION

(Special to The Free Press)
Durham, N. C., Dec. 8.—The North Carolina Methodists yesterday voted a resolution authorizing the presentation of a plan for a \$100,000-endowment fund for next year, took action to increase the income of the Raleigh Christian Advocate, and adopted a resolution favoring unification of the Northern and Southern churches. Dr. L. S. Massey was re-elected editor of the Advocate. Dr. John R. Stuart urged better support of "word-out preachers." Rev. J. L. Cunningham of Elizabeth City in an address last night estimated that 79 per cent. of church members are inactive.

COTTON

About 75 bales of cotton were sold here Friday, at prices ranging as high as 19.40. New York futures quotations were:

	Open.	Close.
Jan.	19.05	19.06
Mar.	19.84	19.25
May	19.95	19.47
July	20.01	19.52
Oct.		17.70
Dec.		18.95

GERMANS CONFINE CARDINAL MERCIER

Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 7.—Cardinal Mercier, Primate of Belgium, is confined to his palace by the German authorities, according to the frontier correspondent of the Telegraph, who says he hears this on good authority. The reason given is the action taken by the Cardinal against the deportation of Belgians.

TAFT MAKES SPEECH TO STATE WRITERS AT THE UNIVERSITY

Tells of What United States Must Go Up Against When War is Ended—Many Scribblers Attending Institute

(By H. Galt Braxton)
Chapel Hill, N. C., Dec. 8.—Hon. William Howard Taft, former President of the United States, delivered a most interesting address last night to the newspapermen attending the first institute for journalists in North Carolina, at the University here. He spoke on "Our World Position," outlining what in his opinion will be the problems confronting the world powers at the conclusion of the war in Europe.

Mr. Taft dwelt upon the development of the American Nation, its possibilities and the dangers confronting it, and agreed with the President that the position of a neutral in a world war is a very unsatisfactory position to be in.

This morning President Edward K. Graham of the University formally welcomed the scribes to the institution.

Mrs. Al. Fairbrother of Fairbrother's Everything discussed the newspaper and the woman reader. She would eliminate edjectives from the social column, which won the approval of the newspapermen.

Editor Horne of Rocky Mount spoke on the problems of the "near-city" paper.

Prof. E. C. Branson of the University was another speaker, having for his topic "The Newspapers and North Carolina," laying stress upon State patriotism, etc.

Between 50 and 100 editorial writers, news and city editors and other newspapermen are here for the institute, which will close Saturday. Sessions are being held in the Dialectic Literary Society hall.

The Press Institute News is a daily being published in connection with the school. It is filled with telegraphic news and "local" matter contributed by the "student" scribes.

HE LOOKS AT THINGS FROM ANOTHER ANGLE SINCE HE CAME HERE

Several years ago there drove into Kinston a Jones county planter with a wagonload of hams. He began disposing of them in the rear of the courthouse, asking 25 cents a pound. One prospective purchaser whistled in surprise and appeared to be shocked. "I wish," said the indignant farmer, "that they were 50 cents a pound and you could eat five dollars worth at a meal." That planter has since moved to Kinston.

This week, according to one of the former ruralist's best friends, he complained bitterly of the price of meat. The incident at the courthouse was called to his attention. "Yes, but I was a producer then; now I'm a blasted consumer," explained the ex-farmer.

AMERICAN HANGED BY BANDITS IN MEXICO

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 7.—Guillermo Snyman, son of the late Gen. W. D. Snyman, of Boer war fame, was shot and killed by Villa bandits at his ranch near San Pablo de Mecqui, according to a message received by his friends on the border today. Snyman was the owner of a big alfalfa ranch near Mecqui. Howard Gray, an American mining man, was hanged at Parral by Villa bandits when they entered that town November 5, according to a private telegram received here, and later substantiated by two foreigners from that place.

LLOYD-GEORGE HAS FULL SUPPORT ALL HANDS IN HIS WORK

Parliament Will Be Overwhelmingly Behind the New Regime

PUBLIC APPLAUDS CHANGE

All Doubt Dispelled—England Takes Readily to New Premier and His Plans for Conduct of the War

(By the United Press)
London, Dec. 8.—All doubt that Lloyd-George will have the complete support of his new government in Parliament was swept away today when liberal party members formally resolved to support the new regime in the prosecution of the war. The action means that Lloyd-George will be not only backed by the Unionists and the Laborites 324 votes out of 670 in the House of Commons, but also by the liberal block of votes, 269 more.

Public With Premier.
London, Dec. 8.—Lloyd-George today stood assured of success in his formation of the new government. The very promptness with which he surmounted all obstacles in the way, such as "reconstruction," served to solidify the nation behind him.

LOOKS NATURAL AND ATTRACTS ATTENTION THOUGH HE CROAKED

The University of North Carolina's medical department has a fine "subject" coming to it in the "stiff" of a colored man who was murdered near Kinston about 10 days ago. It's living relatives, if it has any, have failed to claim it. Reposing in the Wood and stabling establishment on North Queen street, having been embalmed, the late lamented has become very popular since his demise. If one ducky has viewed the remains "two thousand have." The obliging management tolerates the visitors. The man had few friends here; he was a comparative stranger, but two dusky demsels gave as their excuse for calling the fact that he was such a "nice young gen'leman" in life. One elderly fellow called at night, but hesitated when he was invited to enter, unaccompanied, the darkened morgue of the place. His curiosity was uppermost, however, and he pended with the proprietor, "Boss, can't you 'commodate an old nigger?"

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)
MAN-OF-WAR GIVEN UP.
Paris, Dec. 8.—The French battleship Suffren is officially classified as lost.

SIX THOUSAND WILL QUIT BORDER; NONE FROM NOR. CAROLINA

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 8.—Six thousand national guardsmen will be sent home from the border immediately to be mustered out, it is announced. This is the largest movement of its kind yet. No troops have been designated to take their place. No troops from North Carolina are involved.

PERSHING WILL NOT GET VILLA, UNLESS VILLA GETS IN WAY

Of Course, There is Nothing to Hinder General Picking Him Up Should Nice Little Opportunity Present

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 8.—While the orders to "get Villa" still stand, the War Department today let it be known that it does not expect General Pershing to take any fresh steps toward hunting the Will-o-the-wisp unless there is practical certainty of a victory.

The reported killing of Americans recently does not affect the expedition unless there is a general alteration of policy, which will come only if the Northern Mexican situation becomes intolerable.

HOUSTON SEES NO GREAT DANGER IN FOOD SITUATION

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 8.—The food supply of the Nation is discussed by David F. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, in his annual report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916. The Secretary states it is notable that, with the exception of meat and dairy products, the per capita production of the leading food commodities, notwithstanding the increase in population, has remained approximately the same or has increased. It is gratifying to note, he adds, that the alarming decline in beef production reached its lowest point in 1913, and that since that time there has been a material increase, while there has been a marked advance in the number of swine since the census year 1899.

The number of sheep has continued to decline, but only to a slight extent. The number of animals slaughtered and the quantity of meat products under Government inspection during the past fiscal year are the largest in the history of the service. This heavier slaughtering has been accompanied by an increase in the remaining stock of animals. He points out that with all the agencies now available for improving agriculture there is ground for optimism as to the ability of the Nation not only to supply itself with food, but increasingly to meet the needs of the world.

LLOYD-GEORGE TELLS KING HE'S WILLING

London, Dec. 7.—David Lloyd-George, at Buckingham Palace to-night, formally kissed the King's hands on his acceptance of the office of Prime Minister and First Lord of an unexpectedly short time the new Premier sees his way to the formation of an administration, and he probably was able to submit to the King a tentative list of the principal proposed Ministers.

MAYORS TO MEET IN JANUARY; WILL ASK SPECIAL LEGISLATION

(By W. J. Martin)
The Executive Committee of the Carolina Municipal League in session here today called the annual meeting of the association for January 10 to 11 and provided for a special committee of five to be appointed later to prepare a tentative bill for general machinery for municipal government under the Constitutional Amendments. The bill will provide the machinery for commission, the managerial and aldermanic forms with power for various municipalities to adopt either desired through popular vote. Twenty-five mayors and other officials attended the conference.

AMERICA WILL TAKE FURTHER ACTION IN U-BOAT CONTROV'SY

State Department Intends to Have Show Down and That Soon

NEGOTIATIONS BE BRIEF

Lansing Will Waste No Words in Marina and Arabia Cases—Analysis of Berlin's Pledges to the U. S.

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 8.—The Administration's present intention in respect to the German American submarine situation is to get a complete show-down on just how far reaching Germany's pledges to America are. This was revealed by the State Department in indicating that this Government intends to engage in further, though probably brief diplomatic negotiations.

Britain has notified Secretary Lansing that the Marina was not under the British requisition or charter. Mr. Lansing therefore, believes the submarine question to be seriously complicated since American rights are involved in both the Marina and Arabia cases.

NEXT VA. CAROLINA GAME CHAPEL HILL

Richmond, Dec. 7.—President Graham of the University of North Carolina today announced that the annual Virginia-North Carolina Thanksgiving football game will not be played again at Richmond, where it has been staged for many years. The 1917 game will be at Chapel Hill, N. C., and the 1918 contest at Charlottesville, Va.

WOMAN'S PEACE PARTY PLANS HELP END WAR

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 8.—Formulation of a list of proposals to Congress looking toward termination of the world war will constitute the principal business of the Woman's National Peace Party, which convened here today for a three-day session.

Among the proposals to be considered, as already announced, are:

One—Creation of a joint commission of experts representing Japan, China and the United States, to study issues between the countries.

Two—Recommendation of action toward immediate convening of the Third Hague Conference.

Third—The principle that foreign the investor.

Fourth—Passage of the law advocated by the American Bar Association, providing Federal control of Aliens.

Miss Jane Adams will preside and address the Congress on phases of "Internationalism."

NEW YORK WANTS THE COMMERCIAL MEETING

Norfolk, Dec. 7.—Upon the arrival here today of the advance guard of the New York delegates to the eighth annual convention of the Southern Commercial Congress which meets here December 11, headed by W. S. McKean, of the Merchants' Association, it was announced that determined effort is to be made to capture the 1917 convention for New York City. Members of the delegation already here have letters from Mayor Mitchell and Governor Whitman inviting the Congress there. As several Southern cities also have announced their candidacy there promises to be a spirited contest when the matter is taken up officially.

MIGHT ATTEMPT TO BRING COLLEGE TO CITY FROM WILSON

Christians to Enlarge Leading Educational Institution—Influential Community of Them Here Entertain Hope Getting It

WAS MASTERLY RETREAT

Reinforcements for Teutons in Balkans—Massive Offensive Anticipated—Forces Diverted From Roumania

(By the United Press)
London, Dec. 8.—Fresh details of the German occupancy of Bucharest today added to the belief that the Roumanian retreat was masterfully executed with minimum losses. The Roumanian army is still intact. With its reorganization and reequipment it may again become a formidable force.

New Offensive by Germans in Balkans.
London, Dec. 8.—The German advance along the whole Monastir front have been strongly reinforced by troops presumably diverted from the Roumanian theatre of war. It is believed the Germans are planning a powerful offensive against the Franco-Serbian-Italian-British forces in Macedonia.

German Advance Continues.
Berlin, Dec. 8.—The German advance on the line beyond Bucharest and Palest is proceeding so rapidly that the Roumanian forces on the frontier mountains in Predalca and Altschanz passes have had their retreat cut off.

It became known following the conference that more or less important additions are to be made to the college. The exact nature of these was not disclosed.

It also became rumored that Kinston has an eye upon the institution and a covetous eye, at that. Kinston might be willing to give a considerable tract of land and a nifty bonus to fetch the college, yet in its infancy, to this city. Atlantic Christian College has not much land to spare now; it may eventually need more space. The plant is worth, roughly estimated, \$100,000. This city, it is whispered on the best of authority, may possibly try to kidnap the baby before it grows more lusty.

LOT TO DO FOR THE NAVY YET, DANIELS TELLS THE CONGRESS

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 8.—After recounting in detail the phenomenal progress of the Navy Department during the past year, Secretary Daniels, in his annual report to Congress, concludes with a solemn caution that it be remembered that the tremendous increase in ships and personnel authorized by Congress is still to be carried out. And he appeals that there be no relaxation of effort until it has become an actuality.

"I feel it my duty," writes the Secretary, "to warn as solemnly as I may against the danger that lies in a possible feeling on the part of our people that the Navy has now been attended to, has been placed where it belongs among the great navies of the world, and that there is nothing further to be done."

Secretary Daniels advocates an international agreement to end competitive and costly naval construction and insists that "until the great navy-building countries make a practical agreement to a reduction of armament our country must steadily increase its naval strength."

MARINE CORPS WANTS BIG ASSEMBLY POST

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 8.—The establishment of a Marine Corps Post on Chesapeake Bay as a training station for expeditionary forces is called a paramount need of the marine corps in its annual report.

INCREASE IN WHITE STAPLE GINNED IS SHOWN BY STATEMENT

(By the United Press)
Washington, Dec. 8.—Cotton ginned from the 1916 crop prior to December 1 amounted to 10,359,346 bales, against 9,703,612 by the same date last year, the census bureau today reported. Round bales included amounted to 177,662 against 93,362 in 1915. Sea Island cotton included amounted to 101,820 against 77,165 last year. North Carolina had ginned 567,136 bales against 612,703; South Carolina, 832,141 against 1,021,843; Virginia, 23,161 against 13,126.

KILLED MOVING HOUSE

Jonesboro, Dec. 7.—M. L. Hall, who lived six miles southwest of Jonesboro, was instantly killed while tearing down an old house, by some means being caught under some falling timbers.

BEING BUILT OVER ROUMANIANS' ARMY WILL BE ALL RIGHT

Saved Its Hide in Getting Away From Germans at Bucharest

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