

THE GASTONIA GAZETTE

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GASTONIA, N. C. WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 30, 1918.

\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

TOPROSECUTE HOARDERS

FOOD ADMINISTRATION IS ACTIVE

State Food Administrator Page writes County Administrator Armstrong that violators of the law will be prosecuted vigorously unless they heed timely warning here given to return surplus of foodstuffs to firms from which they purchased.

County Food Administrator C. B. Armstrong received the following letter under date of the 24th from Mr. J. P. Lucas, executive secretary of the North Carolina division of the United States Food Administration, which explains itself. The attention of State Food Administrator Page was called to hoarding of foodstuffs in Gastonia by the exposure of these violators of the law as made by The Gazette last week.

Following is the letter:
Purchases of larger quantities of foodstuffs than are required for a reasonable period is a violation of the food control law which was enacted August 10th, 1917, and which provides a penalty of \$5,000 fine or two years imprisonment or both, in addition to the confiscation of the hoarded products; so, regardless of our recent ruling that anything above one barrel would be regarded as hoarding, these men have violated the law.

In counties where hoarding has been practiced we are requesting county food administrators to require merchants to furnish them a list of consumers who have purchased flour or sugar in excess of a barrel of flour or 25 pounds of sugar; and to require the purchasers of these excessive quantities to return all above their reasonable requirements to the merchants—the merchants being required of course to refund cost. We gather from your letter that you already have the names of a number of families who have purchased in large quantities.

We want to urge you to take hold of this matter with a firm hand and let it be known without equivocation that the food administration means business. Such a practice, if allowed to continue, would be absolutely disastrous to the program of the food administration and would result in the actual starvation of thousands of women and children and old men in Europe, because the food administration is not releasing foodstuffs for export faster than they are available for export above the requirements of our own people.

We would suggest further that you secure as much publicity as possible in this matter to the end that farmers who have made large purchases innocently may have an opportunity to return their purchases. Later, after ample opportunity has been given, the food administration proposes to indict and prosecute every hoarder we can find through secret service or other agencies.

We are enclosing you a copy of the Food Control Act and beg to call your attention particularly to Secs. 4 and 6.

Very truly yours, U. S. Food Administration,

JOHN PAUL LUCAS,
Executive Secretary.

Following are the sections referred to in the above letter:

Sec. 4. That it is hereby made unlawful for any person willfully to destroy any necessaries for the purpose of enhancing the price or restricting the supply thereof; knowingly to commit waste or willfully to permit preventable deterioration of any necessaries in or in connection with their production, manufacture, or distribution; to hoard, as defined in section six of this Act, any necessaries; to monopolize or attempt to monopolize, either locally or generally, any necessaries; to engage in any discriminatory and unfair, or any deceptive or wasteful practice or device, or to make any unjust or unreasonable rate or charge, in handling or dealing in or with any necessaries; to conspire, combine, agree, or arrange with any other person, (a) to limit the facilities for transporting, producing, harvesting, manufacturing, supplying, storing or dealing in any necessaries; (b) to restrict the supply of any necessaries; (c) to restrict distribution of any necessaries; (d) to prevent, limit, or lessen the manufacture or production of any necessaries in order to enhance the price thereof, or (e) to exact excessive prices for any necessaries; or to aid or abet the doing of any act made unlawful by this section.

Sec. 6. That any person who willfully hoards any necessaries shall upon conviction thereof be fined not exceeding \$5,000 or be imprisoned for not more than two years, or both. Necessaries shall be deemed to be hoarded within the meaning of this Act, when either (a) held, contracted for, or arranged for by any person in a quantity in excess of his reasonable requirements for use or consumption by himself and dependents for a reasonable time; (b) held, contracted for, or arranged for by any manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, or other dealer in a quantity in excess of the reasonable requirements of his business for use or sale by him for a reasonable time, or reasonably required to furnish neces-

saries produced in surplus quantities seasonally throughout the period of scant or no production; or (c) withheld, whether by possession or under any contract or arrangement, from the market by any person for the purpose of unreasonably increasing or diminishing the price: PROVIDED, That this section shall not include or relate to transactions on any exchange, board of trade, or similar institution or place of business as described in section thirteen of this Act that may be permitted by the President under the authority conferred upon him by said section thirteen: PROVIDED, however, That any accumulating or withholding by any farmer or gardener, co-operative association of farmers or gardeners, including live-stock farmers, or any other person, of the products of any farm, garden, or other land owned, leased, or cultivated by him shall not be deemed to be hoarding within the meaning of this Act.

County Food Administrator C. B. Armstrong has been instructed by State Food Administrator Henry A. Page to take prompt and vigorous action to the end that all purchasers of excessive quantities of foodstuffs, particularly flour, in this county shall return their surplus above one barrel to the dealers without delay.

Mr. Page evidently means business and Col. Armstrong means business too, for he announces that the State Food Administrator's instructions will be carried out to the letter. Mr. Page's letter is of the straight-from-the-shoulder type that is characteristic of the man. He demands action and action right away. In writing to the County Food Administrator Mr. Page instructs him as follows:

"(1). That you demand of each retailer in your county a complete list of consumers 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, those 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 promptly 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 have been given an opportunity to return it to dealers."

RUSSIA AND ROUMANIA AGREE ON PEACE TERMS

(By International News Service.)

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 30.—In separate peace negotiations between Roumania and the Central empires Roumania is said to have agreed to return Dobruja to Bulgaria and to annex Bessarabia, a Russian province. It is also reported that the Roumanian cabinet has resigned and that a revolution has broken out among the Bolsheviks. A Finnish deputation, it is said, has arrived here to ask for armed intervention by Sweden against Russia's attack on the Finnish republic.

PLANS FOR HOUSING SHIPYARD WORKERS

(By International News Service.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Central plans for housing workers at shipbuilding yards and cantonments have been formulated by Secretaries Daniels and Baker, Chairman Hurley and the shipping board and Secretary of Labor Wilson. The immediate passage of a \$50,000,000 appropriation for housing plants at the shipyards will be urged and further legislation will be recommended later.

VIOLATED FOOD LAW LOSES ITS LICENSE

(By International News Service.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—The license of the Cito Oil & Fertilizer Company, of Cho., S. C., has been revoked by the U. S. Food Administration and the concern has been ordered to close up its affairs not later than February 6. Speculation and hoarding of cotton seed was the charge upon which the firm's license was revoked.

PEACE PARLEY RENEWED.

(By International News Service.)
COPENHAGEN, Jan. 29.—The Brest-Litovsk peace parleys will be resumed this afternoon with Count Czernin present.

Subscribe to The Gazette.

Must Return Flour In Three Days

Gastonia, Jan. 30, 1918.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Every person living in Gastonia county who has more than one hundred and ninety-eight (198) pounds of flour in his possession will return it to the merchant from whom he bought it within the next three days. The fine for not complying with the above request is \$5,000 or two years imprisonment. I have no discretion in this matter; every person must comply with this law.
C. B. ARMSTRONG, Food Administrator for Gastonia County.

NO EXCEPTIONS TO BE MADE

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 29, 1918.

C. B. Armstrong,
Food Administrator,
Gastonia, N. C.

Notify all merchants through your local papers that no exceptions can be made to the new Food Administration ruling forbidding the sale of flour except in combination with an equal amount of other cereals including corn meal, hominy, grits, oat meal, rice, barley flour, also shorts or middlings, corn flour, corn starch and soy bean flour.

HENRY A. PAGE, State Food Administrator.

NEW JERSEY SENATOR PASSED AWAY TODAY

(By International News Service.)
TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 30.—United States Senator William Hughes died here today.

Senator Hughes, whose home was in Paterson, N. J., was born in 1872 and was a lawyer. He served in the Second New Jersey Volunteers in the Spanish-American War in 1898. He was married to Miss Margaret Hughes on July 16, 1898. Was elected on the Democratic ticket to the Fifty-Sixth, Sixtieth, Sixty-First and Sixty-Second Congresses as representative of his district. He received a majority of the vote cast in the primary for United States Senator, and was elected to the Senate by the legislature on January 28, 1913. His term of service would have expired on March 3, 1919. He was chairman of the Senate committee on pensions and a member of the Postoffice, Finance and other important committees.

ARMY AND NAVY SHIPPING CO-ORDINATED

(By International News Service.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Co-ordination of army and navy shipping became a reality today when the War Department announced that it would turn over 2,000,000 tons of shipping to the navy which was heretofore under the direction of the quartermaster's department. Civilian captains and crews will be displaced by naval men but the vessels will continue to work for the army.

FLOODS IN OHIO CAUSE \$2,000,000 DAMAGE

(By International News Service.)

CINCINNATI, Jan. 30.—Damage estimated at \$2,000,000 has already been done by the Ohio river floods. Ice gorges and floods are sweeping everything before them from Pittsburgh to Evansville. Scores of barges have been crushed in the ice and sunk. Many towns and railroads are under water.

HIGH DEATH RATE AT NEW ORLEANS

(By International News Service.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—New Orleans leads all cities in the death rate for the week ending January 26 with 26.7 per cent. Seattle, Wash., is the lowest with 6.5 per cent.

WILL ADD 500,000 TO ARMY.

(By International News Service.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Quick action in drafting all men who have become 21 since June 5th was promised by the Senate military committee today. This measure is expected to add half a million men to the army.

PARIS ON BREAD RATIONS.

(By International News Service.)

PARIS, Jan. 29.—Paris went on bread rations today. Each person is allowed 10 ounces daily. The system will be gradually extended to other parts of the country.

CANT MADE UP LOST TIME

MILLS MUST OBSERVE FUEL ORDER

Fuel Administrator Robinson receives instructions that Cotton Mills Cannot Run Saturday Afternoon and Night to Make Up for Time Lost on Monday Holidays—List of Questions and Answers Which Explain Fuel-Saving Order in Detail.

At least one cotton mill in Gastonia county has been reported to County Fuel Administrator J. Lee Robinson as violating the order of National Fuel Administrator Garfield by running Saturday afternoon and night in order to make up for time lost on the Monday holiday. Administrator Robinson received orders this morning from State Administrator McAllister instructing him to enforce the order and see that such violations as the above are stopped at once. There may be other mills which have been violating this order. If so they should see to it that the order is strictly kept in the future.

Following is a list of questions and answers just sent out by the fuel administration which should be read and studied by every person, as it contains practically all the information that one could desire on the subject:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1. Question: Do plants operating by water or hydro-electric power have to close on Mondays specified?

Answer: Yes. It has been ruled from Washington that for such plants to use fuel for heating sufficient to run would be in excess of that needed to prevent damage from freezing and to safeguard fire protection, and, therefore a violation. The reason for this ruling is that the U. S. Fuel Administration wishes to close down all manufacturing plants on specified Mondays not specifically exempted, in order that freight congestion may be relieved.

2. Question: Are plants using fuel in the production and distribution of food exempted?

Answer: Yes.

3. Question: May wholesale and retail stores selling food remain open after noon on specified Mondays?

Answer: No. Unless in some extreme case the Local Food Administrator should recommend it as necessary.

4. Question: May wholesale and retail stores selling food remain open after noon on Mondays if they use no fuel?

Answer: Yes.

5. Question: May wholesale and retail stores selling food sell other articles other than food on Mondays?

Answer: No.

6. Question: May drug stores on Mondays sell other articles than drugs?

Answer: No.

7. Question: How may mills working on government contracts secure exemption?

Answer: Only upon the recommendation of the War or Navy Departments, unless exempted specifically or under some general order. The U. S. Fuel Administration will grant exemptions when recommended by War and Navy Department.

8. Question: What is included in the term fuel.

Answer: Coal, coke, wood, oil, and gas are all fuels.

9. Question: Are laundries, fertilizer factories and cotton seed mills exempt?

Answer: Yes.

10. Question: May plants that necessarily must be continuously operated seven days each week use fuel on Mondays?

Answer: Yes, such quantity of fuel as is necessary to prevent serious injury to the plant or its contents.

11. Question: Does the order apply to printing establishments, including weekly newspapers?

Answer: Yes, except such establishments may burn fuel to such an extent as is necessary to issue current numbers of magazines and other publications periodically issued.

12. Question: Does Fuel Order apply to barber shops, plumbing establishments, blacksmith shops, garages, and other miscellaneous places of business?

Answer: Yes, unless specifically exempted, as they all come under the general term of "business houses."

13. Question: Does the Fuel Order require theatres, moving picture houses, bowling alleys, billiard rooms, private or public dance halls and other places of public amusement to close on Tuesdays?

Answer: Yes. The original order provided that they should use no fuel on Mondays, but the amended order provides that they should use neither fuel nor lights on Tuesdays, and, therefore, they must close on Tuesdays.

14. Question: Does Fuel Order apply to hotels, restaurants or other places where meals are served?

Answer: No.

15. Question: Does Fuel Order apply to companies in the wood, oil or coal business?

Answer: No. The order does not apply to rooms, offices or such portions of buildings as are used in connection with the business.

(Continued on page 3)

PLEASURE FOR SOLDIERS

"SMILAGE BOOK" WILL FURNISH IT

Every Gastonia County Man in the Army Camps to Be Supplied With a Book—Government to Furnish High Class Entertainment at Liberty Theatres—Committee for Local Campaign Organized Yesterday.

"Smilage Books" for Gastonia county's boys in camp at home and overseas will be purchased by citizens of the county in a drive planned for the next week or so. At a meeting held yesterday afternoon the campaign was thoroughly explained by David Clark and J. P. Quarles, of Charlotte. Gastonia county's quota is \$800 worth of books.

Uncle Sam is erecting Liberty theatres at the big camps and the best plays in the country as well as Chautauqua, feature movies and other attractions of high-class will be shown in these theatres. Kiaw and Erlanger and others are providing the attractions at bare cost, many of the best known men and women of the stage serving for nothing. High-class plays will cost the Sammie only 25 cents.

However, a soldier's pay doesn't go so very far, especially when he is carrying insurance and sending some back home, as the majority are. And time hangs heavy on his hands when a hard day's work is over. So the Liberty theater will give him a good clean place of amusement to go to.

The Smilage books contain twenty-five-cent coupons and sell for a dollar apiece. It is planned to place one in the hands of every Gastonia county man. The campaign is nationwide. Plans for disposing of the county's quota will be made at a meeting to be held Thursday.

W. T. Rankin was named chairman of the meeting Tuesday. John K. Rankin treasurer and Fred M. Allen secretary. A committee consisting of J. H. Spelark, J. O. White and Fred M. Allen was named to arranged for publicity.

GETTING MORE LAND FOR ARTILLERY RANGE

W. T. Rankin of the special Chamber of Commerce committee is today closing arrangements for the balance of the land needed for the artillery range. General Dickman's report will then go forward in full to the Secretary of War for final action. It is now understood that when authority is given for the proposed improvements at Camp Greene the local range will be included. By the time the weather is settled it is believed by the artillery officers that all will be in readiness to begin work on the range.

EFIRD'S VISITED BY BURGLAR MONDAY NIGHT

A burglar entered the Efrid department store Monday night, between dark and 11 o'clock, and got away with a good suit of clothes, three pairs of shoes valued at \$22.50, a good suit case, several pairs of socks and \$20 in cash. The latter he took from the change stand in the office, that amount having been left there on Saturday night.

The burglar changed his clothing while in the store and left his old clothes on the floor. It was through this means that the police department was able to state yesterday that the burglary was probably committed by Avery Giles, a young white man who in December completed a four-months term on the county chain-gang for store-breaking in Gastonia last fall. The superintendent of the chain-gang today positively identified the clothing as that worn by Giles when he left the gang a few weeks ago. One article was a heavy striped sweater.

Entrance was gained through a small window in the light shaft between the Efrid building and the Boyce-Falls building adjoining. After getting what he wanted and changing his clothes, the thief walked out the back door, leaving it open. The policeman on his rounds found the door open at 11 o'clock.

It was stated at the police department this morning that the department was on the trail of Giles and expects to land him. He has been seen in Gastonia frequently since he got off of the gang, though his home was in Kings Mountain.

EIGHT GERMAN PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN

(By International News Service.)

LONDON, Jan. 30.—Heavy aerial fighting along the British front, in which eight German machines were shot down, and three British planes are missing, was reported in the official statement of the War Office today. The Germans attempted to raid trenches south of the Scarf river, but were driven off.