

ALL RAILROADS UNDER CONTROL

OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES—MR. McADOO IS NAMED TO TAKE CHARGE.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Government possession and operation of the nation's railroads for the war was proclaimed by President Wilson tonight, to become effective at noon next Friday, December 28. William G. McAdoo retaining his place in the cabinet as secretary of the treasury, is placed in charge as director general of railroads.

Every railroad engaged in general transportation, with its appurtenances, including steamship lines, is taken over and all systems will be operated as one under the director general.

In a statement accompanying his proclamation, the President announced that as soon as Congress re-assembles he will recommend legislation guaranteeing pre-war earnings and maintenance of railroad property in good repair.

Government backing will be given to new issues of railroad securities that a ready market may be found.

Great Surprise.

The President's move although forecast for weeks, came at this time as a great surprise to nearly everybody in Washington, including railroad officials. It had been generally believed that he would await the reassembling of Congress before taking any step. He acted through Secretary of War Baker, under authority conferred in the army appropriation act.

Management of the roads will remain in the hands of railroad officials and the railroad war board. Control of five railroad heads will continue to direct actual operation under Secretary McAdoo's general supervision.

The chief practical effect of government operation will be to permit a complete unification of all rail systems, impossible under private operation by reason of statutes prohibiting pooling of rail traffic and earnings. The roads themselves had gone as far as they dared in this direction, and it became known only today that they had been warned by Attorney General Gregory that a violation of anti-pooling laws could not be permitted.

Interurbans Excepted. Although the proclamation applies to all electric lines engaged in general transportation, local interurban systems are specifically exempted.

Congress will be asked to guarantee earnings equivalent to the average net operating income for the 3 year period ending June 30, 1917. Railroad experts estimate that this will cost the government next year in the neighborhood of \$100,000,000, which can be raised in large part by increased freights, if the interstate commerce commission grants the roads' application for the 15 per cent rate increase now pending. Otherwise it will be paid largely out of the general government funds.

The interstate commerce commission and other government agencies which have to do with the railroads will continue to perform their functions as heretofore, except that they will be subject to orders of the director of railroads.

Tells of Old People

Mr. Robert McIntyre who went from this county to Fingerville, Spartanburg county, S. C. where he owns and runs a large farm, was in Shelby on Saturday before Christmas. He told of the death of a negro man named John Miller, reported to have been 117 years of age. His head was white as cotton. Mr. McIntyre says his mother who lives with him is 93. Disa Hern, now Disa Gausly is 104 years old and can walk up and down the stairs and do her work. Mr. McIntyre says the Government has a rifle range near Landum, S. C. and he can hear the soldiers shoot their guns at his house.

Prominent Cleveland Product

Hon. J. L. Cornwell, wife and son were in for the holidays to visit his father, "Uncle" Ambrose Cornwell of Shelby R. 8. Mr. Cornwell left Wake Forest College and settled in Nash County where he has made an enviable record. In fact he has represented his people in the state legislature for two terms and is now auditor of the county. He stands high in Nash and is a man of superb intellect and gentlemanly bearing. He has one son who is in the Navy.

Mr. Cabaness Barn Burned

The barn of Mr. Tom Cabaness was burned on Saturday, Dec. 22. Fire was discovered about noon and before the flames could be put out they had gained such headway that two cows suffered death. Mr. Cabaness' loss includes a wagon, about 25 bushels of corn, some roughness, cotton seed and hulls. It is not known how the fire started.

Miss Jeannette Davis of Gastonia, is the guest this week of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. R. McClure and Mr. and Mrs. Geo. A. Hoyle.

MAY INDICT FARMERS AND CLEVELAND MERCHANTS

The Farmers For Hoarding Flour and the Merchants for Selling Sugar Higher than Allowed.

When the word goes out that sugar, flour and other articles of food-stuffs may be scarce, many people who have the money and have the opportunity to buy, lay in a large supply—probably an amount sufficient to last them for months. Mr. Sam C. Lattimore, food administrator for Cleveland county has been watching for violations of the law in Cleveland and may indict farmers who are known to have purchased a year's supply of flour to store it away in the hope of planting everything in cotton next year and making big money. These farmers, Mr. Lattimore, says have not planted a grain of wheat to make their own flour.

The retail price of sugar has been set at 10c. The state food administrator says 11c would not be considered an unreasonable price in view of the present market conditions, but Mr. Lattimore is informed that some merchants have been charging 12c and 13c for it and they are liable to indictment. The hoarding of sugar by individual families is a violation of the law, also because the laying in of a supply they can't use for months, takes it from others, who may not be financially able to buy in such quantities. The U. S. Food Administrator has issued the following to county administrators:

"We have had complaints from several points in the state of exorbitant charges for sugar and other food products. We feel that 10 or 10 1/2c a pound for sugar affords the dealer a fair profit, but until present conditions are relieved Mr. Page has fixed as the maximum that might be charged in North Carolina. If any merchant in your county are charging more than that price for sugar please warn them that they must not their prices within that figure and if they persist in profiteering after having received warning from you please report their name and the circumstances to this office promptly."

"We desire to call your attention to another condition. We have had information from one county that a number of consumers have purchased sufficient flour to last them until next harvest. The food control law is designed to prevent, and does forbid, hoarding by consumers and individuals as much as by dealers, and this office desires any definite information that can secure regarding this practice. Of course, the producer of wheat or any other food product is privileged to have it ground and keep it in his hands as long as he desires but after it passes from the hands of the producer it is under the control of food administration and it is imperative that no hoarding be allowed. Food commodities where held by consumers or dealers in amounts greater than their requirements for a reasonable period, are subject to confiscation and we do not hesitate to pass the word along, that those who attempt to hoard foodstuffs and to derange the whole food situation in the country will be dealt with promptly and vigorously."

"In any expression regarding this matter be careful to make it clear that the actual producer is exempt insofar as those products raised by himself are concerned."

A Man of the Right Sort

Gaffney Ledger.
Mr. J. A. Lavender, who hauled wood to people of Blacksburg through the snow and only charged them \$1.50 per load, deserves a niche in the Hall of Fame. This man is not looking for his reward on this earth, (he is too unselfish) but he is "laying up treasures in Heaven, where moth and rust doth not corrupt nor thieves break through and steal." Those who are charging people exorbitant prices for wood just because they have the power to do so at this time, should hang their heads in shame. Mr. Lavender, their heads in same. Mr. Lavender, is not according to our information, is not a wealthy man by any means, but is a well-to-do farmer who makes a living for himself and family by hard work. He could have charged twice as much for his wood and the money thus obtained could have been used by him to relieve the hardness of his toil during the coming year, but instead of this he gave to the poor, and he who does leads to the Lord. We earnestly wish there were more citizens like Mr. Lavender in our county. Such a man is an honor to any community and we envy Blacksburg's possession of so honorable a citizen.

Young John Falls Dead

A cloud of sorrow was cast over the Falls family during the holidays, occasioned by the death of Mr. John Falls, 19 year old son of Mr. John Falls who lives near Bethel church at Lawndale. He was the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Falls, and a grandson, of our esteemed townsman Esquire J. Z. Falls. Two weeks ago he was operated on for appendicitis at the Rutherfordton hospital. He died Sunday, Dec. 23rd and was buried Sunday evening at St. Peter's church in No. 10 township. Rev. John W. Suttle, conducting the funeral services. A tremendous crowd was present at the funeral to pay their respects to this noble young man.

Card of Thanks

I wish to thank my good neighbors and friends for their kindness shown during the illness and death of my dear wife. I shall never forget and the manifestations of sympathy and love in her sickness and my distress.

J. J. CORNWELL, Adv.
Kings Mountain, R-4.

MRS MARTHA CABANESS DEAD

Widow of the Late Pink Cabaness Dies at the Home of Her Daughter, Mrs. K. Kendall.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Kemper Kendall was made sad during the holidays by the death on Christmas morning at 8 o'clock of Mrs. Martha Cabaness who had reached her three score years and ten and "passed over the river to rest in the shade of the trees." Mrs. Cabaness was the widow of the late Pink Cabaness. She was a woman of superb intellect, even temper, kind disposition and devout love for her master. For thirty years she has been making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Kemper Kendall, her husband having died about 35 years ago. For a number of years her health has been failing, intermittent heart trouble caused her to take her bed. About three weeks ago she contracted a cold which aggravated the heart trouble and caused her death. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Kendall, Mrs. Josh Lattimore, one son, Mr. Barnett Cabaness who is buyer and manager of the ready-to-wear department for the J. B. Ivey Company, Charlotte, and one brother, Mr. T. C. Eskridge of Shelby.

The funeral was held from the Kendall home Wednesday morning, Rev. Lee McB. White conducting the same. Mrs. Cabaness had been a member of the Baptist church for half a century.

TRAVELERS BANQUET

Sixty Enjoy the Feast of the Traveling Men at Their Annual Banquet at Central Hotel

Following the custom of the members of Post O. Travelers Protective Association which has about 50 members in Shelby, the annual banquet was spread in the dining rooms of the Central Hotel on Thursday night, December 20 with plates for 60 members and their wives. Rev. Thomas Bateman was toastmaster and his witty remarks were delightfully bright and spicy. Revs. Thos. Watkins, C. A. Wood, Rev. Lee McB. White and Attorney J. H. Quinn for the Post responded to toasts. The spread was one of the best the salesman have had, the menu consisting of turkey, ham, oysters, salads, pickles, olives, nuts, cream and several varieties of cake.

Officers of the local post are as follows: Charles W. Laughridge, president; John Black, first vice president; Charles S. Young, second vice president and Kemper Kendall secretary and treasurer.

Mother and Child

The charged bodies of a mother and her child were found in the ruins of a building following the destruction by fire of the Whitman home at Greensboro, S. C., Christmas morning. The cause of the fire is not known.
Mrs. Whitman, according to neighbors, had made all preparations for Christmas and retired late; and the indications were that she had discovered the fire only after it had gained such headway as to make escape practically impossible. Thinking first of the welfare of her children, the mother apparently had gone to the room in which they were sleeping in an endeavor to save their lives. They all apparently were overcome and burned to death.

Rev. Mr. Swope Back

Rev. L. W. Swope's many friends will be interested to know that his resignation as Chaplain in the service of Uncle Sam has been accepted and he is coming back to Cleveland county about the first week in January to teach Bible in Boiling Springs High School, fill the pulpit at Boiling Springs and New Hope church, Earl. Mr. Swope will move his family back to Cleveland from Louisville, Kentucky where they have been visiting Mrs. Swope's people. The Boiling Springs congregation has built a handsome two-story parsonage which is just finished and will be occupied by Mr. Swope and family.

Capt. Sawyer Dead

Capt. J. P. Sawyer, 80 years old, and one of the oldest and most prominent citizens of western North Carolina, died suddenly Christmas eve at his home in Asheville, death being due to heart failure.

Captain Sawyer was president of the Battery Park bank, actively identified with the business life of the city.

Thanks Beaver Dam People

I wish through your paper to acknowledge with profound gratefulness the expression of kindness manifested to me by the members of the Beaver Dam church in the many nice and substantial things brought to my home. As a gift I appreciate it for its intrinsic value but more especially on account of the spirit in which it was given.
A. H. SIMS, Shelby, N. C. Dec. 20, '17.

Church Notice

There will be preaching at Salem M. E. church Sunday morning at 11 a. m. by the pastor. Also at Earls at 3 p. m.
N. C. WILLIAMS.

THE PRICE OF WOOD IS FIXED

WAGONS MUST SELL AT \$4.00 PER CORD—DEALERS MAY ADD 75c FOR SAWING 50c FOR SPLITTING—NO MORE WOOD BY THE "LOAD" BUT BY THE CORD.

The Cleveland county fuel administration committee, Mr. I. C. Griffin of Shelby, chairman, has, at the instance of the state fuel administrator, recommended prices for wood in Cleveland. The recommendation, which will doubtless be confirmed by the state fuel administrator is as follows:

Wood on wagons per cord, \$4.00; delivered on cars, on railroad sidings, \$3.00. This is for four and eight foot wood. Seventy-five cents additional per cord is allowed for sawing wood, 50 cents additional for splitting. This would make a cord of wood sawed cost \$4.75, sawed and split \$5.25. For delivery, \$1.00 per cord or 75c for half cord or 50c for quarter of cord is allowed. Total \$6 for cord of wood sawed, split and delivered by dealers. For a half cord the charge will be exactly half except for delivery, which will be 75 cents; for a one-horse load, not less than a quarter cord, the delivery charge will be 50 cents.

This is an increase, as authorized, over 1916 prices and is believed to be fair. It must be understood, however, that these prices are per cord, not for a load, to be guessed at. When a cord of wood is paid for it must contain 128 cubic feet.

The price of wood is to be fixed by fuel administrators in the different counties. It was to have been expected that price fixing would inevitably and necessarily be applied to wood. The scarcity of coal has enormously increased the demand for wood and the opportunity to profiteer was such that the temptation has overcome many wood dealers in various localities.

Prices that may be charged for wood will be fixed by the fuel administration for all parts of North Carolina, pursuant to instructions issued at headquarters at Greensboro to all the local fuel committees. A. W. McAlister, the state fuel administrator, informed the local committees of his authority from the federal fuel administration in Washington to fix wood prices. He has instructed the county fuel administrators to be fair in their price scale, allowing the dealer a good profit, but he states that there is no obvious reason why wood should sell for a higher price in this state now than it did last month.

Wood prices will be scaled to suit the locality, with the local committee taking into consideration local conditions. A basis for computation is furnished by Mr. McAlister, who advises a 33 1/3 per cent profit on an increase in the price of wood. These figures to apply to a cord of eight foot lumber or days of wagon loads of farmers or an equivalent in the places of shipment. He suggests the allowance to the dealer of \$1 a cord for sawing and splitting wood, or \$1.25 per cord, if the committee deem the larger figure equitable; and \$1 per cord for delivery, 75 cents for delivery of half a cord and 50 cents for quarter cord and less.

Of interest only secondary is the standardization of the measure for wood to be observed by the vendor. The instructions of the fuel administration marks the passing of the ancient if not altogether honorable "load." The wood dealers must sell in cords or stipulated divisions parts thereof. No longer will an ultimate consumer pay \$1.50 for a "load," but what he pays will be fixed by the administration and it will be for an understood portion of a cord, a full cord or the multiple of it. In this manner the wood business of North Carolina, temporarily at least, is brought within the law of weights and measures.

"On account of the diversity of conditions of supply and demand in different localities, no one rule will apply everywhere," Mr. McAlister wrote. In other words, it is quite possible that the plan will establish three or more carrying prices for wood in one county.

The purpose in fixing prices is to stabilize prices, so that wood sellers may know that holding for higher prices will be useless. They must either sell at the prices named or not at all.

County fuel administrators have also been advised that an increase of 30 cents on a ton of 2,000 pounds net anthracite coal is allowed provided the coal was shipped to the dealer from the mines before 7 o'clock on the morning of December 1; and the second letter urged the committeemen to set their shoulders to the car shortage case, by insisting upon car movements in their committees. Urging the prompt movement of cars. State Fuel Administrator McAlister says:

"Don't let loaded or unloaded cars stand around. Urge the instant unloading of loaded cars and prompt movements of them. No more than 24 hours should be required for unloading a car, at the most. Urge work of nights, and even Sundays. Anything to empty and move coal cars promptly for the unnecessary holding of coal cars is going to mean suffering for somebody. Tell the people something like this: Every hour you delay unloading coal cars adds to the heavy burden America is carrying. Every moment you save helps your country. Keep every coal car on the job."

Birth

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Spangler in the country on Sunday, December 23 a fine son.

APPEALS AGAIN TO STATE FUEL ADMINISTRATOR

A Specimen of the Kind of Letters Fuel Administrator I. C. Griffin Has Been Writing.

I. C. Griffin, fuel administrator was notified that six cars of coal were en route to Shelby, but he later found out that he had been misinformed and that this coal is going to Newton, instead. He has been writing letters and sending telegrams daily to the authorities in Greensboro and Washington and here is a specimen of the letters which shows the situation in Shelby:

"I wish to call your attention to the enclosed correspondence, it speaks for itself! Not a pound of coal for Shelby yet! And the fuel administration has ordered car after car shipped here. So far as I know only three cars of coal are on the road now for Shelby one car, shipped by the Gauley people to the Shelby Ice & Fuel Co., two cars shipped by the Blackwood Co., to W. H. Miller. And yet I read in the papers that solid trains of coal have been shipped to Charlotte. And some of our local public offices, the telephone exchange, for instance, has been hauling coal from Gastonia in order to keep the office open! And the town pumping station has scraped every coal bin within five miles of Shelby to get enough coal to keep water in the tank. One day the water had to be turned off because there was no fuel for the station. We have even taken the coal from the school bin and turned it over to the town in order to protect the town against fire! What can I do to relieve the situation?"

CHRISTMAS AT THE MILLS.

Cash Bonuses, Candies, Fruits and Gifts Distributed Among the Employees—Shows Noble Spirit.

The Shelby Cotton Mill remembered every one on the "Hill" during Christmas by distributing apples, oranges, nuts and candies, and to the employees a cash bonus was awarded in accordance with the service they had been rendering the mill. The usual Christmas tree which has been looked forward to annually as a great affair was abandoned on account of the severe cold weather, but the remembrance was just as liberal and generous.

The Ella Cotton Mill gave a cash bonus to all of the help. The management of the mill makes it a yearly practice to remember the employees on Christmas in a generous way and the help appreciated the cash to use as their best judgment dictates.

The Belmont Cotton Mill gave toys and useful gifts to the children on the hill, fruits, candies, etc to the operatives, together with a cash bonus in accordance with the wages they had been making.

The Buffalo Mill remembered all its help with candies and fruits for the employees as well as the women and children of the employees.

The Cleveland Mill and Power Company sent a fat chicken to each family, together with a quantity of fruits and candies.

The Lily Mill gave fruits and candies and a cash bonus to its help.

The Olive Hosiery Mill gave fruits and candies and a cash bonus to its 37 employees. Dr. Royster says he expects to put his help on a profit-sharing basis as soon as the plan can be worked out.

Home Made Sad by the Taking Away of Devoted Wife and Mother

Mrs. Martha Ann Edwards, wife of Mr. Decatur Edwards died December 20th following an illness of about two months from tonsillitis which caused pneumonia. Mrs. Edwards before her marriage was a Peeler and was born October 13th 1853. She was a fine character, a devoted wife and mother and her death caused a sad home for the holidays and sorrow to the host of relatives and friends.

She was buried at Clover Hill church on Saturday, December 22nd, Rev. Clarence Canipe, conducting the funeral. Surviving are her husband who is one of the most prominent and successful farmers of that section and the following children: Mrs. Zula Ivester, wife of Velus Ivester, Colin Edwards, George Edwards, Mrs. Lizzie Eaker, wife of Marvin Eaker, Dr. Forrest Edwards, Mrs. Lula Walker, wife of Delfo Walker, Layton Edwards, Mrs. Bertha Hoyle. Dr. Culver Edwards and Desha Edwards. The bereaved ones have the deepest sympathy of The Star and the many friends of the family.

Slight Improvement.—The many friends of Clyde Hoey, Jr., who is in the hospital at Rutherfordton, are exceedingly anxious about his condition. He has good and bad days and his case seems baffling, but yesterday he showed slight improvement.

FARMERS NOTICE. I WILL

thresh cane seed at Waco, January 9 1918 at fifteen cents per bushel. J. L. Hord, Waco. 21 28

PEACE PARLEYS ARE GOING ON

BETWEEN GERMANY AND RUSSIA—RUSSIA IS DIVIDED—LLOYD GEORGE STATES THE WAR AIMS OF THE ALLIES.

Peace negotiations between the Teutonic allies and the Russians have begun at Brest-Litovsk; and the Teutons have seemingly played a trump card at the outset, for on the proposal of Prince Leopold of Bavaria, the German commanding chief on the Russian front, Dr. von Kuchlmann, the German foreign secretary, an astute politician, was unanimously chosen as official chairman.

A noteworthy fact in the composition of the delegations from the various countries allied with the Austro-Germans, is that they include men who have stood high in the councils of their respective countries, while the men who are to handle Russia's interests for the most part are unknown to the political world.

Still another outstanding fact in the meagre details of the formation come through, is that Rumania is not credited with having sent delegates to Brest-Litovsk. The possibility is, therefore, notwithstanding the fact that geographically she will be completely isolated from her allies should the negotiations result in Russia quitting the war.

Another report says the Russian peace delegates are returning to Petrograd; that the Russian peace terms have been rejected. This story, however, lacks confirmation. Some hint that the Teutonic offers were not of the acceptable nature the Bolsheviks had indicated they were expecting. may be found in a declaration by Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, that the Russians would fight rather than submit to objectionable terms. This was coupled, however, with what appeared to be an admission of Russia's present military impotence and the assertion that if the Russians were thus compelled temporarily to submit, they would join with the German people in rising against German militarism—the familiar Bolshevik prediction of a German revolution being thus echoed.

Divisions in Russia. In Russia the strife for control is assuming broader aspects. The apparent solidification of the Ukraine-Cossack movement in southern Russia seems to be giving the opposition to the Bolsheviks a firmer hold on that territory. The Petrograd commissioners themselves are considerably worried by the spread of the separatist movement, which prospectively is cutting huge slices of Russian territory, not only in the Ukraine and the Don region, but in various quarters. Evidence of this appears in their sending emissaries to the numerous affected districts in an effort to line them up again in support of the Bolshevik regime at Petrograd.

Meantime, the conflict between the Ukrainian rada and the Bolshevik commissaries continues unabated. The rada, replying to an ultimatum of the Bolsheviks, insists on creation of a Federal Socialist republic embracing Maximalists and Socialists, with it contends alone can be competent to decide the question of peace for the whole of Russian. The rada declares itself favorable to settling by peaceful methods political and national questions, but asserts that if the commissaries assume the consequences of civil war, it will accept the challenge and stop at no obstacle.

One reason for the quarrel is the rada's refusal to permit breadstuff to be sent to northern Russia in consequence of the refusal by the commissaries to issue money to meet the needs of the Ukrainian government. This stand, it is stated, threatens eventually to starve the north, especially as General Dutoff's Cossacks hold Chilibinsk, thus preventing the transmission of supplies from Siberia. In the meantime, the Ukraine has begun to issue its own notes. General Verkhovskiy, Gerasenky's minister of war, has offered his services to the Ukraine government. Most of the reports of military movements in connection with the apparently impending clash are under Thursday's date.

War Aims of Allies. In the midst of the peace negotiations that are in progress between the representatives of the Teutonic allies and the Bolshevik government in Russia, the war aims of Great Britain and doubtless of all her allies have been concretely set forth in the house of commons by David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister.

The complete restoration of territory now in the hands of the enemy and compensation for the havoc they have wrought, is the price that will be demanded for the laying down of arms and the bringing about of peace.

Great Britain did not seek territorial aggrandizement for herself or for any of her allies when she entered the war. Mr. Lloyd George said, but entered into the hostilities merely for the sake of her honor. As to Germany's colonies, all of which are now in the hands of the entente. Mr. Lloyd George said their disposition must be determined at the peace congress. Jerusalem, however, would never be restored to the Turks.

Miss Eunice Roberts is spending this week with her mother who is taking treatment in the sanatorium at Richmond. Her friends will be glad to know that Mrs. Roberts' condition is much improved.