

# JOHN McGRATH & SONS.

INCORPORATED

WHOLESALE & RETAIL  
DEPARTMENT STORE

BROOKHAVEN, MISS. Nov. 14th, 1917

Mr. P. M. Harding,  
Vicksburg, Miss.

My dear Mr. Harding:-

In talking with a friend a day or so ago relative to next year's crop, we both felt the conviction that there is going to be a great desire on the part of the farmers to plant a big cotton crop next season. Possibly this is necessary as cotton is partially a food crop as well as a textile one, but an effort should certainly be made to have as much food crops planted as is possible.

Now the above condition exists in this section. We have a great many farmers looking for places and for help and some of them have no teams and no corn, while others may have teams but very little corn and it is a serious problem for the supply merchant to undertake to furnish food for both man and beast. The banks will not take any of the risk they want 2 or 3 for one and even then they are not anxious. In making this statement, I am judging by the past, as I do not know how patriotic banks may become during this crisis, but if they can be induced to help share the burden, we may increase the yield of food supplies in this country a great deal during 1918.

If you will be in Jackson on the 22nd, I may come up there just for the purpose of talking over this situation with you. I expected to see you last Tuesday as George Covington told me that you were passing through on your way to Washington, but I missed your train. Write me about this at your convenience  
YOURS TRULY

*J. W. McGrath*

# UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION

FEDERAL FOOD ADMINISTRATOR FOR MISSISSIPPI

P. M. HARDING

MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK BUILDING (FOURTH FLOOR)

VICKSBURG

November 3, 1917.

SUBJECT

Rev. A. N. Hamilton,  
Pastor A. M. E. Church,  
Shubuta, Miss.

Dear Sir:-

Your Presiding Elder, Rev. J. J. Morant, handed your name to the United States Food Administrator's Office, recommending you as a patriotic, worthy citizen of Mississippi who would take an interest in doing your bit by giving the people in your district an opportunity to sign the Pledge Card to save food and thus help win the war.

You recognize the need at this hour of our saving our resources, as America is expected to help feed our Allies as well as our own army abroad. To do that successfully, it is necessary that we substitute home grown foods for much that we have been buying and to allow the purchased foods to go into the channels for shipment abroad. Therefore, recommend to your people that they eat less wheat, meat and sugar and to use more poultry, game, fish, vegetables and fruit. The Home Card will give you much information on the points to use in instructing your people how to save food according to Mr. Hoover's recommendations.

We are enclosing you a few of three kinds of cards. Have your people sign the Pledge Card, which is the small white one, and give them when they can read a copy of the Home Card, which is their instruction, as well as a Membership Card.

When you have finished canvassing your district, enclose your returns in the envelope addressed to Mr. Harding, put it in the Post Office without postage and it will reach us and be credited to your county.

We thank you for your patriotism and anticipate good results from your work.

Yours very truly,

HL-NB

Campaign Manager for Mississippi.

TOUGALOO COLLEGE  
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE  
AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:  
BISHOP THEODORE D. BRATTON, PRESIDENT  
REV. A. F. BEARD, D. D. SECRETARY

TOUGALOO, MISSISSIPPI.  
November 13, 1917.

Mr. P. M. Harding,  
Federal Administrator,  
Vicksburg, Miss.

My dear Mr. Harding:

I am at the head of an institution for the education of colored youth which contains a boarding establishment for them, seating two hundred or more. Not only is the matron endeavoring to practice all possible food economy, but we have been trying to impress the necessity of it upon the students, and already have secured a few posters published by the United States Food Administration. But the Dining Hall is large and I could easily use a dozen and a half more of these food saving posters. Would it be possible for you to provide me with them?

Hoping that you could see your way clear to send me these, I remain

Sincerely yours,

*William T. Holmes*

President

WTH-E

*sent 24 Posters 11/15/17*

R. E. KENNINGTON  
PRESIDENT

R. G. KENNINGTON  
VICE-PRESIDENT

A. B. COOK  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

# R. E. KENNINGTON COMPANY

INCORPORATED

CORNER CAPITOL & CONGRESS STREETS

NEW YORK OFFICE  
353 FOURTH AVE.

DIRECTORS:

A. B. COOK  
C. L. DIXON  
J. C. BATAILLE  
R. G. KENNINGTON  
R. E. KENNINGTON

JACKSON, MISS.,

Oct. 10, 1917.

Mr. Dan Robin,  
Bogue Chitto, Miss.

My dear Mr. Robin:

I have been appointed by the Federal Food Administrator to secure for the Council of National Defense the patriotic co-operation of the merchants of Mississippi in the Food Conservation work now under way. I have appointed you as Bogue Chitto Merchant representative to assist in carrying out the plans of our government. The specific things asked of you are as follows:

#1. Secure the earnest and prompt co-operation of every merchant in your city in the placing of posters in their windows and in prominent places in their stores, see that they are used liberally, attractively and simultaneously.

#2. See that the merchants of your city place in their newspaper advertisements, three days a week for sixty days, announcements regarding food conservation, taken from the data on the Home Card, a supply of which will be sent you.

It should be emphasized that these announcements must be confined to the facts embodied in the text of the Home Card.

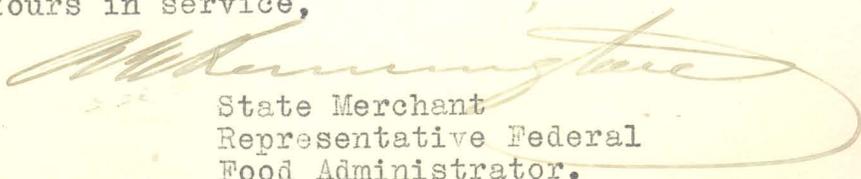
#3. To agree, not only to sign the Food Administration pledge cards themselves, but to use every influence to spread the necessity for food conservation personally in every possible way.

A supply of posters will be mailed you as soon as I receive them, they are on the way from Washington now.

I have promised the unqualified support of the merchants of this state. I know they are ready and willing to do their part in this all important work. May I count upon your taking charge of the work as outlined in your city and pushing it to a successful conclusion?

Let me hear from you at once.

Yours in service,

  
State Merchant  
Representative Federal  
Food Administrator.

# UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION

FEDERAL FOOD ADMINISTRATOR FOR MISSISSIPPI

P. M. HARDING

MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK BUILDING (FOURTH FLOOR)

VICKSBURG December 6th. 1917

SUBJECT

TO THE RESTAURANTS AND HOT LUNCH PROPRIETORS OF VICKSBURG:

-----  
We are sending you herewith two posters ( which please display in your place of business ) a Membership Card of the United States Food Administration, a suggestion for the cover of Menu, and a few buttons, which indicate that you are a member of the United States Food Administration workers, and last we send you a "NOTICE" to chefs, stewards, cooks and waiters. This NOTICE should be tacked up in a conspicuous place, where all your employees can see it, as it contains the important points which are the rules of the United States Food Administration, which you will observe in the conduct of your establishment.

The Hotels and many of the Restaurants and Eating Houses in the United States are observing meatless Tuesdays and wheatless Wednesdays. They are also saving Food as much as they can on the other days of the week.

It may be a flippant easy thing to say "that you use so little that there would be no advantage in your saving, or you are doing all you can and waste nothing." The advice of the Food Administration is, to look at this proposition more carefully, read over the rules of this Notice, watch your work, and see if you cannot find places where meat, wheat, sugar and fats may be saved.

WE ARE AT WAR AND WE MUST WIN. To win, we must have food to feed our soldiers and starving allies. We do not want you to starve yourself, or to injure your business; nor do we expect to interfere with your making reasonable profits. By observing the food rulings herewith enclosed, you will prove yourself a patriot, help your country and avoid complications which may arise by not observing the United States Food requirements.

Yours very truly,

*P. M. Harding*  
Federal Food Administrator.

# UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION

FEDERAL FOOD ADMINISTRATOR FOR TENNESSEE

H. A. MORGAN  
STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE  
CAPITOL

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

NASHVILLE

To County Chairmen:

November 21, 1917.

## FOOD CONSERVATION:

### WHAT IS IT?

NOT that Americans themselves are to go hungry.

NOT that we are to hoard up food stuff against some unknown time in the future.

JUST TWO VERY DEFINITE THINGS. First. That Americans shall save for our Allies food which can be most easily shipped and which they most need.

WHERE: This idea grew out of the rape of Belgium and the devastation of Europe. It has two sides: The Patriotic, as when we eat corn though it cost more than wheat; and the cold business side of prices.

HOW: We must apply the conservation idea in terms of Patriotism and of service and not merely of prices or else the war may be lost this winter on the basis of our Allies' food shortage.

WHY: We can send only that we save: We can save only what we don't eat.

WHEN: We must NOW tighten up our food conservation plan as outlined in "Home Instruction" card of the National Food Pledge Campaign and prepare to take the next step. Re-study this card enclosed.

To aid in accomplishing these ends the U.S. Food Administration has appointed James I. Finney, of Columbia, as State Publicity Representative for Tennessee, to present the message of food conservation through the daily and weekly press in the most effective way possible.

Mr. Finney has accepted the appointment and will enter upon his duties Thursday at this office, giving his entire time and attention to the forms of publicity that will keep constantly before our people the aims, the necessity of the work, and the accomplishments of the Food Administration in the State and Nation. Your earnest cooperation in this work is confidently expected.

H. A. MORGAN.

**UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION**

**FEDERAL FOOD ADMINISTRATOR FOR TENNESSEE**

**H. A. MORGAN**  
STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE  
CAPITOL

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

**NASHVILLE**

November 19, 1917.

To County Chairmen:

This statement was made to-day by Herbert Hoover, United States Food Administrator:-

"We have reports from various parts of the country of crooks, thieves and confidence operators who are going from house to house purporting to be authorized by the Food Administration and other Departments of the Government to collect or commandeer foodstuffs for the Government or the Army.

"I wish to say emphatically that no department of the Government has or will ever make such demands on householders, and that all such people are petty frauds and should be held for the police. The Government agencies are investigating various cases and information is sought of all such persons by this Department."

In this connection, your attention is directed to the enclosed letter of October 19th. by Rutledge Smith, Agent of the United States in Tennessee.

Yours truly,

H. A. MORGAN,

October 31st. 1918

Dr. W.M. Biggs,

Rome, Miss.,

Dear Sir:-

Mr. W.R. Early of Indianola, has advised us that you have accepted committee work in your county, to assist in the Pledge Card Campaign, for conserving foods.

This work is one of the most important lines which has recently been touched upon by our Administration, for it is necessary to feed our starving allies, as well as to provide for the need of our own soldiers.

The kind of food which can be shipped, is of a nature we are all in the habit of consuming, and it is necessary to learn to substitute home grown products, such as fruit, vegetables, game, fish, etc., for the more staple foods, such as meat, wheat and sugar.

You will find this subject well handled on the Home Card, which you have in your possession for distribution to those who sign the Pledge Card.

As you go forth to your work, you may take pride to yourself as doing your bit as a soldier of the United States, and in teaching the conserving of foods for our armies and allies, each person who takes part in this work, is helping to win the war.

We thank you for your volunteer service, and know that you will not neglect any part of your district, in giving every one a chance to sign the Pledge Card. We thank you for your help, and bespeak help for you.

Yours very truly,

Campaign Manager for Mississippi.

(COPY)

Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 23, 1917.

Hon. Gurdon W. Wattles,  
Federal Food Administrator for Nebraska,  
Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. Wattles:-

I have just now returned from a week at Vicksburg, Mississippi with the participants in the great peace reunion between the soldiers of the Blue and the soldiers of the Grey upon that famous battlefield. It was a happy week with only one incident to mar. I refer to the fact of the criminal waste of food stuffs. The great camp was under direct control of the United States War Department with a regiment of government troops in charge. I have been taught to believe that our troops are paragons of efficiency in all directions, but I feel it my duty to communicate to you, and through you to Mr. Herbert Hoover, or to a higher than he if necessary, the fact that I never witnessed in private life such criminal wastefulness as I beheld there. I saw every day wagon loads of refuse bread, meat, and vegetables carried away for garbage distribution, and all apparently under direction of the military authorities in charge.

In view of the fact that governors of states, defense councils, and myriads of earnest men and women throughout the nation are preaching the comfortable gospel of conservation of our food supply, it does seem to me that our military authorities ought to be setting a better example than they offered to the eyes of civilians at Vicksburg. I make no complaint against any particular military authority; I do not know the name of the military organization in charge of the reunion, nor do I know the personnel of its officers. I only know the fact of the shameful waste of food supplies under their management.

My first thought was to communicate my observations to our own State Council of Defense, but I have decided to lay the matter before you with the request that it may be carried to a source which in your judgment may seem to it that our military people shall be instructed to set a better example to civilians in the matter of food conservation. I have not given publicity to my observations, nor shall I. I am writing to you in your official capacity and with the earnest hope that my writing may lead to an official investigation of the criminal waste of food stuffs at the Vicksburg reunion. Nor do I seek the punishment of any guilty of the enormous offense, but only seek to arouse in army circles a sentiment which will make impossible its repetition elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Howard,

Lieutenant Governor.

EH:LP