

GEORGIA.

Dr. L. G. Hardman, of Commerce, Ga., was appointed Federal fuel administrator for the State of Georgia under date of September 28, 1917. The organization of the Georgia State division began to take shape immediately upon Dr. Hardman's return from Washington, where he attended a conference, together with other newly appointed State fuel administrators, with Dr. Garfield, on October 2, 1917.

On or about October 10, 1917, Dr. Hardman appointed an advisory committee composed of the following gentlemen: W. E. Small, Macon; F. E. Calloway, Atlanta; Judge T. A. Parker, Waycross; E. K. Farmer, Fitzgerald; J. P. Cooper, Kome.

The advisory committee as above mentioned has served continuously and has rendered valuable assistance in the successful conduct of the Georgia State division.

The next official act performed by Dr. Hardman was the organization of his office force by the appointment of Mell M. Stephenson, a public accountant of Atlanta, Ga., as his executive secretary. The work of appointing local and county fuel administrators was practically complete by October 25. Thus the machinery for operating the Georgia State division was set in motion before November 1, 1917. From the very beginning the office of the State fuel administrator was overrun with correspondence, telegrams, and callers, a fact which very soon convinced those in charge that domestic consumers generally were wholly unprepared for the winter. A general canvass was undertaken by the State fuel administrator, to determine the exact status of the domestic coal situation in Georgia; and without exception each community seemed to be in desperate need of immediate assistance. Emergency orders, considerable in number, were immediately filed in the office of Mr. L. A. Snead, of the United States Fuel Administration at Washington; and while some relief was given, it seemed to be impossible to supply the extraordinary demand.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the State fuel administrator instituted a wood fuel department which was placed in charge of a committee composed of Judge T. A. Parker, of Waycross, Ga., as chairman and Mr. James B. Berry, of the State College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga., as secretary. Work done by this committee was of great value and contributed materially to the relief of emergencies in many localities. Municipal wood yards were encouraged by the wood fuel committee, and municipal wood yards were established at Athens, Rome, Cordele, Gainesville, Fort Valley, and several other places.

Although the wood fuel campaign conducted by the wood fuel committee was of considerable aid, the domestic coal situation continued to be a very serious problem throughout the winter of 1917-18, and it was not until September, 1918, that we were able to cope with the situation. The serious shortage of the winter of 1917-18 was made more difficult by weather conditions; for this was perhaps the hardest winter experienced in Georgia in a quarter of a century.

During January, 1918, the State fuel administrator received notice from Washington to the effect that the prerogative of confiscating and diverting coal could, in his discretion, be delegated to local and county fuel administrators. The State fuel administrator, following these instructions, gave notice to local and county fuel administrators that in certain instances they would be authorized to confiscate or divert coal, but that no diversion would be authorized until first submitted to the State fuel administrator for his approval. As a result, although a great number of cars of coal were diverted, we were able to account for every car so handled, of which record we feel quite proud.

In January, 1918, the State fuel administrator instituted a traffic department, which was placed in charge of Mr. T. L. CoUins, of the Central of Georgia Railroad, Macon, Ga., and later (upon resignation of Mr. Collins) this department was turrllfed over to Mr. R. W. Courts, of the Ilhnois Central Railroads. The headquarters of the traffic department are in Atlanta. This department has proven to be of great value in the conduct of this division.

On January 1, 1918, Dr. Hardman appointed Col. R. L. J. Smith, an attorney of Commerce, Ga., as field secretary, which office has contributed very materially to the success of the Georgia State division.

Our conservation department was established in September, 1918, and was placed in charge of Capt. J. W. Bamett, civil engineer, with headquarters in Athens, Ga.

The enforcement department was established in September, 1918, and Mr. Sumner J. Smith, jr., an attorney of Commerce, Ga., was made director of this department. This department has been very active since its creation, a great number of hearings having been held by the director in different sections of the State, which have resulted in several contributions to the American Red Cross.

EEPOET or ADMINISTKATIVE DIVISION.

In the conduct of the Georgia State division we have enjoyed the loyal and active cooperation of our entire State organization, including the local and county fuel administrators. Numerous orders were issued by the State fuel administrator, both controlling local distribution and for conservation purposes, all of which so far as we know were enforced by each local and county fuel administrator. In this connection it may be said, however, that our people as a rule have aU along manifested a spirit of cooperation.

Perhaps one of the most important orders issued by the State fuel administrator, tending to reheve the domestic situation very materially, was an order issued in August, 1918, which provided that no local retail dealer could deliver to any customer more than four tons of __ coal until all of his customers had received this tonnage. As a result, with the first pinch of winter we received only a very few emergency orders.

Another order issued by the State fuel administrator which proved to be of valuable assistance was an order forbidding retail dealers or other distributors of coal from delivering domestic lump coal for use in furnaces. This order proved to be of the greatest value in the larger cities.

We believe that the foregoing will afford a fair synopsis of the activities of the Georgia State Division of the United States Fuel Administration.

Yours, very truly,

Mell M. Stephenson,

Executive Secretary,
For L. G. Hardman,
Commeece, Ga., Federal Fuel Administrator for Georgia.

December 23, 1918.

GEORGIA.