

Hertford County Herald

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A PAPER WORTH WHILE

BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM IN EAST CAROLINA

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AN ATTACK ON THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE MARKETING AND SALE OF LEAF TOBACCO

During the past several weeks considerable space has been given in this paper to reports, accounts, and arguments, all favorable to the Co-Operative Market for the handling and sale of leaf tobacco. This is a subject which is being agitated to a considerable extent in North Carolina at the present time. The importance of this matter is so great and means so much to the farmers, growers, and general life in this section, that we feel that any decision rendered in this matter should be arrived at only after careful consideration and both sides are heard. For this reason we are reproducing below an article taken from the Southern Tobacco Journal, which discusses the subject favorable to the auction plan and against the proposed plan for co-operative marketing.

The Southern Tobacco Journal offers no apology for the position it is taking in the matter of the Co-Operative Market, as applied to leaf tobacco. We believe that we are doing the tobacco farmer a favor in warning him against a proposed plan that we honestly believe will if put into operation work to his disadvantage. Not only this, but if the proposed plan should be put into operation, the entire business interest of the tobacco centers of the country would be embarrassed. It is a matter of surprise to us that bankers and other business concerns do not realize the seriousness of the proposed proposition. Since announcing our position in this matter, and stating our objections to the plan as affecting the tobacco interest, we have received many letters of endorsement of our position—and hundreds of tobacco farmers have talked the matter over with us. We find also that bankers and others who are interested are anxious for all the information they can get. In our issue of week before last, we endeavored to present facts in connection with the proposition. Our editorials were extensively copied and we were forced to issue several hundred copies extra, which were promptly taken by those seeking information. We have recently come into contact with hundreds of tobacco farmers who are anxious to know what all this thing of the tobacco Co-operative Marketing means. We believe that we are stating the truth when we say that not more than 10 per cent. of those with whom we have come into contact, with are in favor of the plan. In fact many with whom we have talked, who have signed the five year contract, are anxious to be released from the obligation.

We want to say again, and we want to say it with all the emphasis at our command, that we are not influenced in our position on account of any personal interest. Those who know us best know that we have nothing to lose, nor nothing to gain. Now let us address a few remarks to our farmer friends as well as others who should be interested in their welfare.

You are called upon, gentlemen, to enter into an agreement with some one (God knows who). This agreement is supposed to bind you for 5 years. In this agreement you agree to pool your tobacco. That is you place your tobacco in classes with hundreds of others. This tobacco is then prepared for market, re-dried, etc. It is then stored and buyers invited to inspect, etc. Then you deliver your tobacco to be classified. You are told that you are to receive 60 per cent of the value of your tobacco, and the remainder, or what is left after it is sold and delivered. Of course you know that out of the tobacco that is sold you are to pay your proportional part of the cost of grading, re-drying, packing, insurance, taxes, etc. They tell you that expert men will attend to classification, valuation, etc. Well now stop just one minute and estimate what all this will cost. The expert grader, the expert appraiser, the expert re-dryer—the expert this and expert that. With a complicated system of bookkeeping—and then a great loss in weight. You know there will be a bill of charges that will stagger you. Now think again: What manner of man is he, who can possibly place a value on tobacco in advance? Did you ever think of this? If not think seriously

now. No human being can tell what the price of tobacco will be from one season to the other—and in face of this fact, these promoters tell you that you will receive 60 per cent of the value of your tobacco.

Now comes the proposition of financing the proposition. Naturally those who can furnish the money will want to know how it is going to be applied—and believe us—they are surely going to know. Do you believe for one minute that banks or the Government will loan money to pay for tobacco on a valuation that would in all probability, be out of reason. And then again—it is going to take millions of dollars to pay other expenses. We will leave it to you to tell us where it is coming from. Another thing gentlemen, and that is, if this great scheme should be put into operation—those who are stock holders (and every man who stores tobacco is a stock holder) become speculators or dealers in leaf tobacco. Suppose the concern has several million pounds on hand to be sold. There are only a few buyers who cut a big figure. The tobacco that is for sale is of course put up in hogheads, re-dried, etc. One of these big concerns wants the tobacco handled and re-dried in its own way—and so do the others—and the result is that in all probability none of the tobacco is handled to the satisfaction of a possible purchaser.

Going back to the grading proposition where several hundred farmers pool their tobacco to be classed. Now gentlemen, honestly, do you for a moment believe that there are a set of men on earth that can classify tobacco to the satisfaction of all concerned.

These are only a few of the difficulties, but there are others. Farmers as a class are no different from all others in that they need their money when they earn it. It will be a sad day for many poor farmers who work hard all the year, who go in debt for his fertilizers and other supplies, when he is forced to wait indefinitely for a big part of his tobacco money.

Now come on gentlemen, and think of this matter seriously. Did it ever occur to you that it would have been fairer to the farmer if this contract had been for one year instead of five. Why is this five year business? Think of it—investigate thoroughly—and when you do, you will discover "the nigger in the wood pile."

Do you believe for a minute that a man will come from his home in California to help the tobacco farmer unless he expects big pay? Do you believe that, men who are active in the business are working for nothing? You are not fools and you know better.

We are frank to say that we believe the Co-Operative Market Plan as applied to nearly all farm products is a good thing. We believe that the plan is a good one, when applied to such things as farmers' produce, for immediate and direct consumption, but when it comes to leaf tobacco, all fair minded men must agree that the Auction System of selling leaf tobacco is the best way.

The fact is gentlemen, the best friend the tobacco farmer has is the Warehouseman. The tobacco warehouseman stands between the buyer and the seller, and he gets his pay from the farmer, it is his duty to see that his patrons receive the best market prices. The tobacco farmer makes his crop, gets it in good shape, takes it to the market, places it on the warehouse floor, where all buyers can see it—and when he is supposed to receive the highest market prices. The farmer gets the market price for his tobacco for which he receives cash on the spot. This system is all that can be desired—and the very best and fairest way of selling leaf tobacco. Now gentlemen, listen to us: Just as certain as any thing can be, the present system of selling tobacco will continue. For a while there may be a departure on the part of some from the Auction System. Those who enter into the five year agreement will regret their action and those who refuse to be led into a departure from the old way of selling tobacco, will certainly be glad of their action.

To the business men of the tobacco centers of the tobacco producing section (Continued on page 8.)

THREE RUM HOUNDS CAPTURED NEAR AHSOKIE

Two Were Tried in Winton This Week, One Other Gives Bond of \$100 to Appear in Court at Tarboro

Local bootleggers have evidently let up on many of their precautionary measures of late which makes it a simple matter for the local officers to uncover their apparatus, also nab them "red-handed," as was proved last Friday, when no less than three were seized by the long arm of the law as represented by local deputies aided by Revenue Officer Wood, formerly of Kelford.

Vassie Saddlewhite, a local resident, was acquitted Monday at Winton by the Superior Court on charges of being connected with running a still. Henry Bobbette, an operator of a rum butif near her, was arrested last Friday, a still having been found within fifty yards of his house, together with a quantity of other accessories. He was given a trial at Winton Tuesday, and sentenced to put in two years manuring the highways. Drue Holloman, also of near here, was found operating a rum making plant at the rear of his house on the same day as Bobbette, and was placed under a \$100 bond, for his appearance in Federal Court at Tarboro Monday. Other gangs of liquor violators are thought to be in action near Ahsokie, and efforts are to be made by the local officers to uncover both the miscreants and their apparatus as soon as sufficient evidence as to their whereabouts can be obtained to warrant further action on the part of the officers.

NORTH CAROLINA DRAINAGE ASSOCIATION

The North Carolina Drainage Association will hold its next meeting in Goldsboro on April 28th and 29th. The drainage problem is so important, particularly in Eastern North Carolina, where there are so many areas of wet lands, it is hoped that a large number of intelligent and progressive citizens will attend this meeting.

Drainage is important, not only for our unreclaimed and cut-over lands, but also for lands in cultivation. There are so many hundreds of farms, some of which have been uncultivated for many years, which are uncertain in crop production because of insufficient drainage. Every wet season means reduced crop production, and not infrequently entire destruction of growing crops. As a rule these farms cannot be drained independently but must unite with other land owners in construction of large canals to a common outlet in order to secure cheap and effective drainage. This carries with it the necessity of organizing drainage districts under the general drainage law.

The existing depression in agriculture, which by the way is nation-wide, should not operate to curtail unduly this drainage movement. Drainage is essential for crop production.

The North Carolina Drainage Association which was organized in 1908, has been a large factor in the progress of the state. More than half a million acres of cut-over swamp lands have been drained and thereby increased the taxable wealth of the state by many millions of dollars. This good work must be continued by the same progressive methods.

Full information may be obtained by writing Col. Joseph Hyde Pratt, Director, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Very respectfully,
JNO. H. SMALL.

MR. HINES MOVES TO MURFREESBORO

People of Ahsokie regret the fact that Mr. F. G. Hines, Road Supervisor, who has made his residence in Ahsokie for the past ten months, will be no longer a resident of Ahsokie, he having moved to Murfreesboro Monday, where his family will reside in the future.

AGED RESIDENT OF COMO PASSES AWAY

Mrs. Antonette Picot, widow of Captain Julian S. Picot, died at her home in Como, Wednesday. Funeral services were held at Como Thursday. Mrs. Picot, a highly respected and much-loved resident of her community, had just passed her 86th birthday at the time of her death.

AHSOKIE TO HAVE MANY IMPROVEMENTS

Board of Commissioners Voted To Promptly Many Much Needed Improvements Monday Night, April 17th

The Board of Commissioners of Ahsokie, in a meeting Monday night, voted to promote many much needed improvements for the town. The date for "Clean-Up Week" was set for week beginning April 24th. A feature of this measure was that all the trees on the principal streets are to be whitewashed, as well as special attention to be given to the improvement of the streets of the town in general. Among other steps taken by the Board was the appointment of a special committee to confer with the Road Commissioners in regards to the graveling of the two principle thoroughfare of the town at an early date. Further protection at the railroad crossings was also considered, and it is understood that a "Stop and Go" apparatus will be installed, with other safety measures to warn the public of oncoming trains, also to limit the speed of trains passing through to ten miles per hour. Among other things, the town officers are to construct a public watering place for farmers' horses, and the general public as well. Many other measures were given consideration by the meeting, but the inauguration of "Clean-Up-Week," and the improvements referred to above were the principal points covered.

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF AHSOKIE

On behalf of the Commissioners and officers of our town we wish to extend our thanks and appreciation for the assistance and co-operation rendered us for the past few years. These recent months and years have been very trying and nerve racking to us, as your servants as well as to yourselves in your respective vocations, in trying to make buckle and tongue meet, and we sincerely solicit, and invite all constructive criticism you feel inclined to offer. We have, of course, made many mistakes and are trying to make these mistakes accrue to the benefit of the Town by guarding against repetition as well as taking cognizance of them in passing on present and future problems.

We meet, usually, every Monday night and are always glad to have any citizen who may desire to meet with us, and we will gladly give careful consideration to any requests, complaints or suggestions which would tend to be of benefit in any way to our town. We realize that the tax rate is higher than it was before we had water, sewer, and electric lights, and we suggest that you investigate the tax rate of other town which are offering its citizens the same advantages that Ahsokie offers and we are confident that you will appreciate the fact that our rate is much lower than many towns which do not offer as many advantages as your town offers.

The books of the Secretary-Treasurer are always open to inspection and a copy of the receipts and disbursements are posted in his office, and the mayor's office; also a copy of the Auditor's report of the financial condition can be examined on application to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Feeling that we have withstood, to some degree of satisfaction, the most trying financial stringency in the history of our town and that we are now beginning to see the dawn of a new era of prosperity, we earnestly ask the free co-operation of every citizen of Ahsokie, both men and women.

Respectfully,
W. L. CURTIS, Mayor.

AHSOKIE HIGH SCHOOL FINALS

The Ahsokie High School has been fortunate indeed in securing two much accomplished thinkers and speakers for its commencement this year.

Dr. J. T. Riddick of Norfolk will preach the baccalaureate sermon on Sunday, 11 a. m., April 30th.

Congressman H. S. Ward will deliver the literary address, Tuesday, 8 p. m., May 2nd.

The public is cordially invited.

—For immediate results, try HERALD WANT ADS.

STATE NEWS IN DIGEST COMPILED FOR READERS OF THE HERTFORD COUNTY HERALD

The Eastern Carolina Automobile Show, an annual affair, to be held at Rocky Mount on May 1-6 will be better and larger this year than ever before, was announced by the management recently. Many new attractions and free amusements are to be featured.

Community service work in Rocky Mount will start in that city next week, with John Martin, famous Community worker in charge of the organization. Athletics, recreational facilities, and civic leagues in the high schools will be the main object of the workers at the beginning.

The public school building of Thomasville was totally destroyed by fire, thought to be of incendiary origin, Saturday. The loss was estimated to be around \$150,000. The erection of a new building will begin immediately.

Cantaloupe growers of the counties of Cumberland and Robeson are working this season on a co-operative marketing basis, both in planting and later on in the season, when marketing time comes. This method is expected to do much to relieve the melon situation of former years of the glutted markets and low prices.

When Charles B. Aycock became governor in 1900, the total value of all the school property in North Carolina was only \$1,097,564, and the total expenditures for all public school work in the State was only \$887,710.98. At the end of 1920, the total value of all the school property in the state was \$24,057,838, and the annual expenditures for school purposes was in excess of 12 millions. This shows in a graphic way the great progress of our state along educational lines in the last 20 years.

The farmers of Davidson county are much encouraged over the excellent prospects of a banner wheat crop this year, a crop in many respects better than in the past several years.

The 4th semi-annual convention of the North Carolina Collegiate Press Association will meet at Wake Forest, April 21-22.

Jerry K. Stafford, of Goldsboro, while riding a bicycle Friday, was run over by an automobile, demolishing the wheel, but the rider escaped unhurt.

C. F. Ballard, an inventor of Hamlet, was recently offered \$65,000 for rights on his latest invention, a monkey wrench. Ballard says he can get a half-million on his invention.

A lumber plant of the Jackson Brothers Lumber Company of Fayetteville was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$20,000, Friday. The loss is practically covered by insurance.

The city of Fayetteville is to shortly begin extensive street paving operations. By these improvements the city is to present a much more inviting appearance in the near future.

G. W. Andrews, prominent and popular citizen of Scotland Neck, died at his home in that town Saturday.

More than 20,000 people were present at the Easter Morn services at the old and historic Moravian church at Winston-Salem on last Sunday morning. This record of attendance eclipses that of any previous year. People from many other states were present.

The most spectacular fire in the history of Goldsboro was that of the Utility Manufacturing Company's plant which burned down Saturday night entailing a loss of \$100,000. This is one of the largest enterprises in that city, and as a result over one hundred workers are now out of employment.

Judge R. W. Biggam, of Louisville, Kentucky, spoke to a large audience in Goldsboro Monday night, for the purpose of promoting co-operative marketing among the tobacco farmers of that section.

Chapel Hill, April 16.—Carl Sandburg, the noted poet, is coming to the

University next Saturday night to render some of his best selections in jazz poems. Sandburg is one of the most famous poets of today in his particular line.

Political candidates in Richmond county are more numerous than in many years past, according to reports received from that section.

The State Department of Agriculture says the crying need in this state is more food products raised at home, plus a little more economy, and above all, more dairying on the farms of the entire state. Each farmer is urged to consider these points and act accordingly.

Mrs. Ann Parker, aged 87, died at her home in Winston-Salem, Sunday. Mrs. Parker was well-known in that city.

Business conditions in High Point are on the upward trend according to the amount of freight handled in that city daily—in excess of 60 cars, both of incoming and outgoing freight. Other indications are to the same effect in this busy city, especially the revival of the furniture business.

Mr. R. Beamon, secretary of the N. C. Traffic Association, delivered an address to the business men of Rocky Mount Monday night, on the subject of co-operation among the business interests to help fight off the proposed increased freight rates, to be put into effect in the near future in this state if no measures are taken to prevent such an increase.

The bankers of North Carolina will meet in their 26th annual convention at Pinehurst, April 26-27-28. Many distinguished bankers and public men of the state will be present at the meeting.

Raymond Allison, of Statesville, is now recovering from a pistol wound inflicted by Policeman J. W. Mills, whom he attempted to escape from arrest, Monday. The charges were selling liquor.

Pitt county is now planning for a county-wide clean-up week to be inaugurated in the next few weeks. More efforts are to be expended to make this the most successful campaign in the history of the county than ever before.

L. H. Hole, Jr., of Greensboro, has been appointed as receiver of the Carolina and Yadkin Railroad which recently went into bankruptcy.

The University of North Carolina still holds the lead in baseball among the other collegiate teams of the state. In all recent games the college has proved its superiority in the baseball field.

J. O. Sharrod, of Louisville, Ky., is now in charge of the Artic Ice Cream company's plants in Greensboro, having taken over the position as manager recently. Mr. Sharrod, while in Louisville, was manager of one of the largest ice cream corporations in the entire south.

Today—Thursday, is city-wide dollar day in the city of Raleigh.

Lexington, April 18.—Damage, probably approximating \$35,000, resulted from a fire here today, when the garage of the Motor Service Co. was completely destroyed by flames. The loss is practically covered by insurance.

Mrs. B. C. Williams of Henderson, was seriously injured in a railway accident in that city Tuesday. She is now on the road to recovery.

Elizabeth City, April 18.—The most serious forest fire in the history of this section is now raging in the Burnt Mills section of Camden county, and from latest reports, was in no fair way of being checked, as it grew in volume each hour. Efforts are being made to check its progress in the direction of Elizabeth City.

Colonel Joseph Hyde Pratt, of Chapel Hill, was elected president of the Made-in Carolina Exposition at a meeting of the directors in Charlotte, Monday. The slogan of this organization is to boost "Carolina Products for Carolina People."