

# FLORIDA BOOM COMING?

## Babson Bullish On All Southern States

By Roger W. Babson

Babson Park, Fla., Feb. 25.—When will the next Florida boom come? I assume

one is coming sometime because such booms seem inevitable once in each generation. Those who got caught last time, 1925-1928, will not get caught again; but their children surely may. Moreover, there is more reason for a boom during the 40's than there was during the 20's.

### CITRUS INDUSTRY PROFITABLE

Oranges now bring about \$2 per box and grapefruit about \$1.50 per box on the trees. Cost of growing is about 60 cents a box. This is more than citrus sometimes sold for before the War. The average yield is about 150 boxes per acre for oranges and about 280 boxes per acre for grapefruit. The total Florida crop has grown from 33,000,000 boxes in 1931 to an estimated 68,000,000 boxes for this season. Many groves are now producing as much money as the entire grove sold for three years ago. A grove may be a good investment for a Florida family which can watch and work it. Those, however, who live in the North and are obliged to leave grove care to others may perhaps find this a good time to sell.

The same general principles apply to vegetable producers who are now enjoying a honeymoon irrespective of labor troubles and ceiling prices. Those who raise beans, spinach, peppers, etc., are making big money provided they are not hit by frost, hailstorms or droughts. Not only are all growers in Florida subject to the law of supply and demand which, in the long run, regulates prices; but they are subject to freezes, floods and insects. Hence, one should judge the business by at least a five-year peace-time average not by the State as a whole, but for the section in which you now own property or are considering buying. Many citrus and vegetable growers could now be compared with Wall Street speculators in 1926-1928 before the crash in 1929. Growers better watch out.

### TAXES ARE LOW

Practically all municipal bond issues which defaulted after the last boom are again paying interest, but at much lower rates. This helps all property owners. Florida is one of the few States which gives a \$5,000 tax exemption on homes occupied by Florida citizens. It has no State debt and only limited personal property and inheritance taxes, with no State income taxes per se. Until two years ago, Florida had no labor troubles. Its people are friendly and as a rule go to church. Mortgages are being paid up. Thanks to the New Deal, people were saved their homes during the depression. More Federal income taxes per capita are being paid by Florida citizens than by the people of any other Southern State. This is a good barometer of prosperity.

Before the War, the tourist business was, perhaps, the State's most profitable industry. The War and lack of transportation

have shot this to pieces. I believe it will come back bigger than ever with peace. Of course, Florida has its very expensive hotels; but there are millions of couples in the North who could both lengthen their lives and save money by spending every Winter in Florida. Rents are reasonable, living costs low and doctors' bills far apart. A hearty welcome awaits all of good character. Just now there is no gasoline here, but after the War there will be more than ever. Moreover, the roads of the entire South will be greatly improved.

### AVIATION WILL HELP THE SOUTH

Certainly after the War aviation will greatly help Florida and most Southern States. Planes may leave New York, Chicago and other large Northern cities every hour between 8 A. M. and 10 P. M. for Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and other Southern States. The Florida trip now takes about eight hours. Air fares will be lower than railroad fares when Pullman costs are included. Some people think planes will take vegetables North, freezing them on the way; that these planes will go to the stratosphere and "Bird's-eye" beans, peas, and strawberries. I do not see this myself but I do expect vegetables, flowers, etc., to be transported North by air from Southern States after the War. Florida is also destined to be the jumping off point between the United States and South and Central America.

This last is very important. The aviation and other training camps in the South have been a great advertisement. Hosts of soldiers here tell me they surely are coming back to Florida to live after the War "if they can get a job." Of course, this is the rub, can they then get a job here? Florida is a wonderful place to live for those who have a small monthly income from real estate or from bonds or stocks. It is an ideal place for those who have retired on a pension; but I cannot yet recommend it is a place to come for a young couple who are dependent upon what they earn. They better go to Texas or Alabama or some other State with an industrial future.

### OIL BOOM COMING

Oil has been discovered in Florida since I was here last Winter. It is being pumped out of the ground every day by the Humble Oil & Refining Company about 45 miles Southeast of Fort Meyers on the West Coast, South of Sarasota. Most of the large oil companies are now securing leases throughout South Florida at from ten cents or more per acre. This money is all velvet to land owners because an oil lease does not interfere with raising cattle, citrus, vegetables or anything else.

If you are so fortunate as to have oil discovered on your land later, you then get 12 1/2% of the oil in addition to your present lease money. Not only will this oil bring hundreds of millions of dollars to Florida but it should raise the prices of almost all land whether or not oil is found thereon. Those who get money from oil are sure to invest it in more land as they know nothing about stocks and bonds. Hence, this is no time to sell raw land in Florida.

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## THE LOW DOWN FROM HICKORY GROVE

I just busted into a hospital. For 2 weeks I have had the radio at my elbow, and brothers and sisters. I am now an authority on programs. It never before entered my head that there could be such a tremendous amount of nothing on the air — 24 hours continuous.



Jo Serra

But I did hear one thing that sorta intrigued me. It was the news that the big Medicine Men there on the Potomac have decided that a new label is needed to take the place of the old one on their old bottle of "snake oil and pain killer." I mean the New Deal Brand. They are thinking of naming the new elixir "Win the War." Sounds kinda foxy, but if sales drop off, you will scratch around for something that will help the business. They don't say that what is in the bottle is going to be changed, so I guess it will be the same old stuff—taste and smell the same. The label will have to be mighty pretty.

Yours with the low down,  
JO SERRA.

Richard J. Reynolds of Winston-Salem has presented 3 motion pictures on canning, swine production, and farm machinery to the State College Extension Service to help in the war effort. Other pictures are planned.

—On Pay Day, Buy Bonds—

### FARMERS NIGHT CLASSES

Twenty-seven farmers of Cedar Rock are attending night shop classes in the Vocational Agriculture Shop at Edward Best School. These classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday nights, 3 hours each.

The farmers bring in all types of machines and equipment, from pitch forks to mowing machines, for repair. The men do their own repair and construction with the help of the instructors. They work together on jobs, one man helping his neighbor tonight and the neighbor helping him the next night. Many ideas and much experience changes hands during a 3 hour class.

Last year this Vocational Agriculture Department conducted 6 farm machinery repair classes for farm men and women, with about 85 members attending. Each of the classes ran 12 nights, or a total of 36 hours for each class.

These classes are run as a War Emergency Aid to farmers to enable them to repair and put back into use equipment that cannot be replaced. Also they help him to spread out his year's work by doing repair in the winter. They also help him see need for and make improvements around the farm.

Any farmer in this community may attend these classes. Regular membership and attendance is desired, because occasional attendance defeats the purpose of the class. Any farmer desiring to attend may see W. W. McClure, Teacher of Agriculture at Edward Best School.

The War Food Administration is assigning about 40 per cent of the available vitamin A to enrichment of poultry feeds. This vitamin supply will come back in the 45 billion eggs allowed civilians in 1944.

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### MRS. W. T. J. EATON

Mrs. W. T. J. Eaton, 68, widow of the late Wood Tucker Johnson Eaton, of Franklin County, died at her home in Zebulon Thursday afternoon of last week.

Surviving are a brother, P. G. Curtis of Zebulon; three daughters, Sarah Eaton and Mrs. Mayton Temple of Zebulon, and Janet Eaton of Wilmington; four sons, William Eaton of Franklinton, John Eaton of Wilmington, Sgt. Preston Eaton with the Army in Texas, and Ira S. Eaton of Raleigh, and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the home Friday afternoon, conducted by the Rev. G. J. Griffin, assisted by the Rev. C. E. Vale and the Rev. T. B. Davis. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery at Franklinton.

### CALVIN W. CONN

Funeral services for Calvin W. Conn, who died at his home on Route 2, Louisburg, Saturday afternoon were conducted by the Rev. John Edwards from the White Level Baptist Church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. P. B. Murphy; a son, A. G. Conn, both of Route 2, Louisburg, and several grandchildren.

### MRS. JIMMIE GRIFFIN

Funeral services for Mrs. Jimmie Griffin, who died at her home Route 1, Castalia, Friday afternoon, were conducted from at 3 o'clock by the Rev. John Edwards. Burial followed in the family cemetery near the home.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Betty Wood of the home, and one brother, Pete Griffin, of Route 1, Castalia.

RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

### E. T. BALL

E. T. Ball, 75, died at the home of his son, G. E. Ball, near Youngsville, Saturday night. Surviving are his wife, his son, G. E. Ball, and a stepdaughter, Mrs. H. E. Harris of Franklinton.

### BEER YIELDS 8 MILLIONS IN TAXES

Raleigh, Feb. 21.—North Carolina's beer industry paid \$8,077,438.24 in Federal, State and Local taxes in 1943, according to figures compiled by the Brewing Industry Foundation's North Carolina Committee.

The Federal Government collected \$5,148,474.58 in barrel and license taxes; the State \$2,773,963.66 in crown, lid and license taxes; and Local units \$155,000 in license fees.

Tobacco plant beds offer wonderful opportunities for growing extra supplies of vegetables this summer.

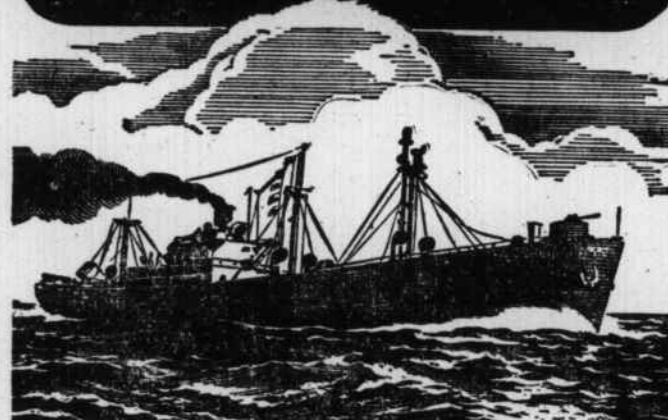
### CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

A birthday party was given in honor of Mr. W. C. Holmes' 69th birthday, Saturday, Feb. 19th. The guests began to arrive around 8 o'clock. Music was rendered by Mrs. T. H. Wynne and Mr. Holmes.

The guests present were Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Hudson, Mrs. J. F. Gupton and daughter, Mr. W. E. Bartholomew, Mrs. John Ellis Jones, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Jennings, Mr. Bob Peoples, Rev. Forrest Hedden, Dave Holmes, Mr. James Spencer and family, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Wynne and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kemp, Mr. William Lancaster, all of Louisburg, and John Robert Kennedy of Springfield, Ill., Larry Malinelli, of Manhattan, N. Y., also James Kenneth Watson, Pittsburg, Penn., all serving in the U. S. Navy. Refreshments were served and the guests departed wishing Mr. Holmes many more happy birthdays.

# SODA?

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1,000,000 tons of natural Chilean nitrate—the tonnage U. S. farmers used last year—properly applied, would produce 250,000,000 bu. of oats or 100,000,000 bu. of wheat; 125,000,000 bu. of corn or 4,800,000 tons of forage crops; 6,000,000 tons of vegetables, or 2,500,000 bales of cotton and 1,100,000 tons of cotton seed.

These figures show why farmers need all the Chilean Soda they can get to smash '44 goals and help make Victory sure!

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## LISTEN!

I know it is bad when you have the money to buy what you want, but can't find it.

Well in that case, buy just what you need. What is that you ask? O. K. Buy War Bonds with what you have after you buy the things you are bound to have. I hope to be able to sell you just what you want sometime, and if you put your money in Bonds now, you will be able to buy and pay cash.

Oh! I have some goods now, and will be glad to have you come and look around and see if I have anything you can use.

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