

The Mount Airy News.

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\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

KENTUCKY POOL DISPOSES OF 60,000,000 LBS. BURLEY

All the Borrowed Money Has Been Paid Back—Brief Outline of Stupendous Accomplishments—Big Buyers are Well Pleased with New System.

Some idea of what the Burley Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association has accomplished in its brief corporate existence was given to the tobacco growers of the dark district of Kentucky at Louisville by President James C. Stone. According to Mr. Stone's statement, the Association has received about 85,000,000 pounds of tobacco since its warehouses were opened January 26, and has sold about 60,000,000 pounds of that tobacco at prices about three times what the advances given the growers at the time of delivery amounted to.

The association, Mr. Stone said, is using 94 receiving plants at 54 different locations. It has not only advanced about a third of the value to the growers, but has paid back half the amount of its borrowing from banks in the district and will pay back the other half this week. He said the officials of the Association expected later to use some of the \$19,000,000 loan offered by the War Finance Corporation.

In his address at Louisville, Mr. Stone said, in part:

"I can give you, but not in a detailed way, just what we have done in Central Kentucky. We started this organization July 20. Between July 20 and November 15, we signed 55,617 contracts which gave, based on the 1920 crop, around 86 per cent. We then organized under the laws of North Carolina, because we did not have adequate law in this State at that time.

"The first part of January there was a law—the Bingham Cooperative Marketing Association Act—passed in one week's time, and we incorporated under the law in this State. Between that time and January 25, we took over 120 warehouses out of 130 through the district, which cost approximately \$6,000,000. We financed that property to the satisfaction of the owners of that property.

"We organized our grading department and established uniform grades for burley tobacco. We made arrangements to borrow \$10,000,000 from the War Finance Corporation and in addition borrowed \$5,400,000 through the banks throughout the territory to make advances to the farmers when they began to deliver to our receiving points. We began in January in 54 locations; and since that time we have received up until last Saturday night, approximately 85,000,000 pounds of tobacco. We have advanced the farmer what was approximately one-third of the market price and have sold approximately 60,000,000 pounds of tobacco at prices about three times the advance price.

"We are this week paying back all the money we borrowed. We will have a sufficient amount of money on hand to make advances to the remaining members of the association that are yet to deliver their crops. We expect, however, later to use some of the War Finance Corporation money, but we could get along without using it probably, but we are going to use it.

"We have all the warehouse properties—that is, the storage plants—put under the Government Pawning Act. We have complied with all the details of the War Finance Corporation requirements by having our graders licensed under the graders' license act. We are now prepared if we want to do it, to get this War Finance money from the government.

"This is just a brief summary of what has been accomplished, you might say, in 60 days in the Burley section.

"I also want to say that the manufacturers to whom we have sold tobacco are very much pleased with the way the business has been handled, and not later than yesterday I had one of the largest owners say to me that it was decidedly the most satisfactory way they have ever purchased tobacco. It has been packed straight on the basket.

"In fact, one told me he had received 4,000,000 pounds from Lexington, Ky., alone and not one single basket of nested tobacco in it, and that he was convinced that was the case throughout the territory. He was confident it would be and is now

RAILROADS LOSE IN FEDERAL COURT

Three Judges Say State Can Collect Tax as Levied Against Railroads.

Raleigh, March 18.—The five chief railroads of North Carolina today were denied an interlocutory injunction against the state of North Carolina to restrain the state from collecting taxes for 1921 on property they alleged to be assessed at a valuation in excess of its true value.

The decision, rendered by Federal Judges Edmund Waddill, of the fourth district; James E. Boyd, of the western district of North Carolina, and H. G. Connor, Sr., of the eastern district, upholds the taxation system of North Carolina.

The railroads affected are, the Southern, Atlantic and Yadkin, Seaboard, Atlantic Coast Line and the Norfolk Southern. It is expected that the roads will take the case to the Supreme court of the United States immediately on appeal. The statute under which the motion was filed gives the roads the right to do this. But in the meantime there is nothing now to prevent the state from proceeding in its work of collecting the taxes which it believes it has a right under the law to do.

The hearing, running over a week, took place in Greensboro in January. The cases will more than likely take their turn in the United States courts of equity. At the Greensboro hearing the attorneys for the roads stressed the point that the state of North Carolina should not fight the injunction, declaring that they (the roads) only asked for the injunction until the final hearing of the cases. They cited the point that the state had nothing whatever to lose by waiting until the final disposition of the actions in the regular United States courts of equity. But the attorneys for the state thought entirely differently.

The roads, at least several of them, alleged that an unjust burden was imposed on them by what they called the pyramiding of taxes against them: First, the ad valorem tax on the total value of property, second the franchise tax on that same ad valorem total value, and third, the income tax of three per cent on net income.

The railroads fought desperately at the Greensboro hearing with the state defending itself vigorously. The roads alleged that the state discriminated against them in arriving at the franchise tax through the ad valorem method; that they are now being taxed with ad valorem taxes, resulting in what they claim to be double taxation. They also attacked the franchise tax on the ground that it was in violation of the constitution of the state and the 14th amendment of the federal constitution in that all other corporations are measured by the capital stock, whereas with the railroads it is based upon the ad valorem value.

The court, after consideration of the bills, exhibits, affidavits and argument of counsel, gave as its opinion that for the purpose of the motion only, complainants had neither in their pleadings, nor upon the proofs adduced, made such a case as entitled them to have an interlocutory injunction in the causes as prayed for and the motions for such injunction in respect to the ad valorem and the franchise and privilege tax should not be granted.

The court did not pass upon or express any opinion in respect to the validity of the income tax or the statutes enacted for its enforcement. The roads at the hearing only attacked mildly this part of the system.

In the capitol offices today the rejoicing was general. The state has won everything it sought in the first skirmish. The case will now go up in a hurry.

The suit was instituted against Revenue Commissioner A. D. Watts, Auditor Baxter Durham, Treasurer B. R. Lacy and Attorney General J. S. Manning. The interlocutory injunction restraining and enjoining each and all of these defendants from proceeding with the collection and enforcement of payment against the several plaintiffs of certain taxes assessed, was presented in Greensboro January 24, when the facts were taken and arguments made. Thirty days for briefs followed and Thursday the three judges took all consideration. The decision was reached earlier than had been expected.

the best way both for the farmer and the man who buys it, manufactures it. That is briefly what has been accomplished in the Burley section."

CONVICT HIDES 9 YEARS IN WELL

Texas Farmer for Many Years Came Out of His Hiding Place Only at Night, but as Time Went on got Careless

Dallas, Texas.—After living most of the time nine years in the bottom of a deep well, J. W. Owens of Abilene, Taylor county, Texas, is back behind the bars at Huntsville, to complete a term which would have been served out had he remained there when first taken to the penitentiary. As it is he begins his ten-year sentence over.

Owens escaped from the penitentiary one day after he was sent there on a murder charge ten years ago from Taylor county.

Owens made his home at the bottom of a deep dry well on his farm south of Abilene all the time the officers were searching for him. He fixed the well into comfortable living quarters and was never in danger. He remained in the well most of the daytime and came out at night to be with his wife and children. Scores of times the officers have approached the house and searched the place, but they never once thought of taking a trip down into the 70-foot well. Owens was at the bottom, comfortably reclining on his bunk and smoking his pipe in an underground room he had tunneled out from the well. But as time wore on Owens became careless. And the officers came upon him so suddenly that he was caught in the act of getting into his underground home, hauled out and started again to the penitentiary.

It was 11 years ago that Owens was charged with murder and finally given ten years in prison. He was a prosperous farmer. When he arrived at the penitentiary, he was assigned to his cell. The following day he was missing. Just walked off in broad daylight.

Owens talked freely of his hiding place at home. He said when he left the prison he went straight home and at once took up his abode in the old well. He said for several months he never came above the surface during the day. He said food was lowered to him in a bucket at night. Owens dug a room back from the well shaft, set up his bed and arranged for his comfort.

For the last three years he has spent much time on the surface, he said, even to the extent of helping with the work about the place. It appeared the officers had given up the hunt and believed him gone. Then he became careless, he said. Later an officer learned he was at home. They had been hearing that "at home again" for nine years. But they went. They came upon him suddenly. He made a run for the well, but they got him. Owens says he will not try to escape this time. He says his family is in good shape and can get along without him, so he will stick it out.

Large Poultry Dealer Killed by Train

Salisbury, March 19.—Robert C. Clement, 45 years of age, of Rogersville, Tenn., was killed 10 miles west of Salisbury this afternoon when he either fell from or was knocked off a poultry train en route from Rogersville to New York city.

Mr. Clement, a large shipper of Tennessee, was accompanying one of his trains composed of 12 cars of chickens, to New York city. When the train arrived at Spencer Mr. Clement found his father missing. He immediately got in touch with the section foreman in Salisbury, requesting him to search for the missing man. The younger Mr. Clement continued with the poultry train, clinging to the tiny hope that his father had left the train at Salisbury. When he reached Greensboro a message notified him that his father's body was found about 10 miles west of here, near an overhead bridge. The young man returned to Salisbury tonight to take charge of the remains. After being prepared for burial, the body will be taken to Rogersville, Tenn., where interment will be made.

While no one saw Mr. Clement fall, it is the opinion here that he either fell from one of the cars or was struck by the overhead bridge. The body was badly mangled, but the train did not pass over it.

Mr. Clement was well known in railroad circles here and in Spencer. For the past three years he had passed through Spencer weekly, accompanying one of his poultry trains to New York city. He was one of the largest poultry shippers in his state.

POLITICS IN SURRY

This good year, 1922, is the time to elect all county officers, and recorder for Mount Airy township. The fact that already, this early in the year, months before the conventions will be held, the politicians are lining up and taking stand for this and that candidate, is evidence that this is to be no light matter with the people who get interested in the awarding of offices.

The county is so strongly Republican that the Democrats hardly stir up interest enough to do more than keep a watch on the acts and conduct of those in office and put out a ticket that the party organization may be kept intact. It was this watchfulness on the part of Democrats that, no doubt, resulted in the law that requires the books of the county to be audited each year by a competent auditor in the future, which was a wise move beyond question.

The Republican party is committed to the policy of two terms to all successful candidates who are worthy officials. The party learned this lesson well a few years ago when they made a shipwreck of their political machine and turned over the county to the Democrats all because a so-called ring captured the county and was ruling according to its own sweet will, year after year, and no hope of a change. The party divided to that extent that a Democrat could be elected to the best offices in the county. It was because of all this that a rule was made that no man shall hold an office more than two terms in succession. There seems to be a strong disposition on the part of all leaders in the Republican party to stand by this rule to the letter. And under this rule the clerk, treasurer, the register of deeds and one county commissioner and the representative will change.

The most important office as to responsibility and salary is that of clerk of the Superior Court. This office is for a term of four years and the man who gets it is practically sure of a tenure of eight years. It is the only office in the county that is for a longer term than two years. Mr. J. A. Jackson, who has now served his time for two terms and who has made one of the best officials the county ever had, will retire from politics, so far as holding office goes, with the expiration of his present term. He will devote his time to his business interests here at Mount Airy and no more bother with the public office.

Already it seems that it is almost a certainty that A. E. Tilley, of Mount Airy, will be the winning candidate for Clerk when the convention is held. Mr. Tilley is a lawyer and is now county attorney. He held the office of Recorder of this township for two years and made one of the most satisfactory officers the court has ever had. He has proven himself to be a competent and popular official, and folks tell us that his nomination is almost a certainty.

The next best office is that of high sheriff of the county. The lines seem to be drawn and it is agreed that the office will go to either the present sheriff, A. L. Ashburn, or former sheriff, U. G. Belton. Mr. Ashburn is serving out the one year time that was made vacant by the resignation of W. L. Alberty and is making one of the most popular and efficient sheriffs the county has ever had. He will ask for the regular nomination from his party and will, naturally, have a strong following. Mr. Belton is possibly known to the people of the county as well or better than any other politician here. He has long been before the people and can number as many friends as any man. He is making an active campaign for the office, so they tell us, and will no doubt have a strong following.

For the office of register of deeds there will be a dozen candidates, no doubt. Already there are said to be a number of candidates who may enter the race. Hardin Holyfield, a young man of Rockford township and a man who would make a strong run and a good official, is said to be in the race, and so will J. F. Sparger, of Stewart's Creek township. Mr. Sparger has served as deputy sheriff and is known as a substantial and worthy young man who will command a strong following. The interesting feature of the contest for this office is that a woman will ask for it. Miss Lillian Harkrader wants to be the next Register. She has been asked by numbers of voters to enter the race and no doubt will. Miss Lillian is a daughter of S. K. Harkrader of Dobson and her mother is well known as the popular proprietor of the Dobson hotel, and her grandfather, the late Lacy Norman, was one of the

LETTER FROM JAPAN

In my last letter I started to tell you about my evangelistic visit to Misho in January. In my description I was on my way on the stormy sea with my feelings somewhat upset by seasickness. Of course you must bear in mind that seasickness is very bad while it lasts. Seasickness steals into the heart, the surrounding scenery, however grand, loses its charm, the fear of death haunts for a season in extreme cases, which, in turn, gives way to a fear that death will not come and free the victim from misery. Eventually the situation becomes less tense, reason is again enthroned, anguish yields to hope, optimism again comes into its accustomed relation, and it feels mighty good when the bad feeling stops. An old man whom I have known from childhood says he likes to mash his thumb because it feels so good when it stops hurting.

Well, we landed at the port of Fukaura that morning about seven o'clock, and with out light baggage in our hands we walked across the mountain to John, the distance being a little less than two miles. John is the largest and most prosperous of the group of villages which constitute the broader territory known as Misho. John would easily be called a town in America because of the considerable number of inhabitants. We went direct to the Yamamura (Mountain Village) hotel where we had breakfast and took up our abode. It is the place at which we are accustomed to lodge and to hold our religious services, since the building we have had for a chapel is so small and unsuitable. The hotel, like all others in this part of the country, is strictly Japanese. There are no chairs, no bedsteads, and no stoves nor fireplaces. We sat on the floor around a hibachi with our overcoats on, as it was snowing and cold. The hibachi is a kind of jar or tin lined box filled nearly full of ashes and some live coals on top. Sitting on our feet keeps them warm, and the hands are kept warm by holding them over the hibachi. Too, the Japanese dress very warmly in winter by putting cotton between their dresses and linings.

At night huge quilts are brought into the guest room by the maid, and one or two are spread down on the clean padded floor, while one or two are used for covering, according to the season. In the morning these heavy quilts are carried out and stored away till needed again. We foreigners miss the springs of our own beds; but we usually sleep well anyway.

The food is placed on tiny trays in individual dishes and brought into the room and placed on the floor in front of the guest. The food was quite good to us, but probably not what the readers would consider ideal. The food was quite *etatsuna-souji*. There were no knives, forks nor spoons to use in handling the food. We used two little straight sticks both held in the same hand and skillfully manipulated. But my friends in America do not always manipulate the chopsticks skillfully when I have them give a demonstration. We had no bread, nor butter nor coffee. But we had rice instead of bread, which is a very fine substitute when properly prepared: Our eggs were brought to us entirely raw and unbroken. For dinner and supper we always had fresh raw fish cut into thin slices and eaten with Japanese sauce distilled from beans and salt. We also had cooked or broiled fish, soups, vegetables, fruits, pickles, and sometimes beef. I do not suffer in using such diet, for my weight is still about the same as it was in Mount Airy, that it, about 216 pounds.

It will take another letter to tell you about our trip in the snowstorm, religious services, etc.

J. W. Frank
Uwajima, Ehime Ken, Japan.
Feb. 10, 1922.

Serbia Honors Mrs. Patterson
The following from the Winston-Salem Journal will be read with interest by friends here.

"Mrs. J. Lindsay Patterson of this city has just received a decoration from King Alexander of Serbia in recognition of her services to the people of that country in 1919. Mrs. Patterson spent several months in Serbia doing relief work and this official award pays her a distinct compliment.

"The decoration is the insignia of the Order of Mercy, and is quite unique in its design. It is fashioned in the shape of a cross with a small heart in the center that is engraved with the Royal Coat of Arms of Serbia."

Must Have Warrants to Search Motor Cars

Danville, Va., March 14.—Failure of government officers to hold search warrants led today to the freedom of C. M. Goodwin and J. M. Harris, two Richmond men who a year ago were arrested by prohibition officers near Clover, Halifax county in an automobile containing 86 gallons of liquor.

The government took a noble press in the cases today and the men were released. The government so acted in the face of instructions to the federal grand jury yesterday in which the court insisted that evidence illegally secured could not be used.