

Devoted to the Upbuilding of Vass and Its Surrounding Country

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VASS, N. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1921

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Farmers Meeting

Last Monday there were more than 200 tobacco and cotton farmers present at a meeting in the courthouse at Carthage to decide the destiny of the marketing situation.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. J. B. Von Canon and a splendid report from the secretary was rendered. This report showed that 196 tobacco farmers had signed the reduction acreage pledge. This is the vast majority of tobacco farmers of Moore County and represents about 85 per cent of the acreage. Many others have agreed to either reduce acreage or not plant any at all.

The farmers of this county are to be congratulated on having with them Mr. Hugh McNair Kahler of Southern Pines. He was a delegate to the Raleigh meeting in January and brought back a message to our farmers that stirred their very souls. Mr. Kahler has written several books and is a regular correspondent for the Ladies Home Journal and the Saturday Evening Post, and this with his experience as a "dirt farmer" made his talk a masterpiece for our farmers. He urged every farmer to respond this day, as the "Day of Salvation," and join the marketing association that is being organized over the bright leaf tobacco belt. He offered his services in every way and gave a public contribution for the cause. With such a man as Hugh Kahler as a leader, the farmers of Moore feel that there is something in the present plan of marketing other than a lot of hot air.

Following this came Mr. B. F. Browne of the Bureau of Markets and with that ever concise and clear understanding, he discussed at length all the details of the marketing program as outlined by the North Carolina Tobacco Growers Association. Many questions arose and the greatest interest was manifested even by the most pessimistic. When Mr. Browne concluded his talk there was not even a shadow of doubt in the minds of those present, that action must be taken to perfect a better system of marketing our products.

Mr. T. D. McLean, District Farm Demonstration was here. He has been assisting with this campaign in a score or more of counties and being in his capacity with his own farm interest here in the county he responded with a report from other sections of the state and gave his audience a hearing that was much appreciated. The farmers appreciated T. D. McLean for he is one of them and they have confidence in his ability to organize.

After these talks came an open discussion. This was not a discussion so much like those that often follow a lot of "hot air" or "wild enthusiasm," but it was the kind that the world is now interested in. Facts and figures without flurry, because our farmers are now feeling a depression that has been brought about over and above expectation. They have been a "down trodden member of society" for generations and they now feel as they have never felt before and that it is up to them to get out of the "rut," and not become the homeless hirelings of a cotton or tobacco manufacturer. They have now

realized this one question, that if they don't help themselves, they need not expect some one else help them.

One little man in statue, but not in experience, in the name of J. T. Fletcher of West End sounded the key-note when he told his fellow farmers the best investment they could make was to buy the present crop of cotton on the October futures. He told them if they wanted to have some cotton next fall, not to plant it, but to buy it now that there was plenty on hand and they could buy it a lot cheaper at the present prices than they could produce it. This brought laughter to his audience, but mingled with it one could see the depression on many faces that told a story which is related day after day—overproduction.

The Chairman asked those to rise who wanted to cut loose from the old system. And they not only stood for a minute, but brought in the contract signed up and paid their fees. Space will not allow us to mention more of this interesting meeting, but when it comes to the "back-bone of this country," we may as well say here that it is seriously crippled if not injured for life. The farmers of Moore County are going to do their part in casting a majority and while we still labor we only hope that each of the other counties will do likewise.

Experience of Engine 112

By LEON KEITH

An original composition handed in by a member of the 6th grade, Vass Graded School:

I am a little engine No. 112. I was made in Philadelphia, Penn., in the largest locomotive works in the world. In these shops they work fifteen thousand men and put out seven engines a day. When I came out of the shop I was shining like silver. I came about five hundred miles 'till I reached the town of Vass. I was snatched and jerked around so much that two bolts of my draw heads pulled out. For several days I sat on a little side track beside of a tobacco warehouse at Vass, N. C. and when I was repaired I went to Key West, Florida. From Key West I went on a ship to Cuba. As I was going across to Cuba a storm came up. The ship was reeling and rocking. I thought it was going to wreck, but after awhile the storm calmed and we went on until we reached Cuba. There they got me a string of cars that I thought I would never pull. My heart almost failed me at first, but after awhile I went clipping along with all that string of cars. I was pulling and going around a curve when another train hit me bam, and tore me nearly all to pieces. I lay there all battered and bruised 'till the wrecker came and picked me up and carried me to the repair shop. Another engine took my place 'till I got fixed. I went to work again hauling sugar for the United States. I was going across a large river with several thousand pounds of sugar and I jumped the track and fell in the river. All the sugar was damaged. I stayed in the river three days and nights and the same old wrecker, came and got me out. I wasn't damaged so badly as the other time.

Upper Hoke

Spring is here again with the windy March weather.

Mr. B. B. Johnson had the misfortune of losing his pasture fence by forest fire Saturday night.

There is by far too little attention paid to woods burning in the wire grass section. Of course we admit that fire does damage to wood land if it burns over it at any time of the year. But this late in spring when the sap begins to rise it is much worse. And again it's a known fact that the rough woods will burn, sooner or later, so it's much better to pick a good calm time, late in the fall, when the growth is dormant and burn off the grass and thus prevent the big fires later in the spring. We know of land that has not been burned over in several years, and the wire grass is actually knee deep. Mayby this wont get burnt over this spring but just wait, the time is coming when it will, and maybe it will be a good time and maybe it wont.

Mr. W. H. Ray, one of Hoke county's best known citizens, was found by friends, at his home, on the floor under the bed paralyzed last Tuesday night. Just how long Mr. Ray had been in this state no one knows, as he was speechless when found, but it is thought that he was stricken either Sunday night or Monday. Mr. Ray was taken to a hospital in Fayetteville and little hope is entertained for his recovery. Mr. Ray lived alone, never was married, and is the last one of a large and respected Scotch family. We trust he will recover soon, but on account of his age the chances are against him.

Mr. W. L. Smith, of Olivia, spent Friday with his uncle, Mr. J. Hecter Smith, of Route 2.

Mr. Maples, of the Aberdeen Crate and Box Company, of Aberdeen, N. C., was a business caller on Route 2 last Thursday.

They are catching some fine fish at the power plant these days. Mr. McFadgen told us Monday that he had caught 30 or 40 in the last week, all good big, fat suckers. Mr. McFadgen is a fine hand to catch suckers any way.

Mr. W. D. McCrany expects to start his saw mill in about a week. He has been closed down for several weeks. S—

Same Young Daniels

Several weeks ago the Greensboro News in an editorial asked the question: "Can Josephus Daniels come back as an editor?" Those that didn't read the article should get Tuesday's News and Observer and read Editor Daniels' first editorial "Home Again—On the J. B." after relinquishing the reins of the U. S. Navy that he has held in hand for eight long years with credit to himself and the United States. Did he come back, well we should say so. It is the same young Josephus.

I'm having very bad luck so far, but since a bad beginning makes a good ending, I hope yet to pull many car loads of sugarto the port where it will be sent to the good old people back in Vass, N. C.

Help the Starving Children

There never has been an appeal made in North Carolina for the Armenians and Syrians this year, although other organizations have asked for funds. The Near East Relief is separate and distinct from the Central European Relief and not one penny contributed to Mr. Hoover's council goes to the Armenians and Syrians.

Every school boy and girl in North Carolina will be given an opportunity to contribute to the relief of the homeless and hungry Armenian children, who are begging for a chance to live. Tuesday, March 15th, a collection will be taken by the faculty of the Vass Graded School, and every pupil of the school will be given a chance to give their pennys to help the orphaned tots. Remember every penny that is given will be received with a blessing, as it will help to save some little life. North Carolina must feed 3,334 orphans. Don't fail to give.

Cameron Route One

Miss Jennie Cameron, of Rockingham, was the week-end guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Cameron.

Miss Kate Graham has returned home after a visiting relatives and friends near Jonesboro.

Mr. James Douglas was over in Sanford on business Saturday.

Misses Cora and Bessie Oakley entertained a number of their friends an evening of last week, in honor of their friend, Miss Evelyn Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Atkinson, of Southern Pines, visited Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Keith, on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Mag. Cameron and daughter, Miss Sallie, attended the burial of Mrs. Sallie Cameron, near Morris Chapel, Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Carl Thompson was over in Sanford on business Thursday.

Mrs. Mollie Graham spent Thursday night with relatives near Jonesboro.

Mrs. T. F. Cameron is on a visit to her father who lives near Warrenton.

Miss Kate Autrey entertained at a birthday party at her home Saturday evening.

Mr. J. A. Thomas made a business trip to Hartsville, S. C., last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner Cameron, of Cameron Route 3, visited her parents Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Shaw, Sunday.

Miss Bettie Cawk, of Gibson, is on a visit to Miss Naomia Peel.

Mr. Ernest Douglas spent Saturday in Sanford on business.

Mrs. A. J. Keith spent a part of last week at the bedside of her mother, Mrs. Bynum, who has been seriously ill at Hamlet.

Mr. J. B. Cameron is adding to the appearance of his home by applying a new coat of paint.

Next Thursday is St. Patrick's Day. Don't forget to wear something green.