

## Wallace Plans To Call For Tobacco Control Vote Soon

### Date for Holding Referendum Has Not Been Definitely Mentioned

With a record-breaking tobacco crop now moving to market, and fearful basic prices will tumble, United States Department of Agriculture officials yesterday took the first steps to hold a referendum for production control in 1940, but no possible date for holding the vote was mentioned. The action of Secretary Wallace was received with no marked interest, those close to the agricultural situation considering it as a step merely to have arrangements completed in ample time for holding the referendum two or three months from now.

A story, released under a Washington dateline, yesterday brought forth some interesting comment, but the general opinion was that no referendum would be called in the immediate future and certainly not until after eastern North Carolina farmers get a taste of 1939 prices on their home markets. The story reads in part as follows:

The Secretary ordered the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to arrange for a referendum among tobacco growers on marketing quotas. Two-thirds of the growers of flue-cured leaf must approve the marketing restriction and penalties before they become operative.

A similar attempt by Wallace to impose marketing controls this season on last year's crop failed when only 56.8 per cent of the growers voted favorably, less than the required two-thirds.

Under terms of the Farm Act the Secretary must proclaim marketing quotas whenever supplies of a major farm crop exceed certain reserve levels. Then a farmer referendum must be conducted.

Although Wallace has not yet officially proclaimed the tobacco quotas and has until Dec. 1 to do so, the AAA announced that this year's large crop "apparently will bring supplies to a level requiring proclamation of a quota."

No date for the referendum was fixed.

The government crop report this month estimated a flue cured tobacco crop of 1,028,000,000 pounds, compared with an estimated world consumption level for American flue-cured of about 750,000,000 pounds.

If the tobacco sales restrictions are approved by two-thirds of the growers eligible to vote, marketing of tobacco in excess of quotas would bring a penalty of 10 cents a pound.

## Will Keep Tab On Leaf Price Trend

In the event tobacco prices show a downward trend following the opening of the markets next week, plans for holding an immediate referendum were virtually abandoned following the successful opening of the markets a short time ago. Under the rulings of the Agricultural Administration act, the Department of Agriculture secretary is expected to call a referendum on control on November 15 for the 1940 crop.

## Cotton Carryover Was 13,032,611 Bales

The census bureau reported this week the cotton carry-over at the beginning of the cotton year 1939-40, on August 1, was 13,032,611 running bales—the largest quantity of cotton held at this time of the year in the history of government statistics.

A cotton crop of 11,412,000 bales this year was forecast earlier this month by the agriculture department. That will be added to the carry-over to make up the year's supply.

There was a carry-over of 11,533,439 bales a year ago and 4,498,848 bales two years ago. The average carry-over for the 10 years 1929 to 1939 was 6,744,800 bales.

## To Test Eyes Of School Bus Drivers This Year

In an effort to increase the safety surrounding the operation of school buses in the county, the health department is planning to test the eyes of all the drivers. Special equipment is being installed for giving thorough tests, and those who fail to pass the examinations will not be recommended as drivers. Dr. F. E. Wilson, head of the department, said, "The examinations will be given during the first few days of next month."

## Plans Virtually Complete for Consolidating Agencies Here

Plans were announced virtually complete today for consolidating all offices of the Works Progress Administration and establishing district headquarters for the Farm Security Administration here within the immediate future. Arrangements for housing twenty additional employees of the Works Progress Administration now located in Windsor and New Bern were handled yesterday. The enlarged personnel will be located in offices over Dardens' Department Store next to the Branch Banking and Trust Company. Plans, while still pending, are virtually certain to materialize for housing the district headquarters of the Farm Security Administration on the second floor of the York Building on Washington Street.

The consolidation program of the Works Progress Administration,

bringing many of the workers back here who were with the organization at this point prior to its disintegration some time ago, will likely be effected not later than September 1, it was unofficially learned. Offices for the enlarged forces are being renovated, and they are to be available within the next ten days. Several of the WPA employees will bring their families here with them.

The present program proposes a permanent set-up of its district headquarters here, the authorities explaining that no changes other than additions were likely before June 30, next year.

Employing eight persons, the Farm Security Administration plans to establish its district headquarters here on a permanent basis immediately, according to information gained today from Town Clerk G. H. Harrison.

## Many Farmers Forfeit Soil Benefit Payments

### ANNIVERSARY



Charlie Bowers, popular merchant, is completing his first year as manager of the local Belk-Tyler department store. Mr. Bowers and members of his staff returned Wednesday from an extensive buying trip.

## Four Cases Called In Recorder's Court By Judge H. O. Peel

### Seasonal Increase in Court Activities Due Following Market Opening

Its docket reflecting a mid-summer slump in crime, the Martin County Recorder's court was in session hardly more than an hour last Monday when Judge H. O. Peel called four cases for trial. Only two new cases were placed on the docket for consideration, Solicitor D. E. Johnson pointing out that fewer litigants were in the court than for any other session in recent weeks.

An increase in the court's business is anticipated now that the tobacco markets are opening, and people start moving around more. Few entertain the least desire to fight, but when general business shows an increase, that increase is reflected in greater numbers of crimes such as fighting and drinking.

The proceedings in the court this week were of a minor nature, and there were few spectators in the courtroom during the short session. Charged with larceny and receiving, John Sam Moore pleaded not guilty, but the court differed with his claim and sentenced him to the roads for sixty days.

The case charging Robert Williams with an assault on a female was nol prossed.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, William Harrell pleaded not guilty, the court sustaining his claim after evidence in the case was heard.

The case charging John E. Cooke with non-support was continued until next Monday, August 21.

Having failed to abide by a former judgment of the court, Albert Sparrow was sentenced to the roads for a term of ninety days. The defendant was charged with an effective knife attack upon a Martin County man several months ago. Close to 100 stitches were necessary to close the lacerations in the man's body, reports on the attack stated.

## Home Agent Is Planning Trip To World's Fair

Home demonstration club women under the direction of Miss Lora E. Sleeper, Martin home agent, are planning a visit to the New York fair the latter part of this month. A special bus has been procured, the agent pointing out that reservations should be made immediately. The fare of the trip is \$26.50.

## Sanitary Drive Is Meeting With Some Degree Of Success

### Bad Conditions Found By Health Forces on First Inspection Trip

Williamston's drive for improved sanitary conditions, sponsored by the town authorities and directed by the health authorities, is now gaining momentum after getting off to a slow start week before last, late reports from the health office indicating that property owners, as a whole, are falling in line to give the movement a strong support. Already several store owners and operators have complied with the rules and regulations governing the clean-up movement, and their participation will be recognized by a designated poster.

Starting the clean-up movement at the request of town officials, the health forces described many backlots in the town as being nothing more than community dump heaps where ideal breeding places were maintained for flies, mosquitoes and rats. Even little children were said to have pillaged around in the garbage thrown out and scattered promiscuously at the back doors of some establishments.

Making a second inspection of the backlots this week, the health forces explained there was some improvement over the filthy, nasty and bad conditions existing a few days before. Notations of irregular handling of garbage and refuse were made, and pleas are being directed to the property owners, urging them to take immediate action to further promote the clean-up movement.

A card of recognition awaits every business house operator cooperating in the movement, reports from similar campaigns in other centers stating that the cards carry weight in the eyes of the store patron. The distribution of the special cards is being delayed pending the completion of additional trips of inspection.

In the areas just outside the business district, the health forces state that a marked improvement has been made in the movement for an improved sanitation. Numbers of privies have been rebuilt and repaired, and a disgrace that has marked a small section on Railroad Street for months has been wiped out.

The health department believes that the drive now underway will cost no one any great amount of money or trouble, and to further the movement Dr. F. E. Wilson, head of the department, and his assistants are asking for constructive comment from anyone.

There are certain requirements to be met under town ordinances, but the sponsors and directors of the movement are hopeful that it will not be necessary to resort to these measures in advancing the drive.

Representatives of the fire department are slated to make regular inspections along with the members of the police department in an effort to eliminate fire hazards.

## Four Stills Wrecked In County Thursday

The illicit liquor business, apparently renewed on a larger scale in anticipation of fair tobacco prices next Tuesday, was nipped in the bud, partially at least, yesterday when county officers, led by Special Deputy J. H. Roebuck, raided in two townships and wrecked four plants. Three of the plants were found in Bear Grass and a fourth in Williamston Township. The operations, at nearly every one of the plants were advanced on a comparatively small scale, the owners possibly finding it difficult to get their activities properly financed. One of the four plants was an unusually crude one, the officers stating that an old gas drum was used for a still and that the connections were made with pump pipe.

Very little beer was found at the plants, the total amount hardly exceeding 400 gallons. Two of the stills were made of copper, one of 40-gallon and the other of 20-gallon capacity.

The special enforcement officer was assisted in the raids by Deputies Haislip and Peel.

## Firemen Get First Call In A Month Yesterday

Members of the local volunteer fire department got their first call in exactly one month when they were called to a small two-room colored home on Hatton Street. Extended.

Believed to have started from a pile of paper left near a cook stove, the fire burned between the outside wall but did no great damage. The fire was under control when the firemen reached there and no water was pumped on the building. It was one of the few fires here in years that neighbors and other friends did not rush into the victim's house and cart out and break up half the furniture.

The last call prior to the one yesterday was to the Harrison Brothers storage house just off Main Street.

## Escapes Injury In Auto Wreck On Main Street

Joe Sumara escaped injury last Wednesday afternoon when his car skidded on the wet pavement and turned over on West Main Street. Very little damage was done to the car.

## Martin Farmers, Start Delivery Of Tobacco, Set Stage for Record Breaking Opening Here Tuesday

### Open Season Dates For Game Hunting In State Announced

### Squirrel Season Opens in This Section First of October

Although the hunting season is yet more than a month off, sportsmen are already making preparations to enter the woods in search of the squirrel with others holding their eyes on the quail season. There is some doubt as to the date when it will be lawful to take quail. Ordinarily opened on Thanksgiving Day, the season may remain closed until November 30, since President Roosevelt is proclaiming the third Thursday in November as the day for observing the general Thanksgiving. A ruling is expected within the next few days.

Dates for the 1939 hunting seasons, together with changes made in these seasons by the Board of Conservation and Development, have just been announced by the Game and Inland Fishing division of the Department of Conservation and Development.

The deer and bear seasons open October 1 and extend to January 1. Deer can be hunted in all the counties with the exception of Alleghany, Ashe, Surry, Wilkes and Yadkin, where the season is closed this year.

The squirrel season for other than Fox squirrel and Southern Red squirrel (boomers) will be from October 1 through January 15, with many exceptions, which will be announced later.

The quail season will open Thanksgiving Day and extend through February 15 in most of the counties.

In six counties, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir and Onslow, hunting for quail will be permitted only three days a week, or on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, the other days being "lay days" as requested by the sportsmen in these counties.

The rabbit season will be from November 30 through February 15, with no bag limit. The wild turkeys and grouse seasons also extend from November 30 through February 15.

The opossum and raccoon seasons for hunting with gun or dogs only, are from October 1 through February 1, while the trapping season is from November 1 through February 15, with numerous exceptions.

No other may be taken at all this year, the season being closed over the entire state.

Other details with regard to the hunting season will be announced later on.

## Jamesville Has Its Champion Gardeners

Gardeners Bob Sexton and A. Corey are running a close race for recognition down Jamesville way. Displaying an unusually large tomato, Farmer Sexton apparently held the lead until Gardener Corey came along with a cucumber measuring nearly two feet in length and about two and one-half inches in circumference.

Farmer Sexton's tomato was a four-in-one affair, and weighed possibly three pounds.

The Corey cucumbers, grown from seed introduced from China, came from a vine that is ordinarily staked and which attains a height of nearly twelve feet. "They are fine for pickles and the vines produce until well in September," Mr. Corey said.

## Returns To Take His Medicine In The Courts

Willie Green, local colored man who skipped his bond when he was to have appeared in the Martin County Superior court and answer in the case charging him with receiving watches stolen from the Peele Jewelry store here, has returned to take his medicine in the courts. Possibly Green got homesick and could stay away no longer. Anyway he is back, his faithful friends arranging bond in the sum of \$300 for his freedom until the case is called next month.

Green will go on trial along with George Perkins who is charged with the actual robbery of the store last April.

## TAG DAY

The second Library Tag Day will be held next Tuesday, August 22nd. Mrs. Garland Barnhill, chairman, will be at the public library to give out tags to the scouts at eight o'clock that morning. The boys and girls are urged to be there early, for a prize will be awarded the girl scout and the boy scout who sells the most tags.

The money received from the sale of these tags will be used to buy new books for children for the public library.

## TOBACCONIST



As president of the W. I. Skinner Tobacco Company, Mr. J. E. King has completed extensive preparations for throwing the large factory into high-gear operation when the Williamston Tobacco Market opens next Tuesday.

## Leonard Addresses Regular Meeting of Kiwanis Club Here

### Discusses Tax Structure in The State And Nation

Speaking before a dinner meeting of citizens arranged by local civic clubs here last night, Paul Leonard, of Statesville, active head of the State Fair Tax Association, declared "taxes now represent such a large proportion of the cost of business and the cost of living that neither business men nor consumers can longer afford to ignore present tendencies in the State and nation and allow the tax-payers to shape the destiny of taxpayers." He said, "It is the patriotic duty of honest citizens who have had actual experience in business and finance to take charge of the public affairs of North Carolina before present spending and taxing policies cripple the State beyond redemption."

Leonard quoted figures from State budget commission reports and national census bureau bulletins to "justify" his charge that "North Carolina, with its high-record budget of \$156,000,000 for the present biennium, has already built up its cost of government all-out of proportion to the ability of its citizens to pay, and has placed a per capita tax load above that of other States." He referred to recently published United States Census Bureau reports showing the increase in the operating expenses of the 48 states of the union, and pointed out that while the average per capita cost for 1937 was \$20.28, compared with \$12.52 in 1932, North Carolina was reported by the bureau as having a per capita \$56.66 tax load in 1937 of \$26.90, compared with \$13.51 in 1932.

Figures were also presented showing that North Carolina still has outstanding bonded indebtedness of \$157,033,500 at the close of the past fiscal year, that the bonded debt of the counties was \$159,712,589, and that of cities and towns was \$156,977,828, a grand total of \$473,723,917. "Although there is \$16,000,000 in the State sinking fund," said Leonard, "it can't be used to retire bonds because a lack of business judgment in our government in years past resulted in the issuance of high-interest-rate non-callable bonds which the bond holders decline to surrender."

"All these figures," said Leonard, "should impress thoughtful North Carolinians with the righteousness of our campaign for economy in government and reduction in public debt, and sooner or later every fair-minded citizen is going to realize that we are performing a public service when we rid the State of the sales tax and force the adoption of a system of taxation based on ability to pay and not based on the necessity for purchasing human needs."

The fair tax leader also presented figures showing how the sales tax is driving business from the stores of North Carolina merchants, and how it is adding to the distress of consumers in the low-income classes. "A recent survey," he said, "shows that out of every dollar spent in the United States today, 22 cents goes to taxes, but in North Carolina the figure is a cent or two higher because of our sales tax."

"Few people," continued Leonard, "realize that a total of seventeen billion dollars was taken from the pockets of citizens of the United States last year by tax collectors for the federal, State and local governments."

(Continued on page six)

## Buyers And Their Assistants Coming In For The Season

### Deliveries Here This Season Are Earliest Ever Known

A record-breaking opening predicted a short time ago for the Williamston Tobacco Market is fast approaching a reality as the golden weed continues to flow into local warehouses in a fairly steady stream today. Three days before the auctioneers start their songs for the high dollar, while no congestion is expected, deliveries tomorrow and on through next Monday are almost certain to tax warehouse employees. Warehousemen would offer no guess as to the total poundage, but they are of the opinion that more tobacco will be ready for sale here next Tuesday morning than at any other time in the history of the market. With four large warehouses, embracing nearly four acres of floor space, warehousemen expressed confidence in their position to care for the market patrons, that the needs of the sellers could be well accommodated.

A year ago, the market reported approximately 400 pounds of tobacco on its four warehouse floors. There was a comparatively light crop that year, and farmers did not make their selling preparations on as large a scale as they are making this year. It is now estimated that close to half million pounds of the golden leaf will be ready for the buyers when they make their first purchases of the season on the local market. Reports from farms in the county maintain that ninety-eight out of every one hundred have graded or are grading tobacco this week. They are hopeful of early sales Tuesday.

The first tobacco of the current season was placed on the floors here last week end by Farmer Sid Mobley. Yesterday, Johnnie Savage moved in several hundred pounds James Aaron Hassell followed close behind to usher in a new marketing season.

Inactive for months, the tobacco marketing center is showing a renewed life from day to day with the bright promise of reaching a climax next Tuesday. Possibly one of the largest crowds ever to visit Williamston in a single day will be here for the initial sales. Local people are urged to leave their cars at home that day that more parking space can be made available to the visiting throngs.

With attention squarely centered on marketing activities, no exciting events are slated here that day, but a warm welcome is being prepared for the visiting throngs. Merchants and amusement house operators are fast putting on the finishing touches to help make the day a great one in the history of the town.

Members of the buying forces, recognized as the strongest in the belt, are coming up daily and locating for a big season on the local market this year. Many of the assistants in the purchase and handling of the crop in past years are being welcomed again as they return to enter upon what is certain to prove their greatest task in years.

Very little is being said about price prospects, everybody hoping that the averages will fall somewhere between eighteen and twenty cents.

The Williamston market is approaching the season with a great spirit of optimism, because it has the best warehouse personnel combination in its history and because it has been assured an unusually strong buying personnel.

At noon today, tobacco was placed on the floors from at least five counties, and farmers from at least three other counties were advising local warehousemen that loads of tobacco were moving out of their communities for the market here.

## Uncover Additional Work Of Thieves In The County

A trail blazed by thieves near here on the Washington Road early last Monday morning took on greater proportions when farmers in the same neighborhood made a survey of their smokehouses the following day.

Going to his smokehouse last Tuesday, Farmer Marshall Savage found several hams and one or two shoulders missing. Finishing their work at Paul Peel's, the thieves continued their raids at the Savage smokehouse, nearby. Farmers Will Taylor, Nathaniel Harris and Paul Peel reported more than 25 hams stolen from their smokehouses early Monday.

No trail of the rogues has been established, but officers are continuing their investigations. So far the officers have been unable to connect the raids in this county with the work of thieves who have made a big sweep of smokehouses and chicken coops in Northampton County.