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Committee Favors Three-Year Control Program for Peanuts

Amendment To Give Old Belt Growers Equal Allotments Is Rejected By Group

The movement to make the lowly peanut a basic crop and provide for a three-year marketing quota or control program gained momentum in Washington yesterday when the House Agriculture Committee gave the measure its stamp of approval. Action was taken only after an amendment proposed to eliminate discrimination against old growers had been rejected.

Complaints had been raised that the marketing quotas provided in the bill discriminated against older producing states. To remove this discrimination, Cooley proposed that the national acreage allotment be increased by 45,000 acres which would be distributed among those states having allotments less than their five-year average acreage. This would have given North Carolina a 16,000-acre increased allotment.

This amendment was voted down after Representative Pace, sponsor of the legislation, served notice that he was unalterably opposed to it and would request the committee not to report the bill favorably if it were included.

Several changes aimed at protecting regular peanut producers were approved, however. One prevents any state having its acreage cut hereafter to less than 95 per cent of its 1941 allotment. Another struck out the compulsory peanut diversion provision and provided instead that peanuts should be placed on the same basis as other crops so far as loans are concerned. Loans will be made available for peanut growers when prices reach from 52 to 75 per cent of parity.

Pointing out that the entire bill might be jeopardized if any further efforts were made to include his amendment, Cooley expressed the belief that there would be no campaigning to include it during House consideration of the measure.

"While I am of course disappointed, the situation is not so bad as it might be since North Carolina's acreage allotment already is slightly higher than it has been in any prior years," Cooley declared. "I shall support the bill, because even without my amendment, it protects old peanut growers in North Carolina and other states from further rapid expansion of production on new farms."

Virtually certain that no additional allotment will be made available to North Carolina and Martin County growers, the county agriculture committee this week prepared the 1941 quotas. They are being submitted to Raleigh for approval and will be released to the growers within the next few days.

The county is allotted 18,375 acres this year or about the same quota assigned in 1940. Martin farmers last year planted approximately 2,000 acres in excess of their allotment.

Escaped Convicts Remain At Large

Escaping from a Pitt County prison road gang yesterday morning, two long-term convicts, Everett Leo Selvie, 19, and John O'Neal, 22, were reported still at large this morning.

Catching a truck driver off his guard, the two convicts jumped into the truck and drove away from their work along the Martin-Pitt boundary. The truck was found abandoned on the road leading from Corey's Cross Roads to Bear Grass, about 200 yards from the Washington Highway. Prison officials, guards and officers from this and surrounding counties and police from Williamston and Robersonville joined a search for the men in the woods along the highway. The search was continued by a number of the men until day light this morning without success.

Selvie was sentenced in Gaston County to prison for a term of four to ten years on a breaking and entering charge. O'Neal, sentenced in Durham County, was serving a 30-year term for second degree murder.

Grant Will Address Farm Bureau Group

Dr. B. E. Grant, Bertie County farm agent and authority on legumes, will address the second Martin County Farm Bureau forum in the agricultural building here next Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock. His topic will center on winter legumes, and he is expected to explain their value as a soil builder and also as a source of income. The farm leader's talk is certain to prove of value, and all farmers whether they are members of the Farm Bureau or not are invited and urged to hear him.

No special entertainment feature has been planned for the meeting, the program committee explaining that the address by Dr. Grant would prove entertaining as well as informative.

Moving Peanuts from Storage Warehouses To The Oil Mills

Peanuts stored in this county under the government stabilization program are beginning to move to the oil mills. Mr. E. G. Anderson, operator of several houses in Robersonville, stating yesterday that a crushing plant in Farmville had purchased around 700 tons or approximately 15,000 bags for immediate delivery. Starting this week, truckers are moving around 2,000 bags of the goobers daily to the Farmville mill.

No purchases have been made for government-stored peanuts at this point, and it could not be learned today when the more than 135,000 bags stored locally would be moved to the oil mills. While it is possible that a portion of the stored stock will be sold to the cleaners, it is understood that nearly all of the

peanuts stored under the stabilization program will be converted into oil and taken out of the edible trade. It is generally agreed that by diverting most if not all of that part of the crop stored under the stabilization program, the 1941 markets will not be threatened with a big carry-over surplus.

Strange as it may seem, the open market continues unusually active at this point. Several thousand bags of the goobers are being handled daily by the local plant of the Williamston Peanut Company with prices holding firm and in some cases slightly higher than they were last fall. Deliveries are being made by farmers from over a wide area, a fairly large number of bags being brought to the local plant from points beyond Rocky Mount.

UNUSUAL

The recent blitzkrieg directed against liquor manufacturing plants in the Free Union section of Jamesville Township apparently had its results. Raiding in that territory yesterday ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and his assistant, Roy Peel, were unable to find a plant. It was the first time in a number of years that Officer Roebuck had raided there and returned without destroying a quantity of beer or bringing out a still.

The officers did not come back empty handed, however. They found two kegs and two small jugs hidden along the roadside the property offering mute evidence that the once flourishing business is on the wane in that section.

Gigantic Submarine Attack On Shipping Is Now Anticipated

Turkey May Act If Germany Offers To Attack Greece

Even while uncertainty reigns in the Balkans and in the Far East another menace of major proportions is looming for Great Britain in her fight for life. Talk of a possible gigantic submarine attack against British shipping is being heard in semi-official quarters. The Germans are believed to have 600 submarines manned and about ready for an attack in the early spring, some observers pointing out the possibility that invasion attempts will await the outcome of the submarine attack on British shipping. It is also pointing out that the outcome of the war will depend largely upon Britain's power to withstand such an attack. Hitler has said that American aid to Britain would be nullified, and it is believed that he plans to use his submarine fleet to support that declaration.

An apparent turn in the war is centered around the predicted submarine warfare. It is the belief of observers that Hitler is offering Italy just enough aid to keep her in the war, and that he is anxious to maintain the status quo in the Balkans.

The action of Turkey looking toward repudiation of its pact with Bulgaria should Hitler attack Greece bears out the submarine policy just recently mentioned in the public press. While England is forced to hold large sections of its ships and forces in the Mediterranean and African campaign, Hitler calculates that his submarine fleet will be better prepared to deal with British shipping in the North Atlantic.

Hitler added to the war tension today when he sent five detachments into Spain today presumably to aid in restoring damage following a hurricane that swept certain areas there a few days ago. The soldiers were recognized as specialists in the practice of preparing for a march by Hitler's troops. It was immediately suggested that Hitler was still making plans for a drive on Gibraltar through Spain.

Despite her non-aggression pact with Turkey, Bulgaria today called out more troops. Many Bulgars were said to have started riots along the Danube where Hitler's troops are conducting maneuvers, including practice crossings with pontoon.

Will Discuss Road Problems Saturday

Martin County citizens, interested in a better road and highway program within the county and what is now known as the first highway district, will meet in the courthouse here tomorrow evening at 7:30 o'clock for a discussion of road problems.

No definite plans have been advanced for the meeting, but it is generally understood that the county will advance a candidate for membership on the highway commission, and formulate plans for a better secondary road system.

Judge W. H. Coburn Calls Eight Cases In Recorder's Court

Defendant Fined \$75 in Case Charging Violation of Liquor Laws

Calling eight cases, Judge W. H. Coburn held a snappy session of the county recorder's court last Monday with Solicitor Don E. Johnson prosecuting the docket. The court cleared its calendar and adjourned before the noon hour, the session attracting hardly an average-sized crowd.

Judge Coburn, meting out justice for an allegedly old-time violator of the liquor laws, bore down on the illicit business and fined Vernon Roberson, fast-stepping Greenville Negro, \$75 in the case charging illegal manufacture. Roberson, arrested at a still between Parmele and Hassell week before last, pleaded guilty of possessing materials for manufacturing illegal liquor. The plea was accepted. Judge Coburn sentenced the defendant to the roads for a term of four months, the sentence being suspended upon payment of a \$75 fine and the case costs. Roberson was allowed until March 31 to pay the fine. Roberson's attorney, the film, "Geometry in Action," with the raid, was ordered released by the court.

Martha Brown pleaded guilty in the case charging her with violating the liquor laws, the court granting a continuance under prayer for judgment. Pleading guilty in the case charging him with non-support, Charlie Bellamy was directed to pay \$1.50 a week into the court during the next six months and ordered to reappear at the end of that time for further judgment. Bond in the sum of \$50 was required as a guarantee for judgment compliance.

The case charging C. L. Blount with drunken driving was continued until March 3. Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Jodie Jenkins pleaded guilty of simple assault. He was sentenced to the roads for thirty days.

Howard Cherry was sentenced to the roads for a term of thirty days in the case charging him with public drunkenness. The road sentence was suspended upon condition that the defendant remain in good behavior for one year. No costs were taxed against Cherry by the court.

(Continued on page six)

Railroad Installing Safety Signal Here

Work on a safety block signal was started this week by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company at the Washington Road crossing near the Williamston Peanut Company plant. The installation will be completed within two weeks, an employee said yesterday.

An approaching train will flash the danger signal when it reaches a point about 1,200 feet from the crossing, giving highway traffic ample time to check its speed and stop.

Several accidents, two resulting in death, have been reported at the crossing. Noah Brown, colored, lost his life there a number of years ago, and Joe Henry Lilley, young white farmer, was killed there last November.

The Coast Line has three other electric safety signals in operation at crossings in this county. A warning signal was placed at a crossing in Parmele several years ago and one was installed at the crossing between Everetts and Robersonville last week. One has been in operation at a grade crossing between Jamesville and Plymouth.

Geo. Harris Purchases Williamston Hardware

George Harris, local young man, has purchased the business of the Williamston Hardware Company here on Washington Street. The new owner took over the business yesterday.

Cowen's Packing Plant Is Destroyed By Fire Wednesday

Firemen Helpless To Combat \$3,000 Fire On Watts Lane Near Here

Its origin not definitely known, fire destroyed Cowen's meat packing plant just outside the town limits on Watts Lane last Wednesday morning at 2:30 o'clock, an official estimate placing the loss at \$2,900, according to a report released yesterday by Fire Chief G. P. Hall.

Housed in a cheaply constructed shack, the plant was in full blaze before an alarm was sounded, and then a neighbor hurriedly dressed and reported to the fire station in person before a general alarm was heard. Carrying the fire-fighting equipment to the scene, firemen, more than a quarter of a mile from a water main, stood helpless as the fire ate its way into a costly refrigerating plant and devoured hams, sausage and other meats in large quantities. Making certain that the fire would not spread to nearby buildings, the firemen hesitating a minute or two longer to warm their hands and faces by the glowing fire in the freezing weather returned the apparatus to the station.

Joe Henry Purvis, trusted colored employee, was sleeping in the building with his dog. "I felt the heat and woke up to see the fire burning one of the walls of the room I was in," Purvis said that morning, adding that he grabbed his dog and got out of the building in record time. Nothing was removed from the building, and when the fire struck the rich pork it spurted out in long blue-green streaks throwing out heat that melted iron sheeting on the side of the house.

The building was valued at only \$800, but costly refrigerating units and meat stocks boosted the total loss to almost \$3,000, the owner, Mr. Herbert H. Cowen, stating that insurance was carried in the sum of \$1,600 on building and all contents.

Purvis, in a statement to Fire Chief Hall, explained that a fire was burning in the heater in the room where he slept, that a supply of wood had been placed near the stove. It is possible that the fire started in the pile of wood. No definite plans have been announced, but it is understood that Mr. Cowen is planning to rebuild and continue the business.

Seventh Graders Visited Raleigh

Mrs. Hassell's seventh grade room returned from the state capital last night after spending an enjoyable day visiting points of interest there. Arriving at the capitol yesterday as both houses were convening, the local students were greeted by Representative Clarence Griffin and Senator Hugh Horton who asked that the courtesies of the galleries be extended to them by both the House and the Senate. Proceedings as the law making bodies were called to order were observed with great interest by the youthful visitors.

Points of interest visited by the students included the State School for the Blind, Andrew Johnson's house, Supreme Court building, State Museum, State Hospital, penitentiary, a broadcasting station, North Carolina State College, and the News and Observer office.

Fatal Accident Report Filed Here By Coroner

In a formal report drawn by Coroner S. R. Biggs this week, the accident which cost little Marjorie Lassiter her life on the Hamilton Highway near here on January 31 was declared unavoidable of the car driver, R. G. McAllister, local medical doctor. The verdict, returned following an informal investigation, exonerated the car driver.

Coroner S. R. Biggs stated that he had examined the witnesses, and deemed an inquest unnecessary. The report was filed after the father of the child stated that the car driver did all he could to avoid the accident, and that no court action was considered.

DRY WEATHER

No one is doing any appreciable amount of complaining, but many are talking about how dry the weather is. Little rain has fallen so far this month and winds, reminding one of the month of March, have dried out the land and roads. "During more than ten years on the rural roads of the county, I have never seen during the month of February more dust on them than in the past few days," Arthur White, postal employee, said this week.

Eleven Trainees Will Enter Service Monday

Increased Monthly Quotas Are Likely After This Month

Warning Against Drinking Is Given Young Men Reporting for Army Service

Answering the third draft call in this county, eleven young white men will leave here next Monday morning for service in the United States Army at Fort Bragg. They will be followed on the 28th by five colored trainees, the current quota boosting the number of young men to leave the county for army service to 40, 29 white and 11 colored.

The names of the eleven white young men leaving here next Monday are: Jesse Edmondson, of Williamston Route 3; Aaron Brown, of Oak City Route 1; Georgia Ben Manning, of Robersonville; Richard Randolph Davis, of Oak City Route 1; Russell Warren Corey, of Jamesville Route 1; Vernon Gray Weatherbee, of Robersonville Route 2; Virgil Edmondson, of Oak City Route 1; Bert Toler, formerly of this county but now of Vanceboro Route 3; Edgar Monroe Taylor, Mack Gilbert Wynne and Joseph Edward Rogers, all of Williamston Route 3. All eleven of the young men are volunteers, but four of them, Weatherbee, Taylor, Wynne and Virgil Edmondson, were not subject to the draft registration. None of the young men was subject to immediate call under the selective service act, and one of them had legitimate exemptions if he had cared to exercise those rights. His wife stated that it was perfectly all right for him to volunteer and enter the service.

Lance Dutton Hardy, Joseph Carl Williams, Julius Melvin Warren, Roy Avant Hinson and Douglas Albert Currie have been notified to be ready to replace any of the eleven trainees who may be rejected. Holding Order No. 39, Douglas Albert Currie has volunteered his services, and it is quite likely he will be called next month. He is the only white volunteer now in reserve in this county, but there are 37 colored boys anxiously awaiting orders to report.

Troubled by an unusually large number of trainees reporting at Fort Bragg in various stages of intoxication, the authorities have issued orders against the practice. Group leaders will direct bus drivers to drive to police headquarters in any town and have the officers to take necessary action to insure the sober arrival of the future soldiers at camp.

Printed forms from Adjutant General J. Van B. Metts were received by the Martin County Draft Board recently warning against the use of alcohol by trainees reporting for service.

Deploping the large number of draftees intoxicated at the time of their arrival at the army post, General Metts wrote that many need drugs and hospital care before physical examinations can be made. This fact may be responsible for some of the rejections because of high blood pressure and false pulse beats, he said.

While admitting that the imbibing of intoxicants on the way to the fort was the gesture of "high spirited young men having their last celebration," General Metts advised the local boards to have care in selecting men as group leaders who refrain from alcoholic indulgence themselves and who will have influence over other selectees.

University Band Coming Wednesday

The University of North Carolina band will appear in concert in the Williamston High School auditorium next Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. Coming here by bus after an overnight stop in Edenton, the college group will render its concert and move on to Roanoke Rapids. The talented musical organization of 65 pieces will play under the direction of Earl Slocum, who is regarded as one of the ablest band directors in the country. Next Wednesday's concert will mark the first appearance of the University's concert band in Williamston.

The public is invited to join the students at the concert. An admission fee will be charged to defray the cost of bringing the organization here. One or more Williamston boys are expected to appear on the program.

Openings In CCC Camps For Martin County Boys

Openings were announced today for three Martin County white youths in the Civilian Conservation Corps. The group will leave here next Monday for New Holland where they will be stationed. Any young white youth wishing to enter the service is directed to contact the welfare office in the courthouse immediately.

LAND AVERAGE

The average value placed on cleared land in Hamilton Township by the board of assessors recently was \$31.98 an acre. Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes announced yesterday. The township listed 10,511 acres for a total of \$336,170.

This value compares with listings in two other townships as follows: Williams, \$28.62 per acre, and Griffins, \$36.00 an acre.

Complete valuations for other townships are not yet available, late reports from the supervisor stating that unexpected delays had been experienced in several districts, including Jamesville and Goose Nest Townships. The revaluation work is virtually complete in those townships, but in only three cases have the books been turned-over to the supervisor.

Town's Fire Loss In 1940 Is Largest In Several Years

Property Valued At More Than \$34,000 Destroyed By Fire Last Year

Placed at \$34,000, Williamston's 1940 fire loss was the largest reported in recent years. As far as official reports show, it was the largest annual loss on record. Not since 1939 when the old Brick Warehouse was burned has the fire loss exceeded \$25,000, a hurried review of the records shows. The fire damage in 1940 was almost five times greater than it was the year before.

A greater portion of the damage is traceable to the Saunders and Cox lumber mill fire the early part of last summer. The loss there was estimated at approximately \$20,000, including the mill, a filling station and three small homes. The fire loss was considerably increased when the Anderson home, corner of Simmons Avenue and Houghton Street, was burned the early part of the year. The loss there was estimated at about \$7,000. Losses ranged from \$25 to \$16,000 on individual buildings.

While the town reported over \$200,000 gains in new construction and a remodeling program, more than one-sixth of the gain was offset by fire losses.

The past year was just a bad one for fires. The volunteer fire department received thirty-four calls locally and three out of town during the year as compared with 27 calls in 1939. Property losses were recorded in sixteen cases, the damage being limited to a dollar or two in most of the other cases. The loss on buildings, including homes and commercial, was placed at \$30,250 by Fire Chief G. P. Hall. Damage to household goods and stocks was estimated at \$4,350, this amount boosting the total for the year to \$34,600. In 1939, the loss on buildings was placed at \$3,200 and on contents at \$4,300.

Fire Chief Hall offered little comment in releasing the report, but he did point out that quite a few of the fires were caused by defective flues and that at least one-third of the fires were started by sparks falling from chimneys or flues on shingle roofs.

It is estimated that the property threatened or destroyed by fire was worth well over \$100,000, that while the loss was nearly \$35,000 it could easily have been in excess of \$100,000.

The average number of firemen answering the calls last year was slightly under the count in 1939, but even with a limited force, the company handled nearly a mile of hose in fighting the fires. The work of the company was without serious accident.

Volunteer firemen are paid at the rate of \$2.50 a month for their services, but they are subject to a fine of 50 cents when absent at a regular meeting.

New Books Added By Local Library

Although handicapped by limited funds or no funds at all, the local public library this week managed by hook or crook to add a number of new volumes to its shelves. Every effort possible is being made by the library forces to add new books, and they are apparently doing very well with the limited income derived principally from fines and individual donations.

The following books were placed on the shelves this week: "Land Below the Wind," "Europe in Spring," "The Beloved Returned," "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "Oliver Wiswell," "Chad Hanna," "Fame Is the Spur," "Sapphira and the Slave Girl," "The Voyage," "Invitation to Live," "World's End," "You Can't Go Home Again," "I Wanted To Murder," and "Fielding's Folly."

Liquor Referendum Proposed In House Bill This Morning

State Expenditures Virtually Fixed at \$163,600,000 For Next Two Years

News approaching the sensational came out of North Carolina's otherwise placid and cut-and-dried legislature this morning when Fender County's representative, C. D. McGowan, hopped a bill into the legislative hopper calling for a state-wide referendum on the liquor question. Predicted from the beginning of the session, the proposed bill would call for a vote next November and dry up the State ninety days later. The bill came as a bombshell and during a full hour it was a topic of discussion in the House.

The Legislature was in session hardly an hour today, and little was accomplished. A proposed law requiring marrying ministers to issue additional marriage certificates to their victims was defeated. A change in the bill regulating the sale of fortified wines in dry counties was proposed, the sponsors asking that wine be shipped only to licensed dealers. Another bill would permit employers of towns, cities and counties to participate in the retirement fund at their own expense and at the expense of the political subdivisions. Still another bill would promote sanitation at bus and filling stations.

Passing without opposition and in record time a new revenue bill, the North Carolina State Senate yesterday paved the way for record expenditures during the next two years. The bill, now awaiting ratification to become a law, provides for an expenditure of \$163,600,000 during the next biennium. Efforts to have the sales tax applied to all purchases at the rate of two per cent met with defeat in the Senate. All food for the home table will be exempted at a cost to the State treasury of three million dollars. The revenue anticipated by the budgeters was also reduced by about \$300,000 when the Senate voted to give the towns and counties 75 per cent instead of a proposed 60 per cent of the intangible taxes.

The passage of the revenue bill yesterday paves the way for adjournment within the next two or three weeks, observers say. However, there is much yet to be done, but there is the possibility that the lawmakers, following the cut-and-dried pattern, will leave much undone. The school problem has been discussed at length but little or nothing has been done about it other than to create a retirement fund for teachers and other State employees. The ninth month and the twelfth grade fund in the balance, and there is some doubt about the passage of a bill providing tenure for teachers.

In addition to gallivanting over the country to Fort Bragg yesterday afternoon, the Legislature passed a wine bill virtually prohibiting the sale of fortified wines in dry counties and confining sales in wet counties to established ABC stores.

The \$100,000 library aid bill has been given approval, and minor local bills have been running through the legislative mill without delay.

A proposal calling for the reorganization of the North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission is causing much guessing throughout the State. Unofficial reports state that there is much activity underway in connection with the proposed program. Several counties in this highway district are working to get into other districts, the reports stating that this district has used up its allotment for years to come in the construction of sound bridges and lake-bottom roads. Ac-

(Continued on page six)

People Disgusted With Bob Reynolds

That the people in this section and possibly in other sections, too, are disgusted with Bob Reynolds, so-called United States Senator from North Carolina, was voiced freely by them at every turn after they had learned about his spoken opposition to the lease-lend bill yesterday in the Senate. Called everything from a yellow dog on down, Reynolds merely is playing the same role he played back yonder when he alighted from his black charging horse in his home town of Asheville and resigned from further service in the army reserve when it appeared he would have to fight for his country. The yellow streak in North Carolina's big disappointment in the United States Senate apparently was offered in bold relief yesterday when he represented himself in a three-hour vituperation against the lend-lease bill.

His talk was in direct opposition to one delivered by Senator Josiah W. Bailey, who the day before apparently read the Gallup poll in North Carolina and championed the bill without reservation. It is frankly admitted by those who have not admired Mr. Bailey in the past that he went to the aid of the bill with all the power at his command.

While local people were praising Mr. Bailey's stand, they were wishing Bob Reynolds could be recalled and the stench cast by him on North Carolina could be removed.