

CONFERENCE HELD ON LIVING COSTS

FEDERAL OFFICIALS UNITE IN SECRET CONFERENCE WITH N. C. STATE AGENTS.

NO INFORMATION GIVEN OUT

The Meeting Was for the Purpose of Adopting Plan of Action Against Hoarders and Profiteers.

Raleigh. Profiteering and hoarding were the distinctive features of the high cost of living discussed here at a conference of Department of Justice officials, and Mr. Henry A. Page, former food administrator of North Carolina, and special agents. Those here are District Attorneys, Thomas D. Warren and W. C. Hammer, Food Administrator Henry A. Page, Special Agent Frederick C. Handy and Agent O. H. Graham.

While no announcement was forthcoming after the hearing the Department of Justice has already started its activities in North Carolina against the high cost of living but, so far, no permanent plan of campaign has been adopted. The meeting here of the officials is for the purpose of adopting some system to follow when the department is provided with full machinery by Congress.

Secretaries Meet at Raleigh.

Decision to raise \$3,500 at once to fight the proposed 15 per cent increase in freight rates, and the making of plans for the fight, was the business of the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce secretaries here.

Several reasons why the Chambers of Commerce should participate in the fight were given, the principal one being that failure to do so, and loss of the case to the United States Railroad Administration, will mean the loss of what few advantages this state has gained in the freight rate situation, and jeopardize the present case of the chambers against the railroads, now pending before the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington.

Memorial Commission Organizing.

The North Carolina memorial building commission has entered upon its task of organizing the campaign for raising funds for the erection of North Carolina's great war memorial.

State Director R. D. W. Connor received information that Dr. James Sprunt, of Wilmington, has accepted the chairmanship of New Hanover county. Dr. Sprunt is the first person in the state to accept a county chairmanship and his acceptance is encouraging to the members of the commission.

Leaders in Electric Production.

Washington.—(Special)—A report on the production of electric power and consumption of fuel by public utility power plants in the United States for the month of March, shows that North Carolina produced 46,333 kilowatt-hours by water power and 7,426 by fuels. That is more than any other southern state.

The production of the electric power reported required the combustion of 19,234 short tons of coal and 20 barrels of petroleum and derivatives.

Half Dozen New Corporations.

Half a dozen new corporations, one of them capitalized at one million dollars, and totalling \$1,450,000 in capitalization, filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state.

Colonel Watts on Tour.

Col. A. D. Watts, supervisor of internal revenue in this state, is on a tour of the western part of the state, establishing revenue collection zones.

New Sanitation Law.

The last legislature enacted a law providing that "every residence located within 300 yards of another residence must have an improved sanitary privy of a type approved by the state board of health." Means to enforce this law are provided.

New Appointments at Washington.

Washington.—Thomas C. Clookers, of Walnut Cove; C. P. Smith, of Abbottsburg; T. L. Wilson, of Burlington, and U. J. Mays, of Taylorsville, have been appointed railway mail clerks.

George S. Bowman has been appointed postmaster at Naples, Henderson county, vice T. C. Justice, resigned. Minnie E. Spann was appointed June 9, but declined. Adolph C. Dancy has been appointed postmaster at Scottville, Ashe county, vice Dora M. Dancy, deceased.

Would Copy Blue Sky Law.

North Carolina's "blue sky" law, which has proved so effective in this state in keeping down the issuance of speculative stocks, is being investigated by the War Loan Organization of the Fifth Federal District, for the purpose of having it copied in other parts of the district.

Frank H. West, director of publicity of the War Loan Organization, came to Raleigh and held a conference with James R. Young, commissioner of insurance, relative to the operation of the law.

Organizing for Thrift.

North Carolina's little citizens are rapidly organizing for thrift, according to Miss Mary G. Shotwell, state field director for the Educational Division of the War Loan Organization of the Fifth Federal Reserve District.

Speaking to the Buncombe county boys' and girls' clubs at Asheville, Miss Shotwell found that many of the children already owned from \$25 to \$75 worth of War Savings Stamps. In adopting a motive for saving the one "For an Education" was unanimously chosen.

Miss Shotwell also spoke to the boys' club encampment at Concord, where the young people of the county are meeting for a week "educational picnic." The purpose of these encampments, which are held under the auspices of the agricultural department of the state, is to promote interest in farming, based on intelligent understanding of the ways to make it pay. Every problem which these young tillers of the soil have come up against in their work is brought out for discussion, the most efficient means of solving it being explained.

Determined Fight Begins.

The campaign against the high cost of living in Raleigh received its initial blow at the hands of the Department of Justice, when Special Agent F. C. Handy took steps to release between 75,000 and 85,000 pounds of sugar to the public at 11 cents per pound.

At the same time Mr. Handy announced that the Department of Justice had already found a number of cases of profiteering in the city, and special men are now collecting evidence. The special agents have found much to do in following instructions.

Sugar Only One Item.

While the government solemnly issues a blanket ruling forbidding, under penalty of indictment for profiteering, the sale of sugar for more than 11 cents per pound, breakfast bacon, which costs the packers from 16 to 20 cents per pound, is sold to the consumer at from 65 to 70 cents per pound; a 10-cent can of beans brings 35 cents, and creamery butter tips the pocketbook at 70 cents per pound.

In other words, consumers point out, the land has its eyes focused on the price of sugar, a great government pause in its reflections of problems affecting the future of the world long enough to declare that it shall not be advanced even one cent per pound, while all about it, the necessities of life climb to undreamed heights, and in the hullabaloo about sugar, everyone forgets he is paying ridiculous prices for the other things he buys.

Partial Cause of H. C. L.

New York.—(Special) — Declaring that the present excess profits taxes are partly responsible for the high cost of living, the National Association of Credit Men has mailed to President Wilson, the cabinet members and to every member of Congress a statement asking for immediate legislation which will do away with the consumption taxes on the necessities of life. The statement, signed by R. G. Elliott as chairman of the special war tax advisory committee, has the backing of the 29,500 members of the National Association of Credit Men, comprising manufacturers, wholesalers, jobbers and financial institutions in the United States.

Really Promotion for Watts.

Uncle Sam's intentions in the recent reorganization of the internal revenue service are interpreted by Collector J. W. Bailey, who believes that the scheme will work so harmoniously and effectively as to give substantial hope of a commonwealth with no distilleries two years hence.

The news in the plan of co-ordination by which there is a grand shifting both of schemes and scenes was for the time bigger than the actual modus operandi. Mr. Bailey says many elements enter into the consolidation of the two offices.

Mr. Bailey as collector will issue all commissions and be ranking man, but he quickly sees a suggestion that Western Collector A. D. Watts, who had a bigger district, was made subordinate. "There is no lessening the rank of Colonel Watts," he said, and although Mr. Bailey does not take official notice of it, the country can—Mr. Watts is really promoted and he has a field to his liking.

Collection of Cotton Tax.

The state corporation commission is issuing blanks and instructions to all cotton ginners in the state in preparation for collection of the 25 cents per bale tax that is to be collected on the 1919 crop to create a guarantee fund for the chain of cotton storage warehouse act of the last legislature which, the supreme court has said, through a test case, is constitutional as to tax provision, the act to be in force for two years from July 1, 1919.

Penalties are provided for failure to make returns.

Increase in License Fees.

Automobile license fees paid the Secretary of State in July amounted to \$992,027 against \$434,913, for the entire fiscal year of 1918-1919, according to figures available from that office. The increase of the amount of tax is due largely to the increase in license fees, but in the one month of July, the first of the new fiscal year, 86,409 motor vehicles were licensed against \$1,712 for year 1918-1919.

During the year 1918-1919, the total number of automobiles reached 79,570; motorcycles, 1,460.

Gay Calico Frocks for Outings



We have some faithful friends among cotton fabrics that often lapse into more or less complete oblivion. When they are about forgotten they emerge at the call of some great and enterprising customer. Having dropped out of general favor they become unusual and exclusive and thereby much to be desired by the smart set, and then we are refreshed by such examples of wholesome charm and simplicity as that which appears in the calico frock pictured. It could not be much simpler than it is. It is artfully unpretentious, just the thing for the artless millionairess who intends to get back to nature and chase a few country butterflies by way of a change.

This particular calico frock is red and white, like a stick of peppermint candy. In fact they have much the same flavor. The plain, straight skirt, you will notice, does not aspire to a very wide hem such as is allowed in organdies and lawns, but it is shirred

in several rows at the waistline into the narrow belt. All the sewing on this frock is carefully done. The old-fashioned pockets are outlined with a very narrow fancy braid of white cotton and have the simplest of very narrow black ribbon set on them—a little caress for being so pretty and quaint.

The waist, as simple and plain as the skirt, is finished at the "V"-shaped neck with a wide plain collar of white net set off with a bow of black ribbon and a white lawn chemisette fills it in daintily. Altogether this is a dress that is worth the while of an artist in clothes, and it is very pretty. Perhaps the same design is responsible for the brown and white small-checked gingham, made up with the introduction of white lawn in accessories, with a hat to match, that outshines its more expensive rivals on the street. These familiar materials and unpretentious dresses have their own charm and are in a class by themselves.

Blouses Greet the New Season



We are to have a variety of new and unique styles in blouses this fall. Already the advance models have passed in review and manufacturers are preparing still others to follow. These will show modifications and adaptations of the styles already presented and of the wholly new forms of trimmings that have been brought out. American producers, now in competition with Europe, for the trade of the world, aspire to making the American blouse pre-eminent, like the American shoe, in style, and as good as the best in material. Therefore we expect, with good reason, blouses that will accomplish the utmost that designers can do, in a variety of styles.

Tailored blouses are shown in flesh, white, navy and black satin and with high necks and long sleeves. Fine tucks in groups that form stripes prove to be appropriate and most popular for trimming. The directoire influence appears in tailored models having collars and frills of that period. Georgette and foulard are combined in other tailored blouses, the plain georgette forming the body and sleeves, with cuffs, vest and directoire collar of foulard.

In dressy blouses there are some very rich and unique models. One of black satin is cut kimono style, with short sleeves, and has a basque so long that one wonders it is classed as a blouse. In keeping with its style it is adorned with embroidery in silver and gold, of Japanese inspiration. Col-

Julia Bottomley

Novel Jardinieres.

Purchase a large size bean pot in the shape of a flower pot with wide rim. They cost about 12 cents. Now use a dark green glossy paint to cover it. When dry dip a small brush in washable gold paint and draw a pretty design around the rim and you have a handsome container for a fern.

DEADLY ARMY WORM IS FOUND

Large Numbers of Dreaded Pests Are Discovered in Buncombe County on Land of Grove Park Inn.

Asheville.—The manager of the E. W. Grove estate discovered a large number of army worms, said to be very deadly to all vegetable growth, on a plot of grass belonging to the owner of Grove Park Inn. This is the first appearance of the army worm which is so deadly to all crops in Buncombe county, and every precaution is being taken to keep the menace from spreading over the entire county. Crude oil was sprayed around the grass plot in an effort to keep the worms from spreading, and they will be watched.

Troy.—The Summer School which has been in progress here for the past four weeks has closed.

Kinston.—State Senator H. E. Stacy, of Lumberton, will make the address at the unveiling of the Richard Caswell memorial on the Central highway near this city next month.

Laurinburg.—Congressman Thos. J. Heffin, of Alabama, will be the speaker of the day at Laurinburg Friday, August 29, when Scotland county will celebrate the return of her soldier sons from France.

Wilmington.—Labor Day, Monday, September 1st, will see the launching of Wilmington's and North Carolina's first steel ship, when the Carolina yard here will send overboard the "Cranford," a 9,600-ton freighter.

Asheville.—While standing on the porch of her father's house where she was visiting at Bridgewater, Mrs. Katherin Dobson, of Morganton, was instantly killed when lightning struck the house.

Warrenton.—Mr. William Barham Davis, A. M., of the University of North Carolina, and well known in state school circles as the efficient principal of the Charlotte high school, has accepted the principalship of the Warrenton State high school.

Apex.—Senior Lieutenant C. J. Edwards, M. D., of the United States navy has been transferred from Baltimore to the Raleigh recruiting headquarters, much to the delight of his many friends in Apex, Cary and Raleigh where he is well known.

Kinston.—The racing program for the fall fair here, to open October 14, will be one of the best yet, it is stated by the association. Purses will be liberal and a number of animals will be brought here from other states to try for the money.

Wilmington.—President Weems Williams, of the Baltimore & Carolina Steamship company, after a visit to Fayetteville and Wilmington, has given these towns reason to believe that his vessels will come into the Cape Fear again, making Wilmington a port of call, as formerly.

Goldsboro.—According to reports reaching this city, serious damage is resulting from worms that are feeding upon the leaves of the velvet and soy beans in some sections of this county. It is said that many fields of beans are already practically ruined, due to the fast development of this pest.

Charlotte.—After facing for a day the menace of a possible strike of electrical workers employed by the Southern Public Utilities Company, which furnishes this city with gas and electric power and lighting service, it was announced by union leaders that there would be no such strike "at present," pending possible conference with officials of the company.

Winston-Salem.—About fifty local plumbers went out on strike when their employers refused to accede to their demand for a wage scale of one dollar per hour. The owners of the plumbing shops proposed a scale of 87 1/2 cents an hour for eight or nine hours a day, and that time and a half be paid for labor performed Saturday afternoon, but this was declined.

Record for Education.

Rutherfordton.—The little mill town of Spindale, recently made a record for education, when it voted unanimously for a bond issue of \$7,500 for a new school building. Mr. Tanner donated the land for the site. The building will contain four class rooms and a large auditorium. The front will be mostly of glass. Work has already begun on the building. The cotton mills and railroads pay 85 per cent of the taxes of the district.

Spindale is also to have a new, modern brick drug store.

Opening of Phyllocactus.

Lexington.—The home of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Harris was visited by a stream of visitors one night recently, the occasion being the opening of a blossom of phyllocactus, a beautiful tropical plant of the cactus family. Mrs. Harris has had the plant for seven years and last night was the first time it has ever produced a flower. Beginning about sundown, a little shoot about two inches long developed before midnight into a beautiful creamy white flower about six inches in diameter.

LOW YIELD CAUSED BY POOR JUDGMENT

THE FERTILIZER SITUATION IN COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG IS SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION

NO EXCUSE FOR MEAGRE CROPS

Average of Bale Cotton to Acre and Fifty Bushels Corn is Moderate Estimate of Reasonable Crop.

Charlotte.—Discussing the fertilizer situation in Mecklenburg county, N. E. Winters, soil improvement agent for Mecklenburg county, said that farmers of this county were getting a yield from their plantings in cotton and corn of about one-third of what soil conditions here would permit if properly fertilized. He declared the fact that from the state goes each year \$4,000,000 expended for foodstuffs which could easily be raised on farms in the boundaries of the state.

He said the average cotton yield in the county is about one-third bale per acre and corn about 20 bushels, whereas these two crops should average one bale to the acre of cotton and 50 bushels to the acre of corn.

Raleigh.—The supreme court announced the names of 59 applicants for law licenses who were successful in the examinations. Seventy-one undertook the examinations. Of these, three licenses are for women.

Honolulu.—(Special) — With Mrs. Josephus Daniels, wife of the secretary of the navy, pressing the button that flooded the structure, the great Pearl harbor drydock was dedicated by Secretary Daniels.

Kinston.—Organization of community and township associations to combat the illicit whiskey traffic in North Carolina was advocated by Judge Frank Daniels, in charging the county grand jury here.

Greensboro.—Special Agent Graham, of the Department of Justice found 25,000 pounds of sugar at the store of the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company and immediately ordered it placed on sale in five pound packages. This relieves the sugar situation.

Wilmington.—Potestate W. A. French of this city, head of Sudan Temple of New Bern, has prepared thoroughly for the big fall ceremonial of the Shriners at Wrightsville Beach Labor day, and expects 1,500 Nobles with about 1,000 others to attend the festivities.

Charlotte.—Charlotte National bank began moving into its new banking house at the corner of Fourth and South Tryon streets, which was completed a few days ago at a cost of about \$250,000. This institution, it is declared by its officials, has a home now equal in architectural beauty and arrangement to any bank in this section of the country.

Wilmington.—H. McL. Green, postmaster of this city, was reelected president of the North Carolina Postmasters' association; J. H. Weddington, of Charlotte, and W. G. Laroque, of Kinston, vice presidents, D. J. Wichaid, of Greenville, secretary and treasurer; Bart M. Gatling, of Raleigh, J. J. Parrish, of Greensboro, and F. B. Benbow, of Franklinton, are the executive committee.

Asheville.—Urgent recommendations, providing for radical changes in many systems affecting conditions of living were adopted at a recent session of the Southern Labor congress in session here and the organization went on record as giving its hearty endorsement to industrial equality without regard to color. The recognition of the negro laborer on the same equality with the white came as a big surprise.

School Superintendents Meet.

Wilmington.—Forty-five superintendents of county school systems, embracing the membership of both the northeastern and southeastern districts of the state association of superintendents, will meet at Wrightsville Beach August 26, when a double convention will be held. Washington Catlett, superintendent of New Hanover schools, is president of the southeastern association, and will be host to both sides. H. E. Akers, of Halifax, is at the head of the northeastern superintendents.

First Violence in High Point.

High Point.—First violence in the strike of laborers in manufacturing plants at High Point, which are fighting for the right to organize, took place when they undertook to prevent several men from working. A negro was wounded when he drew a knife, ostensibly to defend himself. An attempt was made to run J. H. Graham, organizer, out of town.

The non-unionists who threatened Graham, were met by a force of union laborers and a general fight ensued, one man being badly beaten.