

News of Interest to Farmers of Johnston and Adjoining Counties

Talk of Higher Tax On Tobacco May Hurt

By JOHN R. MORRIS

The tobacco planters in the bright flue cured belt have had their minds diverted from plant bed preparations during the past week by the astonishing realization that the Federal Government desires to add an additional tax on tobacco products. They see the Government with its already heavy foot of taxation standing on the nape of their neck pushing them into bankruptcy, rather than giving them constructive legislation to pull their industry out of the economic mire it has sunk into.

The Government already gets more from the tobacco industry than the growers who sow and reap. They simply cannot stand any more obstacles to block them from making a profit now.

Thousands of telegrams have been forwarded to Washington during the last few days asking the ways and means committee in the House not to place an additional tax on the farmers who grow tobacco. The Government already gets one dollar per pound on this commodity and it has had a direct effect upon the farmers. Sales of tobacco products have steadily declined since last October when they fell 18 per cent under the preceding October. Senator Bailey has voiced his opposition to any additional tax on tobacco products saying that he believes that the Government is already getting too much revenue from this source.

In a letter to the Kinston Tobacco Board of Trade he stated that the tax of six cents on a package of twenty cigarettes amounts to a dollar tax on each pound used to make cigarettes. The consequence is that the Government's policy in this respect has a direct effect of decreasing the farmers' market and piling up an unmarketable surplus on his hands. The tax will be a burden on the farmers who produce the leaf and will cut down his price this process is now going on. The farmers have been urged to take a stand against any national or state tax.

Practically every Congressman and senator from Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina and Georgia have registered a protest in regard to the above tax and they are calling upon the farmers to help them out in the fight. Many telegrams have been sent in from farmers asking that they not be further penalized by this additional tax. They have been producing tobacco at a loss for about three years and they simply cannot stand any additional taxes at this time. The government received \$500,000,000 from this source while the manufacturers' total profits were only \$125,000,000. The farmer assumes all the hazards of its production and is operating at a loss. The effect is to give the government a dollar on the pound of tobacco for which the farmer receives 9 or 10 cents; that is to say, the government gets 1,000 per cent on the farmers' price without either sowing or reaping.

The question will be settled within a few days and the farmer can only go ahead with his plant bed preparation and hope for the best legislation that will enable him to get a profit on his 1932 crop.

STRONG FOR ECONOMY.

(Union Republican)

In view of the universal demand for economy in governmental expenditures it is noted with some interest that Senator McKellar, Democrat, of Tennessee, has established a new all-time record for money bills introduced in one session of Congress by one member. A tabulation of the bills introduced by the Tennessee solon since the present session of Congress convened in December reveals that if all were passed they would call for approximately 800 million dollars from the federal treasury over a period of years. Among the Senator's bills is one instructing the Comptroller of the Treasury to "re-examine Tennessee's claims against the federal government rising out of the War of 1812 and the Civil War." All of which seems to be going pretty far back as a device to be used for getting money out of the Treasury. These bills are rather of special interest because Senator McKellar declared not long ago that President Hoover "had put the government \$400,000,000 in arrears in running expenses."

There is something about lespezdeza growing that keeps hope and faith in the heart, says Tom Broom, county agent of Union County.

Increased Use of Cotton In Prospect

The United States Department of Commerce calls attention to the evidence of increasing consumption of cotton in clothing. It anticipates that cotton will play a leading role in this year's spring styles as indicated by advance showings at Palm Beach and New York.

Cottons of new texture, finely lustrous duren cotton material and a great variety of new weaves and knits have been extraordinarily in evidence in all the fashionable "openings" of the foreign couturiers and the important American fashion houses. These are found in sportswear, tailored dresses, formal afternoon and evening gowns, and women's costume accessories including millinery, shoes, gloves, hosiery, bags and scarfs.

One of the most outstanding "new uses" of cotton is a duren shoe fabric, which has just the right degree of luster, and a fine, suede-like depth of surface, unusual in ordinary cotton, and ideal for both strictly tailored street footwear and dressy, afternoon slippers.

More than 14,000 retail stores participated in National Cotton Week last year according to reports made to the Department of Commerce. Plans are being made for even greater activity in this year's campaign, May 16 to 21.

FOOD FOR CHILDREN.

Home Demonstration Agent wishes to emphasize the necessity of cod liver oil, not as a medicine nor as a luxury, but as an indispensable food especially for children. Mothers are therefore urged to provide three or four teaspoons of cod liver oil each day for every child under two years old. This will cost from fifteen to twenty-five cents a week per child, but is absolutely vital to children's health in the winter time and some doctors advise it all the year round. The vitamin D which prevents rickets is found in very few foods. Butter and egg yolks being the main common foods but one teaspoon of cod liver oil is equivalent to fourteen teaspoons of good butter and where the cows have not had access to plenty of green feed there is still much more difference in the two.

These foods are necessary for proper development of bones and teeth. Cod liver oil is a substitute for sunshine on the skin. In some way the sun has power working on the bare skin to develop this vitamin. Cod liver oil should be started by the time the baby is a month old. This is true even for breast-fed babies. Not only is this valuable to prevent rickets but you are also feeding vitamin A, the vitamin which helps growth, prevents eye disease and has much to do with colds, ear infections, etc. Most rickets are developed before the child is two years old, but any child who is under-nourished and under-weight would profit by this, says the United States Department of Agriculture. Cod liver oil sometimes is hard to get the child to take, but the earlier it is started the easier it is to become a habit. In the recent leaflet put out by the Children Bureau the lists as indispensable for the child under two years are as follows: One quart of milk, if possible; at least a pint. At least two teaspoons of cod liver oil—you should have three or four—at least one vegetable or fruit (tomato juice, orange juice, or greens) and it should have three or four. In addition the child should have plenty of bread, cereals and other body building foods. When there are children in the family, one-fourth of the money that goes for food should be spent for milk, one-fifth for vegetables, one-fifth for bread, cereals, beans and peas, one-fifth for fat and sugar, and the rest for eggs, cheese, meat and other things. In substituting for milk we wish to emphasize the fact that sweetened condensed milk should never be given to children. Evaporated, powdered milk is good. Anybody wishing any more information on child feeding mail a card to the Home Extension Department, Smithfield, N. C.

HIGHEST MARKET PRICE WILL be allowed any subscriber to the Johnstonian-Sun if applied on your subscription to this paper.

Tells How To Get Farm Relief Through Co-ops

Mr. U. Benton Blalock, general manager of the North Carolina Cotton Growers Co-operative Association, sent out a circular letter last week giving some information as to the plans now being perfected for farm relief, and telling how farmers who are unable to get help elsewhere may borrow a portion of the fifty millions for farm relief, which is provided for in President Hoover's Reconstruction Finance program, which has lately been enacted into law by Congress.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act provides for the use of any amount up to two billion dollars, which the board, of which Charles G. Dawes is the head, may use under proper restrictions, in giving aid to banks, railroads, farmers and other worthy enterprises. Mr. Blalock's letter, which is addressed to members of his organization, reads as follows:

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 17, 1932.

To all Members: We are a cotton farmers' organization, and as such we feel it our duty to serve our members in every way possible.

With the closing of so many banks in this State it is going to be rather difficult for farmers to obtain production credit, and nearly all of us as farmers must have some money to operate on.

The Growers Agricultural Credit Corporation was organized last year with Mr. J. F. Diggs as Vice President and Manager, with Raleigh as headquarters. Several banks in the State, and our Cotton Association took some Class A stock in this Corporation, in order that a means might be provided for financing farmers through the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Columbia, S. C.

The Growers Agricultural Credit Corporation will undertake to operate the same again this year, and any member of our organization, or a non-member for that matter, can make application to Mr. J. F. Diggs for credit, and his application will be given due consideration.

At the request of the Directors of the Growers Agricultural Credit Corporation, Mr. George R. Ross, another Director of the Credit Corporation, and I spent Thursday and Friday of last week in Washington to learn what we could do to have more money made available to our farmers for financing through the Growers Agricultural Corporation. We formed contacts with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Farm Loan Board, and some of our Senators and Congressmen, and are hopeful that further means will be made available through the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank to serve our farmers.

We are much impressed with the bill introduced in Congress by Senator George of Georgia, which provides ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for taking capital stock in credit corporations. Two of our Congressmen are assisting in putting this bill through the House of Representatives, and it should become a law within the next two or three weeks, in time to be used for this season's business.

While in Washington we also called at the Secretary of Agriculture's office, and discussed with Dr. Warburton, Director of the Extension Forces, as to just how the fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) appropriated under the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act for assisting agriculture would be handled. Regulation Sheet No. 1 relative to loans made under this Act has been issued, and its principal provisions are about as follows:

(1) This money is to be furnished to farmers where they are unable to obtain loans for crop production during the year 1932, preference to be given to farmers who suffered from crop failures in 1931.

(2) It is quite probable that applications for loans will be received and advances made through committees in each county, somewhat in the same manner as the seed loans and drought loan funds were dispensed last year. In due time these committees will be named and application blanks placed in their hands. It is now thought that these application blanks will be ready about the first of March.

(3) No loan for crop production will be made to any applicant for more than \$400.00. No landowner

can borrow more than \$1600.00 for all his tenants in any one county. Cotton farmers, where they use fertilizer, cannot borrow in excess of \$6.00 per acre on all of their crops for all purposes, and on tobacco the maximum rate is \$10.00 per acre. Loans will not be made to any farmer who has other means of livelihood, nor to a minor. All borrowers will be expected to reduce their acreage of cotton and tobacco to not more than 65 per cent of that planted last year; that is, if he planted more than ten acres of cotton or three acres of tobacco.

The Secretary of Agriculture reserves a right to make changes in these regulations at any time he may deem it necessary. As soon as these county committees are appointed and properly organized it is our purpose to ask our Field Men and our Directors of each district to cooperate with the committees in every way possible in helping to secure for our members credit through this source, if that is what they want; and our Field Men will also be ready to serve you if you want to make application through the Growers Agricultural Credit Corporation of Raleigh.

It should be borne in mind that this appropriation of \$50,000,000.00 is made to cover the entire United States, and of course it will not be sufficient to furnish credit to everyone who may desire it. It should be further remembered that it is only an emergency proposition and that it is expected to be done away with whenever conditions in agriculture improve to the extent that it is no longer necessary. It should be borne in mind that the development of an agricultural credit corporation is along lines of permanency, a means of financing agriculture from year to year.

Just as soon as committees are appointed and application blanks are ready we will undertake to inform our members, through the "Cotton Grower," the full procedure as to how to obtain loans from this \$50,000,000 fund, and also as to the status of the Growers Agricultural Credit Corporation and how loans may be obtained through the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Columbia.

Under the present regulations, as issued by the Department of Agriculture, it will be noted that \$1600 is the limit that any one borrower can obtain through this source if he is operating in only one county. The amount that can be obtained through a credit corporation is only limited by the amount of capital stock paid in. It is obvious, therefore, that some of our members who need more than \$1600 credit will have to use Agricultural Credit Corporation loans.

The object of this letter is to try to keep you advised as to just what is being done to provide a means of credit for you. No doubt you will see from time to time in your daily and weekly papers what progress is being made as to appointing committees and furnishing of application blanks, etc.

We have plenty of mail to answer without any additional letters, but if you feel it necessary to write us in regard to production credit before the "Cotton Grower" comes out, we shall be glad to have you do so; or if you want to make application for a loan to the Growers Agricultural Credit Corporation you will write direct to Mr. J. F. Diggs, Vice President and Manager.

May we add that this is certainly a year in which every farmer should operate on just a little borrowed capital as possible. Furthermore, we should all undertake to protect our sources of obtaining credit by assisting the county committees and the agricultural credit group managers in every way possible to prevent the making of loans to parties that are not entitled to credit. All too frequently someone obtains a loan from a governmental agency or creeps into an agricultural credit group through fraud and deception, and this hurts the whole scheme of financing agriculture credit.

U. BENTON BLALOCK,
Vice Pres. & General Manager.

P. S.—You should give thought to the quality and kind of cotton seed you plant. We shall be glad to assist you in purchasing the very highest quality seed we can get and the kind of seed you should plant. Write to us if you are interested.

Build For The Future Through Live Stock

Protecting the Plant Beds Against Insects

(By John R. Morris)

Georgia tobacco farmers are already making war on plant bed insects. The warm winter weather has been favorable to insects, and the probabilities are that they will be more numerous and will do more severe damage than usual unless preventive measures are used. Cutworms, moles, mole crickets and snails are the principal ones that menace tobacco plant beds. They often destroy entire beds, and sometimes the damage is not even suspected until it has already been done. Cutworms are already at work on plants such as cabbage, onions, etc., and it will be well to take immediate steps to prevent damage to young tobacco plants when they start coming up.

The very small size of the tobacco plants and the feeding habits of these insects make it necessary to poison them with something that they will eat. J. M. Purdom, an expert in this work, advises to make up a poison bait by thoroughly mixing one pound of arsenate of lead, or calcium arsenate, or one-half pound of Paris green with twenty-five pounds of shorts, bran, cottonseed meal, or corn meal. Add sufficient water that has been sweetened with syrup to make a crumbly mass. Remove the cloth cover and apply by sowing the small crumbs of this mixture over the bed. If there are mole runs in the bed, drop small balls of the mixture in their runs. Two or three applications of this mixture should be made at intervals of two weeks. After the plants have put on five or six leaves the dry mixture can be dusted on the plants.

Insects, especially mole crickets and snails, often find protection under the logs around the edges of the bed, and at night or cloudy damp days crawl out and feed on the plants on the bed. It will be well to lift up these logs and sprinkle lime under them.

Our farmers should use every precaution to make a crop of quality tobacco during 1932. Most of our farmers are in bankruptcy as the result of growing tobacco. They can make money if they will cut the acreage and take care of a smaller crop. The marketing conditions in foreign countries will lend us no hope to base any claim for better prices. Domestic types have sold at a profit this season. We must grow them or go out of the tobacco growing business.

FLOYD GIVES FACTORS THAT IMPROVE TOBACCO

The first concern of the tobacco grower in 1932 should be to plant only those acres which can be properly cared for after all the primary needs for food and feed have been arranged.

"After conducting demonstrations with tobacco growers for a period of years, we know there are certain factors which have improved the quality of tobacco in this state," says E. Y. Floyd, tobacco specialist at State College. "No man should plant more of the crop this year than he can look after properly and he should select uniform, well drained soils for the crop. The best cigarette varieties are Cash, White Stem, Orinoco, Bonanza and Jamaica. All seed need to be re-cleaned and treated for disease. The seed bed should have a southeast exposure on a well drained, loamy soil. It is preferable to have a new location each year and cover the bed with a canvas having 26 by 26 strands to the square inch. Plant 100 square yards to every two and one-half acres expected to be set and get only the best uniform plants for setting."

Mr. Floyd urges the careful preparation of the soil for the tobacco this year. For fertilizers he suggests from 1000 to 1200 pounds an acre of an 8-4-6 on the light, sandy soils and an 8-3-5 on the heavy, more productive soils. This fertilizer should be of the best materials and should be applied ten days before transplanting begins. Mix the fertilizer thoroughly in the row and plant the tobacco 24 inches apart on average soils or 18 to 20 inches apart on rich soils.

Farmers who have produced excess amounts of hays, grain and other feedstuffs in the last two or three years should begin to slowly add livestock to their agricultural systems and not allow the lure of high prices for so-called cash crops in the future to change them from this course towards better balanced farming.

"In addition to balancing our present systems of farming, livestock helps to build soil fertility and permits the utilization of non-salable feeds with profit to the grower," says Earl H. Hostetler, in charge of animal investigations at State College. "The eradication of the cattle tick has made it possible for us to improve the quality of our cattle over large areas but it has also left unoccupied thousands of acres of native grasses and reeds which were formerly returning some revenue. Many doubt that better bred animals would return a profit on this kind of grazing. It is true that animals, like plants, must be fed and cared for if they are to thrive and return a profit; yet, much of this native grazing should be utilized better than it is at present."

Mr. Hostetler says landowners in tick free territory need to know what kind of legumes and cultivated grasses will give them the best results in their respective sections. North Carolina farmers need also to learn that southern protein feeds such as cottonseed meal could be used to better advantage. Northern and western livestock growers have long been large users of these feeds but down here where the feed is grown, it little used to grow out finished animals.

Cottonseed meal, peanut meal, soybean meal and other such feeds produced in this state could be used in fattening livestock here at home and the fertility kept on home farms.

Five Grange units have been organized recently in Granville County. It is planned to organize eight such units when a county Grange will be built from these.

THE EDITOR OF THE JOHNSTONIAN-SUN will be glad to credit any farmer reader on his subscription for a bushel or two of sweet potatoes.

If You Want

to get rid of that piece of Furniture....

to dispose of that Rug or worn Carpeting....

to sell your Second-Hand Clothing that is still good....

somebody to do a job of Papering or Repairing....

or somebody to help with the House Cleaning....

Take This Tip

PUT A LITTLE AD IN THESE COLUMNS AT A COST OF BUT A FEW CENTS

And Your Worries End