

# Rev. W. T. C. Briggs Continues Attack On A. A. A. Program

## Says Crop Figures For Chowan County Are Absurd and That Farmers Are Robbed of Their Liberties; Compliments the Herald

Editor's Note: The articles appearing by Rev. W. T. C. Briggs does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Herald regarding the AAA. The Herald is anxious to present both sides of any question affecting readers, and will be just as generous with space to anyone who desires to present their side of the AAA.

According to "crop figures" which the Elizabeth City Daily Advance correspondent seems to have been furnished by County Farm Agent N. K. Rowell, which appeared in that paper of September 30, one who knows no better might infer that the AAA has made Chowan County farmers immensely rich. It seems to me I have read or heard of a young surgeon who was asked about an operation he had recently performed. "It was a scientific success: the operation was perfect," was the nature of his reply. "How is the patient?" the inquirer continued. "O, well, the patient just couldn't pull through—the patient died: the operation was perfect, though." Now, these figures which Mr. Rowell has furnished the press remind me of that operation. To look at them at first glance they look scientifically accurate, and they seem to reflect that Mr. Rowell and his highly paid office force have this farming business figured down to a gnat's-bristle. But where the rub comes in is, those figures are like the young surgeon's operation: scientifically accurate and perfect as they may seem, still they do not help the situation whatsoever.

These figures of Mr. Rowell remind me of the story of the Negro and his opossum. Sambo put his big nice opossum on to cook, and while the pot boiled Sambo fell off to sleep. While he slept another Negro, smelling the 'possum, crept in, and finding Sambo fast asleep, this visitor decided to "put one over on" Sambo. Whereupon he ate the 'possum himself, but very carefully greased the fingers and lips of Sambo with a little of the grease and gravy which he had left for that purpose. He also left the bones, and took his departure. By and by Sambo awoke, but to his consternation his 'possum was gone. He saw the bones, but the meat was gone. He saw the grease that was on his fingers, and began to taste a bit of the gravy that had been smeared on his lips, but when he felt of his stomach he found that it was even emptier than when he fell off to sleep. Yet, because the 'possum's bones were before him, the grease on his fingers and the bit of gravy on his lips, in spite of his empty stomach, Sambo very reluctantly concluded in his mind that the 'possum was in his stomach—that he had eaten it in his sleep. Now, these flattering figures of Mr. Rowell remind me of the grease on Sambo's fingers and the bit of gravy on Sambo's lips; they do not relieve the gaunt feeling in the stomach, nor put any more clothes on the back—they do not help nor change the real situation whatsoever. As I feel myself over I find that I am very much emptier, as it were, than I was before the inauguration of the AAA; but I refuse to be deceived as was Sambo by the grease on his fingers and the gravy on his lips; I refuse to be deceived by these unreliable figures of Mr. Rowell when said figures are so utterly foreign to my own personal experiences and to my observations of others.

For instance, Mr. Rowell says that in such and such a year there was a total of such and such a number of bushels of corn raised in Chowan County, and that it sold for such and such a sum of money. Now, a second thought will show the absurdity of these figures. I know they can not be relied upon because I raised corn that year myself, and what I want to know is, how does Mr. Rowell know how much corn I raised that year and how much of it I sold when I don't know myself, nor does any other man living know. And what can be said about myself can be said about untold numbers of others who raised corn that year, is my opinion of the matter. Then if I took my peanuts off to another state and sold them that year, as did many others, and if I told Mr. Rowell nothing about how many bags I sold, nor what I received for them, what I want to know is, what does Rowell know about it, anyway? Yet he talks about the total number of this or that raised, and the total sum received for this and that sold from the county with the air of the omniscience of the all-wise God Himself. In all these years I have been farming in Chowan County only one time do I recall any man coming to me for a census of my farming, and I was unable to give that man anything accurate or satisfactory as to the sum total of my business. This is just one illustration of how empty and unreliable are these figures these farm agents are bluffing out on the people.

But what if these figures were accurate? There would still be the other and the worse side of the picture that he has not turned to the public; for what would it profit me and many another man if peanuts even at ten cents per

pound when the AAA movement made it impossible for us to find suitable land upon which to raise even so much as one pound? And what does it profit me even if cotton were selling for 40 cents per pound when this contemptible AAA forbade me to plant one seed of cotton on the place I live? And what does it profit other farmers when they are forced to pay from 50 to 75 per cent of what they do get for their stuff back to the government to pay county farm agents fabulous salaries, and for advanced prices on supplies and other attendant taxes and evils. It reminds one of pouring water into a bottomless jug—what have you got left in the end, anyway? Besides that, there is a terrible "hereafter" to this AAA mess; for it is being operated to a large extent on borrowed money which is helping to plunge the whole nation into bankruptcy. Time will tell yet a far bigger tale than has yet been heard, if a stop is not put to this frenzied tyranny; and some of these farm agents, in boosting the accursed thing, are just building up a gallows upon which to be hanged themselves in the end, for when a deceived people once get their eyes really open to the deception which has been practiced upon them, it is then, "Woe unto those men who have deceived them."

Again I cry, this obnoxious thing has robbed us of our liberties. As someone has well said, "Here is a form of servitude or slavery—a slipping back toward the middle ages. Even in America, where liberty blazed brightest and by its glow shed light on all the others, it is besieged from without and challenged from within. But it were better that we sacrifice something of economic efficiency than to surrender these primary liberties. In them lie the spiritual rights of men. Wherever in the world the system of individual liberty has been sustained, mankind has been better clothed, better fed, better housed, has had more leisure. Above all men and women have had more self-respect. They have been more generous and of finer spirit."

That silver tongued Southern statesman, Henry W. Grady, with eloquence, long ago defended our rights to exercise human freedom in our sowing and reaping and the selling of our crops. Here are some of his words: "When every farmer in the South shall eat bread from his own fields and meat from his own pastures, and disturbed by no creditor and enslaved by no debt, shall sit among his teeming gardens and or-

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### REPUBLICAN Bertie County By Walter Hughes

#### CYNICAL SAYINGS

She: You men are angels while you woo the maid, But devils when the marriage vow is said.

He: The change, good wife, is easily forgiven; We find ourselves in hell instead of heaven.

When a man tells you he hates liars, believe him; "two of a trade can never agree."

Experience is a sad destroyer of the love of human nature. The wise man builds few hopes upon kindness, and none at all upon gratitude.

Pitch upon that course of life which is the most excellent; and habit will render it the most delightful.

Contentment is a pearl of great price; and whoever procures it at the expense of ten thousand desires, makes a wise and happy purchase.

Wit, to be agreeable, should be personally satirical. We like to have a brilliant light thrown on anybody we are examining, but it is by no means agreeable to have a strong reflection thrown into our faces.

Useful Remark An uncultivated mind, like unmanured ground, will soon be overrun with weeds.

#### SEVEN TENTH GRADERS ON HONOR ROLL LAST MONTH

Seven members of the tenth grade made the honor roll for the past month. These were Wendell Copeland, William White, Dorothy Buffal, Frances Dail, Mabel R. Harrell, Myrtle Wilkins and Agnes Elliott.



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#### PLANNING TO HOLD FIDDLERS' CONVENTION AT MERRY HILL

Plans are now in the making for a fiddlers' convention to be held at Merry Hill some time before Thanksgiving. These affairs generally draw large crowds and the coming one will no doubt be above the average. The exact date has not as yet been announced.

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#### MISS MARTHA OUTLAW

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