

M. G. Mann Says Farmers' Income Is Too Low For Taxes

Co-op Manager Answers Criticism By Revenue Department

Most North Carolina farmers fail to pay state income taxes simply because they don't make enough money, M. G. Mann of Raleigh declares in answer to recent criticism of farmers by the State Revenue Department.

Mann, who is general manager of the Farmers Cooperative Exchange and N. C. Cotton Growers Association, said the average Tar Heel farmer's income still leaves much to be desired even though farm prices have taken a turn for the better in post-war years.

Last week the Revenue Department reported that out of 299,000 income tax returns filed in 1946, farmers turned in only 10,248.

In defending farmers, Mann said a recent study released by the Institute for Research in Social Science at Chapel Hill showed North Carolina ranking 40th in the nation in total cash farm income with an average per farm of \$2,449 in 1949.

"Since this is a gross income figure," Mann continued, "production expenses, depreciation, and other allowable costs would have to be deducted before the net income could be determined. This, of course, would throw the net income well under the \$2,000 exemption the state allows a married person."

Latest available figures show that 42 per cent, or almost one-half, of North Carolina's farm population is composed of tenants and sharecroppers, usually a low income group, the Raleigh farm leader said.

At the same time, Mann added, land holdings among individual farm owners are comparatively small, the average farm in this state having under cultivation less than 25 acres.

"When we consider these factors," the co-op manager declared, "we can see why the net income of North Carolina farmers is small. We must not overlook, either, the great rise in production costs since the close of World War II. Farmers now are paying much more for their fertilizer, seed, and other supplies needed to turn out crops and livestock. At the same time, farm commodity prices have not increased in the same proportion."

Mann said there may be some cases of farmers failing to file income tax returns when they should, but for the most part, "it's a case of not making enough money to file."

He said further: "The farmer is a businessman in the same way a merchant, for instance, is: If a business doesn't make enough money after deducting yearly operating expenses, it doesn't pay income tax."

"We wish," Mann declared, "that more of our North Carolina farmers were able to file returns."

Management Of Forestry Profitable

H. T. Hobbs Systematically Thins His Pine Woodland

Hillary T. Hobbs of Edenton, Route 1, is finding that good forestry management pays good dividends. In 1941 Extension workers assisted Mr. Hobbs, marking a demonstration acre for thinning of young pines. At that time Mr. Hobbs cut 8 cords of wood per acre leaving approximately 334 of the best trees per acre to grow. Using this as a guide, he proceeded to thin his pine woodland throughout the years, but some of which he did not get to.

Recently the Extension Forester and the County Agent visited Mr. Hobbs' wood with him and determined that further thinning of the pines is now necessary. Mr. Hobbs was interested in selling his thinnings as



"LITTLE JOE"—A South Korean orphan adopted by a medical company of the 25th Infantry Division proudly displays a captured Communist weapon to Corporal Joseph Bennice, of Schenectady, New York. "Little Joe" was provided with an Army helmet and wears a uniform cut down to fit a small boy.

pulpwood so the trees were marked on the demonstration acre and also four acres more for pulpwood thinning. According to calculations, this thinning will provide the removal of approximately 10 cords of pulpwood per acre leaving a good stand of the best trees to grow for timber.

During the past nine years this pine timber has produced over one cord of pulpwood growth per year which is being sold as a cash crop. On the other hand a good stand being left for timber has made excellent growth. It is estimated that the pulpwood thinnings are providing ample returns to pay taxes and 6 per cent on investment, while a good stand of timber is being produced.

"Timber owners who thus leave their timber are making expenses plus interest on investment and producing a future timber crop," says County Agent C. W. Overman. "While on the other hand those who are cutting their timber haphazardly with no regard for the future in many cases are producing scrubby hardwoods which will make very poor timber crops in the future."

Germans Started To Use Christmas Trees

Research into the origin of the Christmas tree shows that the Germans had much more to do with this tradition than their contribution of the song, O Tannenbaum.

"The concept of the tree is very old," says the December issue of House Beautiful magazine. "In 1561, authorities in Alsace had to pass an ordinance limiting the size of trees the burghers cut down for their celebration."

According to the article, Moravians in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, saluted Christmas in 1747 with a pyramid of green, decorated with candles, apples, and verses. But until the middle 1800's, Christmas trees were comparatively rare and those that did exist were usually set up and decorated by German immigrants to America.

"Fort Dearborn, Michigan," the author reports, "is said to have had a tree in 1884. A German professor at Harvard trimmed one for his little boy in 1836. And in Williamsburg,

Va., they still celebrate the lighting of the first Christmas tree ever trimmed there about 1840 by a German tutor."

Prince Albert was responsible for the first tree in modern England in 1841. And ten years later there was a Christmas tree salesman plying his trade in New York City.

There's a report that Henry VIII celebrated a Twelfth Night pageant with a tree of gold hung with roses and pomegranates. A travel book of 1605 mentions the way the residents of Strassburg set up fir trees in their rooms and hung on them apples, wafers, gilt and sugar.

Two Chowan Boys Will Get B.S. Degree At ECTC In May

Fifty-three students at East Carolina Teachers College completed their work at the end of the fall quarter and are now eligible for degrees, according to an announcement from the office of Dr. J. K. Long, registrar.

The students will be graduated at commencement exercises held at the close of the school term on May 21.

Forty-two of the total number are candidates for the degree of bachelor of science, which at East Carolina is a professional degree for teachers.

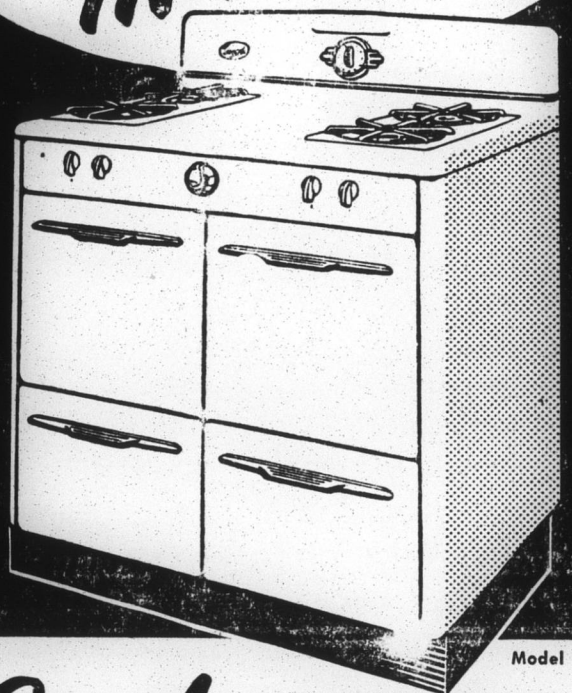
Seven will receive the liberal arts degree.

Among the students who will graduate are Edward E. Everett and Robert J. Rawles, who will receive the B. S. degree.

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