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SAUNDERS OPPOSED TO STATE FIXING PRICES

Government Working at the Wrong End of a Big Problem--Government is Neither Producer Nor Distributor

By W. O. SAUNDERS
Elizabeth City merchants will present a solid front against the effort of the Food Administration to fix the maximum profit they shall charge on their merchandise. The Federal Food Administrator of North Carolina, Mr. Henry Page, is determined to regulate the price of all commodities of merchandise, under power vested in him by the Lever Act. He and the merchants are to reach an agreement. Several conferences have been held, but no agreement seems to be in sight. The merchants do not want to be regulated.

This newspaper has kept out of the controversy between Mr. Page and the merchants, hoping that some agreement could be reached without too much opposition; but this newspaper is convinced that the merchants' opposition to state or federal control of their profits is so deep-seated, that any attempt to regulate them will be defeated--if not by fair means, then by other means.

Government does not produce raw material; government does not manufacture; government does not distribute manufactured products. Government is engaged in none of these branches of production and distribution and knows nothing about them.

Government for centuries has placed production and distribution in the hands of private individuals.

Private individuals under the sanction of government and tradition have evolved their own private methods of fixing their costs and selling prices.

The details, the responsibilities of production and distribution, remain in the individual and the right of government to meddle in the price fixing of commodities will be challenged so long as the individual is responsible for production and distribution.

It seems to me that all of these attempts upon the part of government to regulate prices are crude attempts to placate the unintelligent discontented and compromise with the devil.

I am not one for half way measures. If the merchants are robbing the people then let the government educate the people to the facts and the people will know how to deal with the merchants. The government can give the people the knowledge of the cost of production and distribution of a pair of shoes, a suit of clothes, a pound of sugar and a Chicago ham, as easily as it can give the farmer the cost of producing a bale of cotton, and compile for him the figures to show months in advance what each season's crop will total.

If the merchants are engaged in soulless brigandage profiteering ruthlessly at the expense of the masses, then why temper with the merchants at all? Why doesn't the government take over the production and distribution of the essentials of life and fix prices with intelligence and justice? The answer to this would be that government as now constituted hasn't demonstrated its ability to do things any better than the individual. Why government isn't more capable is another story, quite apart from the purpose of this article.

I am opposed to government fixing the price of anything it doesn't produce.

For thousands of years government has never interfered with profiteering.

It has been every individual's right to profiteer.

Society is organized upon the theory that only the fit shall sur-

vive. Every man scuffles for himself and the devil takes the hindmost. Things have been ordered this way so long that it is dangerous for government to interfere now.

We are not a socialistic state. Only a socialistic state could safely undertake to fix prices, because only a socialistic state could handle the machinery of production and distribution.

Our government, at least, is opposed to socialism. Government agents right now are engaged in rounding up everything that looks Red and sending it to jail or to Europe.

Government attempts to fix prices after individual production and distribution is a senseless half-way socialistic measure that will wreck any country that is opposed to socialism.

And, so I repeat, I am opposed to government price fixing. And, to be perfectly frank about it, I have more faith in the merchants' inclination to do the square thing, than in the ability of ambitious politicians to make them do the square thing.

THAT HINTON WILL CASE IS COMING UP AGAIN

Rumored That Effort is Being Made by Local Lawyers Representing Hinton Brothers to Call Off Special Term of Court

A strong effort is being made by certain local attorneys to have the Governor rescind the order calling a special term of Superior Court at Elizabeth City for two weeks beginning December 8th. The special term was called by Governor Bickett upon recommendation of Judge Lyon, who presided over the November session of Superior Court, held here two weeks ago, and it is generally understood that the purpose of the special term is to dispose of the Hinton Will Case, which has already resulted in two mistrials, and which is holding up a number of other more or less important cases.

The reason given by attorneys opposing this special term is that it was called so suddenly that they have not sufficient time in which to prepare it. However, persistent rumors are current to the effect that the lawyers most strenuously objecting are those representing the Hinton brothers, and the inference is that they hope for a lessening of the strong public sentiment in favor of the children of the dead brother, who was left out of John Louis Hinton's will by the time the regular term of Superior Court convenes; namely the last Monday in December. For the same reason, the other side is anxious to have the case brought up and disposed of as soon as practicable. The interest of Pasquotank county people in the case, is stronger than ever. Meanwhile, all interested are anxiously awaiting further action by the Governor.

NORFOLK WOULD NOT PAY HIGH FOR TURKEY

Many Elizabeth City Dealers Lost Heavily on the Norfolk Thanksgiving Market

Elizabeth City poultry dealers who banked on Norfolk paying extravagant prices for Thanksgiving turkeys, lost heavily on the Norfolk market Wednesday of this week and thousands of pounds of dressed turkeys are left on their hands, or in the hands of Norfolk commission men who will dispose of them as best they can.

Turkeys sold on the Norfolk wholesale market at 60 cents a pound Tuesday before Thanksgiving, in anticipation of retail prices of 75 to 90 cents a pound. But Norfolk housekeepers put their feet down on 75 cent turkey and bought every thing for Thanksgiving dinner except turkey. Many dealers in panic offered turkeys as low as 45 cents a pound before the day was over, but couldn't move them even at that. People had just passed up the idea of eating turkey at all.

Many farmers in the Elizabeth City section benefited by the fabulous wholesale prices of Tuesday's market. Many others lost by getting their birds to market Wednesday morning when the break came. Roanoke Dock commission merchants are heavily stocked on turkeys. One of the largest dealers in Norfolk, in a telephone conversation with this newspaper today declared that Norfolk people had determined not to stand to be gouged and that growers and dealers would have to accept lower prices on the Norfolk market.

All this means that Elizabeth City may get some Christmas turkey. Very few turkeys were offered for sale here this week, most of the stock going to Norfolk in anticipation of high prices.

This Boy Is Seeing The World



EDWARD S. BELL

EDWARD S. BELL, a son of Mrs. J. K. Parker, of this city, is seeing the world. He has been in the U. S. Navy and Marine Service for eight years and is now First Assistant Engineer of the S. S. Cape May. He was in Elizabeth City last week for a brief visit before beginning a cruise which will take him around the world, making the ports of Yokohama and Kioke, Japan; Shanghai, China; Manila, Philippine Islands and Cebu, India, returning home via the Suez Canal.

A BOOST FROM A NEIGHBORING TOWN

(From The Washington, N. C. Daily News of Saturday, Nov. 22, 1919)

NO UNDESIRABLE ALIENS WITH US

Elizabeth City May Congratulate Itself Upon Being Full 99 Per Cent American

Alarming reports of Anarchists activities from every corner of the United States and wild disorders fomented by radical foreigners has occasioned the inquiry, are there any disorderly foreigners, I. W. W.'s, Bolsheviks, or undesirable aliens in Elizabeth City? Even a cursory survey of this city shows that there are none.

Elizabeth City is more than 99 per cent American. The largest group of foreigners in this city are Assyrians, having come to this country from Mt. Lebanon in the Holy Land. And every one of these Holy Landers is a Christian and a class conscious capitalist. There are three Russians in Elizabeth City, two of them business men and anti-socialist. The German element in Elizabeth City is restricted to old families, wedded to American life and customs and patriotic in every sense. They are representative of the city's best citizenship. A few Greeks, a few Italians, one or two Englishmen, a Frenchman and one lone Chinaman probably will complete Elizabeth City's register of foreigners--every one of them law abiding citizens and fervent respecters of private property rights.

Elizabeth City may congratulate itself that it has none of the undesirable element that has given the Department of Justice and the industrial monarchs of the country so much trouble and uneasiness of late. Elizabeth City has none of this element to disturb its peaceful reconstruction activities.

THREE BOILERS GO TO THE BAD IN ONE DAY

Trouble at Electric Light Plant Hard on Printers, Putting This Newspaper a Day Late

Elizabeth City's privately owned electric light plant broke down Wednesday morning and Elizabeth City was out of 'k' until nearly eight o'clock Wednesday night when things were fixed at the electric light plant. One result of the breakdown is the appearance of this newspaper a day late. THE INDEPENDENT can't move without electric power.

The trouble at the electric light plant was due to the blowing out of tubes in two boilers while the plant's reserve boiler was already out of commission and undergoing repairs. With its three boilers out of commission all at one time, the plant was unable to turn over a dynamo. The damage was partly repaired by night-fall, and then a fire broke out in a dwelling on Peartree Road and all the available power at the electric plant had to be rendered to the pumping plant, to insure water pressure for the firemen. Normal service was not restored until about 8 o'clock Wednesday night.

NOTICE!

The regular meeting of the Fisheries Commission Board which was to have been held at Morehead City, N. C. December 10th, 1919, has been postponed to a later date for the reason that practically all business before them was transacted at their meetings recently held at Currituck Court House and Edenton on November 19th and 21st.

J. H. DIXON
Fisheries Commissioner
This November 26, 1919. cN28-1t

Here is a bargain in Ladies' Shoes. Sizes 3 1/2, 4 and 4 1/2 at \$2.50 and \$3.00. The samples have cap toe and plain with Medium heels. The grade of these shoes are as good as the \$5.00 and 6.00 ones, only different in style. TWIDDY & WHITE.

DEMOCRATS AND G. O. P. EAT PIG

Democrats Couldn't Stay Away From Republican Rally Baited With Real Pork

By RALPH POOL

The opening gun of the 1920 Republican campaign in the First Congressional District of North Carolina was fired at Plymouth yesterday, when Republicans and Democrats from all over the District gathered at the Washington county seat to hear campaign speakers, partake of a barbecue, and discuss politics with their friends and neighbors. The weather was ideal for the occasion, festive, balmy and pleasant, of the sort which has made North Carolina's Indian summer famous the nation over. Everything considered, the Thanksgiving Day celebration staged by the Republicans was all that had been hoped for.

Due to unavoidable delays, the program for the day began about two hours later than scheduled. As a natural result, the crowd, licking its chops in belated anticipation of the promised real pig, was more or less inclined to be restless while the speaking was going on. Some few ardent admirers of monkey rum were disposed to be noisy, and the inevitable small children present added by their wails to the general restiveness of the crowd, yet the 3,000 or more persons present gave fairly close attention to the speakers of the day.

Capt. Walter Harney, Democrat of distinction, welcomed the visitors in behalf of the city of Plymouth, to which Col. Meekins of Elizabeth City briefly and appropriately replied, concluding by introducing C. R. Pugh, Republican State Chairman. Mr. Pugh then presented the principal speaker of the occasion, Senator Thomas Sterling, of South Dakota. Senator Sterling, using as his topic, "Americanism versus Internationalism," spoke principally in defense of the refusal of the Senate to ratify the Peace Treaty, which he discussed at some length particularly as to its threatened encroachments upon the Monroe Doctrine. He made a good impression upon his hearers, Republican and Democrat alike. When he had concluded his speech Chairman Pugh announced that the barbecue was ready.

It was then that the real excitement began. The roast pig was served in individual paper plates from a small booth which would accommodate only ten or a dozen persons at a time, and the crowd ravenously because of the lateness of the hour and the fact that the only eating place to be found in town was closed in celebration of Thanksgiving, rushed as one man upon the barbecue. Republicans and Democrats, ex-soldiers and ex-slackers, good church members and ardent backsliders, engaged in a wild struggle to get at the eats, all social, political and religious differences forgotten. Fortunately the 36 roast pigs were equal to the emergency, and in due time everybody was served. Then the crowd began to scatter.

And it WAS a crowd. Old inhabitants of Plymouth stated that it was the largest crowd that had gathered at the town since the Federal occupation of Plymouth during the Civil War, when several regiments of enemy troops were stationed there. At least a third of those present were Democrats, and ex-soldiers to the number of several hundred years scattered through the crowd. Less than half a dozen of these wore their uniforms, in contrast to the grizzled old Confederate veterans there, in their faded gray habiliments of the earlier struggle between the North and the South. The presence of monkey rum, grape brandy and corn whiskey could not be denied, but those who had imbibed noticeably were few in number and orderly for the most part. The crowd contained a sprinkling of Negroes, who seemed immensely pleased with the speechmaking.

Marion Butler, John M. Morehead, and Carl Duncan perhaps the leading Republicans of the State, were unable to attend the Rally Day celebration for various reasons, although they were scheduled to be present. Ziegler's Band, of Elizabeth City, which had been hired for the event, went over by steamer from Edenton, and furnished music of their justly famed variety throughout the day, returning to Edenton late in the afternoon, and thence to Elizabeth City this morning. Rally Day at Plymouth was a day of pleasurable excitement for all present, and other events of like kind will be held elsewhere as well in the course of the present political campaign.

ACRES OF DIAMONDS 3 MILES FROM ELIZ. CITY

A Young Elizabeth City Business Man Realizes Boyhood Ambition In a Remarkable Way



C. O. ROBINSON

WHY CITY FOLK CAN'T GET SUGAR

Jobbers Divert Supplies to Country Stores to Hold Out of Town Trade

This newspaper is informed by reliable parties that Elizabeth City is being deprived of much sugar by Elizabeth City wholesalers who divert this sugar to country stores, in their rivalry for country store accounts. This information is in part verified by reliable information that in many rural neighborhoods in counties contiguous to Elizabeth City there has been no shortage of sugar. Many country people tell this newspaper they have no trouble in buying sugar in five and ten pound lots. The editor of this paper has himself bought ten pounds of sugar from one country store 20 miles from Elizabeth City and has just sent an order for ten pounds to another country store, with the assurance that the order will be filled.

A retail grocer tells this newspaper that a certain wholesale house received a supply of sugar the other day, which was to have been parceled out to city trade he would have sugar for them on that date. But the wholesaler never filled his order. Going to the wholesaler he demanded an explanation. "We find that rival jobbers are shipping most of their sugar out of town; we have got to do the same thing or we will lose our country trade. We are sending what sugar we have to country stores, because we can't afford to lose any country business."

And so there you are. This newspaper also hears hints that certain grocers are hoarding sugar for the high prices which are expected after January 1. There is an abundance of sugar in America, to be bought by any one who will pay the profiteer's price. One Elizabeth City grocer was recently offered all the sugar he wanted at 20 cents a pound and told that grocers in other cities were paying that price and reselling it for 25 cents a pound without being molested by government officials.

SAUNDERS WILL HEAD ARMENIAN CAMPAIGN

North Carolina Called Upon For \$200,000 To Save A People from Extinction

W. O. Saunders has accepted the chairmanship of the American and Syrian Relief Campaign in Pasquotank county. These countries must be saved from extermination. Secretary Daniels, Governor Bickett, Dr. Clarence Poe and other prominent men are intensely interested. North Carolina will be asked to contribute \$200,000 in a campaign to be waged nationally from February 1 to February 21, 1920.

The bigamist should remember that a wife in the hand is worth two in court.

A BRIGHTER WORLD THROUGH OUR GLASSES

Are you groping through life in semi-darkness as a result of weak, indistinct vision? If so, wear a pair of our glasses and get a new grip on sight, happiness and eye comfort.

Dr. J. D. HATHAWAY
Optometrist
Phone 999 Bradford Bldg.
ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.

A sale of native grown paper shell pecans by a local confectionery store this week is the herald of the success of a new horticultural industry that may mean millions for eastern North Carolina. The pecans in question are from the grove of C. O. Robinson of Elizabeth City, the first commercial grove ever attempted in this section. The grove is a success. When it was started 13 years ago it was looked upon as a piece of youthful folly.

The nuts from the Robinson grove are in every way as fine as the best varieties from the famous pecan groves of Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida and Texas.

The Robinson grove is located in Camden county, at the eastern terminus of the Camden Ferry Road, about three miles from Elizabeth City. There are 50 acres and more than 1,000 trees in the grove. Five varieties are grown. They are the Stuart, Van Deman, Success, Money Maker and James' Paper Shell. The different varieties were grafted on native seedlings that have never been transplanted, which means that every tree is well rooted.

It is not often that a father hands down his foresight and business acumen to his son; but C. H. Robinson seems to have done this. Young C. O. Robinson at 15 years of age forsook the possibilities in pecans for this section, as surely as his father years before foresaw the mercantile, banking and manufacturing possibilities in Elizabeth City.

There is a big pecan tree in the Robinsons' yard in Elizabeth City, and young Charlie Robinson began to learn about pecans from that tree when he was a boy in short pants. He made what other boys would have called spending money from that old tree. Some years he gathered and sold as many as eleven bushels. There are about 40 lbs. of pecans to a bushel. Four hundred and forty pounds of pecans from one tree is a money crop. It's better than a money crop when you have 20 trees to an acre and 50 acres in trees.

And so when C. H. Robinson gave that farm in Camden county to his son in 1906, C. O. Robinson began to experiment with pecans. He was then in college, but he would get away from school during the holidays and at Easter time to look after his venture. He has nursed that grove as assiduously since, as ever his father nursed the First National Bank.

The first fruits of his grove, a bare hand full of nuts, was gathered in 1912. Pecans bear slowly. But they bear sure and this year the crop exceeds 300 pounds, spite of the deprivations of pigs and small boys. The yield will continue to increase by leaps and bounds for the next ten years, by which time the trees will have attained their maximum yield.

There are other pecan groves under way in this section, but the Robinson grove is the first to yield commercial quantities. F. V. Scott has a larger grove, started three years after the Robinson grove. Other groves have been started by A. L. Ayldett, J. H. Ayldett and N. R. Parker, of this city. The industry is likely to be given a real impetus another season when young Mr. Robinson will dispose of part of about 5,000 young trees in a nursery which he has established in connection with his grove.

FOUND NOBODY HOME AND HE WALKED RIGHT ON IN

Got a Watch, A Chain and a Sum of Money, But Didn't Get Far Away With It

A Negro giving his name as Asa Browning and his home as Boston, Mass., is in Camden county jail in default of \$500 bond, charged with burglary. The prisoner entered the home of Andrew Dozier, a prominent Camden farmer, while the family was in the field, picking cotton. A daughter of Mr. Dozier found the man in the house. He told her he was looking for a drink of water. She directed him to the pump, went back in the field and told her father. Mr. Dozier hurried to the house. The man was gone; also a watch and chain and considerable money belonging to Mr. Dozier. Constable Seymore happened along about that time and the Negro was chased and apprehended.

MORE COTTON THIS YEAR

There were 2,772 bales of cotton ginned in Pasquotank county from the crop of 1919 prior to Nov. 14, 1919, as compared with 1,471 bales ginned to Nov. 14, 1918.

There were 2,174 bales of cotton ginned in Camden County from the crop of 1918 prior to Nov. 14, 1919, as compared with 1,284 bales ginned to Nov. 14, 1918.

Your last chance to buy shoes at \$2.50 and \$3.00 a pair. These are some sample shoes just received. Sizes 3 1/2, 4 and 4 1/2. Plain and cap toe and GOOD shoes. Come take a look! TWIDDY & WHITE. cN28-2t

"SHOES?" Yes, some more Ladies Sample Shoes in vici kid but; sizes 3 1/2 and 4 1/2 and only \$2.50 for a pair. Come early. TWIDDY & WHITE. cN28-2t