

The State Port Pilot

Southport, N. C.

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Wednesday, July 3, 1946

Hold To What You Have

Next week Brunswick county tobacco farmers will have an opportunity to cast their ballot either for or against continuation of the control program, and our advice to them is to take stock of their present situation before they have any part in bringing about a change.

We will not do the usual thing and compare present prices of tobacco with those paid the farmers in 1932, but we do want to point out that even in these days of high prices the farmer is being well paid for his tobacco crop.

It is very likely that the day may come when restrictions against uncontrolled planting of tobacco may represent the difference between prosperity and hard times for our farmers. On the basis of what has been accomplished through the weed program, we believe that it deserves the continued support of the men whose principal income is derived from growing flue-cured tobacco for market.

Take It Easy

While the clamor is still ringing out from Washington over the passing of the OPA we are taking the liberty to say to both our merchant friends and to members of the buying public, "Take it easy."

Robin' Reporter

(Continued from page 1) She was so thrilled with the appearance of the Brunswick county plantation, that she wrote

right back and asked if she could buy it or another place just like Orton. Without consulting Mr. and Mrs. Sprunt, we were able to write this lady and

We would remind our friends, the merchants, that the customers they serve are the same people who will be their customers following the present period of readjustment. To do anything now that will undermine their confidence in you later will be an everlasting mistake.

And we would call attention of our readers of the buying public to the fact that passing of the OPA has not created any new and mysterious source of supply for scarce articles of merchandise. We therefore counsel you to buy the things that you actually need and steer clear of unscrupulous people who seek to charge exorbitant prices. A mighty good idea is for you to keep on doing your trading with merchants you know, men who will be doing business next month and next year at the same old stand.

Let State Have It

In response to inquiries made last week, and also in recent letters to parties in Southport, Director R. Bruce Etheridge, of the Department of Conservation and Development, stated that the State of North Carolina had very definite plans for making use of Fort Caswell, if it can be obtained from the Federal Government.

The Navy owns Fort Caswell and has no use for it in the present order of things. The Coast Guard, the only other Federal agency that has shown any interest in the place, wanted only a fraction of the existing facilities. Reports indicate that the Coast Guard is dropping out and leaving the whole place for disposal to any agency that can get full value for all the money that has been spent at Fort Caswell.

It seems to us that the only agency interested which can get full value from the facilities is the State of North Carolina. With Fort Caswell as a part of the Mountain-Seashore Park system, which is what the State plans to do with it, the whole of Southeastern North Carolina and the State at large will benefit.

The Caswell facilities are of permanent type. As salvage they would not bring ten-cents on the dollar that has been spent. Not used they will go to ruin, even with a generous allowance for caretakers and up-keep.

We say let the State have Caswell.

place.

We noticed this last week that both D. B. and Sam Frink, of the Shallotte community, have some mighty fine crops. So has Sol Wilson. Did not get around to see what Rice Gwynn has in the way of crops, but we understand that he now has around 30 tobacco barns, all busily engaged in handling the huge acreage he plants each year in tobacco. Judge John Ward told us that he had just finished getting in 7 oil-burning systems in as many of his barns. He thinks the oil burners are labor saving and that at the same time they will cure a barn full of tobacco at lower cost than results from the use of firewood. In this connection Lester Babson asked us to go around to his barn to see a mighty fine barn of tobacco that he had just finished curing with oil burners. According to him, farmers can get more insurance and at a lower rate when they use the oil burners for curing. Charlie, Sam and Gene Russ, of Shallotte, have some fine tobacco and other things that are found on a farm. All those farmers, white and colored, on the highway between Supply and Shallotte, have pretty crops. Their growth interests us every week as we pass along that way. Probably they seem to us to grow faster than they do to the folks who are out in the fields working them.

One afternoon recently we saw a colored man at Shallotte with nearly half a bushel of blueberries, which he said he had picked in the swamps in a couple of hours and without any help. We understand he sold the proceeds of his two hours work for something over five dollars. The interesting point was the size of these berries. They were about as large as the tip of a man's finger. If blueberries will grow wild that large, without cultivation or fertilization, we can readily understand why New Jersey blueberry growers are planning a 200-acre blueberry farm near Southport.

A Shallotte hog raiser asked us Saturday, "What is going to become of our hogs? We can't buy any feed." The answer, so far as we know is, and we believe that County Agent Dodson would make the same answer, is that we will have to grow feed if we are to raise hogs. This business of buying feed to raise hogs has never been what it was cracked up to be. Quite a number of Brunswick farmers raise their own hog feed and the sooner this becomes the general practice the better things will be.

County Agent Dodson got us to wondering about something Saturday. Talking about blueberries for Brunswick and their possibilities (of which he thinks a great deal) he went on to say

that we needed some one far sighted enough to see that there was money to be made by growing figs on a commercial scale.

He though this was especially true in the Southport area and cited the case of those famed fig trees on the Fort Caswell reservation. Those Fort Caswell fig trees have been bearing great black, pear shaped figs, firm and of the most delicious flavor, for years and years. They date back beyond the time that anybody can remember. There are always two big crops each year and these crops have never been known to fail. They produce despite all sorts of weather and with neither fertilization or cultivation.

"An acre planted in those figs would produce a good harvest in three years and thereafter the twice yearly harvest would become heavier each year. I don't see why some one does not engage in growing those figs," said the agent, "they are the surest producing variety I have ever known, and there is always a big demand for them at good prices. They can either be sold green or preserved."

It happened that we knew those Caswell fig trees about as well as the county agent. So far as figs go, we have never seen anything like those that grow at Fort Caswell. This moved us to ask the name or variety?

"They are known everywhere as the Brunswick variety of figs," said Mr. Dodson.

This statement sort of put us up in the air and the county agent was not able to bring us down. To the inquiry if the Brunswick variety of figs, those that are grown at Fort Caswell, originated in this county and thus received the name of the Brunswick variety, Mr. Dodson was unable to give a satisfactory answer. All that he knew was that the best figs in the world grew at Fort Caswell and wherever else they are found they are known by that name.

We are where we must ask if there are any old people in Brunswick who know who planted those fig trees at Fort Caswell? And how long ago were they planted? Were they known as the Brunswick variety when planted, or did they get their name by being grown in Brunswick?

PLAN FISH FRY

Residents of the Henry Landing community in Boone's Neck township are planning a big fish

fry and picnic at the Robinson fish house on July 4th. Crowell Robinson, Captain Jesse Robinson and Bill Jake Hewett are some of the leading spirits in the undertaking and they say that everybody is invited and that there will be free fried fish and other good things for all.

PROGRESS BEING MADE ON LARGE GUANO FACTORY

(Continued From Page One) er and better with less manual labor than is required in older fertilizer factories. Navassa, on both the Seaboard and Coast Line tracks, is a big center for fertilizer production. Already in operation there for many years have been the huge plants of Armour & Company; Virginia-Carolina Chemical company; and Royster. The Gulf States Crecosoting Company also has its huge crecosoting plant at Navassa and the plant of the Wilmington Box Company is another big industry for the Navassa section of Brunswick county.

RECOUPERATING

Friends of Mrs. Hugh Gray, of

Supply, will be glad to know that she is recuperating nicely following a major operation at James Walker Memorial Hospital, Wilmington.

RETURN HOME

Chief Boatswain Mate Roy C. McKeithan has retired from the service after nine and a half

years with the Coast Guard. ing war he was in the most of the time and he has been stationed in Wilmington State. With Mrs. McKeithan, the former Miss Hood, he has returned to port, but has not yet what he will do.

NOTICE 1945 - 1946 TAXES

Advertisement of land for sale for paid 1945 Taxes begins in July. Pay the month and avoid extra cost and embarrassment.

Save 2 Percent On Your 1946 Taxes By Paying This Month. E. R. WEEKS CITY TAX COLLECTOR

NOTICE OF SALE

The windmill tower, tank and water pump formerly in use at the County Home is for sale, and sealed bids for this equipment will be received up until noon of Monday, July 15, 1946. The sale will be made for cash, and the purchaser agrees to assume all costs of dismantling and removing same within 10-days following acceptance of bid. The board of county commissioners, who will pass upon the bids submitted, reserves the right to reject all offers.

AMOS J. WALTON, Clerk

Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County

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STILL IN LINE

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Cast Your Ballot in the Tobacco Referendum On July 12th

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