

Footprint in the sand of time.

(By James Franklin)

RACKETS, is a new word in the dictionary, recently coined to denote a forcible regimentation without regard to any laws or other conditions, and is also used in describing some other practices built up through long custom and usages. In Stokes county with its rural environment and staid racial grouping, the citizens are unfamiliar with the "numbers", "bookies" and the many lesser rackets which touch the lives of almost every citizen daily in the populous sections of northeastern states. It took the G-Men to disclose actual conditions and the collection of millions of dollars under the noses of unsuspecting officials. However, many things exist which are unfair and pass unnoticed because of having become "Common" from long usage and practice and a general ignorance of the inside workings. Our present system of marketing tobacco is one of these rackets of long slow growth,

touching the lives of thousands of struggling farmers in this section. The toll taken and manner in which it is taken is comparable to the "artichoke racket" in New York and the "milk racket in Chicago".

To clearly understand the situation it is well to look into the history of tobacco marketing here. At first, each farmer processed his own crop. Each farm and plantation had a tobacco prize, an enormous hand made wooden screw operated by a long sweep drawn by an ox or a mule. The last one hereabouts is on the plantation of Mr. John Neal northeast of Meadows. Fifty years ago there were no warehouses and about that time the first tobacco factories sprang up in every little town and cross road village. They had crude but better methods and processes than the farmers. Standardized brands and advertising of tobacco and the time were born then. The farmer bought his tobacco direct to these little factories and sold it in a man to man deal. In those days there were two thriving tobacco factories in Danbury. Fayette Smith's and Pepper Brothers, and

the citizen driving up main street in his buggy was always met by the enchanting perfume of Lady Nicotine, arising from the full packing houses where the weed mellowed.

Heavy advertising to establish favorite brands, new, patented processes and machinery allowed certain progressive factories a monopoly starting about forty years ago, soon closed thousands of small factories and gave birth to the present warehouse system. As the fewer factories became larger the sales became forty warehouse system later centralized in a few places with warehouses to handle larger and larger volumes.

A serious mistake seems to have been made when the factories allowed independent interests to establish and operate the tobacco warehouses. Until today the warehouses are controlled by neither the factory or the farmer, but the factory helps by furnishing buyers, because it means that the factory can save great expense over the method of sending buyers out to deal directly with the farmers. Then again, under the auction system in warehouses, with so few buyers and no direct dealing with the farmer, there certainly exists a tendency to agree upon prices advantageous to the buyers. However, it is difficult to determine that the factory has been materially benefited by the auction warehouse system of selling tobacco.

Lancaster county, Pennsylvania is the largest tobacco growing county in the world, marketing as high as 42 million pounds in a year without warehouses directly to hundreds of cigar and tobac factories in three states. They operate under about the same conditions as existed here fifty years ago. Their tobacco varies very little from an average of 80 cents a pound from year to year.

It is purposive that a racket takes a toll for a service that it does not render and that is why the present tobacco marketing system is called a racket. Large warehouses, representing millions invested in highest priced city properties are maintained all the year by giving the farmer for only ninety days a questionable chance to get the actual value of his tobacco crop. The farmer pays it all. Here before us is a warehouse bill of a farmer who has just sold 7000 pounds of good tobacco. He occupied 120 square feet of floor space in the warehouse for 1 hour and 40 minutes and paid over \$80.00 rental for that time. He paid the auctioneer at the rate of \$70.00 an hour for his time in selling this tobacco, also other charges totaling 3 per cent. of all his tobacco brought. Stokes county farmers pay warehouses nearly twice as much for selling their tobacco each year as it costs the taxpayers to run the county. Twice as much as all the taxes of the county, and they get so little for their 3 per cent. that we may positively brand the warehouse system as a racket.

The solution, some experts say, is to have the manufacturers establish the exact grading of tobacco and indicate their demand

for the different grades and types of tobacco and then provide government owned storage houses with licensed graders and sorters to handle the crop. The 3 percent taken from the farmers now will pay for this, or the expenses can be taken from the topheavy internal revenue taxes imposed on tobacco products, often amounting to over 50 per cent. of the retailing price and to as much as 60 cents a pound on tobacco which the farmer has sold for 15 cents.

Stokes Boys Enlist In Army

The Reporter has received from Col. T. H. Lowe, recruiting officer for the U. S. regular army at Atlanta, Ga., a list of Stokes county boys who have recently joined the army.

- The list follows:
- Oather K. Priddy, Lawsonville, N. C., enlisted at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on November 14, 1936, for Infantry, Second Corps Area.
 - Joe D. Wilson, Sandy Ridge, N. C., enlisted at Fort Bragg, N. C., on November 13, 1936, for Infantry, Second Corps Area.
 - Weldon E. Rhodes, Lawsonville, North Carolina, enlisted at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on November 17, 1936, for Infantry, First Corps Area.
 - Thomas E. Nelson, Lawsonville, Stokes County, N. C., enlisted at Fort Bragg, N. C., on November 13, 1936, for Infantry, First Corps Area.

Renew your subscription to the Reporter while you can get green coupons, which can be used same as cash in trading with leading concerns in Stokes county.

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of an order of the clerk of the superior court of Stokes county, North Carolina, rendered on Monday, November 2, 1936, in the special proceeding entitled "Mrs. J. M. Gordon, Eleanor Apperson, et al., vs. Wm. L. Vest, et al., the same being number 1242 on the Special Proceeding Docket of said county, the undersigned commissioner will, on

Saturday, December 5, 1936, at the hour of two o'clock p. m., on the premises of the late Jas. S. Scaub, at the home-place, and / or at other places on the premises hereinafter described, at said time and place to be announced, offer at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, subject to the confirmation of the court, the following described lands, to wit:

First Tract: Lying and being in Yadkin township, Stokes county, North Carolina, about two miles southwest of the town of King, N. C., being a part of the Jas. S. Schaub farm: Beginning at a stone in Hooker's line, and runs south 50 degrees east 12.72 chains to a stone; thence north 59 degrees east 2.60 chains to a white oak; thence south 26 degrees and 40' east 13.84 chains to a stake on north side of road; thence south 44 degrees 30' east 9 chains to an iron stake; thence north 73 degrees 20' east 11.22 chains to a cedar; thence south 70 degrees east 4 chains to an iron stake; thence south 43 deg. 45' east 8.73 chains to an iron stake; thence south 70 degrees 30' east 3.76 chains to a stone; thence south 4 degrees 25' west 9.17 chains to a stone; thence south 68 degrees west 5.19 chains to a stone; thence west 6.35 chains to creek; thence south 30 degrees west 6.81 chains to ford; thence south 30 degrees 30' west 2.16 chains; thence north 84 degrees west 1.44 chains thence north 38 degrees 30' west 34.09 chains to a black oak; thence north 60 degrees west 22.30 chains to a stone; thence south 87 degrees 30' east 3.35 chains to a stone; thence north 1 degree east 9.80 chains to a pine and hickory; thence south 84 degrees 15' east 5.75 chains degrees 30' east 6 chains to a stone; thence north 22 degrees 30' east 50 links to the beginning, containing 109.1 acres, more or less.

to a stone; thence north 30 Second Tract: Beginning at a white oak in Roger Calloway's line, and runs north 59 degrees east 11 chains to a stone in

Meadows' line; thence south 62 degrees east 26.18 chains to a stone in Meadows line; thence south 17 degrees 30' west 19.96 chains to an iron stake; thence north 43 degrees 45' west on a new line 8.73 chains to an iron stake; thence north 70 degrees west 4 chains to a cedar; thence south 73 degrees 20' west 4.22 chains to an iron stake at road; thence north 44 degrees 30' west 9 chains to an iron stake; thence north 26 degrees 40' west 13.84 chains to the beginning, containing 53.9 acres, more or less.

This November 2, 1936.
N. F. KEIGER,
Commissioner.

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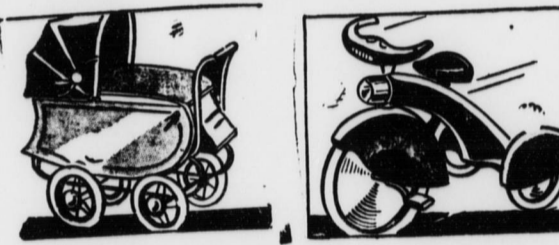
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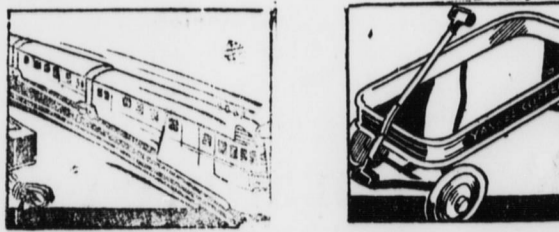


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Banner Warehouse

E. J. DAVIS, Propr.
MARTINSVILLE, VA.

Banner Warehouse, Martinsville, Va. and its entire force wish to extend Thanksgiving greetings and best wishes for the generous patronage given us so far on the 1936 crop. We want you to know we feel very grateful to all of you who have sold with us and to also inform you we have led most all our competitive markets, taking into consideration grade for grade. Our market resumes sales Monday, Nov. 30th and we predict prices to be just as good on the balance of the crop. However we would advise prompt sales on balance on hand. Our Sales run as follows: Monday, Nov. 30th, 2nd; Tuesday, Dec. 1st, 1st; Wed 2nd, 2nd; Thursday 3rd, 1st; Friday 4th, 2nd—We give you a few sales taken at random just to show the run of prices. Bring us your next load.

Waller & Witcher— 474 @ .35 420 @ .33	C. W. Priddy— 76 @ .35 54 @ .36 176 @ .32	Davis & Eaden— 20 @ .37 66 @ .30 96 @ .45 146 @ .60 100 @ .39	44 @ .40 140 @ .28 50 @ .35 64 @ .37
Robert Joyce— 30 @ .40 52 @ .42 10 @ .56 90 @ .47 132 @ .47	444 @ .28 30 @ .32 290 @ .41 34 @ .57	L. P. Overby— 100 @ .30 66 @ .40	W. E. Ellington— 230 @ .40 50 @ .41 252 @ .37
J. S. Joyce— 44 @ .35 126 @ .40 144 @ .35 30 @ .45	J. A. Shepherd— 360 @ .43 104 @ .40	J. C. Jefferson— 154 @ .38 144 @ .41 232 @ .46 144 @ .38 162 @ .44 80 @ .52	M. L. Aaron— 160 @ .47 172 @ .44
C. C. Jefferson & Meadows— 440 @ .44 286 @ .30	Andrews & Oanley— 74 @ .35 170 @ .44 160 @ .35	Ford Gibson— 160 @ .28 144 @ .35 516 @ .42 254 @ .40	F. L. Vernon— 84 @ .43 410 @ .30
	M. T. Draper— 56 @ .40 180 @ .40	Boles & Chilton— 44 @ .45	

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