## Higher Gasoline Prices Forecast For This Year

Some Sort of Control Would Be Big Boon To Industry, and Federal Government May Step Ip, Babson Says In Discussing Return To Better Conditions

By ROGER W. BABSON (Copyright, 1934, Publishers Fi-

ancial Bureau) Babson Park Mass., May 4.- Condiwas running wild; crude oil prices curities were severely depressed. In the short space of 12 months the picture has completely changed. Production is now fairly well in hand; crude oil prices aref irm; oil companies are making good profits; and oil securities are again in demand.

A Unique ndustry

As readers know oil is found in huge pools which extend for miles underground. These pools are tapped by hundreds of wells which are owned by a number of individuals or companies. The oil in each pool is the common property of all well-owners. Naturally, unless some type of control to outstrip his neighbor and get a bigger sharef rom the pool. This has two very bad effects. First, it immediately creates over-production of crude oil with a resultant decline in prices; and second, when the wells are allowed to run too fast the pressure in the pool is reduced and millions of barrels of oil, which otherwise could be recovered, arel ost.

Back in pre-depression days, production was controlled through voluntary proration agreements among the operators. Whilep rices wereh igh and demand for petroleum products brisk. the majority of producers respected their quota agreements. With the coming of hard times and the dire need for cash, many producers violated their quotas. This was a prothroughout the entire industry. In late 1931, production ran wild and crude prices crumbled to the lowest point on record. The industry temporarily stabilized in the fall of 1932, but last spring production again got out of hnd pushing the industry back nto chaos Production Control Necessary

The fundamental purpose of the National Recovery Act of last June was to give the Federal government power control production, wages and prices in certain industries. Oil was a shining example of an industry which needed powerful centralized regulation. After years of instabil1

Relieves Headache Due To Constipation

"Thedford's Black-Draught has been used in my family for years," writes Mrs. J. A. Hightower, of Carthage, Texas. "I take it for sick headache that comes from constipation. When I feel a headache coming on, I take a dose of Black-Draught. It acts and my head gets easy. Before I knew of Black-Draught, I would suffer two or three days—but not any more since I have used Black-Draught."

Thedford's BLACK-DRAUGHT

it was apparent that the only way this business could be put on its feet was under Federal supervision. The oil code drawn up last summer, calltions in the oil industry today present ed for an oil administrator to fix proa striking contrast to those of a year duction quotas. Based on a careful a striking conde il production study of statistics, Administrator Ickes set a daily crude oil production suota was running was running time lows; producers for the entire nation. This allowable were piling up big losses daily; oil senow stands at 2,366,200 barrels per Production today is very close day. to this maximum.

There are three important factors Outlook in the oil industry today which stance out. The first and most significant is the tightening of production control in industry, is now definitely working Texas where the chief trouble has back into prosperity. The near-term previously existed. Several new laws outlook for the leading oil stocks is and recent court decisions have made the control in Texas fields stronger today than ever before. Federal control under the oil code, however, has received several set-backs. The legality of certain phases of the coce awaits a final decision before the Supreme Court. Because it is so es- on the very long-term outlook for on is exercised, each producer attempts sential to hold down production, 1 feel that sooner or later some Federal control method will be found which the Supreme Court will uphold.

Strike Would Boost "Gas" Prices The second factor is the threat of labor difficulties. This would be unfortunate. Wells would have to be capped over. Many of these would have to go "on the pump" to start producing again. This would increase production costs. A strike in the industry at present would, however, solve the production problem once and for all. For this reason I feel that a strike would prove bullish on oil se curities. From a comparative standpoint labor in the oil fields has always been treated well. But because the consumer would eventually pay gressive malady which quickly spread | the cost of the strike many times over I believe the government will do everything in its power to prevent off labor troubles, and that any serious strike at this time is unlikely.

The third big factor in the outlook today is the possibility of refinery control. Theoretically, if production at the well could be strictly governed there would be no need for refinery control. owever, at the present time there are about 600,000,000 barrels of petroleum, or about 350,000,000 barrels of crude oil, in storage in this country. Roughly, this supply is sufficient to meet consumption requirements in the United States for six months. So while production is being cut down, oil companies are refining crude taken out of storage. As a result, gasoline stocks on hand have recently been at theh ighest level in the history of the industry. Gasoline tank wagon prices have been temporarily weak, but they should soon recover if a refinery control law wer placed on the books. Earnings Now Excellent

sensitively reflecting the better pro- required by the college being an enduction situation. The average month- trance fee of \$22.50 for nine-week stuly price per barrel is now around \$1, dents and \$15 for six-week students. low of 42 cents in the summer of 1933. Crude actually drop- which lead to the Bachelor's and ped to less than 10 cents per barrel Master's degrees and to all types of

higher crudep rices oil companies profits in thel ast half of 1933 were more than sufficient in most cases to offset the big losses of the first half of the year. Actually the situation is so strong that the major companies are active in bidding for prperties and are conducting "wildcat" operations in territories that have been idle for

In fact, prices and earnings were so leading oil stocks in February of this year sold 11 per cent above their 1933 peak while the industrial averages broke their 1933 top by less than one per cent. Several oil stocks have recently made all time highs while eight have gone into new high ground for the recovery periodd uring the last month. Not only are holders of oil securities benefiting from improved security quotations but their income has been substantially augmented. Of 25 leading companies, 14 have increased, resumed or inaugurated dividends in the! ast six months. This is the hest record of any major group or

ence managements, as well as stock especially attractive. It seems to me, however that the oil companies as well as the utilities railroads packing companies dairy companies and communication companies will eventually be publicly owned. Accordingly I am securities.

Business as estimated by the Babonchart though still 21 per cent welow normal is now 25 per cent above

# NUMBER OF LOCAL

Summer School at Baptist College Draws Many From City, County

(Special to The Daily Dispatch) Wake Forest, May 4.-A check up of the alumni files at Wake Forest College preliminary to the celebration this month of her 100th birthday shows that Vance county had 11 students enrolled in the last Wake Forest Meredith summer school held at Wake Forest.

These students are J. H. Bunn, Jr., Henderson; R. W. Bunn, Henderson, Mrs. J. R. Carroll, Middleburg; Grace Gooch, Dabney; William Massenburg, Henderson; Lola Maynard, Henderson, J. R. Nixon, Henderson; Mary Elizabeth Tunstall, Henderson: Mrs. F. B. Woody, Henderson; and Ruby E. Mc-Cann, Dabney.

The school will open this summer on une 11, the six-week session ending July 20 and the nine-week session August 10.

The college will continue its co-operative policy of allowing students considerations in deferring payment of part fees. There will be no tuition charges to any group of Meanwhile the price of crude oil is students this summer, the only cost during the depression. Due to current North Carolina teachers' certificates.

# TOBACCO PLANTING

satisfactory that an average of 20 Hardly Time for Much, But Ground Must Be Pre. pared for Setting

> With the time at hand for transplanting of tobacco from seedbeds to the growing fields, very little of that has been done as yet in Vance county. Actually, no transplanting has been done that has been reported here.

Lateness of the spring and continued cool weather has been the cause of the delay. There have been a few spring days but no protracted warm season that would permit or activity on a major scale on farms.

Frequent heavy rains up to a week or ten days ago furnished abundant moisture, but ground that had been plowed at intervals has since become so hardened as to make it unsuited for transplanting of tobacco in many instances, and much plowing will yet have to be done before the young plants are set

The weather has been so cool that farmers have gotten behind in starting all of their crops.

Tobacco plant-beds have developed to the point where there is every indication of an abundance of plants being available for the reduced acreage that will be planted this year. Nearly all growers have signed the reduction contracts with the Federal government, and that means the acreage will be around 30 per cent less in this county than the general average for the past three yeaers. So that there grandchildren also survive. will hardly be any scarcity of plans for the year's crop.

By hard work and a lot of it, growers will probably be able to overcome the effects of the late spring, provided the weather from this time on is favorable for work and for the growth of the young plants, once they have been set in the fields.

## FINALS START AT EPSOM ON SUNDAY

Sermon on That Day; LeRoy Martin Finals Speaker On Next Friday

Commencement exercises at Epsom high school, a stone's throw over the tonight's exercises. county line in Franklin county, will begin next Sunday afternoon with the baccalaureate sermon at the school auditorium at 3 o'clock by Rev. R. L. Randolph, of Franklinton. The full commencement program was announced today by Prof. Julius A. Woodward, principal.

On Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock a music recital will be given.

The class day exercises and the recitation and declamation contests will and announcements will follow. be held next Thursday evening at 8 Courses of instruction will be offered o'clock, also in the school auditorium, where all of the exercises will be held.

The commencement address will be delivered by LeRoy Martin, of Raleigh secretary of the State School Commission, at 11 o'clock Friday morning of next week, May 11. The address will be followed by the presentation of diplomas, medals, prizes and awards.

The commencement play, a comedy, will be given Friday evening of next week. It will be entitled, "Aaron Slick from Punkin Crick."

### AROUND TOWN

Court Still Idle. Again today there was no session of recorder's court, no cases being set for trial.

No Deeds or Marriages.-Yesterday saw no marriage licenses issued and no real estate deeds filedw ith the register of deeds, the records showed

No Appointment Yet.—No appointment to the postmastership at Kittrell has been made as yet, nor has an eligible list been certified from the civil service examination recently held here. Just when some action may be expected is not known here.

Pay Is Delayed. - Although the school term is ending, teachers will not get their pay checks just now, but will have to wait two or three weeks until the State furnishes the money, since some of it is being obtained from the Federal government.

Truck Not Moved.-Although removal of one of the firetrucks from the fire house to the eastern side or the railroad, has been authorized by the City Council as a temporary matter, the truck has not yet been moved, and Chief Shepherd thinks it will be some weeks yet before it will be nec-essary to make the transfer because of the advance of the paving crews on Garnett street.

#### Committeemen In Rural Schools To Be Named Monday

One committeeman in each district served by the five consolidated schools of the county is to be named by the Vance Board of Education at the board's regular monthly meeting next Monday, according to a decision reached by th eboard at its last regular meeting the first Monday in April. Each school has a local committee of three, and one is named each year byb the county education board. Other than that, it is expected the Monday meeting of the board will be largely of a routine nature.

## MRS. S. T. ADAMS IS NOT YET STARTED CLAIMED BY DEATH

Funeral at Holiness Church Saturday, With Burial at Rock Bridge

Mrs. S. T. Adams, 74, died at 9 o'clock Thursday evening at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Sam Parrish, after being in failing health several years and being confined to her bed for the past three months. Death was caused by a complication of dis-

Funeral services will be held from the Holiness church at South Henderson, of which she had been a member 20 years, tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, with the pastor, Rev. E. G. Parrott, in charge. Interment will follow in Rock Bridge cemetery.

Surviving are the following children. E. R. Adams, M. W. Adams, Mrs. W. H. Johnson, Mrs. Lela Glenn, Mrs. Sam Parrish and Mrs. Ervin Kelly, all of this city or county, and one brother, Zeb Turner, of Wake fires in homes and business places county, and two sistres, Mrs. Lula, have continued to be necessary and Parrott, of Durham county, and Mrs. E. M. Adams, of Wake county. Her husband has been dead 18 years.

Mrs. Adams was a native of Wake county, and was born in 1860.

Active pallbearers for the funeral were announced as follows: Ed White Ernest Hoyle, Charlie Catlett, I. G. Hedgepeth, Walter Dloyd and John

In addition to her immediate children, 34 grandchildren and 17 great

### CONTESTS TONIGH IN SEVENTH GRADE

Five Girls and Six Boys In Speaking Competition At Central School

Declamation and recitation contests for boys and girls of the seventh grade of Central school will be held in the school auditorium tonight in exercises that promise a program quite different from that of former

The speakings will be heard, the judges will render their decision and the medals will be presented all at Hitherto the medals have been presented at the high school graduating exercises, but not so this year.

"Grandfather's Clock" and "Mid the Hills of Carolina" will be sung by the seventh grade pupils, after which the readings bby the girls will be held. The seventh grade girls will then sing "last Night," to be followed by the declamations by the boys. The judges will retire to make up their decision

Mrs. S. T. Peace will present the Board of Education Medal to the winning girl, and Dr. L. W. Gerringger pastor of the First Methodist Protestant church, will present the D. Y. Cooper Medal to the boy who is declared the winner.

The whole class will sing "Farewell to Central."

Marshals for the evening will be Jane Newell, chief, Dorothy Brinkley, Esther Mitchell, Elsie Fuller, Berl

200,000 Acres In Burned Territory in Two Counties

(Continued from Page One.)

have burned in the Stone Mountain fire. Refugees from the latter section said the fire swept in suddenly. One man, an invalid, barely escaped with his life when friends carried him out of the path of the fire.

Hundreds of volunteers fought to check the firel ast night, but none of the three major blazes was entirely under control early today. More than 100 Elkin residents joined the forces combatting the Stone Mountain con flagration.

George P. Dowling Dies Of Injuries

(Continued from Page One.)

wife and their daughter were patients in Maria Parham hospital here following the wreck. News of his death came today in a telegram received by Mrs. C. H. Lewin, registered nurse who attended them during their illness here, and who made the trip home with them and remained there a week or more.

The wreck which occurred a mile or two south of Kittrell, proved fatal to Mrs. George Beaumeister and Mrs. George Breslin, sisters, of State Island, N. Y., one of whom lived only a few hours and the other passing away before the next morning. They were traveling southward in a coupe, which caught fire and was destroyed on the hgihway. The mayor and his family were traveling northward.

Several weeks after the tragedy, suit was brought by the husbands of



the two women against the mayor and the Philadelphia department store company of Strawbridge & Clothier for whom he worked. An aggregate of \$100,000 is sought in the litigation which has not yet been brought to

trial, but which is expected to be tried n Wake Superior Court at Raleigh. Mayor Dowling's death is the third to result from the collision, one of the worst ever to occur on a highway

U. S. Chamber Criticizes Varied Aspects of Laws Of This Administration (Continued from Page One.)

committee that looked into anti-trust and price aspects of the NRA. It was expected to be unfavorable, putp ublication was withheld.

Senator Clark, Democrat, Missouri, was at the time proposing a Trade Commission investigation into other price ranges in the lumber code. His resolution had to wait. On top was more debeate on easing corporate bankruptcy proceedings.

Simmering, too, was agitation for mandatory silver price help.

And many eyes were on a luncheon engagement between President Roosevelt and two of his original "bram trust" advisors—Raymond Moley and Charles W. Taussig.

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