

The Mount Airy News

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TOBACCO SALES HALTED QUICKLY AT NEW BERN

Ten Minutes After Market Opens Farmers Stop Operations, But Tobacco is Left on Floor.

New Bern, Sept. 8.—Ten minutes after the opening of the New Bern tobacco market today, and while the initial sale was in progress at the Banner warehouse, growers of the weed went in protest over the low prices being paid, and demanded that the sale be stopped.

There was, it is estimated, 400,000 pounds of the weed on the floors of the three houses when the sale started with fully 50,000 pounds more waiting to be placed on sale. The sale started promptly at 10 o'clock. Probably 25 piles had been sold at prices averaging 20 cents a pound before a hasty farmer threw up his hands in protest. "It cost us 30 cents a pound to raise this tobacco; now let's have this sale stopped," he said.

All over the house men sanctioned his words with loud hurrahs. The farmer who started the ball rolling was immediately supported by another, who voiced his opinion about the low prices being offered, and demanding that all sales be stopped until higher prices are paid. The popular and insistent demand of the farmers brought an immediate cessation of the sale. The management of the three New Bern houses immediately offered their houses to the farmers for storage purposes until such time as prices increase and sales are resumed.

The blow struck farmers squarely between the eyes. Many were of the opinion that the tobacco on the floor ought to have been disposed of and the market then closed until the situation has become settled, but the majority of the farmers were in no mood for such action, and there was every evidence of a grim determination not to submit. At a meeting of the tobacco warehousemen and buyers in the afternoon at the chamber of commerce it was decided to reopen the market. Warehousemen and bankers discussed the situation with buyers in every phase, and the latter agreed to pay the very highest price possible for the weed.

Practically none of the tobacco has been moved from the floors of the three houses.

The action of the farmers at New Bern is but another evidence of the temper of the planters not to longer submit to whatever the manufacturers choose to offer for the weed. The initial movement in this direction was taken on the previous day on other eastern North Carolina markets, the markets at Greenville, Kinston, Wilson and Goldsboro either closing or threatening to close on account of the low prices offered.

Sales at Wilson Average Little Over \$24 per 100

Wilson, Sept. 8.—The "off price" in the tobacco situation is somewhat improved today and averages are about 15 per cent higher than paid on the opening day, so it is stated on the streets. On the opening day sales were conducted on only four of the warehouse floors and one of the number had much of the leftover weed and this with the two houses not selling and what came in later in the day, about 25 loads, amounting to 150,000 pounds, continued today's sales. The official figures for the opening day were 505,016 pounds, which brought \$125,161.21, an average of \$24.78 per hundred.

The planters are plainly dissatisfied and what the outcome of what they term a "hold up" will be is a matter of conjecture. The buyers claim that farmers were warned not to over produce, that if they did prices would be low. The farmers claim that a like warning was sounded previous to the planting of the 1919 crop and that good prices were paid and they saw no reason why the buyers should not pay fair prices when there is no reduction in factory productions. The fact remains that not only the tobacco planters but every business in eastern Carolina received a severe jolt and perhaps this is the beginning of getting things down to normal. Low prices will be the vindication of many farmers, especially those who made partial payments on fabulously priced lands, and thriftless ones who put their earnings into automobiles, silk shirts and lived the life.

Let You Forget.
Let us remind you that Chamberlain's Tablets not only cause a gentle movement of the bowels but improve the appetite and strengthen the digestion.

ITALIAN EARTH-QUAKE WAS LIKE END OF THE WORLD

Choking, Blinding Dust Obscured the Sun, and Hundreds are Dead, Thousands Are Injured.

Rome, Sept. 8.—Italy is again suffering from an earthquake disaster, the extent of which has not yet been measured. It is known, however, that hundreds of people have been killed and thousands injured. Many small towns and villages have been wrecked, and although assistance is being hurried from all parts of the country to the afflicted area, there is much suffering for want of food, medicines and shelter for the people.

"Every earthquake disaster is for Italy like a lost battle," said ex-Premier Luzzatti, after the Avezzano catastrophe, and this is now repeated in Tuscany. Though not so great, the present disaster recalls the distant tragedy at Messina.

It is not yet possible to calculate how many hundreds are dead—the list up to this evening shows close to 400 already reported. There are many bodies under the ruins, and there are wounded also under the ruins who have not yet been reached by the rescuers. There are believed to be many thousands of injured; the hospitals at Spiezia have already received about 500 and 300 others have been taken to other hospitals nearby.

Survivors describe the shock as terrifying. The air was filled with choking, blinding dust, so black that the sun was lost to view.

"It seemed like the end of the world," terrified peasants say.

The great towers of medieval castles were shaken, partly destroyed, or seem tottering to a fall. The ducal palace at Massa Carrara, which was the summer residence of Napoleon's sister, was seriously damaged.

GREATEST CORN CROP EVER KNOWN FORECAST

Three Billion, One Hundred and Thirty-one Million Bushels is Estimated September 1.

Washington, Sept. 8.—The greatest corn crop in the country's history is in prospect for this year's harvest. Forecast of production based on September 1 conditions was placed at 3,131,000,000 bushels today by the department of agriculture. Such a yield would exceed by 6,000,000 bushels the previous largest crop on record, which was in 1912. A crop of even larger proportions will be harvested if frosts hold off until late and permit maturity of much late corn now rated as of doubtful promise.

Tobacco also is a record crop this year and will probably exceed the best previous production by 114,000,000 pounds. Forecast of production places this year's crop at 1,553,000,000 pounds.

August growing conditions proved highly beneficial to most of the country's important crops and as a result production forecasts generally were higher in today's government reports than the forecasts of a month ago. Corn improved to the extent of 128,000,000 bushels; oats 40,000,000 bushels, white potatoes 11,000,000 bushels; sweet potatoes, 1,000,000 bushels; tobacco 10,000,000 pounds and apples 10,000,000 bushels. Spring wheat, however, suffered a loss of 25,000,000 bushels because of drought, flax lost 2,500,000 bushels from the same cause.

Remains of Wilkes Boys Will Begin to Arrive Soon

Carters Weekly, Sept. 8.
It is expected that the bodies of the boys who were killed or died overseas in the war will begin to arrive within the next few weeks. The American Legion has tendered its services for the funerals of these boys. It is hoped that a post will be organized early in this county, so that it will be ready to attend many of these funerals. It is stated that the Mountain Park Cemetery Association of Wilkesboro is willing to devote a part of its grounds as a burying place for these soldiers free of charge, in case requests for burial of something like a dozen are received in the near future. This cemetery will be carefully kept up and from time to time beautified as the funds are available for that purpose, and later on a monument in memory of these soldier boys will be erected. Patriotic organizations of women would look after and decorate these graves annually as they do the graves of Civil War veterans.

TOBACCO SLUMP STIRS EASTERN CAROLINA TO HIGH PITCH OF WRATH

Determined Men by Thousands Gather at Greenville and Tell the World How They Feel About It—Other Markets in the Belt.

Raleigh, Sept. 8.—Visitors from eastern North Carolina where the tobacco season has just closed after an inauspicious opening, declare that the farmers and small dealers are on the war path over the low prices which have been offered in the first sales.

Wilson, Greenville, Goldsboro and Kinston are said to have most against the buyers. The farmers are cognizant of the crop conditions which beat anything ever heard before. Not only does the acreage back all former efforts off the map; it also seems to have broken the record for production to the ground cultivated. The result is that every farmer knows the conspiracy against him and he is rebellious.

Difficulty in holding the crop for better conditions is apparent to anybody who knows how much more fantastic capers Lady Nicotine cuts than does the generally capricious sister, Calico, a member of the Cotton family. Easterners would hold until the kine come home if they had a way to guarantee that holding won't spoil the lady. The easterners have the money; they made barrels of it last year, and although they spent much of it, they could not dissipate it all.

Asked today for the cause of this mighty slump in the state's great crop, the sellers declared that it is the result of a conspiracy to steal the crop. In addition to the four large markets named, it is said that Zebulon and Wendell, sharp markets in Wake, actually nailed their warehouse doors down yesterday and closed the season until the robbers are caught or banished.

The fall of prices is not the only evil. Many farmers bought tobacco lands during the great boom in real estate. The present crop slump reduces the property to nothingness. That makes the tobacco men all too move lame. They paid fabulous prices for the lands and now, these fields do not produce.

It is quite the most panicky feeling that has come over North Carolina agriculture in a double decade. It appears to be worse than cotton six years ago at 10 cents during the buy-a-hale delirium. Luckily enough for the tillers, they made monstrous riches a year ago and had saved up quite a bit during the rigorous war-time economies. But the low prices for an extraordinarily high-price production get the heat of every tobacco culturist in the east. The people are very indignant.

Resolutions are Adopted by the Pitt County People

Greenville, Sept. 8.—Thousands of farmers met today protesting against tobacco low prices. There were no sales of tobacco. Speeches were made and resolutions passed. First meeting in the courthouse, they adjourned to out of doors when the committee on resolutions reported, as follows:

"Whereas, the prices paid for tobacco on sales warehouse floors located in Pitt county on the opening day of the tobacco markets were below the cost of production, now therefore be it

"Resolved: First, that in the production we have stood between the elements and the rest of the world; we have carried all risks to date, and have already accounted for attendant losses, so we do now resent and protest against any tendencies of those controlling the price of our tobacco inasmuch as said persons, or corporations have run so risks in the production of the crop, and stand no risk of losing if the farmers are paid a fair price.

"Second: In view of the fact that the manufacturers and dealers are increasing their wealth in these days of prosperity, all we ask of the commercial world is a square deal and opportunity to lay by some accumulations for ourselves and families. We desire to live and let live. We have toiled faithfully, not for our health, nor for our pleasure, but in the hope of profit. Our products are for sale but we are determined not to sacrifice the results of our toil upon the altar of the speculator's greed.

"Third: That we are willing to offer our tobacco upon the open market provided only that the trade is willing to allow us a living profit; otherwise, we shall feel compelled to call upon producers everywhere and of every class to come to our aid in an effort to close the doors of the packing houses until the markets of the world may indicate a disposition to deal with us in a just manner.

"Fourth: That we further advise the farmers to prepare their tobacco in a good merchantable condition and market as uniformly as possible so that the market will not be flooded at any one time.

"Fifth: We furthermore request that our brother farmers throughout the bright leaf district call district or county meetings and take similar action immediately.

"Sixth: We further recommend that permanent chairmen be elected at these meetings and that they be empowered to appoint a committee of one member from each township to carry out the provisions of these resolutions.

"We further recommend that the above committee provide for the establishment of the Southern Farmers' association which shall carry out the provisions of the resolutions and provide relief for each other evils as now confront the farmers of Pitt county.

"Seventh: We recommend that the tobacco warehouses of Pitt county reopen for business on Thursday morning, September 9, and we call upon all farmers to use discretion in the offering of their crops so that markets may not become flooded and top prices may be paid by the buyers under existing conditions.

Eighth: We recommend a meeting of the various farmers organizations in the counties composing the bright leaf tobacco belt in eastern North Carolina, for the purpose of getting more closely in touch with the real situation and for the further purpose of appointing a committee to go to Washington and present the claims of leaf tobacco growers to the federal reserve board, with the view of securing adequate funds to finance same.

"Ninth: That a copy of these resolutions be given to the press for publication and that copies also be mailed to all tobacco buyers and companies purchasing tobacco on the floors of the warehouses in Pitt county and that committee be appointed to confer with said tobacco companies relative to price and market conditions."

Sales will begin tomorrow. Prices are expected to improve in the near future. Such determined men have not met in such assembly since the troublous anti-bellum days. Another meeting will be held Saturday and thousands are expected to be present.

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Wilson Tobacco Average so Far is \$24.91 Per 100

Wilson, Sept. 11.—The average paid for tobacco on the Wilson market for the first four days of the present season was \$24.91, according to figures compiled by Johnson King, president of the Wilson tobacco board of trade.

There have been 1,423,296 pounds of the weed sold on the floors of the warehouse here thus far this season, bringing to the farmers \$354,606.85. Figures for the first four days of last season were not available this afternoon but it was learned from tobacco men that the average paid for tobacco during the same period last year was around 42 cents.

Spartanburg Women Lead in Registration

Spartanburg, Sept. 10.—A total of 1,127 registration certificates were issued by the county board of registration prior to 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, when the books were closed. More women than men registered during the three days of registration, 680 women being issued certificates. Only one woman offered strenuous objections to divulging her age, it was reported. This would-be registrant is said to have declined to state her age at all and was unable to procure her certificate as a result.

Frank Evans, Aged Man of Elkin, Killed by Train

Elkin, Sept. 10.—Frank Evans aged 78 years, was instantly killed here Monday, by being struck by the incoming freight train from North Wilkesboro. He was walking on the track and stepped to the cross-ties outside the rail when the engine struck him. His left leg and left arm were broken and left side of skull crushed. The funeral was held Tuesday at Shady Grove and interment in the church cemetery. He is survived by four sons and two daughters.

FOR RENT—The J. F. Amfield farm, one mile south of Low Gap. Good bottom land for corn, wheat, rye, and oats. Fine tobacco land also good pasture for cows. Wheel land ready to show now. Write or call on Mrs. Sarah Amfield, Low Gap, N. C. 10c.

AIR MAIL ROUTE FROM NEW YORK TO ATLANTA

Will Carry 1,500 Pounds of Mail Between New York and Atlanta 300 Days a Year

Washington, Sept. 10.—Airplane deliveries of mail between New York and Atlanta, with stopovers at Raleigh and Columbia, was practically assured late today when Second Assistant Postmaster General Praeger opened bids for contract deliveries of mail by aerial routes.

The bidder on the New York-Atlanta route not only plans to carry 1,500 pounds of mail daily between these points but will put into operation such large planes that 10, and possibly more passengers, may be carried on each trip. The flight time between New York and Atlanta will be 12 hours at the maximum.

Alfred W. Lawson, the only bidder who is scheduled to receive the contract as soon as formalities regarding a bond and other details are reserved said tonight that he was constructing airplanes with a capacity of 12,000 pounds and not only intended to transport mail from New York south but to establish a passenger service.

The North Carolinian, for instance, who wants to get in a hurry from Raleigh to Washington or to New York, or to Columbia or Atlanta, may hop into a Lawson plane and travel north or south at a speed of about 100 miles an hour. Mr. Lawson said here today that the planes he is now constructing would have a maximum speed of 120 miles an hour.

Several months ago, in a demonstration flight, Lawson brought 20 persons from New York to Washington. His giant plane subsequently proceeded to Milwaukee, the site of his factory, with several passengers aboard.

The specifications call for transportation of 1,500 pounds of mail, 300 days per year, which eliminates Mondays and days following holidays. The \$200,000 bid is the maximum allowable under the regulations of the postoffice department and the law passed by Congress. The law stipulates that the postoffice department may not establish additional routes unless at a rate not exceeding cost of delivery by train.

The Lawson airplane company was also the only bidder on proposed aerial routes between Pittsburgh and St. Louis and New York and Chicago. The former route brought a bid of \$147,000 per year and the latter \$238,000. Maximum allowances were respectively \$200,000 and \$238,000.

Second assistant Praeger received no bid on the Detroit-Cleveland route, but one is expected and the time was extended for it.

Official specifications for the New York-Atlanta route are:

"From New York via Washington, Raleigh and Columbia to Atlanta; approximately 815 miles; and back, 306 times a year, carrying 1,500 pounds of mail on a single trip each way.

"Leave New York daily except Mondays and days following holidays not later than 7 a. m. eastern time, or within one hour after the mail has been delivered to the contractor at the postoffice or railroad station; arrive Washington 9.40 a. m. leave Washington 10 a. m. arrive Raleigh by 1.10 p. m. leave Raleigh 1.30 p. m. arrive Columbia 3.55 p. m. and leave 4.15 p. m. arrive Atlanta by 6.55 p. m.

"Leave Atlanta daily except Mondays and days following holidays not later than 5.30 a. m. eastern time, or within one hour from the time the mail has been delivered to contractor at postoffice or railroad station. Arrive Columbia by 8.10 a. m. and arrive Raleigh by 10.55 a. m. Leave Raleigh 11.15; arrive Washington by 2.25 p. m. leave Washington 2.45 p. m. and arrive New York by 5.25 p. m. eastern time. Bond required \$30,000; bids to state rate per annum."

The committee of award met in the office of Mr. Praeger at 5 o'clock this afternoon and opened the three bids presented by Mr. Lawson. The bids were declared to be in proper form and subsequently it was indicated at the postoffice that the contracts would be let formally within a few days.

In a conversation with newspaper correspondents here Mr. Lawson outlined his program for the three routes. Referring specifically to the New York-Atlanta route he said:

"We are constructing at our factory the largest mail and passenger carrying airplanes in the world. Two are now ready and we will have 30 ships ready in five months. Each plane will be capable of carrying at least 1,500 pounds of mail and 10 passengers. I intend to operate a passenger service along with the mail service and will

deliver passengers from New York to Atlanta or vice versa in 12 hours. The same ratio of speed of travel applies to the North Carolina and South Carolina stops.

"Our planes will be equipped with three motors, two of which necessarily will work at a time. I have never known more than one motor to go dead at a time. We can develop a speed of 130 miles an hour.

"I do not know which route I will put into operation first, but believe I can have the Atlanta-New York route in operation early next year. I made an especially low bid on the Pittsburgh-St. Louis route because it will hit several large cities where the passenger business should be good. I am satisfied I can come out all right on the Atlanta route because I think these giant planes gradually will be used by business man passengers who want to get quickly from one point to another in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, the District of Columbia or New York.

There is practically no doubt that the formal award of contracts will be made to the Lawson company immediately.

The Chicago route has just been extended and made a transcontinental affair, stretching from New York to San Francisco and hitting such way-stations as Chicago, Cleveland, Omaha and Cheyenne. Postoffice department officials are aware of the desire of Greensboro Charlotte and other North Carolina cities to be made "pieces of call" on the New York-Atlanta route. Raleigh, the state capital, was selected however, but if Congress can be persuaded at its next subsequent session to extend mail deliveries by air there is a prospect of additional stopovers in North Carolina, particularly in the western section where most of the industries of the state lie.

All indications now are that mail planes will be flying southward over the state by February and they will carry both mail and passengers, as the latter become used to the airplane and unafraid of it as a means of rapid and safe transportation.

FASTED 35 DAYS AND STILL LIVED

Records Show Persons Have Fasted Longer Than McSwiney.

New York, Sept. 10.—Search of scientific records here today revealed several instances where persons have undergone voluntary fasts of from 31 to 35 days' duration without appreciable injurious effects. Some of the fasters were "professionals," but many others volunteered to abstain from feeding as scientific subjects, the records show.

The longest officially authorized fast on record for scientific purposes, according to Dr. Francis G. Benedict, of the Carnegie Nutrition laboratory, of Boston, in "A Study of Prolonged Fasting," was that undertaken by Succi, the Italian professional faster, in New York, starting November 6, 1890, and lasting 45 days. The man suffered no ill effects, the report said, although he had undergone six previous fasts in Europe ranging from 20 to 40 days each.

The most famous American volunteer faster was the late Dr. Henry S. Tanner, who first attracted notice in 1877 by a voluntary ten-day fast in Minneapolis, Minn., in an effort to cure an ailment of the heart from which he suffered. So greatly was he benefited at the end of the tenth day that he continued the fast to 42 days. The feat made him the first person of modern times to endure a food abstinence test of such duration.

Because of the skepticism in medical circles as to the genuineness of his fast, Dr. Tanner offered to repeat the exploit under whatever conditions might be named. It was finally agreed to hold the test under the supervision of a prominent New York medical college, and the official fast commenced June 28, 1880, the subject being put in a bare room and watched constantly. For 14 days he was permitted neither water nor exercise, but as a result of public protest he later was allowed water and a daily carriage ride. The test, which attracted nation-wide attention, lasted 49 days. He looks both fresh by eating fruits and suffered no ill effects.

Dr. Benedict also cited a 30-day fast, from May 15 to June 14, 1819, performed in London, England, by a volunteer named Goetz. This man, although he lost considerable weight, was reported never to have suffered any pain or had after effects.