

The Mount Airy News.

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Co-op Directors Stand Back of Two Accused Officials

Richmond, Va., Jan. 20.—Following upon the heels of a statement made to the board of directors of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association here yesterday by Oliver J. Sands, chairman of the board executive committee that the association is in better financial condition than at any time in its existence, the suit of Willy Person, of Franklin county, N. C., to dissolve the Tobacco Co-operative is regarded by association officials here as an extravagant play for adverse publicity by a man who has repeatedly gained notoriety in seeking to damage the association by speeches and public meetings.

The growing confidence of the banks, and particularly the intermediate Credit Bank, in the financial condition and management of the association as evidenced this year by loans which have enabled the members to receive the highest cash advances ever paid the by their organization on tobacco makes the attempt of an association member to dissolve its affairs appear all the more untimely and extravagant, according to the statement of its officials here.

Attorneys for the association today expressed their belief that nothing will be gained in the suit by those seeking to injure it. The Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association will make reply to the recent report of the federal trade commission regarding its re-drying activities in the February issue of the Tri-State Tobacco Growers official organ of the 97,000 members of the Tri-State Association, which will appear early next month, according to the statement of the associations following an all day session of the board here Tuesday at which every detail of the association's re-drying activities were thoroughly discussed and reviewed.

The fact that the full report of the federal trade commission has just been made available to the directors of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association prevented immediate detailed reply on their part and resulted in the decision of the directors to prevent a statement of facts to the membership in the next issue of their official organ.

Following an entire day given to careful consideration of the association activities in re-drying tobacco, the board of the association gave out the following statement at the close of the session late Tuesday night. "The board of directors of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association has spent a day hearing detailed statements on the re-drying situation, with particular reference to the activities of General Manager Patterson and Warehouse Manager Watkins as partners in the Edmundson Tobacco Company, said statements covering items brought out in the report of members of the federal trade commission; and it has been made clear that the members of this board have, in general, approved of the prior policies of this board in permitting and encouraging our directors or officers or managers to engage in re-drying activities in preference to placing such business with the enemies of co-operative marketing; and it has been made evident that the members of the board of directors, with a few exceptions were not aware prior to June, 1923, that Manager Patterson and Watkins had an interest in the Edmundson re-drying activities for the 1922 crop; and that most of the directors did have general knowledge of such activities for the 1923 and 1924 crops; and this board here expresses its approval of such activities and reiterates the resolution adopted August 18, 1926, and here states that it would have approved the said activities of 1922 had it known of them, as being in accord with the general policies at that time, and that other employees and directors such as Mr. Williams and others were re-drying tobacco for the association under standard contracts with the knowledge and approval of the board generally, including all of the actual facts about the policy of not selling green tobacco to dealers and expressly including all the actual facts and evidence to show that the executive committee had good reasons to believe that there was in the spring of 1923 a real attempt to raise the cost of re-drying against this association. With full knowledge of all these facts the board approves of all such activities; states that the contract price and profits have been in line with similar com-

peting companies and were proper in view of the hazard and the particular service; and further states that it does not see any good ground whatsoever for any claim of any kind against the persons involved in these transactions.

DISRUPTION OF CO-OPS SOUGHT

Must Show Cause Why Association Should Not Be Dissolved—Raleigh Hearing On February 5th.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Jan. 19.—The Tri-State Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association, Inc., composed of growers in Virginia, North and South Carolina must appear before Judge T. H. Calvert in Wake county superior court at Raleigh, February 5, to show cause why the corporation should not be dissolved and a receiver appointed to handle its affairs, according to an order issued this afternoon here by Judge M. V. Barnhill in Edgecombe county superior court.

The order was issued following complaint of inefficiency and graft in the conduct of the company's affairs, which was made by W. M. Person, Franklin county, and other members of the association as plaintiffs.

Some Series of Figures. Following a long series of figures, alleging wanton extravagance in the company's expenditures, the complaint adds that during the second fiscal year of its life, ending May 1st, 1924, the organizations running expenses totaled nearly \$3,000,000 or more than it takes to run the state of North Carolina. This exceeded by \$40,000 the first year's total of \$2,534,959.22, or an average expense of about \$7,000 per day.

Costs of furniture, fixtures and automobiles were \$68,803.54 during the first year, according to the complaint, while in the year following this item amounted to over \$95,000.

High Salaries. An unprecedented increase in salaries paid to officers is charged, the majority of the directors placing themselves on the salary list, according to the complaint, at annual pay of from \$40,000 down to \$4,000, three and four times what most of them had ever received before.

"On account of the inefficiency of the management and the reckless waste and extravagance and failure of the directors to comply with the law," reads the complaint, "the membership growers have received so little from their crops delivered to the defendant association, that they have become bankrupt and are unable to continue their farming operations unless relieved from further delivery and destruction of their crops by a dissolution of said corporation for the abuse of its powers to the injury of its membership stockholders.

Charge Waste. Further items in the complaint recite charges of waste and mismanagement in the purchase, erection and leasing warehouse facilities, disbursements for attorneys' fees and newspaper advertising. The plaintiffs finally charge that officers of the association have not made accounting of their management to the members, as required by law, and that in some cases the directors, in addition to exorbitant salaries, charged exorbitant fees for re-drying tobacco delivered by members and mortgaged such tobacco to insure payment of their own claims.

Skeleton Found in Pasquotank Swamp.

Camden, N. C., Jan. 22.—The skeleton of a human body was discovered today in the Pasquotank river swamp near Burnt Mill in this county by Dewey Tisdale while out trapping. Tisdale immediately notified Deputy Sheriff Horace S. Seymour who hastened to the spot which was about a half mile back from the road leading from Camden courthouse to South Mills.

In Deputy Sheriff Seymour's opinion the skeleton is that of a white man about five feet, nine inches tall. The skeleton was clothed in a soldier's uniform coat, wore a black cap and a number seven or eight work shoe.

Appearances indicated that the body had lain where it was found for a year or more.

SHIPS BATTLING FURIOUS STORM

Leviathan Mightiest Vessel Afloat, Almost Stopped

New York, Jan. 25.—Taking toll of life and property, a powerful gale was sweeping trans-Atlantic shipping lanes tonight. The steamship Leviathan, greatest structure built by man to defy the might of an angry sea, was barely able to make progress against the storm, inward bound.

The Acquitania, one of the fastest trans-Atlantic liners, was battled almost to a standstill and blinding snow and fog were adding to the perils of the gale.

While several liners have limped into Halifax, at least nine are reported in the grip of the raging gale and all, including the Leviathan and the Acquitania carrying nearly 3,000 passengers will be two or more days late in arriving at their port of destination.

News of one disaster, which it is feared may have resulted in the loss of forty lives, was received by radio from the liner President Roosevelt. The steamship reported having picked up SOS signals from the British freighter Antiope, but after reaching her side, lost her in the fog and snow.

Cryptically the message described the plight of the stricken vessel "number 3 hatch stove in, all boats gone, water in the fire room, and radio out of commission."

Danger of Blast

The Antiope carried wheat, a cargo dreaded by every seaman. Mariners pointed out that, with a hatch stove in, the cargo would undoubtedly get wet, then probably swell and burst open the ship. Further messages from the President Roosevelt said that although she was cruising about the area where she lost the Antiope, no trace of the ship could be found.

TALES EXAGGERATE INDIAN FIGHTS IN '49

Survey of Old Trails to Pacific Cites Nature as Chief Peril to Gold Seekers

Colorado Springs, Jan. 24.—Historical fiction of the Wild West appears to have exaggerated the number of sanguinary attacks by Indians upon immigrant trains along the old Oregon trail. Nature, and not the aborigines, furnished most of the dangers encountered by the pioneers.

These conclusions have been reached by Prof. Archer H. Hulbert, director of the Commission on Western History, who just has completed mapping six of the most famous old trails from the Missouri River to the Pacific Coast.

In a space of forty miles along the Carson River on the trail broken by the Forty-niners, 4,000 dead cattle and 3,000 abandoned wagons were left to record the history of the hardships they suffered in the trek for gold. Miners built houses of these wagon wrecks in the days of the Comstock Lode, discovery in Nevada a decade later.

Great rivers were not difficult to cross when "flats" or rafts were secured, but the thousands of little "cut-bank" creeks not more than ten feet wide were the daily terror of the teamsters and delayed the caravans more than did the few rivers of width.

Trappers and gold hunters suffered from Indian attacks more than did the great immigrant trains in the era of mass migration to Oregon. Between 1842 and 1850 the number of trains that were seriously molested by the Red Men were few, the investigators found.

Tesh School Honor Roll

First Grade—Ray Taylor, Wilcher Short, Kyle McHone, Ugo Alfano, George Gould, Esimio Migliori.

Second Grade—Dolly Dipalma, Annie Moser, Joe McHone, Herchell Vaughn.

Third Grade—Bertie Doss, Manuel Cohen, David Midkiff, Clayburn Taylor.

Fourth Grade—Imo Johnson, Roy Johnson.

Fifth Grade—Ruth Short, Blanche McHone, Guido Dipalma.

Sixth Grade—Harvey Gwyn, Nellie Griffith, Laura Mae Gould.

Seventh Grade—Zella Slater, Mary Nell Short, Jessie McKellar, Elsie McHone, Elma Harrell, Paul Griffith.

Through some oversight Pauline McHone's name was omitted from the honor roll last month.

Several children have been absent on account of mumps and other sickness, consequently the honor roll is short this month.

THE TOBACCO PROBLEM AS SEEN BY A FARMER

Wants Tobacco Acreage Cut One-Third To Control Price—Favors Better Education For Country Children

Now that the time of year has rolled around for the farmer to prepare for the growing of tobacco plants, I wish to write a few lines in regard to the situation, as I have no interest but farming. It is about the time of year also for a few lines to appear in all the daily and weekly papers stating that tobacco for some reason will sell well next year. I think I have seen this every year or very near every year for the last 25. In fact it is being rumored now that tobacco will sell well another year, from the fact that the crop was sorry this year.

Let all of us cut our crop one third and try to make all we need of corn, wheat, oats, rye, hay, rough feed, and also everything we want to eat in the way of vegetables. If we will be certain to do this two thirds of a crop will bring as much as a full crop for they don't want to pay for the full crop we make now. I am not going to tell you what to switch off on when you reduce your tobacco crop for I don't know. However one thing I think I know is that every farmer knows his own individual circumstances better than anyone else. A man near some good town might profitably raise some chickens, or do some dairying while some other man might raise corn and feed it to hogs profitably. Still another might raise some milk cows and so on.

I want to tell you when I think the farmers can organize themselves in this part of the country. It will be when the majority of the farm boys who are growing up get at least a high school education and there are some college graduates among them.

When the boys get educated you will see some of them in the United States Senate, Congress and state representatives.

There are thousands of people trying to farm who should be working by the day. It takes a smart, energetic, and educated man under the present circumstances to make a living farming. A lot of them ought to do something else. I think from 50 to 75 per cent of the farms in Surry County are mortgaged and if we don't change our system of farming there will be more mortgaged farms. We can't even pay off what we have now.

So lets cut down, one third anyway and more if you can. This will be a co-operative move that we will all like and be proud of.

We are asking all newspapers to print this or what parts that they think expedient as the main object of this article is to get the farmer to cut down his crop of tobacco.

VESTAL TAYLOR.

White Plains, Jan. 23, 1926—

SPANISH WAR VETERAN KEEPS RATION 28 YEARS

Hard-Tack Thought to Be Still Good, But Nobody Can Be Found With Proper Appetite.

Asheville, Jan. 23.—It's good to eat. But it's 28 years old. Yet, it is just as appetizing as it ever was—if it ever was appetizing.

Soldiers who fought in the Spanish-American war probably didn't think it quite so appetizing, at least, not unless they were facing starvation.

But Dr. Hansell Koon, of Asheville, a Spanish-American war veteran and a lieutenant in the world war, while going through some old collections, yesterday ran across the piece of hard-tack as issued by the army 28 years ago.

The hard-tack still is in good state of preservation. One hardly could distinguish it from that issued in the world war, some 21 years later.

The Spanish-American issue of hard-tack as issued by the army 28 is on exhibition at Floyd Pennell's cigar store on Patton avenue.

"It's funny," said Doctor Koon regarding his old keep-sake, "I've kept the hard-tack for years and years but never had any desire to eat it."

Mary Todd, of Kansas City, is 75 years old and the youngest member of her Sunday school class, the oldest being 90. There are 27 on the class roll.

MONTAGUE DIES FOR HIS CRIME

Negro Pays Penalty for His Attack on Deaf and Dumb Girl.

Raleigh, Jan. 22.—Arthur Montague, 22-year-old negro who said his home was in Georgia, was executed at state prison this morning for a criminal attack on a young deaf and dumb girl in the state school for the deaf at Morganton.

Just before going to the chair, Montague told his spiritual advisers he thought the state was doing the right thing in taking his life if he was guilty of the crime. He said he probably was guilty, though he had no recollection of it, as he was drunk at the time. He would never have done such a thing if he had been sober, he added.

"If I had stayed right with God I wouldn't be here in this chair," witnesses as the death straps were being placed about him. Then he prayed fervently, "Jesu, save my soul."

The 2,200 volts were turned on his body for two minutes and 20 seconds before he was pronounced dead. There were two shocks, the first lasting a minute and five seconds.

Montague was convicted at a special term of Burke county superior court last spring. He appealed to the supreme court, seeking a new trial on the ground that the governor had no authority to call a special term with a special judge for the Burke district when a regular term presided over by a regular judge was in progress at the same time.

The court refused to accept the contention, however, and the lower court's judgment was affirmed.

Commission Merchants From Big Markets Coming to North Carolina

Raleigh, Jan. 21.—Representatives from two more large poultry commission houses, one from Philadelphia and one from New York, are in the State this week, being attracted by the reports of poultry that is being shipped from the State and of plans that are being made to increase the State's poultry output. One of these was Mr. Kassel of the Kassel Poultry Company of New York, one of the oldest produce houses in the city if not the oldest in the country; the other is Mr. Rabinowitz of Riser and Rabinowitz, the largest produce dealers in Philadelphia. Mr. T. W. Heitz, of the Division of Markets, has spent a good deal of time showing them around the State and helping them look for suitable quarters to establish a buying branch for their city markets.

With two or three large firms located in the State, bringing about competition for our surplus poultry, the producers would be assured of ample markets with good prices for their products.

The fact that climatic conditions are such that early broilers can be produced in this State around a month to six weeks earlier than most of the large poultry producing states is the main reason why the attention of these large buyers is being attracted to North Carolina. It's the early broilers that are always in demand in the cities. The Kassel Poultry Company paid as high as \$1.00 per pound last year for broilers. Another factor which is making a reputation for North Carolina poultry is the healthy condition of the chickens that have been shipped from this State. New York buyers state that they have fewer losses in transit from disease from the North Carolina poultry.

North Carolina Turkeys Bring Premium on New York Market

A car of turkeys shipped from Ashboro' just before Thanksgiving brought a premium over all other shipments on the New York market. It caused considerable comment among dealers in New York because of the fine, large birds produced so early in the season.

With poultry production increasing so rapidly, it is only a matter of a few years when all of the large poultry houses will have branch stations located in North Carolina.

Commissioners to Open Bids For Master Clock

Wilson, Jan. 23.—Bids will be opened by the County Commissioners on Monday morning for the master clock and series of auxiliary clocks to be installed in a new half-million dollar court house. The clock is expected will cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50,000 and the cost will be shared by the town and county jointly.

Talks With the County Agent

By H. E. WHITE, Surry County Farm Demonstration Agent.

Two thousands pounds of pork from a single litter 6 months old, should be the ambition of every pig club member and adult farmer in this county. This is being done in many places.

Recent studies completed by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture on the comparative yield of cows milked twice per day and those milked three times per day will no doubt be viewed by the farm boy and the hired man with the feeling that some one is always taking the joy out of life. The department's milkers have found that milking three times per day produces more milk than twice-a-day milking. In fact, over a short period the increase in production is 12 1-2 per cent, while over a long period it appears that this increase is even greater. It was noted that the cows milked three times a day hold up better near the end of the lactation period than cows milked twice a day. The economy of three-times a day milking has not been accurately estimated, but it will depend upon several factors, chief of which are quantity of production, cost of labor, and value of product.

The Market News is now issued by the Division of Markets of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture in a new form and is a weekly publication. It contains much marketing news which is timely and will be furnished to anyone by writing the department at Raleigh. It also contains a list of products which farmers have for sale or to buy. If interested it will pay you to get in touch with the Department.

The School of Agriculture, N. C. State College, again won honors in a national contest. A team consisting of W. W. Keever, C. P. Fishburne, and J. B. Slack, won second place in the Intercollegiate Poultry Judging Contest, held a short time ago at the Madison Square Garden, New York City. First honors went to a team from New York State Agricultural College, which won over the N. C. State Team by a margin of only 21 points.

W. W. Keever, of the State College team made the second highest score in individual judging and won a silver medal.

The competing teams were required to judge eight classes of birds four classes on standard judging and four on utility. The varieties of birds judged were Barred Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, S. C. White Leghorns, and White Wyandottes.

The honor of winning second position in a nation-wide judging contest of this kind reflects creditably on the poultry students at State College, according to Dr. B. F. Kaupp, head of the poultry department, who accompanied the team to New York. The team had intensive training for two months.

In addition to the benefits received by taking part in the contest the members of the team made a tour while away, observing such important branches of the industry as a Egg Breaking plant and the Egg Exchange. They were also enabled to visit a large commercial poultry plant having 4,500 layers.

The poultry meetings scheduled for last week have been very well attended in spite of bad weather and roads. There seems to be a growing interest in this phase of agricultural work.

Several people have spoken for poultry culling demonstrations which will be featured during the week of March the 8th when one week will be devoted to flock study and improvement on the farms. Actual work will be done in culling on certain farms and any questions will be answered pertaining to poultry. Meetings will be held for five nights this week. Everyone is invited to be present to take part in the discussion.

H. E. White, County Agent.

Congressman Doughton and The New River Bridge.

By H. E. C. Bryant in Charlotte Observer. Washington, Jan. 24.—Representative Doughton conferred with officials of Grayson county, Virginia, with regard to the construction of a bridge across New river, near the North Carolina line. He introduced them to road officials here. If the proposed bridge is constructed it will open a highway from Statesville to Wytheville, Va., and on.