

## 4,000 Farmers Gather at Danbury; To Take Action For Fair Prices

### Larger Gathering Will Meet in Winston-Salem Saturday, This Week

Danbury, Oct. 10.—About 4,000 serious-minded tobacco farmers descended from the hill country of this northwest section today to protest against the unusually poor prices being paid for their product upon the Winston-Salem tobacco market.

Gathering on the lawn of the Stokes county courthouse the aggravated crowd listened attentively for two hours to an array of well-prepared speeches mixed now and then with a spontaneous outburst from some one who would rise from the ranks of the group itself.

And during all this time there came forth from the speakers' improvised stand between the white columns of the old red brick house of justice volleys after volleys of condemnation for the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco company in particular and the other major companies in general.

Before the close of the session resolutions had been drawn up and heartily adopted, which bespeak the desperate condition of the farming people of this section.

The crowd, with hands pointing up to the cedar trees that cast a protection from the Indian summer sun, took oath that they would deliver no more tobacco to the Winston-Salem market until after a great meeting they are planning there Saturday, and further swore that they would cut their tobacco acreage in half during the coming season.

#### Forerunner For Saturday Meet

The meeting today, impressive as it seemed, is the mere forerunner of the great gathering that is planned for Saturday, when from every hill and valley of Stokes, Surry, Rockingham, Forsyth, Yadkin, Davie and Davidson counties a crowd of farmers, intent on their rights, will gather in Winston-Salem to continue the work here begun.

It is there that the leaders of the movement are planning to bring together tobacco producer and tobacco manufacturer, and seek some remedy for the deplorable conditions that were so heartily described today.

Should their hopes not run awry there will be more than one distinguished personage at this conference Saturday, for an invitation was wired today urging Gov. Angus McLean to prolong his visit to Winston-Salem Friday in order to be present, while another was dispatched with equal haste asking O. Max Gardner to be present.

In the open meeting the latter was casually and advisedly spoken of as "our next governor," while further desire for his presence at the Saturday meeting was based upon the statement that he owned a large block of stock in the much bedeviled R. J. Reynolds Tobacco company.

Representatives of the latter, as well as the other principal tobacco manufacturing companies, the American, the British-American, and the Imperial being especially named, will also be asked to be present and explain to the farmers why their product has been bringing such comparatively low averages on the warehouse floors in the Forsyth county seat.

Such was the crust of the work done today—work that came as the result of a petition circulated throughout this and adjoining counties a week ago together with several strenuous days of labor by a hard-working committee.

#### Overrun Mountain Town

Early this morning the autos began their descent upon the little town, while before ten o'clock every street and winding by-way was lined on both sides with cars and trucks; every corner was the chatting place of some group of planters; every store was overrun with visitors; and in and out of the courthouse was milling the impatient crowd that soon afterwards gathered on the lawn.

The meeting opened with prayer. With heads bared the tillers of the soil listened to a fervent plea by J. L. Christian, Pinnacle farmer, for divine aid in their undertaking.

M. O. Jones, young and enterprising Danbury banker, stated the purpose of the meeting as being to secure better prices for tobacco. On

call for nominations for chairman of the meeting, he was unanimously selected, while Eugene Pepper, Danbury banker, was elected secretary by acclamation over Mr. Christian. All three of these men had been active in bringing the meeting together and the confidence of the crowd in their ability and sincerity seemed unlimited.

With the wood covered hills rising half a mile to the south as a background the crowd awaited the opening talks.

#### Impetuous Address

W. H. Sanders, Walnut Cove merchant, led off with an impetuous speech, in which he urged the farmers to stand for their rights. He generously attacked the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco company by name and the warehousemen in Winston-Salem by implication and in words rather out of tune to the quiet, law-abiding tenor of the following speeches suggested immediate action of forceful character.

In his speech he presented rather enlightening facts, gleaned from the columns of the Progressive Farmer, wherein the earnings on one \$100 share of stock in R. J. Reynolds Tobacco company since 1919 were shown to have been \$426 in cash and \$3,000 in stock dividends. He closed his talk with an exhortation toward co-operative marketing in the future, a theme that was carried throughout all of the subsequent talks.

Thomas W. Kallum, Winston-Salem attorney, took the floor, and soon had the crowd in his hands as far as resulting action was concerned. He placed before them the proposition of meeting in Winston-Salem Saturday, outlined the ideas of inviting the present and what he termed, "future governor," while also advising them as to means of bringing about a suit under the Sherman anti-trust law in case the quieter moves were not successful.

Mr. Kallum said that there was a ring, in operation in North Carolina which controlled tobacco prices.

"I am not speaking of any political ring, but I am talking of a financial ring—big business eating up the profits rightfully belonging to you farmers."

#### Kallum Led Crowd

The subsequent talks were of more or less anti-climaxed nature. The big salvo had been fired by Mr. Kallum, and the following volleys only served to pepper the tobacco manufacturers with vehement words, and to encourage the farmers to the possibility of good arising from the proposed meeting.

O. E. Snow, of Pilot Mountain, urged the assembly to carry out their plans by only quiet, and law-abiding means. He spoke in behalf of the tobacco warehousemen, saying that they were the friends of the farmers, but did not fail to hit at the manufacturers, presenting them in striking contrast to the poverty stricken farmers of these outlying counties.

Leory B. Wall, Winston-Salem attorney, took the floor with praise of the Camel cigarette, saying that by chemical analysis it was made of the best tobacco of any cigarette in the world. From this he proceeded to say that this tobacco came from these counties, and should bring good prices.

Quoting from the Winston-Salem Sentinel, in a story that carried the statement of the tobacco interests, he pointed out that the average of the weed on that market was around 12 cents per pound, and called on the farmers to testify to the falseness of statements quoted therein to the effect that this was due to the great quantity of "dog-tail" tobacco on the floors. The farmers did this with enthusiasm.

#### Deny "Dog-Tail" Stories

The farmers were next questioned by J. L. Christian as to quality of their crop, the unanimous response being that it was the best in 14 years. They further added that it was the kind that the tobacco manufacturers had urged them to produce—bright smokers—and emphatically denied that they grew any of the alleged "dog-tail" variety.

The chairman, Mr. Jones, then introduced N. Eugene Pepper, who presented the resolutions to the crowd. They were heartily endorsed and from the words arising from the crowd the accepted reduction of tobacco acreage is seriously entered into.

L. A. Wilkins, Stokes county farmer, in an impetuous speech, called upon the farmers to defend their rights, and urged them "to burn the tobacco in their barns" rather than sell it at such ridiculous prices, while out from the crowd could be heard mutterings of "better burn the tobacco in the Winston storage barns." This feeling, however, was in a minority, and apparently, a very small one at that.

Further talks were made by L. M. Gordon, Pilot Mountain banker, W. R. Badgett, Pilot Mountain attorney, P. B. Neal, Madison man who has been farming 60 years and Eod Johnson, Winston-Salem lawyer.

The following committee was selected to make plans for the meeting in Winston-Salem, which is called for 10 o'clock, Saturday morning October 15, the operators of the Liberty warehouse having tendered the use of their building for a meeting place:

M. O. Jones, Danbury, M. McGee, Germantown, J. C. France, Westfield; J. L. Christian, Pinnacle, and N. E. Pepper, Danbury.

Intimations were made that a parade would be made through the streets of Winston-Salem either preceding or following this meeting, while the fair grounds was suggested as a meeting place in case the warehouse should not be large enough.

One fire in every five originates from the blaze of the man next door. Surely a strong incentive to care, if you care for your neighbor, your neighborhood, or your city.

Five former presidents of the United States were living in 1861, the largest number in the history of the country.

## SAYS WOMEN WILL KEEP AMERICA DRY

### Went To The Mat to Get Sobriety and Will Win, Declares Mansfield.

New York, Oct. 9.—"The American women 'went to the mat' to get more sobriety," declares George Mansfield in the first issue of "The New Age Illustrated," "and despite a perfectly terrible fuss over the deprivation, made by a lot of persistent 'serious drinks,' the cold facts as they now gradually shape themselves are that America is slowly but surely drying, and that there is not a chance that liquor can come back."

"We will have to face the fact," writes Mr. Mansfield, "that in a country like America, where we really respect women and offer them a chance to shape civilization according to woman's ideas, as well as to man's liquor and women's self-respect, welfare, and safety do not hitch together."

The writer in the new magazine points out that "the American woman first become conscious of her political strength in facing the liquor question; and first became aware through it that she needed the ballot to aid her if one of her vital interests should become endangered. Let us grant," he continues, "it to be the truth that women, since attaining the vote, have not shown so much interest as men in ordinary politics. The fact remains that she wants the ballot as a flint-lock musket hung over her fire-place to snatch down if the deep going special interests of women or their offspring are very seriously endangered."

"It looks as if Mother Eliza Thompson, Frances Willard, Carrie A. Nation and the great majority of women of both yesterday and today have got us men, with our age-old weakness for strong drink, backed in a corner. We have been making one gorgeous obstreperous fuss over it, but the facts seem to indicate that mother knows best."

## Lexington Tax Rate For This Year \$1.40

Lexington, Oct. 6.—Lexington will have a tax rate of \$1.40 for 1927-28, it was declared by the board of city commissioners last night. This is a small increase over the 1926-27 rate, but the board decided that it would be better to secure sufficient revenues to retire indebtedness falling due rather than put the evil day off to

some more convenient season. Ordinary departmental expenses are being held in the budget estimates to approximately the same figure as last year.

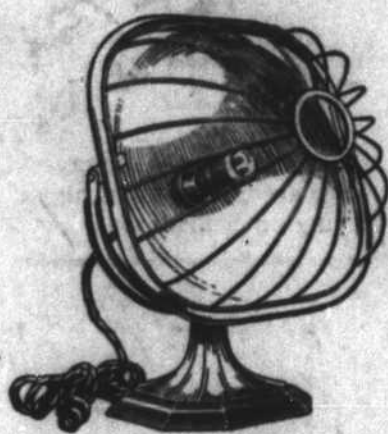
According to an official of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, the pyramid form of building construction used by the Egyptians is the least liable to be disturbed by earthquakes.

## Now Open For Business

Our new stock of Diamonds, Watches, Silverware, Glassware and other gift articles are now arriving and we invite your inspection.

We will make a specialty of Watch Repairing Engraving and Diamond Mounting

**Paddison Jewelry Co.**  
E. W. Paddison, Prop.  
BLUE RIDGE HOTEL BLOCK



# Dispel the Chills of the Season's First Frost

## Use an Electric Heater

When it's too cool to be without a fire and too warm with one, that's the time you need one of these electric heaters. Move it about from room to room. Just attach it to a light socket. So convenient, so simple. So economical. Always ready for instant use.

The big flood of cheerful heat drives away the cold. Dad can shave without shivering, the kiddies can dress and play with safety and comfort.

Everybody Can Be Comfortable on Chilly Days With An Electric Heater.

Get yours today. Sold on usual easy terms.

\$5.00 to \$10.00 Values **\$4.00 to \$7.50**  
Now Selling For

—Phone 95 For Demonstration—

## be Comfortable



Even the children will enjoy the glow of heat on arising these frosty morns.

# Southern Public Utilities Company

ELECTRICITY—"The Servant in the Home"