

The Mount Airy News

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3,000 Tobacco Growers Hold Meeting to Protest Low Prices of Tobacco

Buyers Fail to Send Representatives to Gathering Held at Winston-Salem—Speeches Are Made by Bowie and Linney. Meeting May Produce Results.

Winston-Salem, Oct. 15.—Out of the several outlying hill counties about 3,000 tobacco farmers and their friends descended upon Winston-Salem today with hopes of hearing representatives of the leading tobacco companies explain why their buyers were getting this year's crop at such low prices. Such hopes died quickly, although a bit reluctantly, as request after request for their appearance thundered out into the crowd on the Liberty warehouse floor to gain no inkling of response.

The tobacco companies' representatives along with the specially invited governor and candidate for governor were all conspicuous by their absence.

In their stead were Tam C. Bowie, former Jefferson judge and Frank Linney, United States district attorney, who both spoke at length to the farmers with honeyed words, the latter warming up right enthusiastically in his discussion of fixing prices.

Lone Defender

And also in their place, one might say, was W. B. Taylor, president of the Taylor Brothers Tobacco Manufacturing company, who climbed aboard the stand on the rear of the tobacco truck for an uninvited, although much applauded, speech.

His talk, coming several minutes before the meeting had been called to order, was crammed full of political, economic and spiritual advice, the core of which was co-operation among the farmers in decreasing their tobacco acreage.

Mr. Taylor was interrupted by the appearance of the men who were running the meeting, along with their

speakers, closing his remarks as the chairman, M. O. Jones, was calling for a minister to sound the invocation.

Following a few preliminaries, in which W. H. McGee of Germanton, was elected permanent chairman with N. E. Pepper of Walnut Cove, secretary, the meeting got underway.

Telegrams were read from two of the five tobacco companies invited to send representatives, the American Tobacco company wiring that the matter would be referred to their officers, while R. J. Reynolds company informed the farmers that they would be glad to have a representative meet with a "farmers committee." The Imperial, Export and Liggett-Myers companies made no reply to the invitations.

Smith's Champion Speaks
Tam Bowie was then introduced by O. E. Snow, Pilot Mountain attorney, and speedily began sympathizing with the farmers. Mr. Bowie admitted that he knew little about tobacco farming or its problems, but went on to say that, in general, all farmers were touched with the same problems.

He assured them that they were not getting a proper return from the investment, calling attention to his own personal perplexities in the same direction on his farms in Ashe county.

His principal advice was the selection of more capable representatives in their government, both county, state and nation, holding up to them deeply studied legislation for the farmers as a final solution of their problems.

His address was well received.

hearty applause being brought forth on more than one occasion, but it was not listened to with near the rapt attention as that which met the subsequent talk of Frank Linney, who in his first few sentences explained that he was speaking as an individual and not as a federal officeholder.

Following a few remarks about the law against price-fixing, and an explanation of the legal steps to be taken in action under the provisions of the Sherman Anti-trust law, Mr. Linney strode straight away into the question of the guilt of the tobacco interests along that line.

While never for a moment openly accusing the tobacco interest of such practices, his illustrations and intonations were of such character as to cloud the farmers' minds, with no doubt as to his own opinion about such matters.

He roundly rapped the cries of overproduction by the tobacco interests, saying that "more sins had been committed in the name of over-production than any other word he knew."

Mr. Linney suggested reorganization of agriculture so as to detect price-fixing and find markets for goods as well as increase production.

"The best remedy," he continued, "is to go in for a living price, and if you can't gain that by supplication, it is your power to create by law a force that will give you what you need."

The meeting was not without political expressions, prominent Republican joining with insurgent Democrats as Mr. Linney closed his speech with the word that brought the most hearty round of cheers. Regretful of Mr. Gardner's refusal to attend the meeting, Mr. Linney had stated: "We would like to know what he thinks about tobacco, and if he doesn't think right we might have Tam for our next governor."

Following short talks by W. Reade Johnston, Winston-Salem attorney, and John Folger, assemblyman from Mount Airy, five names were added to the executive committee, these being John A. Folger, W. Reade Johnson, Tam C. Bowie, Frank E. Linney and R. W. H. Stone, Greensboro. The original committee was made up of N. E. Pepper, J. L. Christian, J. C. Franks, H. McGee and M. O. Jones.

A call for contributions to finance the work of the committee was generously responded to by scores of the farmers present.

The meeting was then adjourned until 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when about two-thirds of the crowd returned to hear a few more speeches mostly by farmers who were airing their own troubles.

Intimation was made by the secretary Mr. Pepper, that the committee would meet with the representative of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco company next week. There was some general talk of reorganizing an association to decrease the acreage, but no action was taken.

The meeting finally adjourned to meet again when the committee decided it advisable.

No mention was made at any time during the meeting of the action the farmers had taken Monday in their meeting at Danbury in holding their tobacco off the market until after today's meeting, nor of the program started toward decreasing the tobacco acreage for next year.

JURORS ARE DRAWN TO HOLD TWIN CITY COURT

Federal Term Opens There on Monday, November 7, With Long Docket.

Greensboro, Oct. 15.—Jurors for duty at the regular Winston-Salem branch term of the United States court for the middle district of North Carolina that will be opened on Monday, November 7, were drawn here yesterday by Clerk R. L. Blalock and Jury Commissioner D. H. Collins. The 36 names drawn come from Forsyth, Yadkin, Surry and Stokes counties.

Following are those drawn from each county:

Forsyth: Glen Glascoe, Kernersville, rural route; W. A. Stanford, Winston-Salem; M. T. Fulp, Walnut Cove, rural route; Harry B. Grimesley, Winston-Salem; T. S. Waggoner, Walkertown; A. N. Linnville, Kernersville; Henry W. Spaugh, Winston-Salem; E. R. Fisher, Winston-Salem, route four; C. B. Middleton, Belows Creek, rural route; Robab Hanes, Winston-Salem; Oscar Hinkle, Winston-Salem, route five; Alvin W. Linnville, Winston-Salem, route six; Glen V. Hoover, Winston-Salem; J. E. Flynn, Tobaccoville, route three; Yadkin: J. L. Bray, Jonesville; R.

White Plains, rural route; James A. Sparger, Mount Airy and D. W. Hemphill, Dobson.

Stokes: J. A. Newton, Walnut Cove; John Flincham, Madison, route three; J. E. Dalton, Pine Hall, and R. B. Hutcherson, Sandy Ridge.

All these men are summoned to appear at the Forsyth county courthouse, where the district court holds, at 10 o'clock on the morning of November 7.

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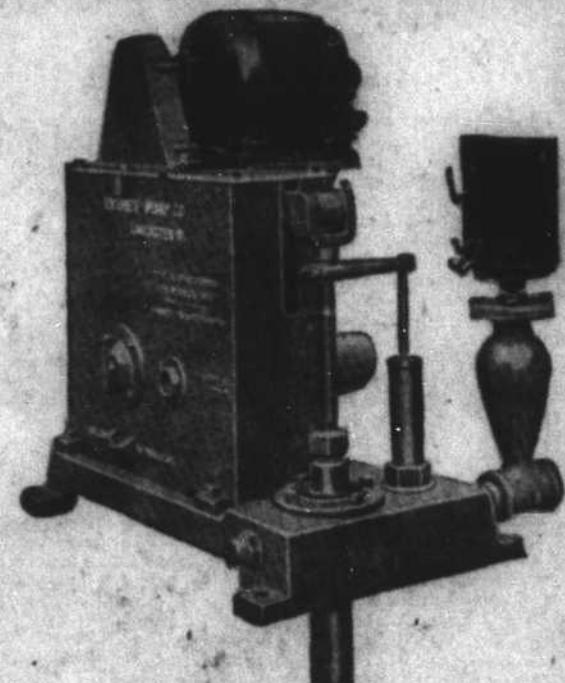
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