

# The Zebulon Record

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## ZEBULON — — My Town

By Rev. Theo. B. Davis

The man who lives in Zebulon or its environs and cannot say "my town", should move on to some other location more congenial with his selfish attitude. I have noticed that the person who always says "your" and "their" when speaking about the church or other community affair, usually makes very little contribution of value to the community life. So let our people talk Zebulon up; whenever we can possibly bring our town in for a good word, let's do it. We do not need to brag or blow, but there are many fine things one may say about our town and its people in a business and social way.

We have a pretty town. "Million dollar avenue" is one of the loveliest (with apologies to the ladies) streets to be seen in any town of Zebulon's size. And there are many other pretty places in our town. The town as a whole is clean though there are some insightly lots and back streets that could be easily improved with little cost. It is very noticeable that so many homes have more and more beautiful flowers and lawns than just a few years ago. Almost if not all the homes have some flowers in boxes or on lawns.

Then our school is one of the very best in the state. It has a name that is known all over the state. And just now we are ready to take steps towards greater progress. A citizen said the other day: "I understand we are to have three of the best school men in the state at Wakelon this year." And he is right. Now let every one of our people back these men and their co-workers to make this the best year in the splendid history of Wake-

lon. Our churches are good. The services and Sunday schools are as well attended as in any town I know. But

there are men who never go to church in our town. A community is known more by the interest the people take in the churches than by any other one thing. I once lived in a town that led the state in church and Sunday School attendance. The folks there thought nothing unusual about it, but it was the talk of all visitors coming there for a Sunday.

We have perhaps all the roads we need. Some of them need improving; then we shall have the best road facilities of any town our size in North Carolina. It will soon be so one can't go any where without passing through our town! Let us improve it in every possible way so that the public not only cannot go any where without passing through our town, but also without stopping. Our people with those in the upper part of Johnson county should "get busy" and bring some pressure to bear on the road forces that the road from Selma shall enter the heart of Zebulon instead of striking 91 several miles below town. This road should be a direct thoroughfare from Selma to Wake Forest and Louisburg through Zebulon. I have been told that since we have the road to Wake Forest, it will be little trouble to get this change. In fact, it is proposed, I understand, by the highway commission to make this change, but let us see that the proposal becomes a reality.

Zebulon has all the grocery, hardware, furniture, and other stores that we need till the town's population increased considerably. What we need most are more manufacturing concerns. We do not need a duplication of any of the enterprises we now have. Massey Bros. can care for the present demand for builders' supplies. Debnam can do all the repair work for the farmers, make all the truck bodies and do all the special home repair jobs. Gill can gin our cotton and crush our cotton seed. He and Bridges can supply Zebulon and adjacent towns with ice. I might well

add, we have enough filling stations. Stell can make all the hogsheads the tobacco men need. Two tobacco warehouses can take care of the farmers tobacco. Let us stick to the men who are trying to save the Zebulon tobacco market. Operating expenses are as small and if the expense of carrying the tobacco elsewhere is counted in, the price of the local market is said to be as good or even better than the larger towns. And the farmer will not have to sleep on the warehouse floor and eat at a cafe for a day or two as I have known men to do in Durham before he can get his check for his tobacco. Sell at home and buy at home is the best policy and likewise the most profitable.

Zebulon needs a payroll. To have a pay roll, we must have business that will employ labor. We need a dozen enterprises like that of Pippin Inc. It hurts no business already in operation, but helps all. A dozen such enterprises would do far better than one big concern even larger than all combined.

The one would have a tendency to discourage other and smaller ones. Several small ones, all different, would ultimately expand into larger ones. Among possible and profitable enterprises for Zebulon are: cotton mill, hoisery mill, fertilizer factory, cannery, creamery, furniture factory, planer and lumber mill, brick yard, commission house, shirt or overall factory, candy factory, making of farming implements, novelty factory and many others I might mention. Few of these would require much capital to start and could be built larger as the business increased. Low taxes and other inducements will bring such enterprises to our town. Every time we land one, others are made more possible. In ten years we should have ten factories and 10,000 people.

Zebulon—my town. I am for its school, its churches, its business enterprises, its homes, its streets, its country—everything that will make it

## Cotton's Reign Challenged By Tobacco Crop

Atlanta, Ga.—King Cotton, long the ruler of the Southern domain is tottering on the throne in the face of increased interest in tobacco.

Harrassed by the boll weevil, dreaded cotton pest, planters have turned to tobacco to the extent that this year's crop is expected to yield approximately \$220,000,000 in returns. Tobacco has gone far during the last decade to bring relief from the one crop policy which for many years caused the South's agricultural stability to fluctuate with the cotton market.

It has become one of the leading crops in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Louisiana. In some of these it has become the leading crop.

Based on December 1, 1928 prices, the department of agriculture estimates that \$209,607,000 was paid for the tobacco crop of the Southern States in 1928. The entire United States crop sold for \$254,322,000, based on the same estimate, and an increase of 10.5 percent in the production of flue-cured, tobacco this year has been forecast.

Production in some Southern States is not expected to equal last year's crop but the predicted increase is likely to apply to many of the South-

ern States. While tobacco has been an important crop for many years in such states as Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and Tennessee it is a comparatively new thing. In Georgia, it is pointed out, available statistics placed the crop of 1866 at 1,195,113 pounds, valued at \$265,950. Tobacco first became a million dollar crop in 1907, but did not reach the million mark again until 1918, when the crop was valued at \$11,463,000, and in 1928 at \$10,594,000. So rapid has been the increase in importance of tobacco that it is called the "miracle plant."

## Tobacco Stored Many Years

The Horry Herald, Conway, S.C.:

Fish stories of the great 1929 Horry fishing season are laid in the shade by a tobacco story which is told for honest truth by S. Walker Martin of the Little Pee Dee section.

Tobacco can be preserved for a long time in a weather-tight house that is about moisture proof when the weed has been packed down in a dry condition. That it can be kept also in flour barrels would appear from the experience of the Martin family as follows:

Martin says that about the year 1903, just after the planting of tobacco was begun in this section of the state, his father, the late Moses Martin, raised a fairly large crop for that time. Walker and his brother helped grow the tobacco and assisted in the picking and curing in the same type of barns as now used.

The Martin boys hauled the tobacco to Conway and offered it on the warehouse floor here but they could not sell it for any price worth while. Several loads were brought and sold and it did not pay for the cost of the hauling.

Finally Martin became disgusted

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with this labor for nothing and the bulk of the large crop was scattered in the barn yard where it would rot and help make compost for the corn crop of the following year.

He decided, however, that a quantity of the best of the leaves should be saved for home use. It was decided to pack the tobacco down in flour barrels and later on to turn it into smoking tobacco and home-made twist.

The flour barrels were filled. The boys were barefooted and getting in to the barrels they packed the leaves down with their feet. The tobacco became a solid mass from the bottom of the barrels to the top.

Packed in this manner the barrels were stored just under the shed in one of the barns, up in the loft," as Walker described it. Nothing more seems to have been thought of the tobacco until about 1918 or 1919, when Walker says he found the barrels there and decided to examine them. In one of the barrels was a hole which had been made by the leakage of water through the roof. He cut out this hole. The remainder was good and solid. He cut the staves of the barrels away with an axe and cut the contents up into chunks. These hunks of tobacco he says could hardly be parted with the hands.

The tobacco was brought to the market at Conway and sold for 34 cents per pound. It had the age on it and the buyer who took it in seemed to think he had gained a prize.

Only 2.5 percent of the dairy cows in North Carolina are pure bred, registered animals.

Over 200 persons took part in the annual farm tour held recently in Buncombe County.

State College opens for the fall term on Friday, September, 20.

Maybe, after all, the talkies are not really as bad as they sound.

## A Good Bank in a Good Town

### With a good Tobacco and Cotton Market Is A Good Place For You To Transact Your Business

Being confident that we have the very best to offer along all these lines, we are glad to invite every farmer in this section to visit ZEBULON with their FIRST load of TOBACCO and COTTON receive the top market price for the same, and deposit the proceeds with our bank.

"YOU MUST BE PLEASED." We have no other reason for being in business than to be of service to our friends and customers.

## The Zebulon Banking & Trust Co.

"Resources over a Half Million Dollars."

MILLARD B. CHAMBLEE.....President

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