

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL SITUATION HAS SHOWN SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT

So Says Monthly Report of Department of Agriculture.

PRICES ARE BETTER

Prices Farmer Must Pay Have Also Risen, Says the Report.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The general agricultural situation in the United States, has improved slightly as indicated by the monthly agricultural review of the department of agriculture. Cotton, grain and live stock products prices, as well as prices of things farmers have to buy, have risen slowly, the October price index on ten farm products being 110 compared with 100 for 1913.

"This has put a little money into the pockets of some farmers, but heart into many more, and has done both for those who carry farm products through the channels of trade," the review says.

The prices the farmers pay for other than food products, according to the wholesale price index, has risen to 162 compared with 100 in 1913. Thus a unit of farm products will purchase 35 per cent less of other commodities as it would in 1923.

November figures indicate an abnormal movement of population from farm to towns.

Agricultural conditions in the east are in relatively poor shape. Potato, apple, hay and truck growers are thoroughly discouraged, the report says.

Some poultrymen are doing fairly well, but most dairymen are having all they can to break even.

The cotton belt shows the best general recovery of any region as a whole. Cotton is very poor in many areas, but those that are well are doing fairly good at present prices. General business has been much stimulated.

Farmers in the east are somewhat encouraged at the rise in grain prices. A heavy fall run of hogs to market, as well as heavy movements of feeder cattle and sheep to farms, is reported. Winter grains show good stands.

Wheat belt shippers have been hampered by an almost unprecedented shortage of freight cars. Winter wheat stands are reported generally fairly good. Sheep men in the range country feel fairly good at cheap, lamb and wool prices and the outlook for next year is generally considered favorable. Pacific coast shippers have been hampered by car shortage. Apple growers have been hard hit by low prices in eastern markets.

EASTERN CAROLINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN WILSON

—WILSON, N. C., Dec. 9.—Plans for the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce Exposition here beginning March 19, 1923, are being completed by N. G. Bartlett, manager of the organization.

"This exposition is being promoted for the purpose of advertising this section of the state and its resources," one of the officials stated. "Wilson made the highest bid for the exhibition and was decided upon as the site. The large tobacco warehouses here will be used to house the exhibits."

"A speech by Governor Cameron Morrison will open the week of festivities and a parade will follow. There will be other addresses during the exposition by speakers of national reputation. Attendance prizes will be given and many events in connection with the exposition are being planned," it was stated.

HICKORY TO HAVE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

HICKORY, N. C., Dec. 9.—Hickory is completing arrangements for a community Christmas celebration this year and directing officials have been appointed.

Mrs. S. H. Farabee has been made chairman of the caroling groups and is now selecting leaders from each ward. Mrs. Robert S. Brown, supervisor of music in the graded schools, is training the school carol singers.

A varied program will be given at a large Christmas tree in the park at Union Square.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 9.—

One man was fatally injured and a score of other persons were more or less seriously hurt when the second section of fast passenger train No. 80, of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, crashed into the rear end of local passenger train No. 52 during a heavy fog at Hanahan Station shortly after 7 o'clock this morning. W. S. Scroggins, of Greenville, died several hours later at a local hospital.

TOLBERT NAMED FEDERAL MARSHAL FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—President Harding returned today to the senate the nomination of Joseph W. Tolbert to be federal marshal for the western district of South Carolina. Confirmation of the first nomination failed at the recent special session of Congress because of the opposition of Senator Dial, democrat, of that state.

NEXT WEEK'S WEATHER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Weather outlook for the week beginning Monday:

Middle Atlantic States: Temperature below normal and weather mostly cloudy with a likelihood of rain and possibly snow first part of the week.

South Atlantic and East and West Gulf States: Temperature near normal, considerable cloudiness, occasional rains.

Allied Premiers Meet Today To Outline Important Chapter In Story German Reparations

Gained 215 Pounds After Railroad Wreck

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 9.—A federal court jury will be asked to determine whether any injury Mrs. Lorena Caldwell, 22, asserts she suffered in a Chicago & Alton crash, is responsible for the 375 pounds she says she weighs. She is suing for \$50,000 damages. She claims one of the railroad's switch engines struck a motor car in which she was riding and that an injury to an endocrine gland caused excessive obesity. She asserts in her petition she weighed 160 pounds at the time of the accident, December 21, 1920.

WOULD BAR "SPECIAL" STUDENT FROM ATHLETICS

Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools Closes Meeting at New Orleans—E. D. Pusey, Secretary and Treasurer.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 9.—The 27th annual convention of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the southern states closed its session here yesterday after selecting Richmond, Va., as next year's meeting place, electing officers and endorsing recommendations of the executive committee relating to athletic games for member colleges.

Spencer McCallis, of Chattanooga, was chosen president; Miss Emile MacEvie, of Virginia, and C. C. Hanson, New Orleans, vice presidents; and Edwin D. Parsey, of Durham, N. C., secretary and treasurer. The new executive committee is composed of James H. Kinkland, Vanderbilt University; L. T. Baker, University of South Carolina; W. D. Hooper, University of Georgia; W. W. Guth, of Goucher college, Baltimore, and President Dinsdale, of Tulane university, retiring president of the Association.

The executive committee in its report recommended that final decision in all matters of athletic policy shall rest with the faculty; elimination of the "special" student from participation in intercollegiate contests; abolition of the seasonal coach; dismissal of coaches who practice "scouting"; dereliction of expenditures for intercollegiate athletics, and regulation of amount of time devoted to games in each season and by scheduling in certain periods.

The committee also recommended that institutions applying for membership on becoming a member of the association with rank as a standard college shall not be permitted to retain its athletics on the basis of a preparatory school or junior college.

The committee recommendations were endorsed and it was voted by the delegates to offer them to individual colleges for action.

PEACE PREVAILS SINCE THE NEGRO WAS BURNED

PERRY, Fla., Dec. 9.—Peace prevailed here early today, with county and state authorities reporting no racial outbreaks since the night following the burning at the stake of Charlie Wright, negro, by a mob estimated at several thousand men early last night after he is said to have confessed to having slain Miss Ruby Hendry, a school teacher, here last Saturday.

The police say that the mob, which gathered from the northern section of the state, promptly dispersed after Wright's body had been burned to a crisp a short distance from here and by midnight the streets had been cleared.

Officials and an undertaker went to the scene of the lynching early today and prepared the body for burial.

The authorities are still holding in custody Albert Young, negro, who was captured in a Georgia town early yesterday after he had been trailed for six days. Wright, however, it is said, in his confession had connected Young Wright implicated another negro whose name he did not give as having robbed Miss Hendry after he (Wright) had met her throat.

It was the intention of the mob to lynch both of the negroes, but following the alleged confession by Wright, the second negro was turned over to the authorities, who put him in jail for further investigation.

CHARLIE WRIGHT BURNED AT STAKE FOR HAVING SLAIN MISS RUBY HENDRY, FLORIDA SCHOOL TEACHER.

PERRY, Fla., Dec. 9.—Charlie Wright, negro, accused of the murder of Miss Ruby Hendry, young school teacher, was taken from the sheriff and burned at the stake at the scene of the crime early tonight by a mob estimated at several thousand men.

The negro, along with Albert Young, negro, was taken from the sheriff and his party as they returned to Perry to lodge the two men in jail.

Witnesses tell of alleged incidents in early girlhood of young women denigrating who seeks \$1,000,000 damages from Governor of Mississippi.

United States railroad labor board gives decision cutting about \$1,500,000 a year from hourly rates of pay of 11,000 telegraphers on western railroads.

White's Dismissal Postponed.

EMPORIA, Kans., Dec. 8.—Formal dismissal of the state's case against William Allen White, Emporia editor, charged with violating the industrial court law by placing a strikers' placard in his newspaper office, was postponed today until tomorrow.

THE WEATHER

Rain tonight and Sunday; colder tonight.

Details Are Preliminary to Forthcoming Conference at Brussels.

PLEDGES FROM GERMANY

France Has No Desire to Take Over Rhineland, Says Poincare.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—(By the Associated Press.)—The premiers of Great Britain, France, Italy and Belgium met here today to sketch the latest and perhaps the most important chapter in the long story of German reparations. The details, it is expected, will be outlined in the forthcoming Brussels conference, to which the conversations beginning today are preliminary.

Premier Poincare as the spokesman for the nation most directly concerned with the troublesome reparations problem, was expected to take occasion at the first meeting with Mr. Bonar Law to state definitely that France has absolutely no desire to take over the Rhineland. Members of the French delegation believed the premier would point out that France, understanding the futility of annexation of the Rhineland—a step which has been suggested—knows fully well that such action would only create another Alsace-Lorraine and eventually another war.

In the opinion of the French, their nation would only control the Rhineland along economic lines during the term of moratorium, collecting taxes and running the railroad lines as a guarantee of Germany's promise to carry out the reforms that would insure payment of her bill.

It is generally believed the London meeting will be confined to a discussion of a moratorium for Germany and to the guarantees which France demands. Premier Poincare believes that the attitude of the United States presents Great Britain with cancelling the French debt.

If it seems impossible to reach an agreement this time on the reparations question, it is believed M. Poincare would suggest to Mr. Bonar Law in effect:

"We are prepared to agree to a moratorium but only on the condition that we take over administration of the Rhineland and occupy with one division certain parts of the Ruhr. We want England to co-operate with us, but if you won't we must act alone."

The French premier, it is apparent, is prepared to examine all proposals for settlement of the German account but he is determined to exact guarantees. He will not look upon failure to reach an agreement as a collapse of the entente, believing that the link between acting alone.

A statement of the positions to be taken by Great Britain and Italy in the week end of conversations was eagerly awaited. Premier Mussolini, arriving here last night gave no intimation of his views on the reparations question.

Mr. Bonar Law, it is believed, may present no program, preferring that the British government should maintain a receptive attitude.

The arrival of the new German proposals, reported on the way from Berlin, was also awaited with interest. Unofficial advice said that Chancellor Cuno's suggestions included provision for extension of the moratorium granted conditionally upon the recent payment of treasury notes to Belgium. The extension, the German government is held to believe, should go beyond the Brussels conference on the ground that the future of the reparations question hinged on the outcome of the gathering.

CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL BONDS AN EASY WINNER

\$100,000 Issue Will Be Quickly Sold and Construction Will Be Started.

CHESTER, S. C., Dec. 8.—By an overwhelming majority today, voters cast their ballots for the \$150,000 new high school building bond issue. Bonds will be quickly sold, it is thought; and work on the new and modern structure will be started at an early date, and it is hoped to have it ready for use by next September.

Chester's high school facilities have been immensely overtaxed, and the erection of this additional structure will be a wonderful step forward for the schools, which under the able leadership of Prof. M. E. Bookman, superintendent, are accomplishing an excellent work.

PHONE FOLKS MAY HAVE SUMMER CAMP

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Dec. 8.—Jack Helvin, of Atlanta, was re-elected president and Louisville, Ky., selected for the 1923 convention at the closing session here today of the convention of the Southern Association of Bell Telephone Company employes.

The proposal to establish a summer camp in western North Carolina for members of the association was endorsed but referred to the divisions in the nine states represented for final action.

WITNESSES TELL OF ALLEGED INCIDENTS IN EARLY GIRLHOOD OF YOUNG WOMEN DENIGRATING WHO SEEKS \$1,000,000 DAMAGES FROM GOVERNOR OF MISSISSIPPI.

ASTORIA, oldest city in Oregon, is swept by fire, causing late estimated loss of \$12,000,000; two dead, hundreds homeless and business section ruins.

Friends of prohibition take heart at President Harding's announcement of intention to call early conferences of governors on prohibition enforcement.

CATAWBA COUNTY MAN IS GRANTED A PAROLE

RALEIGH, Dec. 8.—A parole granted today goes to Albert F. Smyre, of Catawba county, sentenced last month to a year on the roads for driving an automobile while intoxicated. Evidence presented the governor indicated the prisoner had not had a fair trial, the solicitor who prosecuted him writing that the sentence was not just and that he had not been properly defended. Practically every business establishment in his town of Newton petitioned for the parole, and all of the jurors joined in the petition.

WORLD WAR VETERAN IS GIVEN A PAROLE

RALEIGH, Dec. 8.—C. E. Matthews, Harnett county veteran of the world war, and until sentenced a patient at Oteen hospital, was paroled today by Governor Morrison from a two-year sentence in the state's prison for an assault. Matthews committed the assault while on a visit home from Oteen, and he is supposed to have been intoxicated at the time. He is a sufferer from tuberculosis.

The judge and solicitor of the Harnett county recorder's court recommended the parole. Matthews has a wife and five children. He served seven months of the two year sentence.

STONY POINT CASHIER TO MAKE RESTITUTION

STATESVILLE, Dec. 7.—A. W. White, bank cashier at Stony Point, who departed several weeks ago leaving an alleged shortage of between \$9,000 and \$14,000, has voluntarily returned to Stony Point and will make good his shortage, according to a statement tonight by A. L. Watts, president of the bank, but he will no longer be connected with the bank.

It was recently reported that White's son had been in communication with his father, and intimations were then made that the missing cashier might be induced to return and make restitution to the bank. Mr. White is not under arrest, and it is understood that the bank will not push charges against him.

Memphis Nurse Found Bound By Car Track

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 9.—Efforts of the police investigating the finding, bound hand and foot and gagged beside the street car tracks in a suburb early yesterday of Miss Jennie Rogers, 32, trained nurse, who it was reported had been placed there by a man, after having abducted her from a railroad station and held her prisoner for five days, disclosed the identity of one of the men mentioned in notes scrawled on an envelope, found in her possession, according to announcement early today.

Lee Rogers, brother of Miss Rogers, referred to in the note as "Lee," went to the hospital early this morning, but according to attached ad nurses, she did not recognize him.

Authorities are unable to account for her movements from the time she left the house until picked up yesterday morning by a street car crew in the woods near Memphis.

Police physicians expressed the opinion that Miss Rogers is temporarily unbalanced, caused by nervous shock, exposure and lack of food.

Irish laborites in new parliament denounce Free State for execution of four republican leaders and era of terror is feared.

London reports severe earthquake with loss of life at Kishinu, southernmost of three chief islands of Japan, whose big city is Nagasaki.

Order is restored in Sofia and Bulgarian government denies reported killings of three ministers for responsibility in great war.

Allied proposals for control of Turkish straits apparently win approval of Turkey and encourage Lord Curzon to hope for agreement.

Poincare suggests cutting German indemnity to about forty billion gold marks and loan of hundred billion gold marks.

Clemenceau interprets Harding's references to four power Pacific treaty as "an overture" looking to somewhat similar compact for Europe.

Negro accused of murder of young woman school teacher burned at stake by mob of several thousand men at Perry, Florida.

American Legion Commander Owsley in speech at Indianapolis vigorously opposes rumor proposed visit German crown prince to United States.

House of representatives reject amendment to treasury supply bill that would restrict prohibition unit in spending government funds.

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Southern Power Company Plans \$16,000,000 Program Of Big Investments And Improvement

Two Big Hydro-Electric Plants, One at Mountain Island In Gaston County, the Other at Great Falls, S. C., Are Planned —New Transmission Lines to Be Built.

CHARLOTTE, Dec. 9.—(By the Associated Press.)—A construction program which involves an investment of approximately \$16,000,000 and is said to be the largest ever attempted by any corporation in the South, will be completed by the Southern Power Company during the coming year, it was announced by officials here today.

This program includes the building of two new hydro-electric power plants, additions to two steam electric plants, which will add 200,000 horsepower to the company's generating capacity; and the construction of 200 miles of transmission lines and a number of transformers and switching stations, according to the plans.

The two hydro-electric plants are at Mountain Island, Gaston county, N. C., where 80,000 horsepower will be developed, and Dearborn Station, Great Falls, S. C., where 60,000 horsepower will be established," it was stated.

"Work upon both these plants was started a year ago. The Dearborn plant, it is anticipated, will be ready for operation in March. The Mountain Island plant, a much larger undertaking, is scheduled for completion in August.

The steam plant additions, according to the contracts, will be ready for operation by September 1, 1923, in time to supply the deficiency in hydro-electric power which usually occurs during September, October and November as a result of low water in the streams.

The steam plant additions will be at Mount Holly, where 40,000 horsepower capacity will be added, and at Eno, University Station, N. C., where 20,000 horsepower will be added. The cost of these additions will be approximately \$2,000,000.

"The 200 miles of new transmission lines, which, not including substation and switching equipment, will represent an investment of more than \$2,000,000 will be completed during the early summer. The longest and most important of these lines is from Lookout Shoals, west of Statesville, to Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High Point, a distance of more than 75 miles.

"Three lines will radiate from the new power station at Mountain Island, extending respectively to Salisbury, Gastonia and Mount Holly. Other lines will be built between Hickory and Rhodhiss, and between Shelby and Caroleen, while one fifty-mile line is being built from Great Falls to Newberry, S. C.

"The new lines will give the Southern Power Company a total of 2,400 miles of transmission and distribution lines in its system, making it one of the most extensive transmission systems in the world.

"The construction program being put through at the present time is the largest ever undertaken in the history of the Southern Power Company," or any other power company in southern states, the statement continued. "The demand for power by the rapidly growing industries of the Carolinas is such, however, that the company already has sold all of the power it dares to sell against the two new hydro-electric developments.

"Further indicating the rate of industrial progress in North Carolina, applications have been received since the company stopped selling power for several thousand additional horsepower," it was stated.

MISS BIRKHEAD'S LIFE IN EARLY STAGES TOLD

Alleged Improprieties of the Young Woman at Dance Near Dover Are Related—The Governor On Stand.

OXFORD, Miss., Dec. 8.—Alleged incidents in the life of Miss Frances Birkhead, plaintiff, from early girlhood in the village of Dover, Texas, county, Miss., later in Pearsall, Tex., and during recent years in Mississippi and Louisiana were told to a jury in United States district court here today by witnesses called by the defense in the trial of the damage suit filed by Miss Birkhead against Lee M. Russell, governor of Mississippi.

Just before court adjourned for the day, Mrs. Russell, wife of the governor, was announced as the next witness, but owing to the late hour, court was adjourned for the day before she took the witness stand.

The testimony today dealt largely with alleged improprieties on the part of Miss Birkhead at a dance near Dover, and during her brief residence in Pensacola; of threats the witness declared she made in Jackson in 1920; that she was "going to Vicksburg to kill a man who had ruined her reputation and coming back to kill the governor," and of a visit to a roadhouse in New Orleans.

Much of this testimony was given at a late session of court, delayed to permit the disposition of another case set for the early afternoon.

The morning session was devoted principally to conclusion of the cross-examination of Governor Russell. His testimony was chiefly a repetition of denials he made previously in detail to Independence Hall where a brief conference with the Academy of Music to catch a glimpse of him.

The arrangements called for only a brief visit. Actually he was to be here about ten and one-half hours, but officially several hours less than that. He slept in his private car in the railroad station about four hours before he was due to make his official appearance at ten o'clock.

Escorted by the first city troop, bedecked and caparisoned in all the military splendor of an earlier day, and accompanied by a party of prominent citizens, the Tiger will be taken first to Independence Hall where a brief conference with the Academy of Music to catch a glimpse of him.

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OASIS SHRINERS ERECT A. G. MYERS POTENTATE AT CHARLOTTE MEET

Gastonia Has Invited Nobles to Hold Spring Ceremonial Here.

CLASS OF 225 INITIATED

Report of Mosque Committee Indicates Work Will Start This Coming Year.

CHARLOTTE, Dec. 9.—With the election of A. G. Myers, of Gastonia, illustrious potentate, and the moving one step forward of the entire official divan of the temple, with R. E. Simpson, starting at the bottom rung as the newest appointee on the divan, Oasis Temple concluded its business session Friday morning by donating a congressman's yearly salary to charities, and proceeded in the afternoon and evening to the pleasure of this annual event.

The business session was rather brief, beginning at 11 o'clock and concluded an hour later, when the newly elected officers were installed. Dr. Charles F. Ambler, of Asheville, was added to the list of imperial representatives, and again elected high priest and prophet of the temple. The imperial representatives are: W. S. Liddell, Charlotte (consecrator); Mr. W. F. Randolph, of Asheville, and R. F. Reinhardt, Lincolnton, (life), and Julian Price and Dr. Ambler.

Some 225 candidates were led through the mysteries of the desert yesterday afternoon and came forth towards nightfall, wiser men in many respects; but smiling beneath the crimson of a new fez, and jauntily wearing the crescent and scimitar of the Shrine in their coat lapels. To them it had been a great journey, as most were willing to testify after the occasion.

Some of the donations yesterday were those of \$5,000 to the Masonic and Eastern Star home in Greensboro, to the New Bern fire sufferers, and to fit up Masonic clubrooms at Oteen and the Greenville hospital for the soldiers. The North Carolina Orthopedic hospital here received several hundred dollar donations.

As the imperial council will be in session in Washington city next year, the sum of \$2,500 was set aside for use in Asheville, and the sum of \$1,500 set aside for the use in Charlotte of entertaining Shriners who are passing through en route to this meeting next spring. Five thousand dollars was set aside to send the Oasis band and patrol.

Activities began early in the morning, the candidates being required to register at the Masonic Temple and there receive their numbers and other necessary things, which they did not understand then; but which is perhaps clearer to them now.

Owing to the inclement weather, which had cut down the attendance from nearby cities were either greatly lessened in effect, or were eliminated altogether; notable among these last was the calling off of the big torch-light parade of the nobility at 8:30 o'clock last night. This is an annual event of the temple, one of the most spectacular and beautiful open to the public. Last year the Shriners marched between living walls of people on all the streets along which the parade. It was a most impressive sight, and drew tremendous applause from everyone fortunate enough to be present. Preparations had been completed for making the one last night even more of a spectacular event, and it was with reluctance that it was eliminated from the program.

However the annual Oriental ball at the city auditorium, and the informal dance at the Red Fez club, compensated in some degree for the disappointment.

Cities Make Bids.

During the progress of the business meeting, invitations were received from Winston-Salem; Asheville and Gastonia for the spring ceremonial; but this matter was not decided upon at this time. Custom usually carries the spring meeting to the home of the potentate, since the December meeting must be held each year in the home of the temple, which in the case of Oasis is Charlotte.

Noble W. F.