

THE COMMONWEALTH

VOL. XV. NUMBER 61.

FOUR O'CLOCK EDITION

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1922.

TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE

5c PER COPY

TWO YOUTHFUL THIEVES CAUGHT ROBBING STORE

Sometime Wednesday thieves entered the store of Pittman and Bishop through the rear door and robbed the cash drawer in the grocery department of all the money it contained. A trap was set if event they should try the same thing again. Yesterday they came back and Shep Hazel, colored, aged about 12 years and Buster Bradley, colored, aged about thirteen were caught in the act of robbing the cash drawer, having entered through the rear door. They were turned over to the chief of police and were today taken to Halifax County jail where they will be held until they can be placed in some home of correction.

There have been a number of petty robberies locally lately and no doubt these boys are responsible for many of them. Shep Hazel is the boy who stole a diamond ring from Mr. Mannie Hoffman's home some months ago, the ring finally being recovered, but with the diamond missing.

COMMISSIONERS HEARD CITIZENS REGARDING ADVERTISING THEIR PROPERTY FOR SALE

The Board of Town Commissioners met last night at 7:30 at the Mayor's office in regular session.

A number of property owners appeared before the Board to protest against the notice that all property on which taxes for 1921 had not been paid by May first would be advertised for sale. By some it was argued that the board issued the same notice last year and did not advertise as it was stated they would and that many thought naturally that they would take the same attitude this year. By others it was urged that the owners be permitted to pay in installments as there were so many who actually could not raise the full amount due, and suggested by others that the fact of advertising would have a disastrous effect upon some who were more or less involved and the fact that their property was advertised would cause creditors to come down on them causing practical failure.

After hearing all protests and suggestions the Mayor stated that the Board would consider the matter at an adjourned meeting and would make an announcement later.

United States Public Debt

(By U. S. Press)

Washington, Apr. 27.—The United States owes twenty-three times as much money now as in 1917, when the public debt was about \$1,000,000,000. Eliot Woodworth, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, in commenting on his statement to the above effect, says: "This huge debt we must pass on to the future citizens. Without any surplus of revenue over expenses we cannot decrease our public debt of \$22,500,000,000 and Government expenditures must come down. Although the Civil War is sixty years behind us, yet the bill for it is \$250,000,000. Only 10 per cent of our public expen-

THE RICH SQUARE-SCOTLAND NECK ROAD STARTED

Actual Construction of the Rich Square Scotland Neck Road Begun—Roanoke Bridge Next.

Rich Square, Apr. 27.—Work of building the road between Rich Square and Scotland Neck actually has begun. Men and material began to arrive last week and camps for the workmen are being built in "The Meadows." A car-load of machinery arrived Monday and another on Tuesday, also a car-load of culverts. The contractors are advertising for one hundred colored laborers. A hundred mules and a large tractor are expected this week.

The small bridges and culverts have been let to a sub-contractor and he is here on the job. This road when completed will be a great convenience to a large number of people on both sides of the Roanoke. Up to a few years ago there were no bridges on the Roanoke from Clarksville, Va., to the sound, now there are several. Northampton and Halifax jointly own two bridges, one at Weldon and one at Roanoke Rapids, which are great convenience and saving to the people of the upper part of the county is to have the same privileges on an equal footing.

This road will cross the Roanoke at the old Edwards Ferry, made famous as the place where the Albemarle a Confederate gunboat was built, the smokestack from which is now preserved in the Hall of History at Raleigh. On the Northampton side the road follows the general directions of the old Shell Landing road, and passes through the Hodge, Smallwood and Polenta plantations, now owned by John Hughes, W. P. Benthall, Dr. Q. H. Cooke, Holoman and Hall and others. At the Dr. Jacobs place it goes behind the house instead of in front, and it crosses the "Meadow Hill" East of the present crossing. After this road is completed the people of the central and Eastern part of Northampton in an afternoon can visit the town of Rich Square, Scotland Neck, Palmyra, Williamston, Windsor and Aulander and arrive home in time for evening services, or they can take the Western route and visit Rich Square, Scotland Neck, Tillery, Halifax and Weldon or Roanoke Rapids, and cross the Roanoke either at Weldon or Roanoke Rapids. The people of Northampton, Halifax, Martin, Edgecombe, Hertford and Bertie are going to become better acquainted.

SCHOOL TEACHERS BODY FOUND IN UNOCCUPIED PARSONAGE

(By Associated Press)

Hopeton, Ill., Apr. 28.—The announcement of the coroner's physician that Miss Gertrude Hanna, the twenty-five year old former school teacher, whose body was found in an unoccupied United Presbyterian Church parsonage here was approaching maternity increased the conviction of county authorities that she was murdered. An analysis of the contents of the woman's stomach by chemists of the University of Illinois is expected to throw further light on the mystery surrounding her death. Distances go for peaceful purposes, as it were. The remainder, 85 per cent, goes to pay for debts and activities based on the war."

Fifteen Hundred Square Miles Under Water

LABOR BOARD DECISION BINDING IN LAW

Chicago, Ill., Apr. 28.—The United States' Labor Board's decisions are binding as law and can be enforced in courts according to the decision of the Mississippi Supreme Court received by the Labor Board today.

Strong Appeal For The Near East Relief

Wilmington, Apr. 27.—Styling the appeal of the Near East Relief as the most worthy cause now before the American public, Bishop Thomas C. Darst of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina, today asked the people of his diocese and of North Carolina to throw all of their influence—physical, moral and financial—into the campaign of this great humanitarian organization.

"In making our contributions to the Near East Relief," Bishop Darst declared, "we realize not only the appalling need of these suffering people but the extreme worthiness of the appeal.

"Unless we do respond to this call it means the absolute extinction of a brave people who have always sacrificed themselves in order that the tide of Mohammedanism might be checked, especially in the days when that huge non-Christian movement threatened to sweep over Europe.

"A certain number of children have been allotted to North Carolina and New Hanover county and unless we care for them these children must die. On the basis of population New Hanover has been allotted 250 of these children and so far only 20 have been provided for.

"Are we willing to be responsible for the starvation of the other 230 when in spite of the adverse financial conditions throughout the country neither we nor our children have ever had to suffer hunger for one day?"

"You will recall that many of these children were made orphans because their fathers laid down their lives in defense of the Baku oil fields for the allies. Military experts declare that the failure of Germany to get this oil shortened the war by a number of months and made possible the return from France of many of our North Carolina boys who would otherwise have been killed in action.

"These unfortunate children have been forgotten, just as Armenia has been forgotten by the allies, whose battles they so heroically fought when the German tide was at its highest. Are we going to forget them?"

"I appeal, therefore in the name of suffering humanity and for the sake of Him who said: 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto Me.' To support the good people who are helping financially, morally and physically."

COTTON MARKET TODAY'S MARKET	
May	18.20
July	17.74
October	17.83
December	17.81
January	17.80
YESTERDAY'S MARKET	
May	17.99
July	17.60
October	17.65
December	17.72
January	17.65

Area Inundated Largely To Growing of Cotton.

Refugee Camps Being Established To Take Care of Inhabitants.

Boats Arriving From Flooded Area Loaded With People, Cattle And Household Goods.

Natchez, Miss., Apr. 28.—Approximately seven hundred square miles of Concordia Parish, Louisiana, with possibly an equal number of miles in Catahoula Parish, are covered with the flood waters of the Mississippi river as a result of the Weecama levee break and the backwater. This section is largely devoted to the raising of cotton.

Cots, blankets and other equipment for caring for the refugees is pouring into Natchez, all being needed according to officials in charge of the refugee camp. Boats are arriving from the flooded area loaded with negroes, livestock and household goods.

RAILWAY LABOR DISPUTES AND FEDERAL POWER

(By U. S. Press)

Washington, Apr. 27.—A timely discussion of the "use of Federal power in railway labor disputes," by Clyde O. Fisher, has just been issued by the U. S. Department of Labor. In this bulletin the experience of this country in the development of governmental authority in the settlement of railway disputes through the enactment of a series of laws is discussed. The law of 1888 providing for voluntary arbitration, the Erdman Act, the Newlands Act, the Adamson law, and the Esch-Cummings law, all progress, although not in equal degree, towards the recognition of the principle of the paramount interests of the public in these conflicts.

The present law, which marks the final stage in the establishment of the primacy of the public interest, would seem to indicate that public opinion has crystallized to such a point, the author says, that "controversies on the railroads will never again be settled as though the contending parties were alone involved."

VALUE OF CROPS DROPS FIFTY-FIVE PER CENT

(By U. S. Press)

Washington, Apr. 26.—The gross wealth produced by farmers in 1921 had a value of \$12,386,000,000, as estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture. This is about two-thirds of the aggregate value of the farm products of 1920, which was \$18,263,000,000, and little more than one-half the aggregate for 1919, which was \$23,263,000,000.

During the same period, 1919-21, production of 10 crops which represent about 95 per cent of the total crop acreage fell 8 per cent. Placing the average quantity of production of these crops for the 5 years 1910-14 at 100, crop production in 1919 was 108; in 1920 it was 117; and in 1921 it was 100. The quantity of crop production in 1919 was about the same as during the preceding 7 years; that in 1920 was the largest ever recorded, and that in 1921 was the lowest since 1913.

In the processes of arriving at an aggregate of the value of the gross wealth produced on farms in crops and animal products, the Department estimated 60 adopted estimates for 91 crops and 36 animal products, altogether 127 items.

DECISION EXPECTED TODAY ON FINANCING OF RUSSIA

Genoa, Apr. 28.—The Sub-commission on Russian affairs today is considering and is expected to end the present uncertainty and to clear up the Russian question, the most important subject remaining.

Louis Barthou, head of the French delegation, plans to leave for Paris for a conference with Premier Poincare.

BETTER PRICES FOR TOBACCO

That the average price for tobacco in North Carolina was 13 per cent higher in 1921 than in 1920 is unquestionably due in part to the Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association for the sale of the 1922 crop.

Any one who compares the low averages of the markets of South Carolina last July when the growers of that state were unorganized, and sold their tobacco for an average of less than \$10.00 per hundred, with the average price finally obtained by the organized growers of North Carolina which according to the recent census report was 13 per cent higher than 1920 or \$24.57 for the entire state, will note the benefit of organization by the grower.

"There can be little doubt that the formation of the Burley Association was a factor in the better prices paid this year on the independent markets," said President James C. Stone of the Burley Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association. The same fact is generally recognized by the growers and business men of North Carolina.

The completion of the organization of the Kentucky Growers for marketing their tobacco resulted in their gaining a better price than obtained upon the open market. For where the unorganized grower sold his tobacco in competition with other growers for an average of about 19 cents in Kentucky, the member of the Association had the advantage of placing his tobacco in the pool which sold as much as 30,000,000 pounds of well graded tobacco at a single transaction to a big company for a price that was close to 25 cents a pound.

North Carolina growers have been paid several times over for having organized,—by the better prices which were paid throughout the state in the effort to satisfy the unorganized growers. There is now no question that the 70,000 growers of the Carolinas and Virginia will reap the tremendous reward which the Kentucky growers are enjoying from a system which cost them only half as much to operate as the hundred year old auction system and brings them from 25 per cent to 40 per cent more profit for their crop.

The smoke screen of misleading statements recently thrown out by certain interests can be no longer deceive tobacco growers in the face of the recent report of the census bureau and statements by such leaders of the tobacco world as James C. Stone, R. R. Patterson and others of the trade who are whole heartedly supporting the movement of the growers to apply scientific business methods to the handling and sales of their crops.

CONGRESSMEN EITHER FOR OR AGAINST LABOR

(By Associated Press.)
Boston, Mass., Apr. 28.—Senator Walsh, of Massachusetts, in a telegram to Mayor Curley declared that nearly every member of Congress is either for or against labor and the possibility of getting an impartial tribunal to investigate the textile strike is unlikely.

WEATHER REPORT
For North Carolina: Unsettled, probably rain tonight and Saturday. Cooler in the extreme southeast portion tonight. Fresh northeast winds.

From State Capitol

(By Maxwell Gorman)
Raleigh, April 25.—Eleventh-hour entrants at the office of the State Board of Elections revealed the fact that Congressman E. W. Pou, who has represented the Fourth (Raleigh) District for the last twenty-two years, will have two Democratic opponents in the June primaries—Solicitor H. E. Norris, of Wake, and ex-Senator Wiley M. Person, of Franklin.

By reason of selection as temporary presiding officer of the Democratic State Convention here last Thursday, Congressman Pou got into the limelight of notice early in the convention stages and delivered a fine convention speech. At that time it looked like he would have no opposition for nomination for a 12th term, although Solicitor Norris has been figuring on running for some time. He did not qualify, however, till Saturday night by filing notice with the State Board of Elections.

Wiley M. Person had been an active and campaigning candidate and threw up the sponge of senatorial aspirations. Person would have carried Franklin for solicitor, but whether he can poll a majority in his own county, as a congressional candidate remains to be seen.

The fact that Armistead Jones, veteran politician of Wake County and commander-in-chief of the so-called "Jones faction" in Wake politics, presented Pou to the state convention would indicate that the "Jones faction" would back Pou against Norris. That contingency eventuates, it remains to be seen, also, whether Mr. Norris can carry his own county under such conditions.

Congressman Pou's friends (who are by no means limited to the "Jones faction") do not regard his candidacy as being seriously endangered—so they assert. Mr. Norris thinks differently.

SHOE MACHINERY LEASES ILLEGAL

A decision of the United States Supreme Court settles a suit that has been pending since 1915. The United States Shoe Machinery Company is enjoined from making contracts of the sort held illegal, and must cancel all such contracts made since the passage of the Clayton anti-trust law in 1914. The contracts were for the lease of shoe machinery with stipulations that the persons to whom the machines were leased might not use the machinery of competitors. The government charged these contracts were in restraint of competition in interstate commerce. The decision of the court upheld the decision of a lower court in St. Louis. The company contended its system was for the protection of its patents, and argued its rights to lease the machinery as it saw fit.