

Is a Paper Devoted to the Upbuilding of the Sandhill Territory of North Carolina

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## CHAMBLISS HAS A WORD FOR JOHNSON

Cotton Co-operative Leader Files a Protest Against Lawyer

T. W. Chambliss, of the Cotton Co-operative Association, writes The Pilot as follows:

In the Moore County News, June 26, is a letter addressed "To the High Ups of the Co-ops," by J. McN. Johnson, of Aberdeen.

In the article in question the comparisons made and the arguments stated against co-operative marketing by Mr. Johnson are ridiculous and with so little foundation that it is questionable whether a reply is really worth while. There may be, however, somebody in Moore county who would mistake silence on the part of the co-operative association as suggestive that the charges and insinuations made in the article were true. For this reason and this reason alone I write this letter to show that the position taken by Mr. Johnson is untenable.

This is a country of free thought and free speech. Any man and every man in North Carolina has a right to his opinion. The writer of the article to which I reply has the right and privilege of differing with me or with the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Co-operative Association on the question of co-operative marketing. When one differs with another on a question you naturally prefer to believe that the proper motive is behind the opinion and that your opponent will approach the subject from a standpoint of fairness and justice.

Mr. Johnson sought to compare methods of the Co-operative Marketing Association with so-called "Gold Brick" schemes and swindles. The comparison is ridiculous. No member of the Association has been called upon to do anything which may be likened unto the incidents used as illustrations by Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson admits that he sold his "little dib of cotton last fall for 27c." He does not state in his article that every member of the Association received at the time of delivery one-half of the value of his cotton in cash and other payments since the delivery of the cotton that brought the total advance to the members of the Association at the present time to 24c the pound, and within a period of approximately thirty days from this date the Association will have made a final distribution to its members, and according to the information which I have at this time I am quite sure that this final payment added to what has already been paid the members will equal at least the 27c received by Mr. Johnson for his cotton when he sold it.

Does this appear to be anything similar to a Gold Brick scheme?

Reading the article carefully I must acknowledge that the ignorance of the subject disclosed by Mr. Johnson in his discussion is appalling. I cannot believe that the statements which he has made and which are not true were premeditatedly and maliciously written for the purpose of misleading, but the writer of that article was either ignorant of the facts or actuated by a slack intention to do some individual or cause a rank injustice. Mr. Johnson says the Association refused to sell cotton. This statement is absolutely untrue. Any man who knows the basic principles of co-operative marketing would know better than to make such a statement. Mr. Johnson went further—he said that people were "begging" for cotton at 33c per pound. This statement is absolutely untrue. No manufacturer is "begging" for cotton at 33c a pound or any other price anywhere in that neighborhood. No cotton broker or shipper is begging for cotton at 33c a pound or any price in that neighborhood.

Personally determined to impress upon the people of Moore county his intimate knowledge of conditions both inside and outside the Cotton Growers' Co-operative Association, Mr.

Johnson stated further that the Association had sold cotton for 21c a pound. This statement is absolutely untrue.

In several instances in the article Mr. Johnson ridiculed the principles of "orderly marketing." He states that the Association is endeavoring to "overturn the law of supply and demand"—in connection with his ridicule this statement is merely another evidence of the ignorance of Mr. Johnson in reference to the basic principles of co-operative marketing. The purpose of the Cotton Growers' Co-operative Association is to market the crop from time to time as the demand will consume it as opposed to the old time method of dumping the crop on the market within practically ninety days from the time the picking of the cotton begins. The Association has followed the plan of orderly marketing—selling the cotton of its members throughout the season and at this time has a small amount—a few thousand bales and if Mr. Johnson knows anybody, anywhere, who is "begging" for cotton at a price anywhere near 33 cents a pound he can earn a neat commission by closing a deal for the Association.

Farmers who produce cotton, tobacco, grain, fruit or any other farm product have the right to form themselves into an Association and feed the supply of their product to the world in an orderly manner if they so desire rather than to dump it on the market and let it go into the hands of speculators when the supply exceeds the demand. I notice that Mr. Johnson reserves from his criticism of co-operative marketing perishable products such as "butter and fruits" and noting this reservation I wonder "upon what meat doth this Caesar feed," whose home is in the center of the peach industry where organization is very profitable and where his neighbors have learned by experience that the orderly marketing of their products means their financial salvation and freedom. It is passing strange to note that this Aberdeen attorney stops and weeps and wails over the condition of the "poor in the great cities, when their ragged children naked, are begging for it (cotton) at 33c a pound." It may be possible, but there is no suggestion in the story, that Mr. Johnson feels just as keenly interested in the "poor and ragged children" who have for years gone without as they labored side by side with their parents on the cotton farms of North Carolina and other Southern States while the process of dumping on the market left nothing after debts were paid at the selling time.

It was quite popular at one time  
(Continued from page one)

## EUREKA ROAD IS DAMAGED BY RAINS

Talk of Rebuilding While Road Crew is in this Section of Sandhills

The road running out of Vass by way of the Eureka neighborhood and to Carthage has suffered materially by the continued heavy rains of the last few weeks, and will have to be rebuilt in many places. It has been proposed by many of the people that now while the road force is in this part of the county, on the job at Cameron, it would be a good time to have them turn to this job and rebuild it right rather than to patch up the road to rebuild it later.

It has been stated that Mr. Jackson is to take his force into some of the upper section when he finished at Cameron, but it may be the highway commissioners will change the instruction and keep him on the Vass road and clean it up before he leaves. Citizens of the territory along the route are asking that this be done, and will bring the proposition before the commission in the hope that it may be the policy of the board.

Wonder if we're coming to the time when a man will have to wait in a barber shop for his wife to have her hair bobbed?

## CAMERON URGES BETTER SCHOOLS

County Superintendent of Education Talks to Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club held its weekly meeting at the new hotel at Lakeview, A. B. Cameron being the chief speaker. Mr. Cameron presented a comparison between school conditions in the upper side of the county, and in the townships that border the Seaboard Air Line road, and the comparison was startling to the club.

It appears that Sheffield which has the largest school population of all the townships, has in the first grade 223 children, while McNeills has in the same grade but 138 children. The progress in the two townships is wholly different. In the seventh grade Sheffield has 65 children, and McNeills 58. In the low grade Sheffield had 85 more children in the schools than McNeills, but when the seventh grade was reached the difference was only seven, while both townships had fallen far down from the number at the start. But even that was a slight fall as compared with the next one, for when the high school grade was reached Sheffield had but two children in the public high school grade while McNeills had 194. Some of this was no doubt from increase in population but the significance is marked.

From these figures Mr. Cameron proceeded to show the need of a better school system for the county for he argued that Sheffield is backward in the progress of its children through to the higher grades because the schools do not have the proper schools, nor the needed money to develop good schools and schools with proper teaching force and equipment. He referred to the greater financial prosperity of the townships along the Seaboard which collect from the railroads a considerable amount of taxes, the money being applied locally, but in Sheffield the railroads are not so accessible, and the revenue must come from the farms and the other less productive property. He argued that the outcome of the situation is a county system of schools. While we have a number of high schools in the county they are not situated so that they are available to all the children, and while we have pretty well-equipped schools in certain sections of the county we are not provided with good schools that all the children can reach. And so it comes that the children of the upper part of the county are without sufficient school facilities, and in no way likely to have good schools unless we have a common school unit through the whole county backed by the resources of the entire county.

Mr. Cameron asked the aid of the club in bringing about a better school system, and aroused a lot of enthusiasm in the matter.

Another thing that was brought up was the subject of a National park in the mountains about Blowing Rock. The government is creating national parks in the far West in liberal numbers, and is asked to utilize some of the natural opportunities here in the North Carolina mountains, which are much more accessible to the great majority of the people than the western mountains are. The club recommended that the government be urged to take up the subject in a way that might result in a National park in North Carolina on a broad scale where the people might indefinitely have access to a bit of outdoor scenery and mountain forest which can be reached by the people of the East without driving two-thirds of the way across the continent to be reached.

Bion H. Butler was called on to tell something about himself, but beyond saying that he was like all the rest of the assemblage, not quite honest enough to tell very much about himself that they would care to hear, and that his only distinction was that he had probably been in more jails and penitentiaries than all the others there, and had spilled an awful lot of paper in his half century of newspaper work, he stilled the audience with a few inconsequential generalities after naming Sam Richardson as the man to enter the confessional next week.

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## TWO OF NEW "FAMOUS FORTY" AT CAROLINA THEATRES

The new year's output of the Famous Players-Lasky Corporation begins in August with what is known as the "Famous Forty" and which promises to be the finest series of special pictures every produced by Famous Players or any other concern.

The Carolina Theatres have been granted the privilege of pre-releasing these subjects about two weeks ahead of the release dates and the first one is Gloria Swanson's splendid picture, "Manhandled" adapted from the Saturday Evening Post story.

If there are any doubting Thomases, who are still of the opinion that Gloria Swanson is merely a fashion plate, we bid them rush right over to the Carolina Theatres where "Manhandled" will be shown Friday and Saturday. We absolutely guarantee that all doubts as to her histrionic ability will vanish when they see Gloria combining mimicry, broad comedy, tears and pathos in one of the character delineations she has yet brought to the screen.

In "The Humming Bird" and "A Society Scandal" you have seen a new Swanson, one who could do more than just wear clothes well. Now she blossoms out as a comedienne of the first rank.

Tom Moore heads an all-star cast supporting Miss Swanson, having the role of John Hogan, mechanic by day and a taxicab driver by night.

The picture was directed by Alan Dwan, who injected several unique touches that will delight and amaze the most blasé movie fan.

"Manhandled" is a corking good picture.

The second of Famous Players' "Famous Forty" is an adaptation of the Saturday Evening Post story, "Face" under the title of "Unguarded Women," featuring Bebe Daniels, Richard Dix and Mary Astor. "Unguarded Women" is an unusual story. It is far away from the usual run of stereotyped plots and hands our patrons something new. It is a plot that holds the interest to the last and up to the last reel it is a mystery as to what twist will bring forth the logical solution of the play. The subtle twist is furnished and the result is an exceptionally interesting picture.

The story is human and modern and  
(Continued on page eight)

## SCHOOL BONDS GO TO HANCHETT BOND CO.

Chicago Concern Pays Over Three Per Cent Premium at Six Per Cent

On Wednesday the school board of the Vass District sold its bonds for the proposed new school building. The successful bidders were the Hanchett Bond Company, of Chicago, which offered a premium of \$1,535.89 for the issue, making the total sum realized \$51,535.89. The bonds were duly signed Wednesday afternoon and turned over to a representative of the company to be forwarded to the buyers to be delivered on payment of the sum involved, and the money is expected to be in hand in the school fund in Vass within the next four or five days.

The construction of the new school house can now go forward promptly, as the plans have already been drawn and money will be available as fast as the work progresses. It is doubted if the work can go ahead swiftly enough to make the new building of use this fall, but it may be far enough along to use it before the school term is ended next spring.

Four different concerns were after the bonds, all of them willing to offer a premium, but the Hanchett company overreached the others, and made the winning offer, which is much higher than bonds were selling for two or three years ago.

## TOBACCO GROWERS MUCH BENEFITTED

Overseas Expedition Successful Big Companies to Buy More Co-ops Keep up Prices

Tobacco farmers of Eastern North Carolina were the first to hear from the head of the commission sent by 250,000 associated tobacco growers of America to Europe, when Oliver J. Sands, of Richmond, who directs the financial affairs of the tri-state association, declared that agencies in England and Continental Europe will now be established to sell the standard grades of tobacco delivered to the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association in addressing the Fourth of July gathering of North Carolina farmers, who celebrated the new economic independence gained through their marketing association, as well as that which was declared by our ancestors 148 years ago.

The European markets for the tobacco of the associated American farmers will unquestionably be enlarged as a result of the commission's visit to Europe, according to Mr. Sands, who stated that contrary to recent rumor, the directors of the tobacco association have not considered legal action against the Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain, to whose officials they made clear the advantages of purchasing the standard grades of tobaccos from the co-operative associations.

The most impressive statement of the tobacco association's progress and strength which has been made at a public gathering this year was contained in Mr. Sands' address to the Eastern Carolina farmers on July 4th: "Your tobacco association two years ago was an experiment. Now it is an assured success," declared Mr. Sands. For the first time in history the farmers of North Carolina are borrowing money from New York banks at 4 1-2 per cent interest. While 31 pounds of tobacco would buy a hundred pounds of barbed wire in 1914, 20 pounds of tobacco will buy the same amount today, although it takes more wheat and corn and products of the unorganized farmers to buy even less of the necessities of farm and home than was the case before the war, according to Mr. Sands.

The Richmond banker pointed out that most members of the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association are financially a full year ahead of their neighbors and backed up this statement by citing the fact that 80 out of every 100 farmers who received their second payment last month from the association warehouses, took home clear money with which to harvest their 1924 crop and still have another substantial payment coming to them on last year's crop.

Putting the success of their own association squarely up to the farmers themselves, the man who has guided the financial destinies of the tobacco association, reminded them that 148 years ago there were men who hid behind their wives' skirts and let others fight for their political independence and that the only menace to the permanent prosperity of the Southern tobacco farmer today is the man who is too cowardly to join his neighbor farmers in a movement for their common welfare or the contract breaker who delays the good which will come to the Southern farms, by a thorough organization of his business along the lines of modern progress.

More of the big American manufacturers of tobacco will supply their needs through the products of the tobacco association this year according to Mr. Sands, who stated that this fact will continue to increase its strength.

Miss Elizabeth Kelly, who recently left her position in the North Carolina Department of Education to take over the tobacco association's new department of women's work, affirmed her belief in the co-operative marketing of tobacco and cotton as the only chance of the North Carolina farmer for a lasting prosperity.

S. D. FRISSELL.