

**Business Barometer**

**Slight Rise in Farm Prices, Some Gain in Industrial Activity and Employment**

**Farm Prices**

The slight rise in the general average of prices received by farmers which took place between February 15 and March 15 was sustained during the following month. The index of farm prices for April 15 remained at 91, one point higher than the lowest level reached so far in this depression on February 15 and 36 points lower than the index for April 15 last year.

**Business Conditions**

The gain in industrial activity made during the first three months of this year was apparently maintained during April, although some basic industries showed recessions. Pig iron, electric power, automobile and cotton cloth production increased more than usual, while steel production made more than an average seasonal decline. Car loadings were also higher in February than in March, but building contracts awarded failed to retain some earlier gains and declined during April to a new low level.

The gains in industrial activity of the first quarter show an increase in payrolls from an index of 70 in January to 72 in February and March, while employment increased from 77 in February to 78 in March.

**Cotton**

A general recession in activity in the cotton industry has followed the recovery of February and March, but prices have held above the December low point. In this country sales of standard cotton cloth fell in April to the lowest weekly level since June 1930 and with that exception, since records became available in October 1927. Cloth production increased, however, because of the large amount of unfilled orders that had accumulated. Exports of raw cotton from the United States were higher in April this year than last and domestic consumption increased for the month, contrary to the usual seasonal trend, and was nearly as high as in April 1930. World production for 1930-31 is turning out to be less than reports early in the season indicated, apparently showing some effects of low cotton prices. Sales of fertilizers in the cotton States are much below last year and the weather so far has not been especially favorable for the coming crop.

**Winter Wheat**

The condition of winter wheat in the United States on May 1 indicates a crop of about 652,902,000 bushels, compared with 604,337,000 bushels produced in 1930, and a five year average production of 547,427,000 bushels.

The improvement in winter wheat prospects during April is the result of generally favorable growing conditions in all but a few of the leading winter wheat states. Moisture has been sufficient for the needs of the plants in most states.

**Potatoes**

Conditions of the early potato crop in southern states averaged about 73 per cent of normal on May 1, compared with 74 per cent a year ago and a six-year average of about 77 per cent. The commercial crop in the 8 earliest states may total 15,831,000 bushels, or one-fifth more than last spring. Prices of new potatoes at shipping points dropped sharply during the week ended May 9.

**MANLY**

C. D. Morse spent the week-end in Wilmington with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Claud Ferguson returned Saturday from a week's stay in the western part of the state.

Miss Cornelia Phillips and Alice Parker spent last week in Boone.

Miss Essie Parker has returned home from Erwin where she has been teaching.

Misses Reba and Edna mae Morse of Wilmington are visiting their cousin, C. D. Morse.

Mrs. J. F. Wilson and Mrs. Alice Tyner visited relatives in Cameron last week.

Mabel Wilson, Margaret Cameron and John Chisholm are in the Southern Pines High School graduating class.

Roma Hill of Spartanburg, S. C., spent Saturday with his sister, Mrs. W. L. McDonald on his way home from a trip to New York and Philadelphia.

**LIST PERSONAL PROPERTY AS WELL AS REAL ESTATE**

The list takers say that personal property owners who do not own real estate are ignoring the duty of listing their personal effects and poll. This is the last week of the list-taking and if you wish to avoid penalty you had better drop in before Saturday and see the list taker.

**Legislature Ends Record Session; Johnson Reviews Accomplishments**

(Continued from page 1)

Moore county. The new Road law will take off eleven cents more, making a total reduction of fifty-two cents. The county levy for all purposes last year was \$1.04, so that the county-wide levy for this year should not be more than between fifty and fifty-five cents, or a reduction of one-half of the county-wide tax. Reports to the contrary notwithstanding, it was never hoped by the proponents of either form of sales tax in the General Assembly that such tax would wholly relieve land, and the enactment of this legislation reducing the tax burden by one-half by shifting the burden to the shoulders of those most able to bear it and without the imposition of any kind of a sales tax, brings, I believe, to the old burdened landowners a larger measure of relief than could in any manner otherwise have been provided.

"The Legislature has nothing to do with the special taxes levied in the different school districts, and these special taxes will no doubt remain the same, subject, however, to the retirement of bonds and any reduction in expenses that the local boards may be able to effect. The Revenue Bill, as everyone knows, overshadows all other legislation and the attention of the people of the state was thereby distracted. A number of larger measures adopted in this General Assembly calculated to bring forth further tax relief and to insure a more efficient and economic administration of our governmental affairs.

**The Road Law**

"I have already mentioned the new Road law. This provides in short for the taking over of all the public roads of the state by the State Highway Commission, a reorganization of the commission doing away with districts, and providing for a new board of Highway Commissioners. Except for the saving to the tax-payers of the county the wisdom of this legislation is, of course, problematical, the success of the plan being largely dependent upon the new Highway Commission and those who are put or left in charge in the different counties over the state.

"This Legislature has consolidated North Carolina State College and North Carolina College for Women with the University of North Carolina. This should effectuate a large saving to the people. The Legislature found numerous duplications of work in these different colleges. All of them are State institutions and there was no good reason for their continuance as sole and separate entities. With the consolidation into one great university most of these duplications can be eliminated and the high standard of efficiency in the three institutions can be maintained.

**Purchasing Agency**

"To my mind, one of the most needed features of legislation enacted was the creation of a central Purchasing Agency for the purchase of purchasing supplies for all of the state institutions and departments. It will be the duty of this agency to standardize, insofar as possible, the supplies used by the departments and institutions, including fuel, clothing, food and all other supplies, and to buy these supplies in bulk at the lowest possible rate. It can be readily seen that with efficient management this newly created agency should save North Carolina millions of dollars.

"The General Assembly also created a Local Government Commission for the purpose of advising, instructing and overseeing the different county, town and school district governments over the state. Moore county has been indeed fortunate in the type of men it has had in charge of its affairs, and insofar as Moore county is concerned there was no need of this commission, but there are numerous counties in North Carolina that have not been so well governed, and in order to save the credit of the state and to insure to the tax-payers a proper administration of their local governments and a proper expenditure of the tax money, the establishment of this commission was necessary. This commission is already functioning and it will no doubt put and keep the county and local governments throughout the state on a more solid and business-like basis.

**Personnel Commission**

"There is no doubt but that there are people in the different departments drawing too much money, and there is further no doubt but that there are employees whose services could be dispensed with. With the multitude of duties on the General Assembly it is wholly impossible for a Legislature to go through the different departments and weed out the unnecessary employees and cut salaries where too much is being paid, without grave danger of doing vio-

**44 Per Square Mile**

**That is Population Density in Moore County, Census Figures Show**

Moore county had a population density of 44.2 persons to the square mile, according to the 1930 census, which gave the county a population of 28,215, living in the 639 square miles of its land area, a report of the Department of Conservation and Development shows.

The average density of population in the state is 65 persons per square mile, or 3,170,276 persons living in the 48,740 square miles of land area. The range is from 287.8 persons per square mile in Forsyth to 13.2 persons per square mile in Tyrrell. Forsyth, Durham, Gaston and Mecklenburg have more than 200 persons per square mile, and more than 100 persons live to the square mile in New Hanover, Guilford, Buncombe, Wilson, Rowan, Wake, Cabarrus and Cleveland counties. Forty-four counties have less than 50 persons per square mile.

lence to the orderly and efficient conduct of affairs; and knowing this, and knowing too, that something should be done, the Legislature created a Personnel Commission, with full power and authority to make close investigation and to fire and reduce salaries in any and all departments of our state government.

"These are just a few of the big-enacted. The only important piece of legislation affecting Moore county per state-wide pieces of legislation solely was the increasing of the Board of County Commissioners from three to five and the appointment of G. C. Seymour of Aberdeen and Frank Cameron of Cameron as the two additional commissioners. I have been gratified to know that this action has met the hearty approval of the three members of the board that has been so supplemented, as well as the approval of the people generally over Moore county.

"I cannot let this occasion pass without paying my small tribute to Moore county's able representative, Hon. U. L. Spence. As is known, he was made chairman of the Finance committee of the House, which is the most important post in that body, next to the Speakership. As he has always done, he discharged the duties intrusted to him in a thoroughly efficient and capable manner. He has labored day and night since the convening of the Legislature, with an eye single to bringing all possible relief to the taxpayers of Moore county and of North Carolina, and shift a part of the uneven burden off the land-owners and place it evenly and equitably where it belongs. Moore county and North Carolina are most fortunate in having a public servant of his high caliber.

"I know, of course, that Mr. Spence needs no commendation at my hand, but his zeal and interest in the welfare of the people, and the distinguished services he has rendered have been so marked and so apparent to me that in simple justice I feel that I ought to say this."

**NIAGARA**

Mrs. Bella Wilson left Saturday for a few weeks' stay among relatives in Pittsboro.

W. T. Smith of Raleigh is spending a few days of his vacation with relatives here.

Mrs. A. C. Hartford and family and Mr. and Mrs. Finen, who have spent the season here in their newly purchased home, the New York cottage, left on Monday for their summer home in Tilton, N. H.

Mrs. J. W. Frank and party motored to Fayetteville on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Williams and children of the Piney Knoll cottage left on Monday for Bethlehem, N. H., where they expect to spend the summer months, returning here in the early fall.

**SELL HOTEL FURNITURE**

P. Frank Buchan and R. F. Beasley of Southern Pines purchased the first floor furniture from the burned Southern Pines Hotel and have been disposing of it at bargain prices at the former Atkinson-Thomas furniture store on Broad street during the week.

T. S. Burgess purchased the bedroom furniture from the upper floors which he has been selling at fire-sale prices.

**Moore County Loses 600 Autos in Year**

**And There Are 41,217 Fewer Cars in State Today Than Year Ago**

Motor vehicles in North Carolina decreased from a grand total of 384,647 on April 1, 1930, to 340,838 on April 1, 1931, a drop of 41,217, or from 338,647 automobiles and 45,408 trucks to 298,623 automobiles and 42,215 trucks, the records of Sprague Silver, director of the Motor Vehicle Bureau, show. Motorcycles dropped from 785 to 737 and cars of non-residents registered decreased from 2,075 to 1,750. Almost every county in the state lost in numbers of automobiles and trucks.

Moore county had 2,675 automobiles and 500 trucks on April 1, 1931, as compared with 3,275 automobiles and 550 trucks of the year before, Major Sprague Silver's records show.

**MRS. C. R. WHITAKER HEADS STATE TUBERCULOSIS BODY**

Mrs. C. R. Whitaker of Southern Pines was elected president of the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association at the annual meeting of the board of directors held last week at Greensboro. Other officers were chosen as follows:

Mrs. Max T. Payne, Greensboro, first vice president; Dr. William H. Smith, Goldsboro, second vice president; Dr. L. B. McBrayer, Southern Pines, managing director. Mrs. Gordon Finger of Charlotte, is the retiring president.

Dr. McBrayer's annual report as managing director revealed much helpful activity in the last year. Dr. R. L. Carlton of Kinston-Salem, the state body's representative, a director on the board of the national tuberculosis association, who attended the annual convention of the national association at Syracuse, N. Y., last week, reported on that meeting.

**CARTHAGE COMMERCIAL SCHOOL STARTS JUNE 15**

Of interest to High School graduates is the announcement of a commercial school at Carthage, opening June 15. The school will be a branch of the Southeastern Commercial College, Inc., of Salisbury.

Miss Cornelia Phillips spent last weeks in Boone.

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