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At the CAPITAL



By M. R. Dunnagan, The Pilot's Raleigh Correspondent

North Carolina is giving the world notice that no cotton will be planted on State-owned farms next year, cutting out entirely the staple in which prison farms planted 3,600 acres in 1929, 2,600 in 1930, and 1,300 acres this year, in a statement issued by Governor Gardner.

The decision does not mean that Governor Gardner thinks the State farmers should cut out cotton growing completely in 1932, but he expresses the belief that the State ought to set an advanced example to cotton growers in drastic acreage reduction, so the South's greatest crop may bring a profit to growers—something it will not do the present below-cost prices.

Success of Governor Gardner's live-at-home program this year generally, and especially at State-owned farms, is given as one important reason for eliminating cotton. Prison farms, he points out, this year have threshed 38,793 bushels of wheat, 24,245 bushels of oats, 4,493 bushels of rye, and 3,669 bushels of barley, with prospects of more than 100,000 bushels of corn.

Plans are being worked out, Governor Gardner said, to exchange every bushel of the small grains, all produced from pure-bred, certified seeds, with North Carolina farmers, so it will be available for sowing this fall. "This wheat is too good for prisoners to eat. In fact, it is too good for anybody to eat while it is so scarce in North Carolina," Governor Gardner stated.

Governor Gardner took occasion to refer again to the national and international phase of the cotton situation, which, he contends, can be successfully met for the partial salvation of its growers only by worldwide cooperation of cotton growing sections. That's what he told President Hoover in a telegram calling upon him to convene Congress to initiate legislation, and, by treaties with other countries growing cotton, to start a solution.

Also, Governor Gardner has "called" Governor Ross Sterling, of Texas, by asking him, as Governor of the state growing millions of bales, to join in a call for a conference in Memphis, Tenn., September 14-15, of Governors, U. S. Senators, agricul-

tural commissioners and growers of the cotton states to consider "nobody's pet plan," but to work out a curtailment and marketing program which might help save the growers this year. But Governor Sterling said no, the real reason being that Texas doesn't want to curtail, even though it wants other states to cut production.

Senator John W. Hinsdale, luxury tax advocate, and Senator Frank L. Dunlop, implacable foe of all sales taxes, have and are broadcasting a cotton plan, calling for non-stock associations in all states, securing 85 per cent of the cotton acreage owners to join, reducing acreage 50 per cent next year, fixing a penalty for planting more than 50 per cent, urging utilization of land thus left free for food and feed crops, and suggesting like plans for tobacco, wheat or other farm products. The authors predict immediate increase in cotton prices of three or four cents upon perfection of such associations.

While cotton growers are in the throes of despondency, tobacco growers are experiencing varying emotions. Last week's sales in the new bright belt of eastern North Carolina indicated prices slightly above those of last year and an apparent tendency to increase. While the start was low, as usual, due to inferior grades, sold as barometers, growers grew more encouraged as the week progressed. The upward trend brought out better grades and the average price, accordingly, increased. Growers, while not entirely satisfied, are not as blue as they feared before the markets opened. Tobacco cost less to produce this year than it did last year, it is maintained. If the present trend continues, the tobacco growers will be able to make much more on the crops than they did last year.

Taxes on some forms of business and industry were increased to a dangerous level by the 1931 General Assembly and certain forms of industry cannot sustain any increased taxation, Attorney General D. G. Brummitt said in a Raleigh Kiwanis club address Friday, a talk which might be termed his first public utterances on taxation in his predicted campaign for Governor.

Property, Mr. Brummitt said, bears the burden of taxation for local government, county and town, a larger part of the extended school term and for debt service, which includes annual interest, sinking fund and serial bond payments. Debt service, he said, would require a rate on all property in the state, spread equally, of \$1.05 in 1931, \$1.02 in 1932, \$1.03 in 1933, 99 cents in 1934 and \$1.01 in 1935, and, in addition, property pays 15 cents toward support of the six months school term.

Saying the deficit in State government was \$2,300,000 for the past biennium and would be still larger this biennium, Mr. Brummitt said the State cannot afford to continue running a deficit, and that State revenue requirements should be based on compliance with the Executive Budget Act, keeping costs within current revenues. One or more of four alternatives are open to do that:

(1) Cut support of six months school term about one-third, which, he said, 99 per cent of the citizens would reject; (2) Lift the present State-wide school tax from 15 to 35 cents, in addition to the levy on property for local government, the extended school term and debt service. The rate should not be raised; (3) Additional levies or indirect taxes upon business and industry, which were increased this year and in some cases to a dangerous level; and (4) Seek other sources of taxation. He did not mention new sources.

This emergency calls for intensive study of facts, Mr. Brummitt said, adding that strict economy in governmental expenditures are necessary. Economies now being inaugurated in the schools must be studied after they have been in operation to get the results and effects upon the schools, said Mr. Brummitt.

County commissioners who have postponed in their counties sale of land for taxes beyond first Monday in October, permitted until first Monday in November this year, should make tentative settlement with the sheriff in October, and later settle for taxes on land advertised for sale later, before they turn over to him the new tax books, Attorney General Brummitt holds in an opinion. After this tentative settlement, the sheriff may have the books and begin collection of the new taxes.

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