

T. S. RAGSDALE PLANT TO DOUBLE CAPACITY

Its Capacity Will Be Doubled and a Large Storage Room Is Being Built—Tobacco Is Shipped from This Plant to Europe, Australia, Japan And China—Has Been a Great Factor in Development of the Smithfield Tobacco Market.

One of the big things in connection with the Smithfield tobacco market is the T. S. Ragsdale Redrying Plant. It has been one of the factors in developing the tobacco market. But the time has come when it is necessary to enlarge its capacity or fail to meet the demands made on it. So Mr. Ragsdale, the manager of the plant, has taken steps to double its present capacity and greatly enlarge the storage rooms in connection. He is making this enlargement at an estimated cost of fifty thousand dollars. Work began on the plant January 1st.

The present building is fifty by one hundred and eighty feet. It is being enlarged so that it will be one hundred and fifty by one hundred and eighty feet. In the thirty feet addition next to the street will be located the offices, sample rooms, boiler room and garage. On the north side of the present two story brick building will be built an addition 70 feet wide and two stories high and the full length of the present building, 180 feet. In this section will be located the machinery which will double the capacity of the drying capacity of the plant. The present capacity of the plant is 35,000 pounds of tobacco daily, and when the addition is completed the plant will have a daily capacity of 70,000 pounds. The boiler capacity of the plant will be 140 horse power.

On the northern end of the lot where the big prize-house was located is the big storage room comprising more than a half acre of floor space. This building is 128 by 180 feet. Is an open building which will be covered with corrugated roofing both sides and top. Here is where the tobacco will be stored after it has been redried and packed in hogsheads, preparatory for shipping to some foreign country.

The plant is used almost entirely for redrying and preparing for shipment the tobacco bought by Mr. T. S. Ragsdale who has long been one of the biggest buyers on the Smithfield market. However sometimes his plant is used for redrying the tobacco of others who buy here each season.

The T. S. Ragsdale Company ships tobacco direct from Smithfield to Denmark, Holland, England, Australia, Japan and China. A large part of the tobacco bought here by Mr. Ragsdale goes direct to Shanghai, China, where there are large tobacco factories and immense cigarette factories.

A large force of men is at work on the redrying plant which will be completed in good time for the present year's tobacco crop. As was said in the beginning this plant has been a large factor in the development of the Smithfield tobacco market to its present proportions and with the greatly increased capacity the plant will give the tobacco interests of this section will be encouraged to put forth greater efforts for the next tobacco season.

OFFERS PRIZE FOR SIGNAL TO HEAVENLY BODY

Academy of Sciences Implies Its Faith In Project By Proposing Reward Of Hundred Thousand Francs.

Paris, Feb. 1.—The Academy of Sciences evidently considers communication with the planets as among the possibilities, for it has undertaken to act as judge for a prize of 100,000 francs to be given for the best means of making a sign to a heavenly body and the receipt of a reply.

It has been the custom of the Academy always to refuse to handle prizes for any feat which it considers a mere waste of time. In presenting the present prize for competition the Academy makes the proviso that "the planet Mars is included as being sufficiently known."

"Until a solution is obtained," says the Academy's announcement, "the interest on the prize money will form a prize for scientists making the greatest progress in knowledge of the planets and their relation to the earth."—Wilmington Star.

Train Derailed Near Selma.

On Thursday of last week the west bound passenger train which leaves Selma at 3 o'clock was derailed at the river bridge two miles west of Selma. The accident was caused by the spreading of the track. The tender and all the coaches went off the track and hindered traffic for several hours. No one was hurt as the cars leaned up against the sides of the bridge. Several cars were damaged.

200 PER CENT INCREASE IN SOME FOODS IS SHOWN

Bacon and Ham Lead Meats, With Bread, Butter, Eggs and Everything Else Up.

Increases of from 50 to 200 per cent in retail prices of the principal food products of the country and from 70 to more than 200 per cent in wholesale during the last six years, are shown in figures issued by the bureau of labor statistics.

Taking the year 1913 as the normal year for basing comparative prices, the bureau shows that by December 1919 retail prices of meats had advanced from 50 to 80 per cent over the average for 1913. Bacon and ham led meat prices with increases of 86 per cent each and pork chops stood second with an advance of 81 per cent. Butter rose 104 per cent, eggs 161 per cent, hens 84 per cent and lard 121 per cent.

Breadstuffs and dairy products climbed to higher levels than the meat group. Flour advanced 133 per cent, bread 179 per cent, rice 103 per cent, and potatoes 153 per cent. Coffee, tea and sugar showed advances of 64, 27 and 164 per cent respectively. Cheese went up 96 per cent and milk 88 per cent.

Wholesale clothing prices, according to the bureau figures, showed an increase of 235 per cent last December over 1913 levels and house furnishings went up 203 per cent. An advance of 134 per cent in food as a commodity was shown while farm products rose 144 per cent. Lumber and building materials climbed 153 per cent in the six years while the average of all the commodities tabulated rose 138 per cent.—Washington dispatch.

HATCHER SCHOOL NOTES.

Our school is progressing very nicely now. Our enrollment is up to the standard. We had a holiday Thursday as our teachers attended teachers groups meeting at Thanksgiving.

Our boys are improving very rapidly playing basket ball. Even though one of our balls has disappeared, we have another and we challenge any country team in the county. Come and play us.

Our literary society met Friday afternoon and our program was very good.

Misses Mary and Leone Foster spent the week end at their home at Selma. We will give a box party at our school next Friday night, February 6, and everybody is invited.

The League of Nations in Being.

The Peace Treaty is signed, the League of Nations is constituted and the Supreme Council of the Allies has adjourned. That the League is not to want for business is shown by the appeal of Peru that it will take up the long-standing territorial dispute over territory on the Pacific. Accessions to the League are coming in. Switzerland, unlike Belgium, only asks for the recognition of its perpetual neutrality. Punch, in a recent cartoon, showed the missing element. On the bank at one side of an uncompleted bridge Uncle Sam is stretched at ease with the keystone for a pillow. That is the situation exactly. The League is incomplete without our co-operation. It loses in moral authority. Nevertheless, the statesmen of Europe recognize the fact that it is the world's only hope of security and peace which belongs to it. Just as the Allies fought our battle against an encroaching autocracy through the first years of the war, they are now doing our work in the League, in the hope and expectation that we shall ultimately come to their assistance, just as we did in the fight for liberty. Both we and our children will be sorry if that coming is much further postponed.—The Congregationalist.

English as World Language.

English would undoubtedly be the most suitable as a world language, in the opinion of Professor Carnoy, of Louvain University, Belgium, says an Associated Press dispatch. He made this statement in the form of a reply to the question addressed by the Northern Peace Society to prominent linguists in various countries as to which language would be best adapted to universal use. After declaring in favor of English, M. Carnoy wrote: "The German and French languages have lost their place through the war. The English language is a hospitable one, being a kind of compromise between the Latin and Germanic tongues; also it is simple and is spoken by most progressive nations of the world, and has one of the most beautiful literatures of modern times."—News and Observer.

The influenza situation in the state has improved for the past few days.

HOOVER STRONG IN NORTH CAROLINA

Eighth District Congressman Reports In Washington That Many People Are for Former Food Administrator For President.

R. E. Powell, writing to the News and Observer from Washington under date of February 1, says:

Activity of North Carolina Democrats in the Hoover-for-President move, coupled with late reports of a growing sentiment in favor of the former food administrator, have moved organization men to action. The Hoover wave, according to well posted Western North Carolina politicians, is beginning to behave like a cyclone and there is anxiety lest it get beyond control.

One prominent Asheville lawyer, and a man well versed in political matters, told members of the North Carolina delegation here the past week that within a few days an active Hoover organization would be at work in that part of the state. Right on the heels of this announcement—which in itself caused some consternation here—"Farmer" Bob Doughton returns from a survey of folks and their farms in the Eighth district and reports that he found nothing but Hoover sentiment in the expressions of presidential preferences.

Congressman Doughton found so much Hoover sentiment until he is far less reserved in stating his own position today than he was the day the New York World launched the Hoover boom. Then he told newspapermen he didn't see any objection to Hoover if his Democracy stacked up with the hand book requirements. Now ten days later he believes that the Democracy of Jefferson is just the stuff that is responsible for so much Hoover sentiment.

An analysis of the political gossip coming to Washington during the past week, that part of it dealing with presidential possibilities, reveals that the Hoover wave is strongest in the western part of the State. There is no attempt, other than local, being made to put folks on record but the movement seems to be rolling along without anybody pushing it.

There is little to indicate that the Hoover sentiment is near so strong in eastern Carolina, where Mr. McAdoo seems to have captured the majority of folks. Until the Hoover wave became big enough to cause concern among the old line politicians, it appeared that McAdoo would have little trouble in getting the solid Tar Heel delegation when the curtain rises in San Francisco. The enthusiasm for McAdoo is no less pronounced in the East than it has been and it looks now as if it is a question of which fire spreads the fastest. McAdoo seems right now to have everything east of Raleigh and still going. The rest of the sentiment seems divided in the State like it is in the nation, the extreme west all for Hoover and the middlewest, with an open mind.

Colored Teachers' Reading Circle.

The Colored Reading Circle Groups met Saturday, January 24, at the following points: First Grade Group, Wilson's Mills; Instructor, Prof. Wm. M. Cooper.

Second Grade Group: Clayton; Instructors, Misses Mildred Freeman, Bessie Badham, Dorothy Gonsalves.

No. 2, Selma Graded school: Instructors, Prof. W. S. King and Mrs. Nettie Tate.

No. 3, Four Oaks: Instructors, Mrs. G. B. Allen and Miss E. L. Smith.

Each group was largely attended and great interest manifested. The next reading will be February 7th, when each group will meet at the County Training School and will be addressed by County Superintendent, Prof. W. H. Hippy, also Mr. N. C. Newbold, State Agent of Rural schools.

Five night schools for the Adult illiterates have been planned for the county. At this meeting Miss Augusta Anderson, assistant county superintendent, will confer with the five teachers who are to teach these schools, and the County Supervisor, and plan an early opening and systematic work.

MRS. LAURA J. A. KING, Co. Supervisor of Negro Schools.

American Legion Post Meeting.

On Thursday evening, February 5, at 7:30 o'clock a meeting will be held in the court house for the purpose of organizing a local Post of the American Legion. All ex-service men are earnestly requested to be present. If possible each should bring an ex-service friend with him. The more merrier. Sgt. Jobbe of the army recruiting service will be present and will give all the information possible regarding the American Legion.

FEDERAL CONTROL HAS COST BIG SUM

Estimated Government Has Lost 700 Million In the Past Two Years.—Coal Strike Cost Much.

Operation of the railroads, Pullman lines, express companies and waterways, unified under federal control, has cost the nation approximately \$700,000,000, according to official calculation since they were taken over two years ago, says an Associated Press dispatch from Washington.

Figures made public by the railroad administration revealed a net loss of \$594,200,000 from railroad operation alone in the two-year period. Statistics, gathered from official sources as to operating costs of the Pullman lines and waterways and express companies while operated by the government, show the addition of \$100,000,000 to the transportation costs.

Heavy losses of November and December are charged to the coal strike in a statement by the railroad administration. A deficit of \$111,500,000 was shown for those two months after the two months proportion of the annual rental was paid. December revenues were said to be about \$12,700,000 above actual operating expenses while the revenues for November, according to Interstate Commerce Commission figures, exceeded actual operating expense by approximately \$19,000,000. The monthly share of the annual rental has been computed generally at \$75,000,000.

Much of the loss during 1919 should be charged to the first six months of the year according to the official explanation. The statement shows that of a loss of \$349,200,000 for the 12 months \$228,700,000 came during the first six months.

Mitchiner-Jackson.

Garner, Jan. 31.—A marriage of wide interest here and other sections of the State was celebrated last Tuesday, at twilight in the M. E. church, when Miss Bessie Fay Jackson, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Jackson, became the bride of Mr. Simon Mitchiner. Despite the unfavorable weather the church was filled with friends and relatives.

Under the artistic touch of Mrs. Numa R. Broughton and a few chosen friends, the edifice had been converted into a bower of loveliness. Promptly at the appointed hour the candles were lighted, and the strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march pealed forth announcing the approach of the bridal party.

The ushers, Messrs. Sam Mitchiner, and Howard Turner, came down opposite aisles, followed by Miss Elizabeth Mitchiner, maid of honor, being attractive in white satin, with large picture hat and carrying sweet peas. Then entered the bride, handsomely gowned in a going-away suit of exquisite brown satin and holding a huge bouquet of bride's roses. She was leaning on the arm of her father, who gave her away.

They were met at the altar by the groom and best man, Mr. Kenneth Mitchiner. The wedding ritual of the M. E. church was read by Rev. J. G. Johnson, pastor of the bride, during which Mrs. J. S. Buffalo rendered soft strains of music.

Immediately after the ceremony they returned to the home of the bride where a dinner was served. The happy couple then motored to Raleigh where they boarded the train for an extended bridal tour.

Miss Jackson comes from a prominent family, was educated at Peace Institute and is a highly cultured young woman. The groom is a prosperous young planter.—News and Observer.

Mrs. Mitchiner taught in T. G. S. for two years and has many friends here who wish her well.

North Carolina to Figure in Movies.

Instead of seeing western scenes altogether on the screen, the south is to come in for a share of publicity, North Carolina being one of the states chosen to stage certain developments and opportunities which the south offers. The United States government and the development organizations of the south are co-operating in plans for this work. A Washington dispatch to the Greensboro News says: "Land development operations will be illustrated on the screen, including drainage of wet lands, clearing of cut-over lands, blowing up of stumps, ditching, road building, grading, plowing and cultivating with great machinery, etc."

"The government pictures will certify to great live stock farms and model dairy farms in the south. They will disclose enormous yields of cotton, corn, velvet beans, grasses, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, and other crops on the cut-over lands in that section."

MIDDLESEX COUPLE ASPHYXIATED IN NORFOLK

After Attending Theatre, They Retire And Both Found Dead Early Sunday Morning.

Ollie Murray, 28 years old, and his wife, 16 years old, of Middlesex, were asphyxiated early Sunday morning in Norfolk in the home of Mr. Murray's uncle, whom they were visiting.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray reached Norfolk Saturday night. After attending a theatre, they retired. About 9:30 Sunday morning some member of the household went to their room to call them to breakfast. No one responded to the knock on the door, and odors of gas were detected coming from the room. Upon entering the room both were found dead in bed. Physicians were called but they had been dead several hours. A coroner was called and after investigation he declared it was his opinion that they had been accidentally asphyxiated.

The bodies were sent to Middlesex where interment was made near there yesterday afternoon.

A Shower.

Friday night Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Caudill gave a delightful "shower" in honor of Miss Esther Sanders who is a February bride. The house was tastefully decorated in green. The guests were met at the door by Mrs. C. H. Graham and shown into the cloak room.

The younger people occupied the parlor and the older ones were ushered into the sitting room where all enjoyed various games and pleasant conversation. The piano and gramophone furnished music which was very much enjoyed. About ten o'clock the guests were invited to the dining room where delicious whipped cream, peaches and cake were served.

The fun they had was a plenty. After all were served they gathered in the parlor to play the last game, which was "The Trip to Wonderland." Numbers were passed around, ten being the lucky number. The one that got the lucky number was to be blindfolded and led by a guide on tiptoe to Wonderland. Master Hubert Caudill dressed as an elf from Wonderland came in and presented the lucky number which was Miss Esther Sanders, with a flashlight. Taking her by the hand as he led the way, he said, "Come with me Miss Lucky Number, and I will lead you to the Land of Wonder. We'll have to walk very slow even on our tiptoe, for the way is rough and dark you know. Here we are at the door. You will like it, I am sure. On this chair inside take a seat, and please keep sweet. Now pop on the light, and please don't take fright, for these gifts were sent to you by friends that are true. Now take a seat outside, Miss Future Bride, and let your friends behold the wonders untold."

She was led blindfolded from the parlors, through the hall to the back porch and into a little tent that had been constructed and covered with bamboo, where the gifts were placed. After the bandage was removed she took a peep into the tent. Then as she took a seat outside the little-elf passed the packages out to her, and her friends gathered around to see her unfold the wonders untold. Every one enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Caudill.

Influenza Epidemic Reached Climax.

Reports available from sections of the state in which influenza has been raging indicate that the spread of the disease has reached a climax. Five new cases, none of them serious, were reported at the State College, making a total of 21 cases there. The Methodist Orphanage in Raleigh continued to face a serious situation with 200 of the 250 children in bed with influenza, among whom four cases of pneumonia have developed. Four other cases of pneumonia seemed imminent late last night, but physicians deferred diagnosis until this morning. There was no new case of influenza yesterday. Two of the pneumonia patients, Malthus Edwards, 14, and Russell Nelson, 12, were said to be in an exceedingly critical condition last night, with but little hope for their recovery.

Wilson reports forty cases of "something" like flu, most cases of which have been mild. The death of one child has been reported.

In Asheville, where the epidemic has been severe, the cases have reduced. However an emergency hospital at one of the public schools was opened yesterday.

Cotton Association Meeting.

A meeting of the Johnston County Branch of the American Cotton Association will be held in Smithfield on Wednesday afternoon February 4th, at 1:30 o'clock, to complete warehouse plans and to take options on cotton. Cotton farmers are urged to attend.

GOVERNOR BICKETT AND THE TAX QUESTION

He Will Recommend to the Special Session of the Legislature That the State Can Get Along This Year Without the Ten Per Cent Increase.

Governor Bickett has issued a statement to the people of the State regarding revaluation and taxation. His statement follows in full:

"To the people of North Carolina: "After hearing the reports made by the district supervisors in charge of the revaluation act and after a full conference with the state budget commission, the state tax commission and the state treasurer, I find that I will be justified in giving to the people of the state the following information: "I propose to submit to the special session of the general assembly, which is expected to meet in July, the following recommendations:

"First: That the state take no advantage of that part of the revaluation act which authorized a 10 per cent increase of revenues for the year 1920, but that the general assembly fix a rate for 1920 that will yield for all state purposes exactly the same amount of revenue from real and personal property as was collected in the year 1919. There may be one exception to this recommendation and that is that it may be necessary to increase the funds provided by the state for the public schools to the extent of five per cent, certainly not more than this. This increase will be only half the amount contemplated by the general assembly of 1919 for this specific purpose. It will thus be seen, in the light of this recommendation, that the revaluation act becomes one of equalization pure and simple and, with the vast quantities of property now going on the tax books that was not taxed at all heretofore, both of lands and of intangible personal property, it is certain that many thousands of tax payers will actually pay less taxes in 1920 than they paid in 1919.

"Second: I will also recommend that there be inserted in the revaluation act a clause providing that in any year, at any time before the taxes are actually levied by the county authorities, any property owner may ask for a re-assessment of his property upon filing an affidavit supported by two disinterested free holders that his property is on the tax books at a sum greater than its then market value.

"Third: I will also recommend to the special session of the general assembly that there be embodied in the constitutional amendment now pending and to be voted on in November a provision greatly reducing the present constitutional limitation of 66-2-3 cents on the \$100 worth of property. It was the purpose of the finance committee of the house and senate at the regular session to revise this limitation downwards. It is now apparent that the revised valuations will be large enough to permit a substantial reduction of this limitation, and still leave a reasonable margin for the necessities of our future development. Just what figure will be a proper limitation cannot be determined until the total values under the new assessments are ascertained.

"Three acts in regard to the revaluation act are now outstanding and no longer the subject of controversy: "1. The one purpose of the act is to wipe out the inequalities on the existing system.

"2. Under the act the tax rate will be so low that no class of property will be outlawed and driven from the state.

"3. The extraordinarily low rate under the revaluation act will uncover millions of dollars in the state that has never been on the tax books at all, and will draw into the state millions of capital from the ends of the earth."

Automobile School.

An automobile school is being conducted in Wilmington, a complete and intensive course consisting of ten lessons, one each week, which is attracting considerable attention. The course is given free of charge to all who are interested and at least one third of those who took advantage of the first lesson were ladies who drive their own cars.

Extreme Cold in New England.

All New England and New York state have been in the grip of the coldest weather of the winter. The frigid wave was most severe in northern New York state, where the low record of 42 degrees below zero was registered. Along the New England northern coast harbors and channels were frozen preventing the movement of shipping and supplies of foodstuffs. The inhabitants of several islands were reported to be isolated. The lowest temperature recorded in northern New England was at Greenville, Me., where it was 28 below zero.