



TOBACCO MARKET STARTED IN 1898

Two Tobacco Warehouses, Banner and Riverside, Erected That Year

The history of tobacco in Johnston county dates back as far as 1895. Prior to that time a comparatively small amount was raised in this section. An editorial in The HERALD of September 15, 1895, which is republished elsewhere in this issue calls the attention of the people to the fact that the soil of Johnston county is well suited to tobacco culture.

Evidently the farmers took the suggestion and began raising tobacco in larger quantities, for in May 1896, a market in Smithfield was being agitated. For the issue of May 14, some one wrote a letter to The HERALD along this line. Because it tells how much tobacco was planted in the county that year, and other interesting facts we reproduce it as follows.

"Mr. Editor: After some little investigation we find that there will be almost 500 acres of tobacco planted in Johnston county this year.

By actual count we find over 100 acres in Smithfield township. We are informed that one acre, average crop, will yield 750 pounds. According to these figures Johnston county will produce this year about 375,000 pounds of tobacco which will bring at five cents a pound the neat little sum of \$18,750.

Now Mr. Editor, at least one half of the crop would be sold here at our county seat if we had a warehouse. What would be the effect of turning loose \$9,375 here in our little town during August and September. I refer you to our merchants for an answer. If we only build a warehouse and give our farmers a home market we predict that in 1897 our county will produce more than 1,000,000 pounds of the weed, bringing to our county at present prices, the sum of \$50,000.

Why cannot Smithfield be built up as Wilson, Oxford and Durham have been? Johnston county soil is as well adapted to the cultivation of tobacco as the lands of Wilson, Granville, or Durham.

Our greatest need now is a home market and there is no better place to open a market than our county site, and no more opportune time than just now.

We ask the citizens of Smithfield to consider the matter from a business standpoint; grasp the opportunity to build up our town by making it a great and thrifty tobacco market. Get together, build up a warehouse, offer a home market to our tobacco farmers and the hum of industry will be heard and the push of business felt in every occupation, business, trade and profession in our home-like little city.

Who will be the first to move off along this line.

"Very respectfully,
"WAREHOUSE."

On the night of Nov. 8, 1897, a meeting of the young men of the town was held in The HERALD office for the purpose of forming a company to erect a tobacco warehouse in Smithfield. The following officers were elected: Chairman, R. O. Cotter; Secretary, S. S. Holt; Treasurer, A. K. Smith. Messrs A. K. Smith, S. S. Holt and J. H. Woodall were appointed to solicit subscriptions, secure a lot, and let the bid for the house.

That the venture proved successful is shown by the following paragraph from the January 20, 1898 issue of the paper:

"The stockholders of the Smithfield Tobacco Warehouse Company met in The HERALD office Monday night and awarded the contract for the erection of the house to Messrs W. Rand and Bro. Work on the building will be immediately begun."

The warehouse was leased first to C. A. W. Barham & Co. Messrs Phipper, of Winston and Thomas R. Kirby, of Kenly, were associated with Mr. Barham. This warehouse was known as "The Banner."

About this same time Mr. W. M. Sanders announced that he intended to erect, which he did, a tobacco sales warehouse 80 x 150 feet with a prize house in connection 40 x 90—four stories high. Mr. Sanders located his houses on Market and First street near the river and the warehouse was known as the Riverside.

TOBACCO OUTLOOK HERE IS PROMISING

Increased Facilities for Handling Crop Here; Large Number of Buyers

By JOHN R. MORRIS

No town in Eastern North Carolina has done more to build up a greater tobacco market than has Smithfield. The farmers and business men of Johnston county have combined their money and energy for the purpose of building up the very best market in this section of the state. The facilities here for handling the crop this year have been improved and the greater number of buyers that are slated to come to this point is very optimistic. They all realize that to stay on the market this season they will have to buy tobacco and pay the very best price for it.

Last year some of our farmers carried their tobacco to other markets for better prices but this year this difficulty has been overcome due to the fact that tobacco experts tell us that we have got the very best crop of tobacco raised in this part of the state in many years. The large concerns want this type of tobacco this year and they are going to send the buyers to this place to buy it.

There are three large warehouses in this city with enough floor space to take care of all that will be brought here. These houses are all headed by expert tobacco men who have worked harder this season for the success of the market than in seasons gone by. They say this is going to be the banner year for them when it comes to satisfying the farmer.

There are two large redrying plants located here which will be of great help to hold prices up during the entire season. The T. S. Ragsdale Tobacco Company and the F. R. Edmondson Tobacco Company both have large plants here and it stands to reason that these two companies can pay more for the weed than any other concerns because they do not have to pay freight on their purchase to other places.

The Imperial Tobacco Company will have their buyer here on the opening sale with orders to buy his share of the sale as this is their type of tobacco this year and they are going to buy it here because it was raised here.

The Export and all other representative companies will have their men present at the opening and there will be keen bidding when they come on sale and see what Johnston County farmers have to offer.

The season opens Tuesday, September 6th, and all indications point in the direction of Smithfield's most successful season. Every consideration will be shown the farmers this year and even if they do not have any tobacco ready for the opening the warehousemen and the business men of Smithfield invite them to come to town on that day and see how it sells before carrying it to some other point.

This should be "the raise it here and sell it here" year and all the business men of this community are co-operating with the farmers to make the county seat the best tobacco market in the state.

The merchants of the city are making special sales during the week of the opening and all the various rest rooms are being put in shape for the farmer's wives who accompany them to town. Here they can leave their bundles and children while they shop during the sale hour.

The Chamber of Commerce will have a man following the sales daily who will make a complete study of prices on this market as compared with other places. The farmers are urged to call on the organization at any time in regard to the selling of their farm products. This organization will see that the farmers get every consideration from the Smithfield Tobacco Market.

In this issue is carried a complete reproduction of the various facilities for handling the crop this year.

Later another warehouse was erected which is now known as the Farmers Warehouse and still later the Center Brick was put up. In the meantime the Riverside warehouse was discontinued, the handsome new quarters of the Sanders Motor Co., being now located on that site.

GOVERNOR ORDERS SOLDIERS CONCORD

Strike at Mills Reason For Disorder; 1000 Said to Be on Picket Duty

Asheville, Aug. 14.—Governor Cameron Morrison tonight ordered State troops to take charge of the textile strike situation at Concord. Adjutant General John Van Metts has been requested to take charge and will probably arrive in Concord in time for any emergency that may arise Monday morning.

Major R. R. Faison, of Greensboro, was also requested to proceed at once to the scene of the strike. Concord troops have been ordered mobilized and Charlotte troops in arms ready for immediate call. Gen. Metts who was at Camp Glenn, was instructed to use a special train if necessary in order to arrive in Concord this morning.

The Governor stated tonight that he had given the matter careful consideration and had spent practically the entire day at the telephone in an effort to get exact information on the situation. The climax to the situation was reached this afternoon, it is understood, when the following request was received from J. W. Womble, mayor of Concord:

"To his Excellency, Cameron Morrison Governor of North Carolina: "As mayor of the city of Concord, I hereby request that troops be sent to Concord to preserve law and order and so protect life and property. My reason for making this request is that I have exhausted my authority in my efforts to secure a sufficient number of policemen to handle the situation.

"Up to date the sheriff of Cabarrus county has not subpoenaed any deputies to assist the city policemen in preserving order. The situation is growing worse, and I feel that rioting will result Monday morning and that human life will be sacrificed unless an adequate force can be provided. Under existing conditions life and property, in my opinion, cannot be protected without the presence of troops."

It was stated last night that Sheriff C. L. Spears, was slightly optimistic over the situation early today, but later he practically "threw up his hands" when he telegraphed the following message to Governor Morrison: "Have made some investigation since conversing with you. The police of the city cannot handle the situation. As this is the case, I cannot handle it. If trouble, should start, take the matter in hand."

Chief of Police C. A. Robinson, of Concord, today wired the Governor as follows: "The city police force cannot preserve order and enforce the law. Send troops at once before it is too late to preserve life."

The chief executive yesterday was in telephone communication with a number of citizens of Cabarrus county and he was strongly urged of the need for the presence of troops at once. A number of prominent citizens were among the number, it was stated. The Governor held conference yesterday with several parties from Concord, Mayor Womble and City Attorney J. L. Caldwell were in Asheville yesterday, but returned to their home last night.

James F. Barrett, president of the North Carolina Federation of Labor left this afternoon for Concord to

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ILLITERACY IN N. C. ON THE DECREASE

More Illiteracy in Rural Districts Than in Cities; 474 Foreigners

Washington, D. C., Aug. 15.—According to the census of 1920 there are 241,445 illiterate persons 10 years of age and over in the state of North Carolina, "illiterate meaning unable to write. Of this number 104,673 are native whites of native parentage, 171 are of foreign or mixed parentage, and 474 are of foreign birth. The number of illiterate Negroes is 133,516. In the total population ten years of age and over the percentage of illiteracy is 13.1, which, it is gratifying to note, shows a diminution since 1910, when it was 18.5. In the case of the Negroes the percentage declined from 31.9 to 24.5 and in the case of the native white of native parentage from 12.3 to 8.2.

There is more illiteracy in the rural districts of the state than in the cities, the percentage being 14.1 for the rural population and 9.3 for the urban. For the native white population of native parentage the urban percentage of illiteracy is 4.0, while the rural is 9.2. In the case of the Negro population the percentage is 20.3 in the urban population as against 25.7 in the rural.

By counties the percentage of illiteracy ranges from 22.4 in Edgecombe County to 6.4 in Buncombe County.

Criminal Court This Week

The one week session of the August criminal court began here yesterday morning. Judge E. H. Cranmer of Southport, N. C., is presiding. His charge to the grand jury was inspiring to all who want to see our laws enforced. After his charge the court proceeded with the usual business. Only a few cases have been disposed of so far. We expect to give a full account of the proceedings in our Friday's issue. Below we give the names of the grand jury.

J. W. Stephenson, foreman; C. H. Woodall, R. C. Youngblood, Wm. H. Woodard, G. R. Whitley, Lee Hocutt, Robt. A. Sanders, R. K. Britt, Lee E. Sanders, H. T. Smith, W. L. Creech, D. H. Sanders, S. W. Creech, W. M. Woodall, Harlie Peterson, Junius Peterson, J. Loyd Stephenson, N. B. Hinton.

Meeting at Johnson Union

One of the best meetings held in Johnston county this year has just been held at Johnson Union Freewill Baptist church about four miles from Smithfield. It began Friday night before the first Sunday in August and closed last night. It was conducted by the pastor, Rev. H. R. Faircloth. The baptizing will be today at the Swift Creek bridge about a mile south of the B. R. Jones farm. Thirty have joined the church, twenty-six of whom will be baptized. The community has been greatly benefited by the meeting. Perhaps others have joined since the above report was given us Monday.

Miss Minnie Lee Garrison, County Home Demonstration Agent, has returned to the city after attending a summer course at Greensboro College for Women and a visit to her home in South Carolina.

PROHIBITION DIRECTOR ASKS FOR HELP

Calls on Preachers to Aid in Enforcing Law; Report Violations of Law

"This bureau will honestly attempt to enforce law without fear or favor, the best available will be appointed as enforcement agents," declares Federal Prohibition Director R. A. Kohloss in an appeal to the ministers of North Carolina through letters that have been addressed to preachers individually in which he asks for reports of specific violations of the prohibition law.

Mr. Kohloss refers to criticisms made of him before his appointment and adds that "concerning these harsh criticisms there is not the slightest resentment but a determination to shame such critics who are open to conviction."

Mr. Kohloss is not asking the preachers for exhortation on the evils of making whiskey and peddling moon shine but is requesting ministers to give specific instances of violations of the prohibition laws.

"Your information will be sacred and confidential unless you should yourself desire to become a witness," Mr. Kohloss tells the ministers.

He indicates his expectation of carrying the fight still closer home to the church people of the State by asking for the names of Sunday school superintendents and teachers, evidently with a view to addressing similar appeals to them.

Mr. Kohloss's letter to the preachers follows:

"Reverend Sir: "This letter is to ask your concurrence, your assistance, your co-operation.

"You are aware of the fact that the writer has had placed upon his shoulders the responsibility of enforcing prohibition, the fundamental law of our land written by the vote of our people into our Constitution; fortunately this responsibility can be lessened by conscientious helpers within the bureau; and more fortunately this responsibility can become a pleasant duty by and with the aid of all law abiding citizens.

"The writer is aware of the fact that he was very harshly criticised before his appointment, some being so unjust as to accuse a teetotaler of being a drunkard and, of a member of the Episcopal Church of being an agnostic; concerning these harsh criticisms there is not the slightest resentment but a determination to shame such critics who are open to conviction.

"This bureau will honestly attempt to enforce the law without fear or favor; the best available will be appointed as enforcement agents; applicants have been requested to obtain endorsements from their pastors who are in the best position to know of their standing.

"But you fully realize that some three dozen men appointed by the government cannot cover all the dark places over our large State and that we must appeal to those who have the moral uplift of our people nearest their hearts.

"Where shall we look except to you and to those within your fold and under your care for that class of aid and information which will enable us to enforce the law and bring malefactors to justice and to a realization

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ROAD BUILDING PLANS ATTRACT

Upham, New State Highway Engineer, Highly Successful Road Builder

New York City, Aug. 12.—The action of North Carolina in providing for a 50 million dollar bond issue for highway work, like that of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Missouri, has placed the state far to the front in the matter of highway construction. The North Carolina Highway Commission has ordered the immediate construction of both gravel and hard-surfaced roads at a total estimated cost of \$7,000,000, every district and practically every county in the state being represented in the list of projects approved. Fifteen million dollars worth of the bonds are to be sold immediately and the commission has already approved for future construction, more than 1,000 miles of road to cost in the neighborhood of \$18,000,000.

The action of North Carolina is attracting a great deal of attention throughout the United States. The improvement of her highways, too long neglected, means much for the development of the state. Good roads will bring into the state many additional thousands of tourists from all parts of the east and the middle west and will encourage many new business enterprises as well as increase the value of farm land and city real estate. The schools will be improved and the churches strengthened, rural life will be more pleasant, agricultural and industrial production will be more fully developed and the cities and rural communities will be brought into closer touch. The completion of the new roads will mark a great epoch in the history of the state.

In Charles M. Upham, its new state highway engineer, North Carolina secures a man to supervise this vast program, who has constructed many miles of every modern type of pavement, from the highest grades of the city asphalt types to portland cement concrete and bituminous macadam. Mr. Upham has practically completed the Delaware state highway system and is one of the most widely known and highly successful road-builders in the country. The wide variation in topographical and traffic conditions in North Carolina will afford him a broad opportunity for the exercise of his engineering abilities. The most up-to-date types of pavement will be constructed as occasion requires. Although a type of pavement such as is used on Fifth Avenue, New York City, and other thoroughfares where traffic is exceedingly heavy, may seem a luxury in the mountains of North Carolina, it is nevertheless necessary that many miles of the so-called "pavement deluxe" be laid on the route of the Central highway and at a cost well within the means of the people of the state.

The appropriation by North Carolina of \$50,000,000 for modern highways, now makes available throughout the United States more than \$1,360,000,000 for good roads and streets. This sum, large as it is, represents an increase over the highway revenues of 1914 of only about 150 per cent, while highway traffic has increased 450 per cent. There are now 2,500,000 miles of highways in the United States, of which only an approximate 100,000 miles are improved with modern hard surfaced pavements.

When compared to sums expended for luxuries by the pleasure-loving public the American highway budget does not look so impressive. The people of this country spend one billion dollars a year for candy, \$3,500,000,000 for automobiles, one billion for automobile tires, \$1,275,000,000 for gasoline, \$1,500,000,000 for carpets and rugs, \$1,950,000,000 for cigars, cigarettes, tobacco and snuff, and \$1,650,000,000 for jewelry, perfumery, and cosmetics. On the other hand the sums spent for roads and streets are seven times greater than those expended for water supply improvements, three times those for sewerage work and fifteen times those for bridges. In connection with the road-building program public officials are casting about to find the types of pavement best suited to their purpose and

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THIS IS AN INTERIOR VIEW OF A SMITHFIELD TOBACCO WAREHOUSE.