

The Smithfield Herald

VOLUME 41

SMITHFIELD, N. C. TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1922

NUMBER 1

WALLACE PREDICTS BETTER TIMES AHEAD

Secretary of Agriculture Is Hopeful for Future of American Farmer

Washington, Jan. 1.—The farmer can enter the new year "in a spirit of hopefulness and good cheer," Secretary of Agriculture Wallace stated today in a New Year's message to farmers.

"I see nothing which indicates a gloomy future for the farmers in the near future," he continued, "but there does seem to be promise of better times both for the farmer and for those whose business is largely dependent upon him."

While unwilling to make "any hard and fast prophecies," the Secretary said that there are signs which indicate that the coming year should be a better one for the farmer and for those who deal with him than was 1921.

Among the hopeful signs enumerated by the Secretary were the improvement in conditions through regular channels and by special agencies created to meet the farmers' needs, bringing a lowering of interest rates; reductions already made in freight rates on farm products; reduction in the cost of producing farm crops; and a probable increase in the price of grain following what seems likely to be a decrease in acreage planted to such crops.

The depressing effect of the sudden drop in prices last year is wearing off," the Secretary declared, "and farmers will enter the new year more hopefully, believing that the worst is over."

While unwilling to see more clearly the outlook of better times, the Secretary said that through regular channels and that through special agencies created to meet the farmers' needs, bringing a lowering of interest rates; reductions already made in freight rates on farm products; reduction in the cost of producing farm crops; and a probable increase in the price of grain following what seems likely to be a decrease in acreage planted to such crops.

SANFORD WOMAN IS ROBBED

Placed Currency Inside Stocking After Counting It In House.

Sanford, Jan. 1.—Mrs. Joe M. Thomas, age 47, living about a mile east of Sanford, was knocked unconscious and robbed of \$1200 last night about 7:30. Her husband while coming to town with news of the crime and to secure medical aid a few minutes after the robbery was fired upon, presumably by the robber, the bullet passing close to his head.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were expecting to begin work on their new home in Sanford Monday morning and they had been going over the plans estimating the cost, while the wife had spread the money out on the table and counted it, afterwards placing it in the stocking and putting it inside her stocking along it to her leg. She then went out to the chicken house, as was her custom each night before retiring, to see if the chickens were safe.

She had visited one house and had started for another a short distance away, when someone whom she did not see struck her in the breast, knocking her down. She screamed and knew nothing more until she came to herself in the house. She did not know if the robber was black or white, and did not know if he struck her with a stick, but was of opinion that he used a fist.

Mr. Thomas was sitting in the house reading when he heard his wife scream, and rushed to her aid. He found her on the ground, trying to scream but unable to make a noise and he picked her up and carried her inside the house. Her stocking was torn and the money gone.

Dr. Scott was summoned and found that Mrs. Thomas was not seriously injured but exceedingly nervous from the fright of her trying experience.

Sheriff Landon Rosser was on the job within a few minutes. Blood hounds from Raeford arrived about 12 o'clock. But so far the robber has not been apprehended.—News and Observer.

SIMPLIFY FORMS TO MAKE RETURNS ON INCOME TAXES

Thirty-Five Freight Cars Will Be Needed To Send Out New Forms. Twenty Million Printed.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Drafting of the new 1921 income tax return form for incomes of \$5,000 or less has been completed by the tax simplification board, of which J. H. Beal, of Pittsburgh, is chairman, it was said tonight at the treasury.

The new forms, which are regarded as much more simple and less confusing than those in use last year, have gone to the printers and probably will be ready for distribution about January 15. From fifteen to 20 million copies of the new forms are being printed and it is estimated that 35 freight cars will be required to send them to internal revenue collectors throughout the country.

Efforts to simplify form 1040—which is the form used by the average tax payer has resulted in reducing the number of pages from six to four and in eliminating the block system of return utilized in 1920, which was said to be confusing to the great majority of tax payers who had income from one or two sources. The internal revenue bureau estimates 70 per cent of the persons using the \$5,000 form have income from only salaries and wages and possibly interest and have few deductions to make from that income.

The new form will require tax payers to list on the first page the amounts of income received from a number of sources and then from the total of these amounts to deduct the amounts to which they are legally entitled, the balance being the taxable net income.

The second page will require certain information from persons receiving income from specified sources, such as a business carried on by the tax payer and the third and fourth pages are devoted to instruction.

By reducing the form to four pages the board has eliminated the duplicate, or "work-sheet" of the 1920 form but, it was explained if tax payers wish to keep as copy of their returns sufficient forms will be available for duplicates to be obtained.

Leprosy in New York.

New York, Dec. 30.—Eighty or 90 cases of leprosy are known to exist in New York City, Dr. Royal S. Copeland, city health commissioner, declared today when he produced a few of what he called "practically non-contagious lepers" at a meeting of physicians in the Health Department building.

"Leprosy is much more prevalent than is popularly known," he said. "Unfortunately, leprosy, as most of us know it, is confounded with the Bible. Modern leprosy can only be acquired by taking into your blood the blood of a leper. So long as there are no open sores, lepers are not to be feared."

Thirteen cases are kept isolated at North Brother Island, he said, while unconfirmed lepers are listed and visited often enough by inspectors "so we know society is amply protected." Today's meeting was brought about to acquaint members of the Health Department medical staff and other physicians with the signs and symptoms of leprosy.—Philadelphia Record.

Germany and United States Resume Diplomatic Relations.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States were resumed officially late today when Karl Lang, charge d'affaires for Berlin government, presented his letters of credence and was received by Secretary Hughes.

Biddle University Suffers Loss.

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 31.—A loss of \$100,000 was entailed in the destruction by fire today of the Industrial Building of Biddle University, maintained by the Northern Presbyterian church.

In the building were valuable materials and records loss of which are counted irreparable.

HOPE FOR FARMERS IS SEEN BY BAILEY

Warehouses and Credit Are Needed to Bring Prosperity to the Farmer

Washington, Jan. 1.—"The farmers, interest are coming to the front in North Carolina and in the nation," said J. W. Bailey, of Raleigh, former Collector of Internal Revenue for North Carolina, who left today for his home after a short visit here. Asked as to the reasons for this conclusion Mr. Bailey, who is a close student of men and affairs, said things of much interest, along this line, referring to other matters of pertinent interest in the State and the nation at this time.

Continuing along the line of his statement that farmers' interests are to have a premier place Mr. Bailey said: "Our political questions are destined to be of an agricultural character for some time to come. When some month ago I sounded the alarm as to the condition of farming, I was denounced as a pessimist. I observe now that the President of the United States has also sounded an alarm on the same subject, and has called a National Conference to devise ways and means of agricultural relief. This past week the Progressive Farmer of Raleigh announced a Farmer's Platform of considerable significance. Manifestly the farmers are going to have a stronger and more definite hand in public matters from now on. The Cooperative Marketing movement is a powerful evidence of this determination to get on a little better footing."

"Its success," continued Mr. Bailey, "will depend on positive measures of warehouses and credit. This is the next step. It will require a little more to get 200,000 bales of tobacco or 400,000 bales of cotton 'signed up,' unless warehouses for storage and money for advances are available. The present danger is that our farmers will be persuaded that cooperative marketing will assure them good prices and will, therefore, plant big crops. If so, and we have favorable seasons, a big yield of cotton and tobacco will inevitably bring the prices down, and next winter we will be worse off than ever. The foundation of the marketing proposition is a supply less than the demand. Cooperative marketing cannot cure the evil of over production of money crops."

"Very probably our farmers would realize more money from an 8,000,000 bale crop of cotton than from a 12 million bale crop. Cooperative marketing with warehouses and credits will help when we have a reasonably short supply; but over-production will destroy the movement. The only way out is more food crops and less money crops, with a co-operative marketing system supported by adequate warehouses and ready credits. This is the policy to pursue.

"The farmers were aroused from their indifference by the revaluation act," said Mr. Bailey. "They will not go to sleep again—this side of a general 'look in' into our politics. You will see more farmers in the next General Assembly than you have in 20 years.

"President Harding evidently knows that his party will lose out in the West unless it shows its capacity to relieve the agricultural depression. This, and not the Wilson League of Nations, or the Harding League of Four Nations, is the first test of his Administration. Just so the farmers in North Carolina are looking to the Democratic party in North Carolina to do all that can be done to enable them to farm on a paying basis.

"It is true," he went on to say, "that conditions in central North Carolina are better than in most any other part of the United States—or of the world. This, however, does not mean that the people are prosperous in central North Carolina—they are only relatively better off than others, due to reasonably fair prices for cotton and tobacco, and comparatively larger crops. Our cotton crop of some 800,000 bales, was nearly normal. This relative prosperity starts us out in the New Year more favorably than a year ago could have been hoped.

ORGANIZED A NEW BANK IN SMITHFIELD

Mr. R. C. Gillett Is Elected President; R. L. Fitzgerald Vice-President

When the First National Bank and The Citizens National Bank consolidated not long ago it was predicted by many that there would soon be another bank to organize and open up here. This is being done. A canvass has been made and stock has been taken for the new bank. Last Friday an organization was effected. Mr. R. C. Gillett was elected president and Mr. R. L. Fitzgerald as vice-president. The directors are: A. M. Johnson, J. E. Woodall, John W. Blackman, James D. Parker and W. H. Flowers.

A directors meeting will be held some time soon to elect a cashier and attend to other business. The bank has an authorized capital of fifty thousand dollars. Mr. R. L. Fitzgerald, who is vice-president of this bank has had considerable experience in banking. The name of this new enterprise is The Farmers Bank and Trust Company.

India Is Proclaimed Republic.

Washington, Jan. 1.—India has been proclaimed a republic and the non-violence policy of Mahatma Ghandi, who was given dictatorial powers last week by the all-India national congress has been modified to permit violence for "defense," according to a cablegram received today by the American commission to promote self government in India. As a further measure of obstruction against British government, the message said, the existing boycott has been extended to individuals.

The message to the American commission, as given out tonight was as follows:

"Republic declared. American message decided. Armed defense sanctioned. Boycott extended to individuals. Women and children safe."

The "American message" referred to was said to be that signed by Senators Norris, of Nebraska, and Walsh, of Massachusetts, and a number of other prominent publicists and jurists, pledging American support to the Indian "campaign for independence."

Industry, Economy and Thrift.

It's quite reasonable to suppose that we can become prosperous if we will work more and spend less. If we spend less of what we make we will have more than we have been having lately. Industry, economy and thrift are the true elements in prosperity for every individual. —Wilmington Star.

Property Transferred

Mr. E. F. Boyette has sold his residence to Mr. John A. Johnson who expects to move there this week. Mr. Boyette will move to a place about a mile and a half north of Smithfield which was formerly owned and occupied by Mr. George Moore.

"The world-wide depression is not over. In November, 1920, they told us to wait for 1921. In January, 1921 they told us things would be better in the spring; in the spring they told us the turn of the tide would come in August. In August they told us to wait for the New Year. Now they tell us that 1923 will see the return of prosperity. There was a great liquidation in 1921. We are much better off for that. We have gotten used to the depression in 1921. We are much better off for that. We should set out hopefully in 1922. The time to take losses, pay debts, and start afresh under known conditions is at hand. The first to do this will be the first to profit by it. We will not get out of our condition until we quit all our extravagances, personal and public. These are the real remedies. Those who are spending are making it all the harder for those who would save. And high taxes are discouraging many from saving. The argument is, if you don't spend it yourself the government will spend it for you."—Edward E. Britton, in News and Observer.

ISSUES STATEMENT ON FILING OF INCOME TAX

Taxpayers Advised to Lose No Time In Making Out Their Returns; March 15, 1922 Last Day.

Internal Revenue Collector Gillam Grissom, through District Deputy Fred T. Tucker, of this district, has issued the following statement on the filing of income tax returns:

"With the approach of the period for filing income tax returns—January 1 to March 15, 1922,—taxpayers are advised to lose no time in the compilation of their accounts for the year 1921. A new and important provision of the revenue act of 1921 is that every person whose gross income for 1921 was \$5,000 or over, shall file a return, regardless of the amount of net income upon which the tax is assessed. Returns are required of every single person whose net income was \$1,000 or over and every married person living with husband or wife whose net income was \$2,000 or over. Widows and widowers and persons separated or divorced from husband or wife, are regarded as single persons.

"Net income is gross income, less certain deductions for business expenses, losses, taxes, etc. Gross income includes practically all income received by the taxpayer during the year; in case of the wage-earner, salaries, wages, bonuses and commissions; in the case of professional men, all amounts received for professional services; in the case of farmers, all profits from the sale of farm products and rental or sale of land.

"In the making of an income tax return for the year 1921, every taxpayer should present himself the following questions:

"What were your profits from your business trade, profession or vocation?"

"Did you receive any interest on bank deposits?"

"Have you any property from which you receive rent?"

"Did you receive any income in the form of dividend or interest from stocks or bonds?"

"Did you receive any bonuses during the year?"

"Did you make any profit on the sale of stocks, bonds, or other property, real and personal?"

"Did you act as a broker in any transaction from which you received commissions?"

"Are you interested in any partnership or other firm from which you receive any income?"

"Have you any income from royalties or patents?"

"Have you any minor children who are working?"

"Do you appropriate, or have the right to appropriate the earnings of such children? If so, the amount must be included in the return of income."

"Has your wife any income from any source whatsoever? If so, it must be included in your return or reported in a separate return of income."

"Did you receive any directors' fees or trustees' fees in the course of the year?"

"Did you hold any office in a benefit society from which you receive income?"

"Answers to all of these questions are necessary to determine whether a person has an income sufficiently large to require that a return be filed, and may be the means of avoiding the heavy penalties imposed for failure to do so within the time prescribed."—Wilmington Star.

Work of County Commissioners

The County Commissioners met in regular monthly session yesterday. Most of their work was to order the payment of a few small bills. They had a light day's work. The following was passed:

Ordered that he auditor be instructed to reduce the school tax in school district number 3 in Cleveland township to 12 1-2 cents on the hundred dollars worth of property and thirty-seven and one-half cents on the poll and to change the sheriffs receipts to conform with this order.

Quit Spitting on Sidewalks.

Do you spit on the sidewalk? Some hundreds of you do; and it is a filthy habit. There is a law against it, too; a town law as well as the law of decency. If you are bound to spit, spit in the gutter. Women must walk on the sidewalks. Keep the sidewalks clean.—Dunn Dispatch.

HENDERSON SUFFERS GREAT LOSS BY FIRE

Three Story Prize House Is Destroyed; Number Of Buildings Damaged

Henderson, Jan. 1.—The first day of the New Year in Henderson was marked by two disastrous fires, which caused damage in the neighborhood of \$150,000. Fire early this morning destroyed a garage, a store, and two dwellings in the North Henderson section, and tonight a blaze that for a time threatened the entire city, burned the three-story prize house of the J. P. Taylor Tobacco Company, a half million pounds of leaf tobacco, four residences and did damage to the Presbyterian church, the Vance county court house and several other residential structures. One fireman is in a local hospital unconscious as the result of a fall from a ladder.

Battling against a mass of flames fanned by a stiff wind which showed fiery myriads of sparks over a wide territory and started several other fires, the firemen put up the most heroic exhibition of fire fighting seen here in many months, and confined the damage to the big prize house and immediate vicinity. The wind was sweeping the flames directly toward the heart of the business district, and for a time it looked as if this section of the city was doomed. The brick high school building in the path of the fire helped the firemen and citizens in controlling the blaze.

How the blaze started has not been definitely determined, but the opinion prevails that a carelessly handled match or cigarette by some irresponsible party or parties in the prize house without authority originated it.

About 6:00 o'clock the blaze was discovered in the end of the three-story wooden structure facing the brick high school building. At the time the wind was blowing briskly directly toward the high school. Soon the wooden building, containing 500,000 pounds of leaf tobacco, property of the J. P. Taylor Leaf Tobacco Company, was enveloped in flames, made furious by the driving wind, which rained sparks over several blocks of business and residential structures.

The firemen, realizing the futility of trying to save the prize house and tobacco and the danger to other structures from the wind, confined their efforts chiefly to confining the blaze to as small an area as possible. The brick high school in the path of the blaze acted as an obstruction and was probably the biggest factor in enabling the firemen to get the serious situation under control. The prize house was soon burned, together with the large quantity of tobacco, entailing a loss of \$100,000.

All windows of the high school building facing the prize house were broken by the heat and the interior of several rooms were scorched and damaged by water. Four cottages, the property of J. W. Beck, just across the street from the prizery, were burned to the ground and several other residential structures also caught fire, but the flames were extinguished before any extensive damage had resulted.

In the meantime the great shower of sparks was keeping citizens and firemen busy extinguishing roof fires. The residence of Dr. R. F. Harris, the Presbyterian church, the Vance county court house and one or two more structures were ignited by sparks, but the fires were conquered before they had made any headway. The residence of R. J. Sutherland, register of deeds, also caught fire from sparks, and for a time was in danger of destruction, damage amounting to about \$500.

The damage to the high school building is estimated at two or three thousand dollars and the opening of the school, scheduled for Wednesday, may be delayed until necessary repairs to the interior and exterior can be made. The total damage from the big blaze, including the prize house and tobacco, was roughly estimated at more than \$125,000.—News and Observer.

It has been discovered that sun flowers, also, make excellent food for cattle. Have they tried milk weed? —Hamlet News-Messenger.