

Tobacco Prices Are Lower Last Month

NOVEMBER SALES AVERAGE IS \$9.10 IN BRIGHT BELT

Average \$5.31 Below That Of Year Ago, Recent Report Shows

Tobacco prices continued downward in the bright belt during the past month, reaching an average of \$9.10 per 100 pounds, or \$5.31 below the November, 1930, price, it was learned from a report released this week by the State Department of Agriculture. The season now fast drawing to a close has been disappointing, disheartening, disgusting to farmers and market operators; so much so, in fact, that there has been little said of the activities of the companies lately. The boosting reports have continued, however, telling the world, "prices stronger, market tone better, and offerings large."

The fifteen markets reporting last month sold 73,143,332 pounds of the leaf, or 16,946,622 pounds less than was sold in the same period last year. The season's sales in this belt are 39,227,257 pounds less than they were last year up to December 1. The belt has sold 209,187,285 pounds up to December 1, 1931, as compared with 248,414,542 pounds sold in the same period last year. Last year the average price paid in this belt was \$14.41; this year it is only \$9.10, and it is still lower than that in the old bright belt.

Up to the first of this month, Williamston had sold \$3,935,969 pounds at an average of \$7.03. The season has been very discouraging here this year, as well as in many other towns. Warehousemen have lost money, large sums of it; they have been unfairly criticised by some growers; but there was some encouragement offered by those who stopped to consider and weigh all the facts.

Next Friday the market closes for the holidays, with some doubt as to whether it will reopen or not. This will be definitely announced later.

CHANGE BASIS OF CAR LICENSE FEE

Fees Now Based on Weight Instead of Horsepower, As Heretofore

Plans and policies covering the issuance of 1932 state automobile license plates were outlined last Friday at a meeting of Carolina Motor club branch managers, headquarters and state officials, according to N. C. Green, manager of the Williamston motor club office, who attended a regional meeting at Greenville. He was accompanied by J. G. Corey, of this office.

Manager Green said that in view of the fact that next year's license fees will be based on weight rather than horsepower special efforts have been made by motor club and state officials to take every precaution that will add to servicing vehicle owners.

Vehicle owners are urged to cooperate by buying plates early and to encourage this the department has ruled that 1932 tags may be placed in use any time after today. The local motor club manager made an especial plea that vehicle owners preserve the white registration card mailed from Raleigh. The state law requires that any vehicle operated on the highways after January 1 must carry 1932 license plates.

Automobile license plates will not have classification letters, but plates for pneumatic tire trucks will carry the letter "T" and tags for solid-tire trucks will carry "TS." Fee for automobiles is 55 cents per hundred pounds with a minimum fee of \$12.50. Truck plate fees are computed according to chassis weight, plus rated carrying capacity, plus overload, at the rate specified for gross weight.

Duck Season Ends With Few Having Any Luck

The duck season closing today, was a complete flop according to stories told by local hunters who ventured down to the sounds and coast to shoot the birds. Some of the hunters averaged no more than two ducks a day. Mr. V. J. Spivey killed five in two days, while Messrs. Lawrence Lindsley and Francis Barnes killed fourteen in four days.

Hunting near the scene where the fishing boat, "Annie Mae" went down last week, Messrs. Lindsley and Barnes stated that the waves would shoot a hundred feet or more into the air when they struck the shoals.

All along the coast this season, duck shooters are said to have experienced poor luck. Many of the birds died on account of dry weather in their breeding places in the north.

8 Shopping Days Before Christmas

Just eight more shopping days before Christmas. It is enough to frighten the late shopper.

Remember the home merchants. They are offering real bargains in all lines of merchandise, including appropriate gifts. And they'll appreciate your patronage.

RADIO PROGRAM IS BIG SUCCESS

Little Members of Local Music Class Have Fine Time in Raleigh

Broadcasting over Station WPTF, in Raleigh last Saturday morning, the members of Mrs. Warren H. Biggs' music class made a big "hit" with the folks back home, and in other places, too, according to reports received here. The program was declared splendid by all who heard it, and reflected careful work and training.

A few of the voices were a bit shaky when the owners announced their pieces, but as a first performance over the air, they did exceptionally well.

Going to the studios some time before they were to present their program, the little music scholars practiced from 9:30 to 10 o'clock, and little Anne Fowden and Millie Biggs handled their part well, learning later that they had completed their broadcast when they thought they were just practicing. Well, that is no funny thing, for the radio is still a mysterious invention to nearly all the rest of us.

An added feature followed the broadcast when little Jimmie Watts stole away from the party and had dinner alone in the big S. and W. Cafeteria. After completing his meal, the little fellow rejoined the party in the Sir Walter Hotel.

HOLD CHRISTMAS SERVICE SUNDAY

White Gift Service At Baptist Church Next Sunday Afternoon, at 5

A White Gift Christmas Service with Christmas Carols and Special Christmas gifts will be featured at the local Baptist church next Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock, to which the whole community is invited.

Following a custom of three or four years the local church has, on the Sunday afternoon preceding Christmas Day, a twilight service, at which time, in addition to the special offering in the special Christmas envelopes, an offering is also made for distribution among the needy in the community.

This white gift service is featured by articles of food which can readily be distributed to points of need during the holiday season. And these gifts are made by the several Sunday school classes in the church.

Sunday morning at the 11 o'clock hour the Christmas sermon will be delivered by the pastor. There will be special music by the choir, with Mrs. Warren Biggs at the organ.

W. A. Ellison, Jr., Here Short While Saturday

W. A. Ellison, Jr., who has been with the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Co., of New York, for the past two years, arrived here Saturday en route to Belgium to spend the holidays with his family. His wife and sister were here to meet him, and after greeting friends and relatives in town left by motor for home. His headquarters and laboratory are in New London, Conn., when he is on land. Much of his time is spent in the Northern Atlantic on the trawler, "Kingsfisher." In the December issue of the "Fishing Gazette," the National News Journal of the Commercial Fisheries, published monthly at New York, appears an article entitled, "So You Want to Go Fishing," by him, with pictures taken with his camera while out at sea. It is very interesting and will be followed by other articles from time to time.

Mr. Ellison has this to say of himself and work: "I came new to the fish business via Duke University and Yale. My work is a combination of scientific and technological features of the fish business, and I've lived two years of the last two and three-quarters on the deck of a trawler. What's more, I expect to spend the rest of my life doing the same thing if there is anybody that will keep me at it."

PROCEEDINGS IN MARTIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Large Number Cases Are Disposed of Yesterday And Today

Convening here yesterday morning, the one-week-term of Martin County Superior court cleared a number of cases from the docket, handling no actions of much importance during the day. Several cases were not prossed, the court arranging its docket for a full day's work today.

The case charging Spencer Gurganus with rape was not prossed.

The case charging Fletcher Bryant with seduction was continued.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with driving an automobile while intoxicated, Jeff Ausbon was sentenced to the roads for 60 days, the sentence to start at the expiration of the one he is now serving in Edgecombe County.

George Perkins, young negro and a frequent visitor to the roads, was sentenced to the roads for a term of 18 months for stealing two small chickens from Dr. James S. Rhodes here several months ago. Perkins had a bad reputation and that supported the sentence first meted out in the recorder's court and approved by Judge Devin.

Pleading guilty of an assault, Roy Whitehurst was fined \$50 and taxed with the court costs.

Learning that his lawyer had "designed" on him, Rod Rodgers, charged with trespass and peeping in a window at the Keel home a few weeks ago, pleaded guilty and asked that the 15-month sentence imposed by the county court be imposed. Rodgers' apparently was going to fight the charge but "my lawyer has done gone and designed on me, and if it is all right I'll take the 15 months given me by Judge Bailey," he said. Judge Devin favored him by allowing the sentence to remain unchanged.

Richard Ore was fined \$20, taxed with the costs, in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon. He pleaded guilty to the charge.

Pleading guilty of larceny and receiving, Robert Hassell was sentenced to work at the county home for three months.

Very few jury trials were in order during the first day, the body finding Luther Barnes guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon. He was sentenced to work at the county home for three months.

Jimmie Sills was sentenced to the roads for a period of four months for the theft of a pocketbook containing \$5. He pleaded guilty in the case, explaining that he was drinking at the time and did not know what he was doing.

Tom Rogers pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for four months on a larceny charge.

Carl Mobley was found not guilty in the case charging him with larceny and receiving.

Prayer for judgment was continued upon the payment of the costs in the case charging George Purvis with abandonment.

Capias was issued and the case charging N. S. Godard with seduction was continued.

Just before ending the day's session, the jury returned a verdict of guilty in the case charging David Gurganus with an assault with a deadly weapon. Louis Thomas Dixon was sent to a reformatory school for two years on a house-breaking and larceny charge.

Eugene Price was found not guilty by a jury on a reckless driving charge. James Riddick, charged with manufacturing liquor, was called but he failed to answer.

The case charging Elmer Riddick with seduction, was not prossed.

Charged with stealing a hog, Joe Smallwood, a little negro hardly large enough to run rapidly, was turned over to the juvenile where Judge R. J. Peel will handle his case. Joe's sister, facing a similar charge, was on trial at noon today.

Very few actions were called this morning in open court. Just when the murder cases will be called could not be learned today. The grand jury returned a true bill in the case charging Will Mordecai with the murder of his father at Robersonville some time ago. The jury also returned a true bill this morning against Raymond Hyman in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon. At noon today, the grand jury was working on the Walter Hassell murder case occurring near here just a few weeks ago.

Harvest Day Program At Missionary Society

On Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, there will be given a "Harvest Day Program" by the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist church. This meeting will be held at the church, and the public is invited. All members are especially urged to be present.

NEGRO SLAIN HERE EARLY LAST NIGHT

TOWER ERECTED NEAR HERE FOR MAKING SURVEY

Geodetic Survey Tower Is Erected on Skewarkey Church Grounds

In an effort to establish a true line, taking into consideration the curvature of the earth and other factors, the United States Department of Commerce is making a coastal and geodetic survey from Norfolk to Florida. Certain lines have been followed in the past, but as they were considered inaccurate, government employees are now engaged in making actual observations along the route.

Steel towers, measuring 126 feet, have been erected along the route, and at the present time observations are being made in this county. The first of the towers erected in this county was located on the Wallace property in Jamesville, the geodesists sighting from a tower in Chowan to the one in this county. Another tower was placed at Skewarkey, near here, and a third was erected on the Washington road about 8 miles south of here.

The towers are equipped with a light in the top and an observation platform, where true measurements of the earth curvature is accurately determined. At the bottom is a permanent marker, surrounded by fixed objects, making it possible to determine true courses and distances in the future. This is the first survey made along the South Atlantic Coast from actual observation from one object to another without interruption by trees or other objects.

In addition to determining true meridians and distances, the survey will be of value in determining coastal conditions.

Only a few towers are in use, and as soon as observations are completed at one it is moved to a new location. Five men carry on the work, erecting the tall steel structures in about five hours.

SCHOOLMASTERS CLUB IN MEET

Held at Robersonville Last Thursday Night; H. C. Norman Is Speaker

Meeting in Robersonville last Thursday night the Martin County Schoolmasters' Club discussed plans for celebrating the George Washington bicentennial and a series of basketball games for both boys and girls in the county. No definite plans were announced during the discussions, but it was the opinion of the meeting that individual programs should be rendered for the public on Washington's birthday. A committee, W. C. Brake, chairman; D. N. Hix, secretary; and J. T. Uzzelle, was named and its members will study the basketball series at a meeting to be held January 7. The findings will be reported to the schoolmasters club when it meets in Oak City January 21.

The meeting was a comparatively short one, with Mr. J. C. Norman, of Robersonville, making a brief talk to the body.

Native of Martin County Suffers Stroke in Norfolk

Suffering a stroke of paralysis at the home of her daughter in Portsmouth last Saturday, Mrs. Pattie Hines Haskett continues seriously ill there, it was learned yesterday. Mrs. Haskett was born and reared in Oak City and has many relatives in this county.

Harry Stubbs Kills Large Deer Near Here Monday

Little Harry Stubbs, hunting along the Roanoke early yesterday morning with Mr. T. B. Brandon, shot and killed a large deer, thrilling the boy greatly.

In reporting the superior court docket last week, the name of George Perkins was erroneously printed as George Jenkins. We gladly make the correction, and repeat that it was George Perkins and not George Jenkins that was charged with larceny.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

Buy all the Christmas seals you possibly can buy when the Boy Scouts call on you between now and Christmas. A generous response will be of great value in combating tuberculosis, and the little seals certainly add to the appearance of any package or letter.

The Scouts are handling the sale very willingly, and they will appreciate any consideration given the purchase of the stickers.

Local Bureau Begins Sale Of Licenses This Morning

The sale of 1932 State automobile license plates went on sale in Raleigh and at the 32 Carolina Motor Club bureaus this morning, the bureau in the Williamston Motor Company building here reporting ten sales during the first hour after the opening.

Griffins Township forged ahead again, the first car plate going to James Asa Hardison and the first truck plate to R. Sherrod Corey,

both of that district. Mr. Hardison's plate, bearing the black numerals 229,001, cost him \$12.50 and will be used on a Model T. Mr. Corey's plate cost him \$15 and will be used on a half-ton capacity truck. His number is 42,701.

Of the ten plates sold here early today, five were purchased by Griffins Township automobile and truck owners, two plates going to Bear Grass and one each to Plymouth, Merry Hill, and Dardens.

JOE PEEL, JR., IN JAIL FOR KILLING HUBERT SUTTON

Argument Over Flashlight Between Two Negroes Has Fatal Ending

Hubert Sutton, 20-year-old negro, was shot and killed here early last night by Joe Peel, jr., young negro boy. Sutton's life was snuffed out instantly, an entire load of shot fired from a shot gun entering his forehead.

Arguing over a flashlight, the boys engaged in a fist fight on Main Street. A few minutes later, Peel went to his room in the old Blount Manufacturing Company building, one block off Main Street, and returned with his gun. Hiding the weapon in the back lots, Peel returned to the scene of the first argument, and another quarrel was under way. The two boys entered the back lot, where Peel recovered his gun and started back to his room. As Peel continued on his way to the manufacturing plant, Sutton followed, daring Peel to shoot. When they neared the company's building, Peel turned and fled to an upstairs room, locking himself within. Sutton attempted to gain an entrance through the door, and failing he went outside and climbed a small iron rod to a second story window. As he pushed his head and one arm up, Peel fired. The window fell on Sutton's shoulders and held him there, with most of his body hanging on the outside and his brains trickling to the floor inside.

Officers, learning of the trouble between the two boys, followed them to the Blount Manufacturing Company and found Sutton on the outside. He was told to stay out until they arrested Peel, but he failed to remain as he was told by officers, telling them that if they did not get Peel before he did he was going to kill him, it was stated by Chief of Police Daniel at a coroner's hearing. Unable to stop Sutton, Officer Allbrooks ran inside the building and reached the door where Peel had secreted himself about the time the fatal shot was fired. Peel was arrested and placed in jail.

Arrangements were underway this morning to have the case carried before the grand jury, and trial will likely follow one day this week.

Judge Devin's Charge Deals With Respect for Law, Order In Superior Court Yesterday

SAYS IT'S BETTER TO BEG THAN TO STEAL IF IN NEED

Respect for Law and Order And Education of Youth Society's Big Tasks

"It is better to beg than to steal when in need," Judge W. A. Devin, of Durham, said in his charge to the grand jury at the opening of the one-week term of Martin County Superior Court here yesterday morning. The charge, heard by a large audience, was centered around respect for law and order, the judge declaring that that and the education of youth were the most important tasks of society.

While the jurist instructed the jury at length in the performance of its duties, he also mentioned several laws that are of prime importance in the suppression of crime. The enforcement of these laws is the business of the citizen and particularly that of the jury and courts, for when enforcement breaks down we are not safe.

Referring to the prohibition laws, Judge Devin stated that it was not to prohibit but it was to help the public policy. While the man who merely takes a drink and stops there is doing no great wrong, he should be willing to surrender his practice to help those who are unable to control themselves against the evil, he declared. Every community has its examples, the judge said, in citing the evil effect liquor had on one of his friends years ago. The trend of the times is away from liquor, the judge asserting that bans would be necessary for its suppression.

The large number of deaths resulting from automobile wrecks and the enforcement of all highway laws were also mentioned by the judge. When there are two deaths every day in our State, these traffic laws should be strictly enforced, he said.

"I favor dispatch in the courts," the judge said, explaining why he was late in opening the court yesterday morning. But he made it plain that the court would follow regular hours during the remainder of the week. All defendants unexcused who are not in court when their cases are called will be subject to the consequences. Papers will be issued for their arrest, and bonds are subject to be forfeited in such cases, the judge said. And he warned the witnesses and lawyers also against delaying the proceedings.

With a few exceptions, a good-looking audience heard the judge's charge, paying particular attention to what he had to say in connection with the dispatch of the courts. Following the lengthy charge, the members of the grand jury, whose names appear below, repaired to their room down stairs to handle the work before them:

John W. Green, foreman; W. S. Revels, L. G. Bunting, Charlie Keel, W. A. Ausbon, C. C. Fleming, W. T. Tyson, W. L. Manning, P. H. Davenport, John H. Roberson, Robert Mobley, J. R. Knowles, O. S. Green, Willie H. Johnson, later excused; Elmer Edmondson, L. J. Hardison, W. S. Peel, and B. F. Lilley.

Christmas Program At Kiwanis Club Tomorrow

The Christmas program of the local Kiwanis Club will be carried out at the Woman's Club rooms tomorrow at the usual time of meeting.

The theme for the brief talks at this meeting is: How a Good Kiwanian Will Want to Spend His Christmas. It is the purpose that at this meeting the several members will tell the group in one minute talks, their idea of budgeting one's time and money between his and his family's needs, and the needs of the community at large.

This being the Christmas meeting, it is desired that the membership turn out en masse.

HOLIDAYS

While trade activities have and are increasing rapidly for the Christmas season, the "ole holiday spirit" will hardly reach this county before Friday, when the several thousand school children stop school for Christmas. All the schools will close that day to reopen Wednesday, December 30.

So far not one report from a fire-cracker has been heard up town, and Christmas is hardly more than a week away. And while no great noises are expected this Christmas season, the spirit of the season will be more evident when the children push their books aside for the one real vacation of the year.

MORE PEANUTS ARE RECEIVED

Members of Force Are Beginning to Show Signs Of Added Diet

The Enterprise will hardly corner the peanut market, but many more bags of the goobers were brought in over the week-end in exchange for subscriptions to the paper. The goobers are now a part of the regular diet of the force, and one or two of the boys are actually beginning to show signs of fattening.

During the past day or two deliveries were made by sixteen citizens whose names follow:

L. A. Bullock, Williamston, Route 2; Henry D. Peel, Williamston, Route 2; H. L. Meador, Williamston; John R. Coltraine, Williamston, Route 4; L. H. Peel, Williamston, Route 1; J. R. Perry, Palmyra; E. R. Edmondson, Bethel; C. C. Sexton, Jamesville; R. F. D. 1; C. L. Nelson, Hassell; Jesse Martin, Jamesville, Route 1; E. N. Hardison, Jamesville, Route No. 1; W. Joe Taylor, Williamston, Route 1; Naomi Gurganus, Williamston, Route 3; James L. Coltraine, Jamesville, Route 1; Arthur L. Modlin, and Lewis Modlin, Jamesville, Route 1.

Only a few more days and the subscription offer will be withdrawn or altered. Subscribers and non-subscribers are urged to act quickly.

Hardly able to part with a whole bag, some subscribers have formed a partnership, offering one bag of peanuts for two one and one-half year subscriptions. That's all right with the company, but it will be impossible to accept half bags.

Woman's Club To Hold Meet Thursday, at 3:30

The December meeting of the Woman's Club will be held Thursday, December 17th at 3:30 o'clock in the club room. The date was changed on account of the Christmas holidays.

At the November meeting there were hardly enough members present to establish a quorum and important business was carried over. The president hopes that the meeting this week will be well attended.

The chairman of the program committee, Mrs. P. B. Cone, has arranged a very interesting Christmas program, and in addition to that the ninth grade of the local school will present a Christmas pageant. As there will no parent-teacher meeting this week, the members of that organization are invited to attend the club meeting and witness the program.

Club Members Make Profit Of 42 Per Cent

The produce grown by 238 club members in Catawba County this year amounted in value to \$8,885.59, of which \$3,843.44 was profit, says the county farm agent.

BASKETBALL AT OAK CITY

High School Team Defeats Town Team in First Game of Season

Friday, December 11, the Oak City High School basketball quintet made its debut for the season of 1931-32 with a decisive defeat over the Oak City town team by a score of 22 to 9.

The line-up was as follows: High School: Francis Worsley, Donald Hyman, Hackney High, Charles B. Council and William Davenport. Town team: Hilton Rawls, Pete Daniels, J. C. Johnson, Kelly Bunting, Nat Johnson.

The opening score of the game was made in less than a minute after the beginning of the first quarter by Rawls of the Grads, which seemed to be a favorable stimulation to the accurate and active shooting of Worsley, of the opposing team, who scored immediately after the beginning of the next play.

Every player for the high school contributed to the piling up of the final score by a field goal except Davenport, who seemed to be busy at guarding and he even added one to the total by a foul shot.

Both teams played fairly good ball, but the high school team proved superior by accurate and active passing and goal throwing. Worsley, of the high school, by a score of 5 field goals, was the high scorer, while Daniels of the town team led his fellow-players by shooting two field goals.

Captain Pearce Comes Back on Different Craft

Captain Pearce, master of the old barge, "Lynn," which rested on the bottom of Roanoke River here for several weeks last summer, returned last Saturday night, this time as captain on the "Lloyd." Captain Bill Bramble, the old fat gentleman and big talker from Baltimore, and for years captain of the "Lloyd," died some time ago and Captain Pearce took over his old boat. The old "Lynn" is tied up at the Baltimore docks.

Coming out of the North River, the "Lloyd" was stalled on a mud flat, where it and its crew rested for a week. Continuing its journey, the barge ran aground at the mouth of the Roanoke and spent two weeks there, finally reaching here late last Saturday with its cargo of fertilizer materials.