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HOUSE BUSY ON PROPOSED PLAN OF FARM RELIEF

Domestic Allotment Idea Is Both Praised and Derided Before Committee

"What the Equalization Fee was in 1927, the Export Debiture in 1929, Price Stabilization by the Farm Board in 1931, Voluntary Domestic Allotment is to come in 1933—the phrase-of-the-moment on farm relief. Unlike the equalization fee and debenture, it will probably become reality. Whether it will work better than price stabilization is the problem for President-elect Roosevelt to solve.

"Shortly before Christmas Chairman Marvin Jones called his House Committee on Agriculture together to start hearings on the domestic allotment bill. Thirty-seven representatives of the National Grange, the Farm Bureau Federation, the National Farmers' Union, and 33 other farm organizations, after a three-day Washington meeting, united solidly for domestic allotment. President-elect Roosevelt sent Henry Morgenthau, jr., son of the one-time Ambassador to Turkey, to the Capital as his personal agent. If the Jones bill, amended, passes the present Congress, a Hoover veto is viewed as a certainty. Thereupon, domestic allotment will very likely become the first business of a special session of the new Democratic Congress.

"In 1926 the Department of Agriculture's late Dr. William Jasper Spillman first seriously proposed domestic allotment. Professor Milburn L. Wilson, of the Montana State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, is generally regarded as author of the plan in its present form.

As set forth in the "purely tentative" Jones bill, domestic allotment would work approximately as follows:

"Thirty days after enactment, the Secretary of Agriculture would publicly estimate what percentage of the 1933 U. S. production of cotton, wheat, tobacco, and hogs will be absorbed by U. S. consumers. To each producer of these four staples he would give an 'adjustment certificate' stating his share of the output to be thus consumed. For example: If two-thirds of the wheat crop is for domestic consumption and a farmer is raising 600 bushels of wheat, he would get a certificate for 400 bushels.

"The certificates, negotiable, would have fixed values, as follows: Wheat, 42 cents per bushel; cotton, 5 cents a pound; tobacco, 4 cents per pound; and hogs, 2 cents a pound. After harvest, the farmer would sell his full crop in the open market. Thereupon the Treasury would step in and collect as an excise tax 42 cents from millers on every bushel of wheat they bought for flour, 5 cents from spinners on every pound of cotton, 4 cents from cigarette and cigar manufacturers on every pound of tobacco, 2 cents from meat packers on every pound of pork. Thus special treasury funds would be created out of which the Secretary of Agriculture would pay off the adjustment certificates held by the producers. The wheat man, for example, if the market were 50 cents per bushel, would get \$300 for the regular sale of his 600 bushels, and in addition \$168 as a Government subsidy collected from the miller, on his 400 bushels for domestic consumption.

"In 1934, under the Jones bill, the Secretary of Agriculture would estimate the domestic consumption before the farmers planted their new crops, and this time 'adjustment certificates' would be issued only to those farmers who voluntarily contracted with the Government to accept an 'allotment' of production. This allotment might be as much as 20 per cent less than the farmer's last crop. Those who refused to accept 1934 production allotments would not share in the tax distribution. Producers who broke their contracts and overproduced would likewise be deprived of bounty benefits.

"At the House hearings, Frederick Lee, representative for the United Farm Organizations, proposed two major changes in the Jones bill: (1) make the 1934 system, with a mandatory 20 per cent acreage cut, apply to 1933; (2) leave the excise tax rates on the four commodities unspecified so that the Secretary of Agriculture could fix them at whatever level would be necessary to restore pre-war price parity for the producers.

"The first objectors to domestic allotment before the committee were flour millers and cotton manufacturers from whom the special taxes would be first extracted (and who, of course, would pass it along to consumers in higher prices). Fred Lingham, of the Millers' National Federation, warned that flour would become a profitable bootleg commodity "unless there was a policeman at every grinding mill."

"Charles Cannon, North Carolina toweler man, argued the plan would reduce consumption and drive people to the use of untaxed substitutes. He saw ruin for U. S. cotton manufac-

TOBACCO SEED

Preparations for another tobacco crop, and a large one it is feared, have been started by Martin County farmers. A few have already had their seed cleaned and treated, and the first plant beds will be prepared within the next few weeks.

Very little has been said about the blue mold or whatever it is since the crop was transplanted last spring. However, it is generally believed that the disease will be present again and that a damage even greater than that of last season can well be expected. Mr. Jos. L. Holliday said today that he noticed something like the disease in many of his winter plants.

REGULAR MEET COUNTY BOARD IS HELD MONDAY

Insolvent Tax List for 1931 Is \$5,620.72; Reduce Officers Salaries

The county's insolvent tax list reached a high peak for the year 1931 it was learned following a settlement made by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck with the county commissioners in regular session Monday. The list is \$5,620.72, made up mainly of small accounts that the collector and commissioners agreed were next to the impossible to extract from depressed owners of personal property. Several hundred dollars of the amount will probably be collected within the next several months.

Starting the new year Monday, the commissioners had little business before them for the day. No alterations in the county's poor list was made, and only two tax changes were effected. Archie Hodges, of Bear Grass, and J. Monroe Everett, of Robersonville, were relieved of the payment of poll tax on account of physical disability.

Another reduction in county officers' salaries was made, the action following a motion by Commissioner Joshua L. Coltrin and seconded by Commissioner H. S. Everett. The motion called for a 10 per cent cut in the salaries of clerk of court, sheriff, and register of deeds. The reduction, effective the first of this month, is the third to have been made in recent months, making a total reduction in the clerk's and register of deeds' salaries of around 28 per cent, and around 19 per cent in the sheriff's salary.

The board adjourned at 2:30 that the members could have the opportunity to attend the funeral of A. R. Dunning.

TOWN BOARD IN REGULAR MEET

Permit Granted for Erection of Filling Station on Main and Smithwick Streets

Meeting here last night, the board of town commissioners ordered a 5 per cent reduction in all town salaries and established a new scale, effective January 1, for common labor. The reduction was the second made by the board in recent months. E. Ramie was retained on the night police force at \$10 a week for the present.

Permission was granted C. D. and W. H. Carstarphen for the erection of a filling station on the lot where the Carstarphen store now stands. Few particulars have been made public in connection with the proposed project.

A permit for a carnival was granted the American Legion Post. The matter has not been placed before the Legion members, and it is not known that the post will sponsor the indoor attraction.

urers competing with British producers for world markets.

"At present price levels of cotton and wheat, domestic allotment means a 100 per cent tax, collecting possibly \$350,000,000 a year. Its critics promptly pointed out that farm representatives were largely responsible for the defeat of general sales tax legislation as a burden on the poor and yet now they champion that same principle of taxation for their special benefit. Other objections outlined: (1) a gigantic Federal bureaucracy from Washington down to the smallest farm; (2) possible refusal of a vote-hungry Congress to suspend the taxes after the emergency; (3) socialism at its rawest.

"Even then, Washington observers reported that many a conservative business man was quietly for the plan. Their attitude: "We must try something drastic to break the circle of depression, so why not this?" Newspaper writer Walter Lippman thinks domestic allotment is "the most daring economic experiment ever seriously proposed in the United States."

SALE OF AUTO LICENSES HERE GOING SLOWLY

Cars Will Be Stopped After Thursday Unless New Tags Are Displayed

While the old tags have expired, the sale of new State automobile license plates is progressing slowly at the local bureau, Manager N. C. Green announced this week. Sales were reported yesterday at about one-half the size of the distribution for a similar period last year. The bureau here sold around 250 plates last Saturday, the busiest day the office has had since the plates went on sale on December 15.

Up until last Saturday night the sale of licenses at the local bureau was 55 greater than up to the first of the year before, but yesterday the sales dropped about 75 per cent. On the first day of the year 1932, the bureau here sold nearly 500 plates; the sales yesterday were around 150.

According to present arrangements the local bureau will close Saturday night of next week.

Chairman E. B. Jeffers of the state highway commission announced Saturday that drivers who operate their automobiles without 1933 licenses will be subject to prosecution.

Mr. Jeffers said that license sales are running about 25,000 less to date than at this time last year. He declared that automobile owners must procure their new plates without delay. Mr. Jeffers said that highway patrolmen will be warned to instruct drivers for the next five days to get their licenses, to force them to park cars without new licenses after January 5, and to start making arrests of motorists without the 1933 plates after January 10.

North Carolina was shy the money on 25,526 automobile plates Saturday, using the figures of December 31, 1931, as the basis for comparison.

When the bureau of the revenue department closed Saturday, 65,329 plates had been sold as against 90,855 for December, 1931. The licenses averaged about \$14 for all cars. If the figures were exact, North Carolina would be \$357,364 worse off at the close of 1932 than on the final night of 1931.

There isn't anything sinister in the figures. Everybody, of course, knows that there are many losses in license plates. The number of cars no longer on the roads and paying gasoline and license taxes is far below the average. There are now about 375,000 cars in use in the state.

DEATH OF MRS. WILLIS MCKEEL

Holding Funeral Service In Holiness Church Here This Afternoon

Mrs. Willie McKeel, wife of Willis McKeel, died at her home on the Mary Cherry farm near here at 3 o'clock yesterday morning following a short illness. Mrs. McKeel had been in failing health for some time, but she was able to be up until the day before Christmas. A complication of diseases was given as the cause of her death.

The daughter of the late Jno. Clark and wife, Mrs. McKeel was born and reared near Everett. She was 52 years old. In 1899 she was married to Mr. McKeel and he with nine children, seven boys, Virgil, Chas. Ben, J. D., Clayton, Clarence, Willis, Jr., and two daughters, Mrs. Robert McClaron and Miss Euzela McKeel, survives.

She was a member of the Holiness church here and her pastor, the Rev. Mr. S. A. Fann, of Tarboro, is conducting the last rites from the church this afternoon at 3 o'clock. Interment will follow in the local cemetery.

Regular Meeting of Local Kiwanis Club Tomorrow

The first Kiwanis meeting in the new year will be held at the Woman's Club Wednesday at 12:30 o'clock. There is some business of importance to the club that will come up at this session, and the full membership is requested to turn out.

Last year was a good year for the local club, the membership increasing over any previous year. The club won distinction in its district, sponsored again the Boy Scout work, and in many other ways was of service to this section. The new year should find the club resolved to make even a better record.

Presbyterians Holding Regular Prayer Services

Prayer meeting is being held each Wednesday night at 7:30 at the Presbyterian church. The Book of Hebrews is being studied. The general public is invited to these services.

RAINFALL

A rainfall of 46.72 inches was reported here during the past year, the amount being about 7 inches below the normal yearly average. As strange as it seems, there was more rainfall last year than there was the year before, Hugh Spruill, who keeps a record of the rainfall at the river here, stating that 46.21 inches fell in 1931. The months of April, May, June, and July of last year were unusually dry months, causing much damage to crops in this section. The heaviest rainfall during the past year was in October, when 6.49 inches fell here. There were 14 rains in December, but the rainfall was only 5.06 inches that month.

BETTER PRICES FOR PEANUTS IS AIM OF CONCERN

Columbian Peanut Co. Has Attacked Low Prices at Both Ends

The Columbian Peanut Company, operators of 25 or more cleaning plants and a number of warehouses spread over the national peanut belt, have attacked the low market of peanuts at both ends.

A strenuous national campaign to increase the consumption of peanuts has led to a sales increase of more than 100 per cent over that of the previous year, according to statement of company executives. At the same time the "Columbian Storage System" which provides storage and cash advances at a low rate on peanuts stored in warehouses at their mill locations, and the effort to hold peanuts off the market have had a sustaining influence on the current market.

The storage plan was established by the Columbian company last season to back up an advertising campaign to flood the market with the new crop. The assistance of the storage system enabled several million pounds of peanuts to be sold in an orderly manner rather than rushed to an already over-lodged market at the end of the picking season.

Excerpts from a "trade circular" mailed out recently to thousands of users of peanuts, candy manufacturers, and others, is an example of the efforts of the Columbian to increase consumption of peanuts. The circular reads:

"As we approach the close of 1932, we are again reminded of the consideration, cooperation, and support of our friends and customers, old and new. Needless to say, we fully appreciate their confidence and support so generously bestowed, which resulted in an increase in sales, the past season, of more than 100 per cent over the previous season.

"Our efforts during the past year were directed primarily to a greater development of the peanut industry as a whole. Beginning with the farmer, on whom the industry basically depends, we endeavored to sustain declining values and vanishing returns, by intensive use of the facilities of our entire 25 mills, with first consideration in supplying the best quality possible; and, second, a dependable, efficient service, which combined with the cooperative efforts of the users of peanuts and manufacturers of peanut products generally, created a new "consumer demand" which resulted in the largest consumption in the history of the peanut industry.

"It will require again, renewed efforts to hold the position attained last season, but we believe that consumption can be maintained and probably increased during the coming year, as advantage can be taken of present low prices to increase sales of the various products, at new low prices, which should attract increased consumer demand.

A representative of the Columbian said that the company had consistently endeavored to sustain the market of farmers' peanuts when possible to do so. When peanuts were declining in price, as was the case last season and again this season, the company kept on the market almost continuously, always paying the best prices possible, it was said.

But, it was added, while the company is doing this, farmers can do still more by marketing their crops slowly. In order to assist farmers and merchants in holding a part of their peanuts, the company established last season the "Columbian Storage System," which provides storage and cash advances at a low rate on peanuts stored in warehouses at their mill locations at the following points in the Virginia-Carolina section: Virginia: Petersburg, Suffolk, Boykins, Disputanta, Stony Creek, Zuni, Wakefield.

North Carolina: Ahoskie, Enfield, Elizabethtown, Lewiston, Scotland Neck, Williamston, Tarboro, Windsor.

TAX LEAGUE IN MEETING HERE LAST FRIDAY

Plan Another Meeting of Taxpayers for Friday Of Next Week

Meeting in the courthouse here last Friday afternoon, the Martin County Tax League discussed at length a number of vital problems confronting local government agencies and offered certain resolutions in an effort to lower costs and at the same time maintain efficiency in public functions. D. G. Matthews, of Hamilton, president, and E. P. Cunningham, of Williamston, served as secretary.

After a discussion of property revaluation, the body unanimously voted that all property be revalued. The appeal will be made to the proper authorities, asking for a complete revaluation be made and that property be listed at its true value. The last legislative permitted a 10 per cent reduction in property values, but it has been several years since an out-and-out revaluation was made.

The question of abolishing the office of county treasurer was deferred until complete information can be obtained showing whether or not any saving could be effected without lowering the efficiency of the service.

A discussion was also held in connection with doing away with the salary system and returning to the old fee system, no vote was taken, the body carrying the matter over for future consideration.

Discussing the salaries paid teachers, the league did not state its position, but the group did condemn the plan of paying all teachers of certain ratings the same amount of money regardless of whether they were successful in their profession or not. The body did not consider it fair for the State to penalize a local board when an agreement had been reached with the teacher in carrying on the extended term when funds are not immediately available.

Considering the plight of delinquent property owners, the meeting was agreed that the property owner should have at least five years in which to redeem his land with the interest rate limited to 6 per cent. Objections to this were noted, it being pointed out that a large number of people would borrow their tax money for five years at 6 per cent, a rate cheaper than any can ordinarily get it from other sources. This procedure would cause the business structure of the counties to collapse.

The meeting was of the opinion that the State should take over certain Martin County bonds issued by the county to finance highway projects several years back. The county issued bonds to build highways Nos. 40, 90, and 125, and \$150,000 for the construction of the Roanoke River bridge and causeway. All these roads are important connecting links in the State highway system connecting county seats.

No expression was offered in connection with a sales tax, the meeting refusing to discuss that type of tax.

A resolution was passed asking that judges be required to work more days during terms and not carry over such big dockets.

The question centering around the big pay given court stenographers was discussed, and the methods followed by judges was condemned.

That the people might be represented in the General Assembly convening in Raleigh this week, the league asked that \$35 be appropriated for maintaining a representative there.

Friday of next week, the league will hold a second meeting in the county courthouse at 2 o'clock, and a large representation is urged by those in charge.

FEW CHANGES IN BUSINESS HERE

Same Old Business Line-up Starts On the Schedule For the New Year

Characteristic of the first of the year a few changes in business firms and locations have been made here during the past few days, and a few more will follow within the next few days, it is understood.

The Peel Jewelry Company is moving from its building on East Main Street to the Gurganus building next to the five and ten cent store. A portion of the Gurganus building will be used by a hat shop, it is understood. The Service Cleaner, located during the past few months in the Gordy building, has moved to the McGowan store, next to the Roanoke Hotel. Mr. W. J. Hodges has retired from business and his store is not in use at the present.

As a whole, the same old business line-up is starting 1933 with but very few changes.

A. R. Dunning Dies Here Early Sunday

HAPPY DAYS

Happy days are just ahead for holders of 225 shares of stock, when the Martin County Building and Loan Association pays out \$22,500 in retiring its 19th series issued in September, 1926. Checks will be mailed to the stock owners next Tuesday, it was announced yesterday by Mr. Wheeler Martin, an officer in the association. The series is one of the largest to mature in the local association during the past two years, Mr. Martin said.

DRIVE AGAINST RATS MEETING WITH SUCCESS

County Agent Distributes Poison Bait To Nearly 100 County Farmers

The anti-rat campaign now underway in this county is meeting with fair success, according to reports coming from those in charge of the elimination program. Seventy-five orders for poison bait have been filled and deliveries are being made almost daily. Agent Brandon said this week.

A cooperative order has been placed with the manufacturers of a deadly rat poison, and farmers who care to do so can purchase any quantity at a comparatively small cost.

Of all the pests of the world, the common brown rat, or house rat, is the most inimical to the interests and welfare of mankind. Every man, woman and child in the United States is concerned with the rat, both economically and physically, whether or not the individual comes into direct contact with the animals. Wherever foodstuffs are grown, stored, or transported, rats abound. Rats thrive in sewers, dumps, and other unspeakable places, and in the dead of night dig filth and disease of those places into granaries, warehouses, grocery stores, meat markets, and restaurants, and thus pollute the food that is later sold for human consumption. Rats have no place in the present state of civilization.

Also, from an economic standpoint the rat has been called the most destructive animal in the world, and there is no doubt about that. Collectively, rats in the United States each year destroy produce and property worth several millions of dollars. Surely this is an item that we can not afford to overlook; and when we consider in conjunction with this great loss the real danger of the rat to public health, we are impressed with the fact that the time has come when we must take a more definite stand to control this great menace.

Rat control demands individual effort, but it requires more than that. Rats are highly migratory. They move from farm to farm, community to community, state to state and even from country to country. Without cooperation there is always the prospect of reinfestation from adjacent property. Community organization and united action are essential to insure permanent relief from these pests.

Martin County people are urged to take part in the anti-rat campaign now underway.

Twelve-foot Rise Expected In Roanoke Here by Friday

The muddy Roanoke, already out of its banks by several inches, will continue to rise until about Friday, when the crest will be reached, according to those acquainted with the doings of the stream. A rise of 12 feet above the normal mark is predicted, the water having nearly reached the 11-foot mark. The water will cover the banks by about 18 inches, it is believed.

Twenty-seven Army Planes Passed Over Section Today

Twenty-seven two-motored army airplanes passed over here this morning, presumably en route from Langley Field, Norfolk, to Fort Bragg, at Fayetteville. The planes, flying at a moderate speed, were in formation and are believed to be the largest group to ever pass here at one time.

General Assembly Opens 1933 Session This Week

A hectic session of the North Carolina General Assembly will be underway this week when that body meets in Raleigh to effect certain legislation and find needed revenue.

SUDDEN ATTACK HEART TROUBLE PROVES FATAL

Funeral Services Held From Home, Monday Afternoon at 3 O'clock

A. R. Dunning, prominent citizen and successful lawyer, died suddenly at his home on Main Street here Sunday morning shortly after midnight of a heart attack, his sudden death coming as a decided shock to his relatives and many friends throughout this section of the State.

After completing the duties in his law office here he went to his home about 10:30 Saturday night, and although he was not feeling very well at that time, his condition was not considered serious. A short while later he became worse and the family physician was called, but efforts to save his life failed.

Born on a farm near Aulander 55 years ago the 2nd of last October, he was the son of W. J. Dunning and wife, Roxanna Rice Dunning. After completing his education locally, he entered Wake Forest College and received his M. A. degree from that institution. After teaching history for a year in Chowan College, he turned to the study of law, and after procuring his license he entered the law firm of Russell & Gore, Wilmington. Two years later he severed his connection and located in Robersonville, forming a partnership with the late G. W. Newell. In 1908 he moved to Williamston and practiced law with J. C. Smith. A partnership, later formed with Clayton Moore, continued until 1927, when Mr. Moore was made a superior court judge. Mr. Dunning was the oldest member of the Williamston bar since the retirement of Harry W. Stubbs several years ago.

Serving his county as a member of the General Assembly in 1913 and 1915, he held the important position of chairman of the judiciary committee. He was active in public affairs of the town and county and was a member of the board of school trustees here for a number of years. He was interested in politics and conducted several campaigns in this county in behalf of his candidates.

In 1908 he was married to Miss Mary Alice Grimes, of Robersonville, and she with one daughter, Mary Alice Dunning, survives. He also leaves his father, who is now 82 years old, and one brother, Mr. Godwin R. Dunning, of Aulander. Another brother, B. J. Dunning, died several years ago at his home in Roanoke Rapids.

Mr. Dunning was a member of the Baptist church here for a number of years and was also a Mason and a Shriner.

Funeral services were conducted from the late home yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. C. H. Dickey of the local Baptist church. Interment followed in the local cemetery.

COUNTY SCHOOLS REOPEN MONDAY

Normal Attendance Is Reported by Nearly All Schools in County

The several Martin County schools reopening yesterday after enjoying two weeks rest during the Christmas holidays reported average or normal attendance figures for the day. A marked drop in attendance was expected on account of sickness and the weather. And then it was expected that many tenants, yes, even landlords, would be moving about the first of the year, dragging the little tots, just too numerous in too many cases, along with them and holding them out of school.

The attendance reports received here indicate there is not a great deal of sickness and there aren't so many people moving this year as there were last season. Reopening last week, Bear Grass reported the mumps in large numbers, but they were not considered serious, and as far as it could be learned activities in that school and in all the others in the county are moving along very well at this time.

Auto Turns Over Several Times Near Here Saturday

Davis Harrison and H. B. York escaped injury last Saturday afternoon when their car, a Ford sedan, turned over two or three times and landed in a corn field near here on Highway No. 90. The body of the car was badly damaged.