

TOBACCO AGREEMENT SIGNED

LESS THAN HALF CROP PEANUTS IS PROSPECT NOW

Price Drop Reported in the Market Despite Large Decrease in Crop

Martin farmers are rapidly completing the digging and stacking of their peanuts, and just when it was learned that less than half a crop would be harvested this season in the Carolina-Virginia belt prices dropped. With only a promise for 17-cent tobacco and with the peanut-price outlook as dark if not really darker than it was at the same time last year, farmers are fast becoming discouraged. It is difficult for any one to understand why the law of supply and demand is worshipped throughout the marketing world and when there is a short crop as is the case with peanuts this season, the price is low.

Suffolk peanuts were quoted this week at 2 1/2 cents downward, meaning that the peanut farmer with half a crop, and with higher living costs will actually fare worse this year than he did last, when peanuts were "stabilized" at the ridiculous figure of one cent.

Reports from Washington are not very encouraging for the peanut farmer, and it is believed that many farmers will feed their crops to the hogs before they sell at present prices. It is also believed that more farmers will hold their peanuts this year than has usually been the case in the past.

From official AAA headquarters at Washington word went out the latter part of the past week for cleaners and manufacturers to set a price that would approach parity figures; and almost immediately a decline in price was noted at Suffolk, where prices are governed for this belt's peanut crop. Monday the price for farmers' stocks dropped an eighth of a cent per pound, according to the Suffolk News-Herald. Jumbos were a quarter of a cent per pound under the price paid Wednesday of last week when the request came from Washington to set the "comparable price."

The Suffolk newspapers, in explanation of the "comparable price," says the price for Virginia type peanuts, based on the \$55 per ton for runners, would put jumbo and bunch peanuts to average good quality at 2 3/4 cents per pound, with a premium on exceptional lots which would run the price to near three cents. The price on jumbo, quoted in Suffolk on Monday, was 2 to 2 1/4, with the lower figure considered as the market price.

Three Cents Minimum

Growers in this area and business men conversant with the peanut situation and the cost of producing this year's crop are unanimous in their opinion that anything less than 3 cents per pound for the 1933 crop would mean disaster for farmers again this year. They have already suffered serious reverses with two crops, those of 1931 and 1932.

Government's Proposal

George N. Peek, Federal administrator of the AAA, has issued the following statement about the peanut situation:

"You are well aware of the fact that peanut prices in recent years have been at disastrously low levels. You are also aware of the fact that despite the moderate size of the 1933 crop, and the lack of carry-over prices paid to the growers of peanuts, particularly in the southeastern section, where the harvest is now under way, recently declined very sharply. This presents an emergency situation about which the agricultural adjustment administration is determined to take some action. We have discussed this matter in great detail with representatives of shellers' associations in the three important producing areas with representatives of the farmer-owned cooperative marketing associations, and with representatives of growers. As a result of this discussion I am asking for the full cooperation of the peanut shellers and cleaners in the following emergency program:

"1. To put into effect immediately a price to the farmer of at least \$60 per ton on number one farmers' stock Spanish peanuts, \$55 per ton on number one farmers' stock runners, and comparable prices for other varieties and grades.

"2. The preparation and submission to the AAA at the earliest practicable date of a formal marketing agreement covering all marketing of peanuts from all producing areas, designed to control the movement to market and issue more satisfactory prices to growers.

Farmers Now Digging and Housing Sweet Potato Crop

The housing of Martin County's sweet potato crop was started this week, early reports indicating a yield of medium size and fair quality as far as quality goes with potatoes. J. G. Staton, probably the largest grower in the potato country, is harvesting 150 acres this season. Approximately 3,000 bushels were placed in his 30,000-bushel capacity curing house here the early part of this week, and digging operations are being pushed rapidly.

Averaging around 94 bushels per acre last season, Martin farmers are hoping for at least a 100-bushel yield per acre this year. Last season there were approximately 1,595 acres planted to the crop, an increase of more than 300 acres over the 1931 production.

No sizeable increase was made in the potato acreage, it is believed.

While prices are not at all encouraging, they are not hopeless in their smallness, judging from early sales on the big markets. First raw shipments made on the New York market grossed 95 and 85 cents a bushel, which means the local price would be 60 cents a bushel or thereabouts.

Martin farmers, while they have not materially increased the number of operating curing barns and houses, are pretty well sold on the curing plan, and a large portion of the crop is cured annually. A few years back there were no more than one or two curing houses in the county, and few farmers knew anything about them.

PRICE AVERAGE LITTLE HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR

Local Market Sold 1,144,128 Pounds in September \$11.10 a Hundred

Approximately 41,000,000 pounds of tobacco were sold in the Eastern Carolina Bright Belt during the month of September, averaging \$11.50 as compared with an average of \$10.80 for the same month last year, according to an official report issued yesterday by the department of agriculture.

Williamston sold 1,144,128 pounds during the month for an average price of \$11.10 a hundred pounds.

The report is significant in that it proves many of the statement claiming 14-cent and even higher averages on the reopening day were unfounded. It also shows that the price paid for tobacco is about the same on every market, and the little variation in price is traceable to the quality of tobacco offered on the different markets. During the past year or two some farmers have patronized the smaller markets with their common tobacco and then carry their better grades to the larger markets. The prices are then compared, and naturally there is a price variation. This practice often reflects on the averages made by the smaller markets.

Up to the first of this month, this belt had sold 54,780,486 pounds, but the warehouses were closed three weeks during that time and the sales were considerably limited. Williamston sold up to October 1, 1,412,678 pounds. The forecasted production in the state is 520,000,000 pounds, as compared with 294,000,000 pounds a year ago and 487,000,000 for the five-year average.

KIWANIS CLUB TO STAGE CONTEST

Losers Will Entertain The Winners with Banquet New Year's Day

At its regular luncheon last Wednesday the local Kiwanis Club planned a unique attendance campaign, starting immediately and continuing until January 1. V. J. Spivey was appointed captain of one group, and Frank Pittman will head the second one. Each of the captains will be assisted by 18 members, and the losing team will be called upon to entertain the winners at a big New Year feast.

Professor D. N. Hix, special guest speaker of the club that day, pointed out the needs of the local school as they have to do with promotion of safety and a higher scholastic standing. In cooperating with the principal, the club voted to give prizes for scholastic attainment and winners in public-speaking contests. The club also discussed a special course of instruction in the methods of preventing accidents, and what to do when accidents occur. R. H. Goodman, after making several valuable suggestions for the safety of the children, offered the free service of his company's safety engineer, Professor D. N. Hix, R. H. Goodman, C. B. Roebuck, and J. C. Manning were appointed as a committee to advance the plans for the safety school, and it is understood the importance of safety will be stressed in a series of talks and demonstrations here within a short time.

Special Service Sunday at the Presbyterian Church

The usual services will be held in Williamston Sunday, October 15. Church school at 9:45 a. m. and worship service and sermon at 11 a. m. Rev. M. O. Sommers, of Clinton, who has been conducting a series of services at Roberson's Chapel, will bring the message.

At Bear Grass there will be but one service Sunday, church school at 9:30 a. m. The night service will not be held due to the fact that the meeting at Roberson's Chapel will close Sunday night. Beginning Monday night, October 16, Rev. W. S. Harden, of Greenville, will bring the first message of a series of services at this point.

At Ballard's Farm the church school will be held at 2 p. m. Rev. M. O. Sommers will conduct the service there.

At Roberson's Chapel there will be no church school in the afternoon. But the meeting which has been in progress for the past 10 days will come to an end Sunday night at 7:30 p. m.

Government and Companies Finally Settle Upon Terms

COUNTY COURT MORE THAN PAID ITS WAY TUESDAY

Ten Cases Call, \$80 in Fines Levied, and Two Sent To Roads

The county recorder's court paid its own way, declared an \$80 school dividend, and increased the number of road workers by two at its last Tuesday session. Ten cases were called by Judge Peel, the court going into an afternoon session to complete the docket.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with violating the liquor laws, Tom Bell was fined \$15 and taxed with the costs.

The case charging Belvin Starling with abandonment and non-support, was continued one week.

Norman Williams and Leroy Saunders, charged with violating the liquor laws, were found not guilty.

A non suit resulted in the case charging George Smith with non-support.

The court continued for one week the case, charging Gus Purvis with non-support.

J. D. Thomas was fined \$50 and taxed with the cost in the case charging him with operating an automobile while intoxicated. His license to operate a motor vehicle was revoked for 12 months.

Roosevelt Reddick, commonly known to jail attendants as "Rhode Island Red," was sentenced to the roads for four months. Reddick, a colored man, pleaded guilty to the larceny of nine Rhode Island Red chickens.

Guilford Purvis was fined \$15 and taxed with the cost when the court adjudged him guilty of violating the liquor laws.

The case charging William Thomas Hyman with larceny was non-suited.

County Native Dies At His Home In Palmyra

Jim Stephenson, a native of this county, but for many years a resident of Halifax County, died at his home in Palmyra last Sunday. He was 54 years old.

Entering into the mercantile business and farming when a young man, Mr. Stephenson was active in his work and was very successful.

Register October 28 For the Wet-Dry Election

The attention of those citizens desiring to take part in the wet-dry election November 7 is called to the one-day registration on October 28. The books will be open in each of the 12 precincts in the county for one day only. It will not be necessary for those citizens whose names are already on the books to register again.

Pitt County Man Is Hurt In Accident Last Monday

J. D. White, Pitt County man, was painfully injured between Bear Grass and Greenville last Monday night when the car driven by his 16-year-old son crashed into a truck driven by James Bailey, of this county. White is facing reckless driving and transporting liquor charges in Pitt County.

The truck was almost completely demolished by the impact and the light touring car occupied by the White was also damaged. The other two men escaped injury.

Officers who investigated the wreck a short time later were reported to have found a gallon of whiskey near White's car. White denied ownership, but the whiskey was said to have been in the car at the time of the wreck, and the elder White was declared under the influence of the beverage.

White's injuries consisted of lacerations about the face, which, although painful, were not considered serious.

TOBACCO MEET

An important meeting of all business men, tobaccoists and other citizens of the town and community has been called for next Monday night at 7:30 o'clock. The meeting, considered the most important scheduled here in many months, will be held in the courthouse and every one is urged to attend.

The business of the meeting will center around the promoting of the tobacco market, and interesting discussions are planned. Make your plans to attend.

STEADY DECLINE IN NEEDY CASES SEEN IN COUNTY

47 Are Dropped From List In September and Only 24 Added

While there are now many calls for aid pouring into the county welfare headquarters, the welfare report for last month indicates better times for many in this county. During September the relief office dropped 47 cases from its list and added only 24 new ones, a decrease of 23 relief families in one month. Nearly every new case added during the month was to equip needy children with clothes and supplies for school.

The Martin County relief list has gradually dwindled since farming operations were started last summer on a large scale. And then the relief gardens lightened the case load on the welfare office to a remarkable extent, it was explained.

During the next few months a slight increase is expected in the number of Martin County relief subjects, but it is believed that the number seeking aid will not be as great as it was last fall and winter. Thousands of quarts of fruits and vegetables, have been preserved under the direction of the welfare office in the county this year, and where many unfortunates had to turn to charity for food last winter will feed themselves from their own pantries this coming winter.

Announce Service Schedule at Local Methodist Church

C. T. Rogers, pastor. You will want to be at Sunday school on time, 9:45. Short worship period for 30 minutes. Always different. Church services at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Epworth League, Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. Members of the church are urged to be present every Sunday. Others are cordially invited to meet with us.

Col. Langston To Speak Here Sunday at 3:00 P. M.

Col. John D. Langston, of Goldsboro, will speak in the Martin County courthouse here, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the interest of prohibition. Mr. Langston, one of the leading lawyers of the State, is an interesting speaker, and every one is cordially invited to hear him.

He will discuss the wet and dry issues which are now before the people of North Carolina for consideration, and his talk will, no doubt, be highly instructive.

Big Colonial Oil Truck Turns Over In Greenville

The big gasoline distributing truck operated out of here by the Colonial Oil Company, turned over in Greenville last Wednesday afternoon with approximately 3,000 gallons of gas in it. The trailer did not turn over. A small quantity of oil was lost, and the gasoline was pumped from the tank by a fire engine with very little loss.

Mr. E. H. Wagner, local manager for the company, was driving the big truck into Greenville when a passenger car darted into the highway from a side street, forcing him to run the truck down an embankment. No one was hurt, but it was stated that the passengers of the car would probably have been killed had Mr. Wagner failed to turn from the road.

BUYERS AGREE TO PAY 17-CENT PARITY PRICE

Agreement Will Affect All Prices on Tobacco Sold Since September 15

After a long delay and after tobacco farmers had all but given up hope for relief, the government and tobacco companies yesterday advanced and signed a market agreement assuring tobacco farmers a 17-cent average for their current tobacco crop, or as much of the crop as is used by the domestic manufacturers. Although the perfection of the agreement was late, the contract is retroactive; that is, it will apply to all tobacco sold for domestic use since September 25, the day the markets reopened. Just how the averages will be advanced on that tobacco already sold it is not definitely known.

Chief Provisions

The tobacco companies would pay an average minimum price of 17 cents a pound for all flue-cured tobacco bought from September 25 to March 31, provided the tobacco is for use in this country.

The tobacco companies would purchase at least 250,000,000 pounds of this year's crop, which remained unsold on September 15. They would agree also to pay the average minimum price for the tobacco.

Officials said the government retained the power to examine the records of tobacco companies to ascertain whether they were living up to the agreement.

Another important provision called for an assessment among the tobacco companies, if necessary, to raise the average minimum price to 17 cents.

The agreement was voluntary and officials said the licensing powers of the farm adjustment act would not be used.

This agreement, regarded as the most important thus far initiated by the administration, in point of the magnitude of the investment, has a retroactive feature, and under its provisions the signatory companies obligated themselves to purchase between September 25 and March 31 of next year about 250,000,000 pounds of tobacco, and to pay therefor 17 cents a pound, which the government proclaims as parity.

The farm administration said that the tobacco marketing agreement should raise the income of producers by ten to twelve million dollars.

The agreement, the farm adjustment administration said, is "supplemented by a production adjustment program with the payments of benefits to farmers who sign contracts to reduce flue-cured tobacco production in 1934 and 1935."

Announce Two Services at Episcopal Church Sunday

There will be morning and evening prayer with sermon each time at the Church of the Advent this Sunday. The subject of the morning sermon will be, "Christian Fellowship." At the evening service the subject will be, "The Power of the Gospel."

The adult Bible class will hold its second meeting of the fall at the rectory Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock. The subject of the course is "A History of the Hebrews."

The service at the Holy Trinity Mission near Bear Grass will be at 4 p. m., as usual.

Hamilton Citizens Extend Aid to Storm Sufferers

While the active drive for funds for the aid of storm sufferers was completed last week, contributions are still being received by Mrs. A. R. Dunning, county chairman of the Red Cross here. Citizens of Hamilton contributed \$4 in cash and a number of bundles of clothing this week. The clothing and cash will be forwarded to the storm victims along with other contributions received here within the next day or two, Mrs. Dunning said yesterday.

The county chapter, outside of the individual chapter at Robersonville, has contributed cash and clothing with an estimated value of well over \$200.

May Dig New Well For Water System

PRICES HIGHER

While the prices offered on the local market are not up to the 17-cent parity average, they were considered some stronger than they have been. The signing of the agreement yesterday apparently is making itself felt slowly, and it is generally believed that the price will gradually increase. A market average in the neighborhood of 15 cents was estimated here this morning, and there was much tobacco of inferior quality on the floors.

Approximately 145,000 pounds are on the floors here today, and a sizeable sale is expected next Monday. Reliable reports show without a doubt that prices here are equally as high as those on the bigger markets.

ROBERSONVILLE WOMAN PASSES

Mrs. Anne Krider Died At Home of Daughter There Yesterday Morning

Mrs. Anne Krider, 79 years old, died in Robersonville early yesterday morning following a stroke of paralysis. Funeral services were conducted there this morning by Rev. E. C. Shoe and Rev. J. M. Perry, and the body was taken to Salisbury for burial. The pastor of the Lutheran church in Salisbury will conduct the final rites at that place.

Mrs. Krider, a native of Rowan County, had been living with her daughters, Mrs. R. H. Hargrove and Mrs. J. H. Roberson, sr., in Robersonville for quite a while, and during much of that time she was in feeble health.

The widow of the late W. R. Krider, she leaves one son, R. L. Krider, of Spencer, and two daughters, Mrs. Hargrove and Mrs. Roberson, of Robersonville. She also leaves two grandchildren, Mary Krider Hargrove, of Robersonville, and a grandson in Spencer.

FORTY ASK FOR LOANS ON HOMES

None of \$50,000 Asked For Has Been Received in County So Far

Forty Martin County home owners have applied to the Home Loan Bank for loans during the past several weeks it was learned today from E. S. Peel, attorney for the lending agency in this county. The exact amount asked by the loan applicants could not be learned, but it is estimated that the forty ask for about \$50,000.

No loans have been negotiated in this county so far, and it could not be learned just when the applicants will receive the money asked for by them. As far as it could be learned, no loans have been completed in this district, but it is hoped that definite action will be taken within the next few days to rush the loans to completion.

MATTER TAKEN UP AT MEET OF BOARD TUESDAY

Pass Ordinance Prohibiting Curb Service by Soda Fountains In Town

Meeting in special session here last Tuesday night, the town commissioners passed an ordinance against curb service by soda fountains and discussed plans for improving the town's water supply.

The ordinance directed against curb service at soda fountains was passed at the request of the fountain owners themselves. The law does not prohibit the fountain owners from serving other than fountain products at the curb, it is understood. The law will go into effect next Monday, it was stated.

The town's water supply, decreased from a maximum of 750 gallons per minute when the present system was installed to about 300 gallons a minute now, is fast becoming a serious problem. The limited water supply is not a cause for immediate alarm, but as the consumption is increasing almost daily and the supply gradually decreasing the commissioners are planning to make necessary improvements.

Exact cost figures on a new deep well are not available, but it is believed that an adequate source of water will call for an expenditure of about \$12,000. Certain other improvements to the water system are being considered, but they, along with the proposed additional water source, will have to await word from the Federal Administrator of Public Works. Attorney R. L. Coburn plans to discuss the possibility of borrowing the money from the Federal emergency fund with Dr. H. G. Baity, State Engineer of Public Works in North Carolina, in Chapel Hill tomorrow. It is understood that one-third of the money needed for public-works projects is given to the borrower and the other two-thirds is payable over a period of 30 years.

If a loan can be floated, the town authorities will make a survey of the proposed improvements, including the extension of the water lines out Houghton Street to the "Doodle Hill" section and the replacement of damaged pipes on West Main Street. A large number of loans were made by the Federal Emergency Administration this week, and about 130 applications are now before the State engineer, it is understood.

Ordinance of Baptism at Baptist Church Sunday

The congregations have noticeably increased at the Baptist church recently—especially has this been true of the evening congregations. Services will be held Sunday as usual—the church school at 9:45 o'clock followed by the 11 o'clock preaching service. In the evening at 6:30 the B. Y. P. U. meets, followed at 7:30 by the evening church service. At this Sunday night service the ordinance of Baptism will be administered, and the general public is invited to attend any or all these services.