

Tobacco Averages Over \$28 Monday

PRODUCTION AND SALE CONTROL OF LEAF IS PLANNED

Compact Bill To Be Ready For Legislative Action Within Short Time

Plans for the control of tobacco production and sales through state compacts are going forward in Washington, reports from there stating a bill will be ready for early enactment by the various state legislatures.

AAA officials supervising formulation of the measure asserted that control of production is satisfactory to all producer groups endorsing the compact theory and was inserted in the bill only at the latter's insistence. It is planned that state agencies administering the proposed law would impose individual production and marketing quotas.

With that one exception—production control—the bill when completed will be a highly simplified version of the compact act passed by the Virginia legislature, which already has a marketing control provision. Federal agricultural officials have just reported that they have almost completed drafting the measure, and it should be ready for the various legislatures within a very short time.

As the situation now stands (in Virginia, for instance), a tobacco producer can sell only the amount of tobacco specified in his individual marketing quota. Should he desire to make sales in excess of this maximum, he must purchase additional "sales certificates" from his state commission, and the price he pays for such certificates is admittedly of a prohibitory nature.

Under the present system, officials contended, there is nothing to prevent a farmer from taking his excess tobacco into another state—one not governed by a compact—and sell it with no fear of punishment. For when he crosses a state line with his tobacco, he is, under law, operating in interstate commerce, and therefore, beyond state supervision.

It is felt that should the state have authority to tell him how much to plant as well as sell, this loop-hole will be closed, in that the producer's production and marketing quotas would be similar and he would have no excess crop whatsoever. Therefore, the provision outlined heretofore has been inserted in the model bill.

The compact picture, as visualized by one official, follows:

At the request of Virginia congressmen, both the house and senate have already passed the so-called "enabling resolution," authorizing the tobacco states interested in the theory to enact compact laws. One state, Virginia, has already taken this step. The enabling resolution, specifically, does three things:

- (1) Authorizes compacts between different states for the purpose of regulating and controlling production of and or commerce in tobacco in and between these states.
- (2) Provides an appropriation of \$300,000 to be advanced to the tobacco commissions in the various states for administration purposes. (It is planned that these advances will be eventually repaid).
- (3) Should the cigar tobacco states adopt the compact system, the department of agriculture is authorized to institute a similar program for cigar tobacco producers in Puerto Rico.

The Virginia tobacco act, upon which the model bill is based, was described by officials in the following manner:

A commission is provided to administer the act and meet with commissions of other states. The commission would further authorize a person or persons designated by the secretary of agriculture to develop quotas for the various tobacco types produced. The commission itself, however, would establish the marketing quotas for the individual farms and, thereafter, issue marketing certificates up to the amount of the individual quotas. The charge for excess marketing certificates ranges from 25 to 50 percent of the value of the excess tobacco. Funds from the sale of these certificates are placed in a special pool, from which administrative expenses are realized.

In addition, this money provides a measure of crop insurance for producers: Should a farmer's crop be destroyed by fire, wind, hail or other "natural" means, he is paid up to five cents per pound for the lost yield.

Old Cannon Dug Up Here After 38 Years

POWER LINES

Construction of a rural electrification line, the third project of its kind handled by the Virginia Electric & Power Co., is under way in this county, in recent months in this county, is under way in this county. E. H. Goodson, of the district office in Williamston, states that current will be available probably the latter part of this week to the 21 prospective customers living over a three-mile course.

Other projects completed by the company in this county include extensions into Bear Grass and Jamesville Townships.

\$392 IN DONATION TO ROOSEVELT FUND REPORTED

Only Three Districts Have Reported Contributions Up Until Present

Martin County people are strong for Roosevelt and are expected to turn out a record vote for him the 3rd of next month, but they are not so hot when it comes to supporting the campaign with cash, according to the latest report filed today by canvassers for the reelection campaign fund. With a goal of \$1,000 set for this county, the canvassers continue their drive for funds, and today reported a total of \$392.

The work is going forward fairly rapidly in Williamston, Griffins, Goose Nest and a portion of Bear Grass, but reports have not been received from other districts in the county, it was pointed out. However, it is understood that community canvassers are working in all districts and that the fund will pass the \$500 mark as the week progresses.

Battling against an overflowing Republican campaign cash pot, the Roosevelt forces are directing appeals for aid to every community, urging a donation from everyone. As election time nears, there appears some uncertainty of Mr. Roosevelt's reelection. The battle, as far as North Carolina is concerned, is considered won, but the fireworks are underway on a big scale in some of the western states and also in a number of those in the North.

Contributions, raised in this county, and not previously acknowledged, were made by those whose names appear as follows:

- \$5 contributors: S. B. Lilley, J. Eason Lilley, Dr. W. C. Mercer, J. W. Watts, Jr., VanDyke Furniture Company.
- \$2 contributors: A friend, J. G. Whitfield, J. C. Ross, G. W. Griffin, Sylvester Peel, Dr. Jos. Eason.
- \$1.50 contributor: Ira F. Griffin.
- \$1 and less: R. W. Bondurant, N. L. Hymas, R. T. Johnson, W. O. Daniel, G. W. Barrett, W. D. Smith, T. C. Allsbrooks, J. P. Faithful, L. T. Chesson, Jr., W. E. Tyson, E. H. Harrell, B. F. Lilley, John E. Griffin, Alex Peel, R. H. Peel, D. T. Griffin, C. W. Gurkin, John A. Griffin, W. K. Parker, D. V. Clayton, Jos. W. Griffin.

Oak City Negro Is Injured in Crash

Richard C. Jones, respected colored farmer of the Oak City section, had his right leg crushed and suffered other injuries less serious in a car-wagon collision on the outskirts of Oak City last Saturday evening about 7:30 o'clock. Jones was rushed to a Tarboro hospital, where his leg was amputated just below the knee. Driving a pair of mules hitched to a wagon, Jones was going out of Oak City with no warning light displayed on the vehicle. Elwood Bennett, young white man, was driving into the town and turned to the left of the road to miss a barricade and crashed into the mule on Jones' right and pushed the wheels on the right side of the wagon together, catching Jones' right leg. One of the mules was badly hurt and both vehicles were damaged. Bennett escaped uninjured.

Used Principally To Celebrate Victory of Democrats at Polls

Weapon Recovered Sunday After Being Buried for Thirty-eight Years

An old Civil War cannon, with a history a yard long behind it, was recovered here last Sunday morning after remaining buried on the J. S. Rhodes property just off Smithwick Street for nearly 38 years.

About its use as a weapon of death and destruction, little is known. Old Man Pompey Williams, a former slave with an able memory, declares the cannon was brought here by the Confederates during the Civil War from Roanoke Island. Apparently the weapon was cast long before the War Between the States, the cannon being of the type in general use years before 1861.

In later years, older residents of the town state it was used by the Democrats to celebrate victories over the Republicans, and in this connection there is a unique and exciting record. It was only on few occasions that the Democrats had an opportunity to celebrate a victory between 1865 and 1898, but in the latter year a big time was reported. The Democrats ousted the Republicans in the State, and conservative merchants here joined in the celebration that rocked the town. The old cannon was fired at least 50 times that memorable night, the vibrations from the shots actually jarring out the kerosene burners in those neighborhoods where the celebrants chose to fire.

The late Wheeler Martin, a staunch Republican and as good a loser as he was winner, was given a two-shot salute, and it was he who brought the "whoopie" to an end. Answering the salute with open arms, Mr. Martin is said to have walked out on his front porch and said, "boys, come on in. There's plenty of food, and I'll get you refreshments." According to the story the Demos, starved out after long years of political suffering, deserted the cannon and rushed in on their old friend, all relegating to the four winds any and all political ill-feeling that ever existed between them. Mr. Martin fed his tormenters well, and they took care of the refreshments in such manner that in a short while there was no one left capable of handling and firing the old gun.

One of the group is said to have wandered up the street with a hunk of cheese in his hand. Finally reaching Carstarphen's old store, corner Main and Smithwick Streets, the recent guest sat down to eat. Feeling into his pockets he found a plug of tobacco and pulled it out and, thinking it was a jumbo cake, he sandwiched it with the cheese. He was later carted home in a small push-cart used at that time for hauling the mails.

The gun had been used prior to that time, but the former celebration details are not well remembered. The reports have it that one staunch Democrat had imbued too freely of the spirits and tried to ride the weapon in the thick of battle. Both legs were broken and he was hurt mightily badly, the off-record declares.

Following the November, 1898, celebration, Frank Rhodes, Henry Cook Herbert Pope, C. B. Hassell, and Wiley Clary took the old cannon and buried it on the Rhodes property just back of a horse stable. While visiting here the past weekend from Montgomery, Ala., Mr. Rhodes talked about old times and, with an election near at hand, recalled the days of the cannon, and he and others decided to dig for it. While all the landmarks had been removed, Mr. Rhodes came within 3 feet of the buried cannon in the first digging. It was found a few minutes later and placed on display in front of the City Hall.

Local Democrats are of the belief that it will be appropriate to fire the cannon again on November 3, but rust has eaten the iron badly and the daring youth of yesterday isn't here today, so the dangerous task will hardly be included in the celebration this year.

Mr. Ben W. Aiken, of Spartanburg, S. S., is here visiting his sister, Mrs. W. T. Meadows at her home on West Main Street.

FARM BUREAU TO STAGE DRIVE FOR MORE MEMBERS

Plans for Campaign Now Being Formulated By Organization Officials

Preliminary plans are being formulated for an extensive drive in this county for Farm Bureau members, an official of the organization said yesterday. The membership campaign, now going full force in a number of counties, will probably get underway in Martin some time next week, it is believed.

There are already several hundred members in this county, and it is planned to add several hundred more. Pitt County has nearly every one of its more than 5,000 farms represented in the organization, and membership drives are underway in Edgecombe and Nash Counties this week.

When it is remembered that the National Farm Bureau Federation was the driving power behind the demand for Federal farm legislation and recognition and that tobacco profited probably more than any other crop, it is believed that farmers in this county and other tobacco areas will readily offer their support by joining the organization and supporting it in the future.

Details of the membership drive will be announced by the county bureau president, Mr. H. S. Everett, within the next few days, it is understood. In the meantime, farmers are urged to consider the undertaking and line up support for the movement.

Jamesville Woman Hit by Automobile

Mrs. H. M. Wright, Jamesville Township citizen, was painfully but not seriously hurt when struck by an automobile driven by a hit and run driver near Dardens Sunday afternoon. Suffering an injured shoulder and other bruises, Mrs. Wright is recovering at her home. Mrs. Wright, walking along the highway a short distance this side of Dardens, was struck when a car, traveling toward Dardens, swerved off the hard-surfaced road a few inches in passing an approaching machine.

Beaufort County Fair Gets Underway In Washington

The Beaufort County Fair, opening yesterday, was reported running full blast over in Washington today, with thousands of school children flocking the midway and enjoying the amusements furnished by the State's Shows.

With ideal weather conditions existing, Martin County people are expected to attend the exhibition in large numbers during all of this week.

Local High School Band Parades at State Fair

Going to Raleigh yesterday 35 members strong, the local high school band participated in the grand parade from the Capitol to the State Fair grounds. The youngsters, accompanied by Director Chas. L. McCullers and Professor Larry Wade, made a very favorable impression and enjoyed the fair as guests of the management.

Leaving here at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon, a few of the boys were until early this morning getting home.

FIVE O'CLOCK SOUP

Going down about 5 o'clock last Saturday morning to complete arrangements for the formal opening of his new grocery store, Merchant Dallas Frank found a tiny colored boy sitting on the curb waiting for him. And while the merchant was surprised to find a customer up an hour before the sun made its appearance, he was even more surprised to learn that the little fellow wanted a can of chicken soup.

The tot, hardly large enough to name his wants, did not explain why he wanted chicken soup and wanted it so early. Probably the young one had been chased from his bed to get nourishment for a sick member of the family, or probably he was making sure about his own dinner the next day.

Local Market Has Its Best Sale of Season With Official Average of \$28.61 for Over 188,000 Pounds

State and National Ballots Received by Election Board

While the party leaders are whooping it up for the big battle of ballots, officials have oiled up the machinery and are getting the tickets ready for the election the 3rd of next month. More than 8,000 national and state tickets have been delivered to Mr. Sylvester Peel, chairman of the Martin County Board of Elections, and an order has been placed for the county tickets. Three regular ballots will be placed before the voters for the consideration in addition to the one carrying several proposed amendments to the state constitution.

Notices of 1936 Taxes Are Mailed in County

I Per Cent Discount Is Allowed If Paid During This Month

Levy of About \$181,000 Is Slightly Larger Than For Year 1935

Nearly 8,000 Martin County property owners are being notified this week that their 1936 taxes are due and payable at the office of the sheriff in Williamston or at the several banks in the county.

Already, those who have the wherewithal are making settlement of the new taxes, the office of the sheriff reporting more than \$500 collected yesterday. While some are paying the new accounts, about 700 property owners are still battling with their year-old accounts. The delinquent list is being reduced gradually, the collector reporting 18 names removed yesterday. Indications are that the sheriff will have the smallest number of accounts to handle at his final sale the first Monday in November of any time in recent years.

The total amount of the 1936 levy has not been definitely determined, the auditor's office explaining that one or two small corporation valuations had not been certified by the State. The levy will amount to approximately \$181,000, or about \$2,000 more than that in 1935.

The 1936 tax accounts are being paid this month at a discount of 1 per cent. In November, the discount is reduced 1-2 of 1 per cent, and taxes are payable at par during December and January. After January a penalty of 1 per cent is added each month to the tax accounts through May.

Sister of Local Man Dies Suddenly in Portsmouth

Mrs. J. E. Shackelford, sister of Mr. B. S. Courtney, of Williamston, died suddenly at her home in Portsmouth, Va., this morning at 6 o'clock. She was sick only three hours. Mrs. Shackelford visited her brother here during the week-end and appeared in splendid health. She was 57 years old and is survived by her husband and five children. A sister, Mrs. J. W. Bowden, of Portsmouth, also survives. Mrs. Shackelford was a native of Virginia and had lived in Portsmouth more than 35 years.

Funeral arrangements had not been completed at noon today, but it is expected that the last rites will be conducted Thursday, interment following in a Portsmouth cemetery.

Jamesville Faculty To Give Play There Friday Night

The Jamesville school faculty, coached by Miss Sneed Leeson, is presenting a play, "The Mill of the Gods," Friday evening at 8:15 in the school auditorium. This drama in three acts, by Eugene Todd, is given under the auspices of the parent-teacher organization for the purpose of beautifying the school grounds.

115,000 Pounds Here Today With Prices As Good as Monday

Prices on the Williamston Tobacco Market soared to new levels yesterday, making for one of the best sales not only this season but for several seasons past. Farmers were better pleased than on any day this season; in fact, they were happy. With better grades being offered in larger quantities, the market reports its best average, \$28.61, of the season. Sales blocked late in the afternoon, the 188,539 pounds sold bringing \$53,925.41. Prices are holding up well today, reports this morning indicating that the average will equal and probably pass the record-breaker established yesterday. More than 115,000 pounds of the leaf are on the floors today, but the block will be cleared.

Block Sales Yesterday Are Cleared Today As Sales Continue at Rapid Pace

SOUIRREL HUNTING

The open squirrel season is attracting many hunters in this section these days, reports stating that the tree climbers are in the woods in fairly large numbers. Numbers of hunters get their bag limits, and probably have a few to spare. Cold weather and high waters in the Roanoke last winter materially decreased the number of deer, but occasionally one of the fleet animals is brought down.

Postal Receipts for Quarter Increase

Reporting gross receipts of \$4,333.56 for the third quarter, the local postoffice had the largest business for any similar period in its history. Postmaster L. T. Fowden said yesterday. The income for the quarter ending the 30th of last month was \$334.50 greater than for the third quarter, 1935, it was pointed out.

The local office income so far this year is greater than for the first three-quarters of 1935 when an all-time business record was established. Postmaster Fowden believes that record will be passed this year.

To Hold Exam for Everetts Postmaster

The position of postmaster made vacant by the death of J. S. Peel, at Everetts the 18th of last month, will be filled by the Civil Service Commission within the next few weeks, it is understood. Those persons desiring to file applications for the job are being notified to have their requests before the commission in Washington, D. C., not later than the 23rd of this month. Dillon C. Peel, son of the former postmaster, was recommended by Congressman Lindsay C. Warren to fill the office temporarily, or until the Civil Service Commission could hold examinations.

No date for holding the examinations has been determined, but they are likely to be given in the Williamston High School Building about November 7.

Holiday for Firemen Here Is Interrupted Yesterday

Starting by a spark from a flue, fire threatened the combination wash and wood house at the home of Mrs. Myrtle Harris on Houghton Street yesterday morning at 11:30 o'clock. Calling out the volunteer fire company, the owner, using a small garden hose, had the fire well under control when the firemen reached the scene. A hole, measuring several feet each way, was burned in the roof of the one-story structure, but the damage was very small.

The call was the first received by the local volunteer fire fighters since the 25th of August, and the nineteenth of the year so far.

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So far this season, the market has sold 3,131,950 pounds, with the price averaging about 3 cents a pound over that of last year.

Individual reports from the market are the most encouraging of any heard in several seasons. Johnnie Hardison, Griffins Township farmer, explained that he received a dollar a stick for 174 sticks of tobacco. Two entire rows in one house averaged more than \$40 a hundred, and farmers were really astonished. A spirit of happiness pervaded the market atmosphere yesterday, and the smiles and conversations at the warehouses here were equally as cheerful today as the sales progressed.

No record-breaking averages were reported on the market yesterday, but the averages between \$40 and \$50 were numerous, some going higher and few under \$30. Prices of inferior grades, while considered a bit stronger, still do not compare with those being received for tobacco that has any quality at all. The farmers, for the most part, are realizing this situation, and many are holding back the poorest quality grades for use as fertilizer on their farms.

Just what percentage of the crop has been sold is a matter of guesswork. Some believe between 60 and 65 per cent of the crop has been sold. Others believe that the marketing activities are hardly more than half completed. Many farmers, however, are selling their last barns this week, while others have just completed the marketing of their lugs and tips.

The September government report for the tobacco markets in this and two other belts shows a marked reduction in poundage harvested and sold during the period as compared with the same month a year ago. September sales, while averaging about 3 cents a pound higher, brought the farmers in the three belts \$27,468,714.64, as compared with \$29,816,772.60 last year. During the same month of 1935 the three belts sold 211,005,683 pounds, as compared with 150,562,995 pounds sold in the same period this year, or a reduction of about 60,000,000 pounds.

Cotton Ginnings Ahead Last Year

Martin County farmers ginned nearly five times as much cotton from the current crop up to October 1 as they did during the same period a year ago, a report released by the Department of Commerce through its special agent, Luther Hardison, shows. Last year there were 205 bales of cotton ginned in this county up to the first of October, as compared with 960 this year.

The report, while pointing to a bumper cotton production in this county, indicates that farmers are harvesting and ginning the crop faster than they did a year ago. Some actually believe the total production will hardly exceed that of last season.