

Farm Bureau Holds Annual Meeting In Courthouse Friday

Mr. Arnold Says Tobacco Should Be Averaging 28 Cents a Pound

Representing nearly every district in the county, Martin County Farm Bureau members and other interested farmers unanimously expressed themselves in favor of crop control during a spirited meeting of their group in the county courthouse last Friday evening. Tired out by long hours of toil, the farmers rested their eyes and their heads nodded, but every word spoken by E. F. Arnold, secretary of the State federation, was given careful attention, as the meeting continued until nearly 10 o'clock that evening.

Much time was given the election of new directors and officers for the county federation for the new year. Secretary Arnold pointing out the value of the Farm Bureau and urging its support, "Before a committee of the Farm Bureau went to Washington last year, peanuts were selling for 3 cents. When the committee returned, peanuts were selling for four cents." Mr. Arnold pointed out, "We haven't got all that was and is due us, but the Farm Bureau is making a determined fight to lead the farmer's cause, and we need a strong organization to support a crop control program and advance the rights of agriculture," Mr. Arnold said in appealing to the farmers to rally behind the Farm Bureau.

Warming up to his subject, the Farm Bureau secretary pointed out that potato prices were below cost of production, that peanuts are headed for a fall, and that tobacco isn't bringing what it ought to. "Tobacco should be selling for an average of 28 cents a pound," he declared, adding that it was too cheap and that "we haven't got out of the woods with our tobacco." The speaker explained that farmers and others must keep on their guard. "And if we don't, Washington will think we are satisfied, that we don't want a control program," he added. "We want a control program and that we need one," Mr. Arnold continued.

The speaker outlined plans for consideration at a mass meeting to be held in Raleigh tomorrow morning when thousands of farmers are expected to ask control of surplus crops, loans on surplus crops and parity prices. The mass meeting, according to Mr. Arnold, will likely map plans for carrying the farmer's battle before a senate agriculture committee hearing to be held in Winston-Salem shortly.

"Cotton Ed Smith, United States Senator from South Carolina, has arranged a hearing in Winston-Salem to get the sentiment of the farmers on a control program. Smith is hostile to a control program and he is arranging the hearing in a hostile territory," Arnold said in pointing out that the Farm Bureau would make every effort to have the great farming section in the coastal plain area represented. "Smith and his boys such as Bailey, Glass and others, are looking for enough sentiment against control plans to defeat them," he continued. "If we don't get in there and work, our opponents will draft a control bill of their own, but any control bill that group drafts can be identified now as a worthless document," Mr. Arnold said.

The permanent adoption of a control program will be the greatest thing ever done for agriculture in this country, Mr. Arnold said. He added that agriculture wanted only a fair chance, that the farmer wanted and needed some security. "Things we buy are going up, and the things we sell are going down," the Farm Bureau man explained. In conclusion, he said, "It is a critical time. We must awaken and perfect a strong organization to support a control program."

Local Schools Report Enrollment Increase

An increase in the enrollment figures was reported as the local schools began their second week, Principal D. N. Hix said today. An additional 15 students have entered the high school, increasing the number in that department to 200. There are now 570 pupils registered in the elementary school, but the registrations are not quite up to those of a year ago. Mr. Hix explained that he believed the enrollment would set new records later, however.

Fifteen graduates or out-side students have enrolled in the newly established commercial department and ten seniors are taking the courses, Professor Ferguson said yesterday.

Sheriff Doesn't Believe Prison Escapees Are in This Section

Reports claiming that Worth "Tick" Proctor and Bill Payne, State prison escapees, have been in this county and section are given little credence by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck of this county. The sheriff also stated that he believed the several hold-ups and robberies in Eastern Carolina recently are the work of other parties, but the two desperadoes are getting the blame for it, the sheriff further expressed himself.

If reports received by the sheriff's office in this county are true, then Proctor and Payne and other members of their gang have been in this county at least six times recently, but there is reason to believe they haven't been here the first time since their escape from the Raleigh prison several weeks ago. According to the reports, the circus that played here nearly two weeks ago would have been held up, large business houses would

have been robbed, and so on and so on.

Reports that the gang had planned to rob the Jas. Stewart Construction Company payroll as the money was being delivered to the Kieckhefer pulp mill plant in the lower part of this county last Friday were denied by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck. "There have been a number of hold-ups lately and we did not want to take any chances," Sheriff Roebuck explained, adding that special forces were made available to guard the payroll last Friday and that adequate police protection would be provided when future payrolls are delivered to the plant there.

"The desperadoes might come," the Sheriff said and explained that Proctor had promised he would make arrangements to see him some time. "Police lines have been tightened, and we are ready for all comers," officers said today.

Tuberculosis Report Declared Unfounded

CROWDED BUSES

School authorities are fast completing plans for relieving crowded conditions in buses operating in the Bear Grass district, the superintendent's office announcing today that an additional bus would be placed in operation there the latter part of this or early next week subject to approval by the State School Commission.

Eighty-one children are being transported to and from the school in one bus at the present time, Principal Hickman explained to the county office. Crowded bus conditions are said to exist in other sections, but none equals the crowded record established at Bear Grass.

Series Of Wrecks Mark Increased Flow Of Traffic

No One Killed; Johnson Is Being Held in Jail Awaiting Trial

A series of automobile wrecks marked the flow of increased traffic on state highway in this section last week-end, all the victims coming through with their lives.

Elisha Penniman, Plymouth newspaper man, escaped with a few minor cuts on his face when his car, forced off the road by another, plunged down a 15-foot embankment on Highway 64 several miles below Jamesville. His car was not greatly damaged.

Mr. and Mrs. George Tyson, their six children and Mr. Tyson's mother barely escaped with their lives when a car driven at a rapid speed by O. K. Johnson, Plymouth negro, crashed into them on Highway 64 a short distance below Jamesville last Saturday morning. Mrs. Geo. Tyson, 32, suffered a broken arm and head injuries. The elder Mrs. Tyson was badly cut on the head and it was thought one of her legs was broken. Wallace Tyson, six years, was painfully cut on the head. A small baby was pulled from the wreckage unharmed. Mr. Tyson was cut on the head and four of the children were slightly cut and bruised. Two passengers were with Johnson.

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Alleged Flimflammers Arrested In Smithfield

Alleged to have fleeced Isaac Nichols, Williams Township colored man, out of more than \$1,000 cash here last winter, Cora McKnight, colored woman, was arrested in Smithfield last week when she and her confederates attempted to work the old pocketbook game. Several others were arrested with the woman and they are being prosecuted in the Johnston County courts, it is understood.

The group is said to have attempted to fleece money out of unsuspecting persons just as they did in this county last year and year before last, but the fast trick shown Nichols is believed to have netted them the largest sum of money of any yet reported to police.

No plans have been made to return the woman and her accomplices here for trial.

Oak City Doctor Says There Is No Cause For Alarm

Goose Nest Citizens Send Petition to the State Board of Health

The report claiming there were a number of active cases of tuberculosis in the Oak City community was declared unfounded following an investigation by the Martin County Board of Health in special session last Friday afternoon. An investigation by a special representative of the State Board of Health was also considered unnecessary, the findings based on official information indicating that there are fewer cases of tuberculosis in the Oak City community than there are possible in some others of this county.

Requested to appear before the board at the last Friday meeting, Dr. E. E. Pittman of Oak City, explained that there was not an active case of tuberculosis there. The doctor, showing every willingness to safeguard the health of the public as well as that of his patients, assured the county health authorities there was no cause whatever for alarm, that the danger of contracting tuberculosis in Oak City or community was no greater than in any other town or community.

It was pointed out to the county health group that there were possibly one or two cases of tuberculosis in or around Oak City, but that they were far from the productive stage.

Parents, consulting their family physician, were assured there was no danger, and no great alarm followed the circulation of the unfounded claim, it was learned from an authoritative source.

Motivated by an undetermined cause, the report was borne out in a petition to the State Board of Health more than a week ago asking an investigation of conditions in the Oak City community. The petition, dated August 18, in substance, read, as follows:

"Oak City, N. C., August 18, 1937.
"State Board of Health,
"Raleigh, N. C.
"Gentlemen:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Martin County, Goose Nest Township, N. C., petition you as follows: "It is with regret that we write you about a matter that should be handled within the county, but having no health officer, we, as citizens of this county, are asking you aid. There has developed a number of cases of tuberculosis in and near Oak City, and we are asking that same be investigated before school starts, if possible, as there is probably some cause that a clinic or some investigation would divulge. We are not telling you what to do, but we are asking your aid as soon as possible as all our children go there to school."

The petition carried the names of 21 Martin citizens, and while it might have been signed in good faith later and official investigation proved it unnecessary.

The State Board of Health recognized the petition and is said to have planned to send a special representative to this county to make an investigation the latter part of this month or early in October.

County Authorities Order Past Due Tax Accounts Advertised

Commissioners Spend Much Time Handling Varied Program Monday

Meeting in regular session Monday, the Martin County commissioners spent a greater part of the day handling a varied program of business. Other than the routine business handled, the commissioners centered their attention on health plans advanced by the county board of health, the advertising of the county's delinquent tax list, road extensions and the appointment of a county forest warden.

In accordance with law and at the direction of the commissioners the county's delinquent tax list will be advertised the first Monday in October, the sheriff's sale to follow on the first Monday in November. The tax collector is now preparing the list, and is making arrangements to address another appeal to property owners to settle their accounts at once.

The appointment of Dr. J. H. Saunders as full-time county health officer was approved on terms and conditions exactly as set out by the county health board.

A resolution was passed by the board asking the State Highway Commission to complete Highway No. 11 from the colored school, near Hassell, to Oak City, via Hassell, the road to follow the present route to Hassell and then parallel the A. C. L. Railroad Company's track 1.1-3 miles back to present road. A petition, carrying a long list of names, was presented the board asking that the road be hard surfaced and completed as soon as practicable.

The county forest warden's job proved quite attractive, and seven applicants asked recommendations of the commissioners to the State department. W. O. Peel, H. M. Burdass, T. E. Goodrich, Carter Studard, Marvin H. Leggett, Thos. Manning and S. J. Tetterton were recommended, the State department to appoint the man most suited for the work. District Forester Tilghman appeared before the board and received the recommendations. Joe Everett, of Robersonville Township, was allowed to sell proprietary products in Martin County on free county license.

Woman's Club Will Meet Wednesday

The first fall meeting of the Williamston Woman's Club will be held Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock in the club rooms.

Under the able leadership of the new president, Mrs. E. F. Moseley, the club should go far this year.

An executive committee meeting has already been held and the work and aims for the year planned. The Program and Social Committee with Mrs. P. B. Cose, chairman has planned a very interesting program for the initial meeting. It is hoped that the members of this club will lay aside the above day and have a full attendance at the Wednesday meeting. This club has done big things for this community in the past and there are still greater opportunities awaiting. Please support the club by your presence.

Ten Law Violators Were Arrested Last Week-end

Ten alleged violators of the law fell into the hands of county and local police over the week-end, the arresting officers stating that it was the busiest period they had had in several months. Six of the defendants are facing charges of violating the liquor laws, two others are booked for alleged drunken or reckless driving, and still two others were jailed for alleged larceny.

MANY RAINS

This section had many rains—twenty—but not much rain during last month according to the Roanoke River weather station. The rainfall, measuring 2.79 inches, was considerably below the average precipitation reported here during August. In the month before, 7.29 inches of rain fell in this section.

Last month the total rainfall was a fraction of an inch more than in August, 1936, but in previous years the August rainfall was heavy as the following figures indicate: 1933, 6.25 inches; 1934, 6.97 inches, and 1935, 7.56 inches.

Dr. Joseph H. Saunders To Head Full-Time Health Department in County Beginning January First

Town Authorities Order Ten-Cent Tax Reduction

Williamston's new tax rate was formally set at \$2.60 the \$100 property valuation, the commissioners meeting in regular session last night for the first time in two months, spending right much time discussing the possibility of reducing the figure by more than 10 cents. Careful consideration was given the preparation of the budget by Treasurer N. C. Green and auditors, and the figures were left unchanged by the commissioners. The new rate is expected to raise around \$42,000, other sources to bring the total revenue up to around \$63,000 the amount of the estimated expenditures.

A program of varied business by the board members who ordered property condemned for extending Smithwick Street to Marshall avenue. A sidewalk on the North side

of Warren Street from Park to Houghton was ordered paved, the clerk to employ an engineer and call for bids at once.

Fire Chief Geo. Harris pointed out the need for a hose truck for the department, but the commissioners delayed action until cost estimates are made available.

The commissioners withheld from sale a small piece of land on Watts Street south of the railroad to Frank Carstarphen for use as a coal and wood yard.

Claude Cherry was given permission to build an ice box and place it on Railroad Street near Griffin Bros. warehouse for the sale of fish.

The purchase of a new truck with a hydraulic lift for use in handling garbage collection was ordered by the board. Cost figures are to be submitted before final approval, it was stated.

Will Retire From Active Practice About Sept. 20th.

New Health Department to Be Located in Offices of Dr. Saunders

Dr. Jos. H. Saunders, prominent Williamston physician, has formally accepted the position of full-time health officer for Martin County and is now making plans for establishing the new service on or about next January 1. The doctor's appointment made by the county board last Friday was given unanimous approval by the county board of commissioners at their regular meeting here yesterday. The appointment was recognized as a very favorable one for the department and for the people it will serve, the officials stating that they had every reason to believe that the new health service will prove highly successful from the start.

Dr. Saunders is planning to retire from the active practice of medicine on or about the 20th of this month and enter a special training school preparatory to entering upon his new duties in the county on or about January 1. The training period, lasting about three months, is required by public health officials. It will be held in Chapel Hill, the doctor explaining that he was not planning on going out for football when he re-entered the University of North Carolina, his alma mater.

Plans calling for the location of the new health department in the new and modern offices of the doctor on Smithwick Street were approved by the county commissioners. The rental fee will be around \$75 or just enough to meet the interest charges, it was pointed out. Plans were also made for the doctor to use his medical equipment and instruments in handling the service, members of the health board explaining that these arrangements would effect sizeable savings for the county.

The office has a salary of \$3,600 and the entire department including the services of two nurses and a sanitary inspector, carries a cost of approximately \$12,500. The State and Federal governments accept one-half the cost. It is understood that this county will have one of the most modern departments in the State, and it is reasonable to believe that marked improvements in the general health of the people and in sanitary conditions will follow the launching of the new service.

Distribution of Free Texts Quite A Task

The distribution of free texts to the approximately 2,500 grammar grade school children in this county is proving some huge task, reports from the office of the county superintendent and several of the principals indicate. Authorities said today, however, that the task should be completed within the next week or ten days with the exception of three texts that are to be discarded at the end of this session. Language and health books for the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh grades and the North Carolina history for the sixth grade will be discarded at the end of this term and replaced by new texts next term. During the meantime, only those second-hand books for these courses will be available this term. "It is a shiftless system, but we are asking the cooperation of the teachers, parents and children in supplying as many of these particular texts as possible," Superintendent J. C. Manning said. No language books are used in the third grade, it was pointed out.

So far as the State is concerned, pupils are at liberty to use the free texts just as if they were their own. The use of the books is subject to any rules the teachers may consider necessary or advisable, the county superintendent said. Supplementary books or those that are rented will remain in the schools at all times, however.

Privileged to buy their own books if they do not prefer to use those furnished free by the State, children or their parents can make purchases in the office of the county superintendent. Ten or twelve sets of books have been sold by the office so far.

Prices Advancing on Local Tobacco Market

Over Million Pounds Sold on Market Here Through Yesterday

Farmers of Eight Counties Seem Very Much Satisfied With Results

Showing added strength as the second week of the marketing season drew to a close, prices on the Williamston tobacco market continued to advance today, farmers expressing greater satisfaction with their sales than in many seasons. Not in some time have farmers themselves reported more favorably on the sales and the general personnel on the local market. "We urge and hope that everyone will find time to visit the Williamston market and see how smoothly our marketing activities are functioning," a member of the tobacco-board of trade said this morning.

The market passed the million-pound mark yesterday and had a hundred thousand pounds or more to spare. The sales today are estimated at 150,000 pounds. Supervisor Johnson stating that the average yesterday was well over 23 cents, "and I sincerely believe the price average will pass that figure today," he added.

Price advances centered on the common and medium-quality grades, the offerings in the better class holding firm, today. Individual prices ranged as high as 40 cents, a few going above that figure. Few tags have been turned during the entire season, and no sales had been rejected during the first several hours of selling this morning. Farmers were here yesterday from eight counties with tobacco, and as a whole there has never been a more satisfactory sale.

It is true that fancy tobaccos are bringing no fancy prices, but the inferior grades are saving the day this year, the farmers agreeing that when the market is strong for those sorry grades everyone benefits.

Farmers Will Hold Meeting In Raleigh

Thousands of farmers, a number from this county, are expected to march on Raleigh tomorrow morning and voice their support of a farm control plan.

"A farm bill without teeth is worse than no bill at all. Everything is at stake. We stand to lose all if we do not act now. Those opposed to control are now drafting a bill. It's a fight to the finish," E. F. Arnold, secretary of the North Carolina State Farm Bureau Federation, told a number of Martin County farmers in a meeting here last Friday night and urged them to attend the Raleigh meeting.

Senator R. R. Reynolds and Chester H. Gray, Washington representative of the National Farm Bureau, will address the meeting, beginning at 10:30 o'clock.

HONOR ROLL

Martin County made the health honor roll last month when not a single communicable disease case was reported. On several occasions the county health office reported as few as one or two communicable cases, but the record last month surpassed all others. Mrs. Erah Cobb, secretary for the part-time health officer, explained that it was the first time since she had been handling the reports that there were no reportable cases to report to the State board. Mrs. Cobb has been with the office for about seven years.

Twenty-six Colored Schools Start Term In County Thursday

Enrollment Expected to Be Lower Due to Tobacco Harvesting Work

Twenty-five Martin County colored schools will open their doors for the new term on Thursday of this week, general reports indicating that the enrollment will fall under the record established a year ago. Tobacco harvesting work now underway and cotton picking time are expected to hold hundreds of school pupils at home during the early part of the term, but as one school man pointed out, "There seems to be no convenient time to run the schools for colored children, and for many white ones, too."

Last year the twenty-five schools enrolled 3,734 pupils, 3,549 in the elementary and 185 in the high school during the term. Not more than 3,000 and hardly that number are expected to report for class instruction on Thursday. Last year several schools in the upper part of the county were forced to close when large numbers of children were held at home to help handle the farm work. School authorities, while they hope it will not be found necessary to repeat that action, believe that two or three schools might close for short periods.

The last year's school census showed there were 4,577 colored children of school age in the six districts of the county. The total enrollment was 3,734, leaving more than 1,100 outside the school room during the term.

Ninety teachers, the same number employed in the colored schools last term, are returning to these posts again this week with only eleven exceptions. A few resigned and several were discharged, the authorities finding it necessary to fill only 11 positions with new teachers. The enrollment figures last year by schools follow:
District 1: Williamston, high school 163, elementary 531; Biggs, 162; Poplar Point, 38; Williams Low-

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