

Equipment Firm Unloading Farm, Road Machinery

Plans for Formal Opening to be Announced Shortly

While plans for the formal opening of its offices and sales diversion here are being worked out, the North Carolina Equipment Company is already handling sales from its local plant. Several carloads of machinery have been unloaded during the past few days and additional shipments are moving in almost daily. It was learned unofficially this week that special efforts are being made to completely stock the modern new plant here within the shortest time possible. Considerable farm machinery is being erected and several trucks have been placed in stock in the district headquarters here.

Several of the district headquarters personnel have already reported here for work, and it is possible the formal opening will be held within a short time. Mr. S. P. Jones has been transferred from the Statesville offices, and Messrs. H. J. Midgett, J. T. Nottingham, J. C. Rogers and Thos. W. Smith are here from the home office in Raleigh. Mr. A. E. Finley, general manager, will divide his time between the offices here and in Raleigh and Statesville, it is understood.

One of the largest parts departments east of Raleigh is being arranged in the new building here on Washington Street, and the machinery stock will rank with the largest in the east. The equipment includes everything in the farm and road machinery line as well as tools and rolling equipment for contractors. In short, the company handles everything from a rubber-tired wheelbarrow to one of the largest tractors made.

No official announcement has been made, but it is understood the management is planning an interesting and instructive program for its formal opening, which may possibly center around a series of field-day events. A formal announcement carrying details of the opening is expected within a short time.

Fire Drives Family Into Zero Weather

Harold Williams, colored, his wife and their seven children were driven, thinly clad, into freezing weather at 3 o'clock yesterday morning when fire burned their home to the ground just off Broad street near the Baptist cemetery. Said to have gained considerable headway before it was discovered, the fire almost claimed the lives of every member of the family. The children, ranging from nine months to 12 years of age, ran from or were carried from the small home in their night clothes, reports stating that the parents finished dressing after they had left the five-room structure.

Besides the few rags covering their bodies, the family saved an old trunk, part of a bed and two lamps. No insurance was carried on the contents, and it could not be learned whether the house belonging to Mr. D. G. Matthews, of Hamilton, was insured. No official estimate is available, but the loss will approximate \$700 or \$800, it is thought.

Night Officer John Gurganus saw the light of the blaze, and turned in the alarm after locating the fire. A traveler on the highway saw the fire and reported it about the same time, according to one report heard. Volunteer firemen, answering their first call of the new year, carried the fire-fighting apparatus to the scene, but the fire was out of reach of the water lines and no connection with the tank on the truck was considered necessary.

The freezing weather held the number of spectators to a minimum. While its origin is not definitely known, it is believed the fire started from a defective flue. A fire was burning in a back-room heater during the night, it was said.

Small Child Dies Near Here Last Friday Noon

Margie Williams, two years old, died at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lollie Williams, near here last Friday afternoon at one o'clock from intestinal influenza. The little child had been sick only a comparatively short time.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Rev. J. D. Knox. Interment was in the Williams family cemetery near the A. C. Council home.

Martin Farmers Continue Plans for Big Tobacco Crop

Martin farmers are continuing plans for a large tobacco crop this year, according to reliable reports heard during the past few days. An increase estimated at from 10 to 20 per cent is certain to follow if no control program is effected, the reports maintain.

Planting twelve acres last year, one farmer is planning to cultivate between fifteen and twenty acres this season "if no control bill is passed." The same farmer planning the sizeable increase in acreage expressed an earnest hope that a control bill would be passed, adding that he would gladly comply with its provisions.

With plans in their minds for an acreage increase, Martin farmers are anticipating blue mold damage and they are planning to and are preparing large plant beds to combat the disease and care for their needs in planting an increased acreage.

Reports from the office of the

county agent this week state that 257 quarts of tobacco seed have been cleaned so far this season for 137 farmers, that other seed is being delivered to the office in large quantities almost daily. It is estimated that the 257 quarts of seed will plant 625,000 square yards of beds and produce enough plants under normal conditions to plant more than 3,000 acres to the crop. Many farmers are planting 200 yards of beds this season where they planted 100 a year ago, and they are preparing the beds earlier than ever before.

Tobacco farmers in this county with the exception of possibly one per cent or even less are heartily in favor of a control measure. They feel kindly toward the tobacco companies for paying a fair price for the crop last season, and they do not hesitate to say that they cannot blame the buyers for lowering the prices if a big crop is offered for sale this year.

Albemarle Presbytery In Session Here Today

MINISTERS MEET

The Martin County Ministers' Association, in meeting at the Williamston Presbyterian church Monday, effected its reorganization for the current year. Rev. E. C. Shoe, of Robersonville, heads the group as president. Rev. J. L. Goff, Christian minister, of Williamston, is the new vice president, and Rev. S. A. Maxwell, pastor of the Williamston Methodist church, is secretary-treasurer.

Regular meetings scheduled for this year will be held on the second Mondays in March, June, September and December.

Noted Missionary Addresses Special Session Church Men

Thirty Churches in This Section of State Represented

Representatives from thirty churches in Eastern North Carolina are here today for a special meeting of the Albemarle Presbytery and to hear Rev. Frank F. Baker, D. D., Missionary of the Presbyterian church in Brazil.

The sessions got underway at 10:30 with the address by Dr. Baker holding the spotlight on the program. Dr. Baker spoke on conditions in Brazil, a goodly number of laymen being present at 11 o'clock for the address. The group, to continue in session a great part of the day, will give attention to routine matters of importance to the Presbytery. Luncheon is being served the visitors at the George Reynold Hotel.

Rev. Harold J. Dudley, of Kinston, Moderator of the Presbytery, is presiding, with Rev. R. E. McClure, of New Bern, serving in his office of stated clerk. Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, pastor of the local church is host to the gathering.

The special program on foreign missions which is occupying a major place on the morning program is under Rev. W. F. Waddell, chairman of this committee of the Presbytery, and Rev. Norman Johnson, of Rocky Mount, who is chairman, by request, of a special committee of the Presbyterian Synod of North Carolina. This special committee was set up to inform the Presbyterians of the situation of their missionaries in China and to endeavor to raise a supplementary offering during January to meet emergency costs of the work in China incident to the war existing there.

Mr. Waddell in announcing this special program sent the ministers of the Presbytery a prepared statement of Rev. C. Darby Fulton, D. D., executive secretary of the foreign mission committee of the entire denomination, in which Dr. Fulton says, "If one had deliberately planned a war in China to interfere most directly with the China Missions of the Presbyterian church in the United States, he could not have accomplished this more thoroughly than has been done by the warring forces in the Far East." Dr. Fulton is the son of a missionary of this denomination in Japan. He himself was born in that country.

Local Firms Conducting January Clearance Sales

The firms of Barnhill Brothers and Margolis Brothers are starting their big January clearance sales on Thursday of this week, the two leading merchandising units offering store-wide bargains. In page advertisements today the two firms are listing these bargains.

Mr. J. E. Boykin, for several years associated with a local mercantile firm, has accepted a position with Jarnhill Brothers.

Here from Winston-Salem

Judge Clayton Moore and daughter, Miss Susan Moore, of Winston-Salem, visited relatives here last week-end.

Tons Of Peanuts Now In Storage Will Be Diverted

Goobers Will Start Moving to Oil Mills Within Few Weeks

According to reliable but unofficial information reaching here this week, plans are now underway for the government to start diverting tons of peanuts into oil. The action is expected to eliminate any surplus of peanuts and possibly boost prices on the open market.

A. B. Harless, supervising inspector with the State Department of Agriculture, was here this week conferring with local inspectors, but he did not say when any peanuts would be moved from local storage houses.

With comparatively few peanuts remaining on farms in North Carolina, it was reported that "a high percentage of this season's crops are in the cooperative warehouses." Meanwhile, R. C. Holland, president of the Peanut Stabilization Cooperative, of Edenton returning from Washington, D. C., where he conferred with other cooperative heads, said that "since the incoming movement of Virginia-type farmers stock peanuts has declined, it is necessary to have all 31 North Carolina Department of Agriculture inspectors in readiness to handle the outgoing movement of peanuts from various warehouses in 26 eastern North Carolina cities and towns, either for diversion or commercial trade demands."

Harless said the diversion program would be placed in operation within the next few days, adding that "the president of the Peanut Stabilization Cooperative of Edenton has informed me, after his conference in Washington with other cooperative officials, that there appears a necessity for crushing in Virginia and North Carolina."

"The peanut crushing movement has already started in the southeastern states and will be accelerated in the next two or three weeks throughout the entire peanut belt," he said. "Request has been made that the inspectors especially in the southeastern part of the State have everything in readiness to move their peanuts into diversions channels within a short time."

Peanut authorities in the State have looked upon the cooperative purchase of peanuts as "the salvation of the growers this season" in view of the heavy crop which was bringing relatively low prices before the stabilization program was launched. They also regard the diversion program as further protection for the peanut grower next season, if material increases in acreage or production are not made, Harless said.

Employment Office Finds Jobs For 100

Since the transfer a few days ago of the Bertie county files from Edenton to the Williamston office of the State Employment Service, approximately 900 more workers have been added to the scope of territory served by the local office. Bertie is the sixth and latest county to be handled from the Williamston office. It has 233 workers actively registered at present, available for work and seeking work, and several hundred more in the inactive files subject to renewal.

The Williamston office has placed approximately 100 workers in various jobs in public and private employment within the past several weeks. Practically any call for skilled or unskilled labor can be met on short notice by the State Employment office here, either from its local files or by its access to the files and workers registered in other offices over the state. A wide variety of jobs and professions are represented in the Williamston files. Registrations include such variety of workers as boat pilots, laborers, oyster shuckers, farm hands, painters, millworkers, stenographers, school teachers, carpenters, piano tuners, fishermen, salesmen and a great many other trades and occupations.

Over the state as a whole, the employment offices operated by the state and federal governments similar to the one in Williamston, have had a consistent record of growth and service to the people. From August, 1933, to December, 1937, the N. C. State Employment service offices registered 704,461 people. Out of this number they placed in jobs 481,679 people. This represents 68 placements or jobs found for each one hundred people registered during this four-year period. A great number of these jobs were in private industry, and in permanent jobs for the workers.

Plan To Set Up Health Office in County Soon

Dr. E. W. Furguson To Locate Here In Next Few Weeks

Full-time Department to Be in Operation Before March 1

Plans for setting up a full-time health department for Martin County will get underway here early next month, according to Dr. E. W. Furguson, head of the department, who was in the county this week discussing the preliminary arrangements with members of the county board of health. "We hope to have the department functioning some time before March," Dr. Furguson said. Dr. Furguson stated that he would complete the special training course offered by the United States Department of Health in Chapel Hill this week, that during the remainder of the month he would divide his time between Williamston and Raleigh conferring with county and state health authorities and formulating definite plans for beginning the actual set-up work early next month.

The new health department head, appointed by the county board last November, is greatly encouraged over the outlook for his new work in this county, and stated while in the county this week that he was greatly appreciative to the Martin County Board of Health and to all others who have shown and are showing such an excellent spirit of cooperation in the promotion of the health program in the county. County health authorities are very much pleased with their appointment, and they sincerely believe much good will be accomplished by the full-time department under the direction of Dr. Furguson.

No appointments of nurses, a sanitary inspector and a secretary have been made so far, the doctor explaining that they would be subject to approval of the health board. He explained that nurses for the department would not be available before the early part of March or at the termination of their post-graduate training period in the United States School of Public Health Nursing. The services of a sanitary inspector will possibly be available early next month, the doctor explaining that an appointment is expected at that time, that several applications for the job have been received and that some of the applicants will meet the requirements.

"A preliminary survey of the county will be essential in order that the solution of health problems may be accomplished in a manner which will be most beneficial to the entire county," Dr. Furguson said. He plans to make this survey possibly between now and the first of next month.

Asked if Martin County would share in the fund set up by the Reynolds foundation for combatting syphilis, Dr. Furguson stated that he had been assured the benefits would be made available, but that definite plans for any campaign had not been released at this time by the State Health Department. Members of the county health board believe much good will be accomplished by the full-time health unit, that the work against syphilis will more than offset the total cost for the year.

Dr. Furguson and all members of the county health board are very hopeful all the people will cooperate in the new work that can be made to mean so much in advancing the general health of everyone.

Locals Lose Games To Washington And Aulander

After opening season with a 12-10 victory over Washington, the local high school sextet dropped their first game to Hertford last Friday night. The boys lost their second game of the season the same night to the Perquimans five. Washington took a 35-12 victory over the locals last week.

The two teams are meeting those from Bear Grass here this evening, and Friday they go to Aulander for a double-header.

Meeting Well Attended

A meeting held in connection with the 1938 soil conservation program was well attended at Farm Life last Friday evening.

SPEAKER

Mrs. Rodifer of the State Adult Education Department will address the regular meeting of the Woman's Club here tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, it was announced today by Mrs. J. F. Thigpen, chairman in charge of the program for the afternoon.

The program will center around State education, and all members of the club are urged to attend. An invitation is extended the public to hear the guest speaker.

Welfare Activity Reviewed By Miss Taylor In County

Department Rejects 142 of the 295 Applications Received So Far

There have been plenty pleas for help in this county since the Security Act went into effect a few months ago according to a review of the welfare department activities released this week by Miss Mary Taylor, superintendent.

Through last Saturday, the county welfare department had received 295 applications for old age assistance, 32 applications for aid to dependent children and 22 for aid to the blind. The department, up until that time, had approved 104 of the 295 applications for old age assistance, the average grant to each person resting right at \$8.50 per month, Miss Taylor explains that this average compares favorably with that for the State, as a whole. Five of the applicants have gone on to their reward after receiving two or three monthly allowances. Six others died before their applications could be completed in the county or before they were approved by authorities in Raleigh. Of the 142 applications rejected, 27 were turned down after home investigations were made and necessary collateral calls were reported. The department or board rejected 115 of the 142 applications after office interviews were made, the authorities pointing out that these applicants were not eligible to share in the old age benefits according to requirements specified in the Social Security laws. At the present time, the department has 38 cases under consideration, and it is likely that action will be taken to approve or reject most of these within the next few days. The total allotment of recipients for old age benefits in this county is 160.

The total allotment of recipients for Aid to Dependent Children to Martin County is 140 children. To date 32 applications for Aid to Dependent Children have been received involving 127 children below the age of 16 of this number 20 families including 77 children have been approved with the average grant per child being \$4.95, three rejected.

Martin county's quota for Aid to the Blind has been filled since soon after the inauguration of the program. Seventeen recipients receive an average of \$11.35 per person per month. The average grant to the blind is higher than the grants to the aged because of their greater physical handicap.

During the month of December the local welfare department received 56 new applications for general relief and 44 new applications for other assistance such as hospitalization, institutionalization, CCC, etc.

Kills Rattlesnake In Jamesville Township

Hunting in the Jamesville section last Saturday, David J. Modlin saw and killed a sizeable rattlesnake. The reptile, measuring about six feet and having nine rattles, was fully exposed to the January weather, but showed very little sign of life.

Colored P. T. A. Will Meet Tonight At 7:30

The Parent-Teacher Association of the local colored schools, will meet in the high school auditorium of the colored school tonight at 7:30. All parents are requested to be present.

T. B. Slade Orders 1,000 Cedar Trees For Farm

T. B. Slade of Martin County has ordered 1,000 cedar trees for setting on his farm and W. Robert Everett has ordered 1,000 black locust trees for the same purpose.

Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Group In Meeting

Association Now Has 535 Members and \$772,000 Insurance in Force

The Martin County Branch of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance association experienced a very successful year in 1937 according to the annual report read by Secretary-Treasurer Jas. L. Coltraine in the yearly meeting held in the county courthouse last Saturday. The report was very gratifying, and the membership, well represented at the meeting, is well pleased with the outlook for the current year.

Operating with 535 members during the year, the county unit had in force during that time insurance in the sum of \$772,000 and ended the year with a cash balance of \$6,744.56 according to the secretary's report.

During the year, members of the association reported five losses amounting to a total of \$1,877.40. The cost to the members was placed at 50 cents on the \$100, an amount that represents a sizeable savings to the members. While the cost was increased by a greater number of losses in 1937 than in 1936, the rate or cost to the membership is recognized as unusually small.

The meeting last Saturday re-elected its officers as follows: Sylvester Peel, president; Jos. S. Griffin, vice president; and James L. Coltraine, secretary-treasurer. Mr. Coltraine is now serving his 26th year as secretary-treasurer for the county unit. During that time he has served ably the organization, and has been instrumental in saving farmers of this county thousands of dollars in insurance premiums. The association is recognized as one of the most valuable cooperative ventures to the farmers in operation in the county today.

Named a delegate to the annual meeting of the State association in Raleigh today, Mr. Jas. L. Coltraine left yesterday for the sessions.

Directors of the county association are: Messrs. W. S. Rhodes, S. T. Everett, W. M. Green, S. T. Woolard, Jos. S. Griffin, W. B. Harrington and Joshua L. Coltraine.

Local Men Injured In Car-Truck Wreck

James C. Cooke, secretary-treasurer of the Standard Fertilizer company here, suffered a broken collar bone, and Robt. L. Coburn, Ernest Etheridge and Dallas M. Frank were bruised but not badly hurt when their car was sideswiped by a City Transfer Company truck, of Washington, near the Beaufort capital, on the Greenville road, last Saturday night at 10 o'clock. Mr. Cooke, after receiving treatment in a Washington hospital, is able to be up and continues his work.

The car, driven by Frank, had one side ripped open, but it was driven here under its own power.

According to passengers in the car, the body of the truck carried no clearance lights and that after clearing the cab of the truck the car crashed into the protruding portion of the truck. "We were driving right on the edge of the concrete," one of the passengers added. No charges have been preferred against the truck driver.

Production Credit Association to Meet

Stockholders of the Washington Production Credit Association will hold their annual meeting in the John Small School Auditorium at Washington, North Carolina, on Thursday morning, January 27th at 10 o'clock, according to an announcement by J. B. Patrick, president of the association, who says that it is desired that every member of the association shall be present.

At this meeting, complete and detailed reports will be made by the officers of the association on its operations for the past year, directors will be elected and other highly important business transacted.

Mr. J. B. Patrick in announcing the date of the annual meeting said that it was hoped to make the attendance at this year's meeting the largest of any of the meetings yet held. He said that these annual meetings afforded the stockholders an opportunity to learn every detail of the operations of their association and that it was their duty to attend.

The Washington Production Credit Association serves Beaufort, Martin, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington counties and in 1937 made loans totaling \$297,000.00.