

Predict Tobacco Acreage Increase In Georgia Area

Farmers Building Quite a Number of New Curing Barns There

There'll be a fairly substantial increase in the acreage planted to tobacco in Georgia and Florida this season," Mr. Jimmie Taylor, Williamston tobacco warehouseman, said this week following a hurried survey of the southern tobacco territory the latter part of last week. "Of course, farmers there will not double the crop, as a whole," Mr. Taylor explained, "but ninety-five out of one hundred growers are going to increase their crop some, and possibly some will double the size of their crops in Georgia," Mr. Taylor added.

Discussing the outlook in Florida, Mr. Taylor believed that a large percentage increase in the crop can be expected there. That State grows comparatively little tobacco, however, and a 100 per cent increase there will not affect the total to any great extent.

Quite a few farmers are building new barns this year, according to Mr. Taylor. Tobacco plants are up and growing and everybody is talking tobacco down in Georgia and Florida.

Completing his work as auctioneer on the Bowling Green, Ky., tobacco market, Mr. Taylor returned home last week-end after a short stay in Georgia. The Kentucky markets reported only a fair season. The price averaged around 18 cents or about three to four cents less than the average a year ago. The crop was considerably smaller than was first predicted, Mr. Taylor stating that Bowling Green sold around six million pounds during the season just ended as compared with approximately eight million pounds the season before. The short crop boosted prices toward the latter part of the season, Mr. Taylor stating that tobacco companies refused to buy earlier in the season sold for as much as \$8 a hundred pounds the last day the markets were open last week.

Lower average prices received during the season just closed did not disturb the farmers, Mr. Taylor stating that many of them were talking about increasing the crop next season.

Plan County Certified Sweet Potato Growers' Association

Meeting in the agricultural building last Friday evening, thirty-five Martin County farmers discussed plans for organizing a "Certified Sweet Potato Growers' Association," and working toward making Martin the No. 1 sweet potato county in certification advancement. Considerable interest was shown in the plans and it is quite evident that Martin farmers are rapidly realizing the possibility of making the sweet spud another principal crop. Quite a few farmers at the meeting last week placed orders for certified seed and since that time others are planning to build up their seed stock.

It was pointed out that certified seed ordinarily increases production and gives the grower an advantage at marketing time. "Certification assures the buyer he is getting the best that can be bought. Only a small fee of \$4 a year is required of

the farmer who joins the association and who plants any amount up to ten acres to the crop. This charge covers two inspections by specialists, one while the crop is in the field and the other after the crop is cured," the agents explained. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of raising the very best potatoes and keeping them free of disease, the agents advising the growers it was advisable to buy certified seed and then raise their own spouts.

The history of the growth of the sweet potato as a crop in the county in recent years was reviewed, the agents explaining that Mr. W. W. Griffin built the first curing house just a few years ago, that there are over 100 now, and that the county will ship well over 100,000 bushels of the sweet spuds to northern markets this season.

Approve Construction Of Addition To School

Robber Enters Bear Grass Grocery Store

Tearing out a glass in a front window, a robber entered the grocery store of Wynne and Bailey in Bear Grass some time during last Thursday night and stole several dollars' worth of cigarettes. As far as it could be determined, no other articles were missed from the store. Officers, investigating the case, sent a piece of the window glass off in an effort to get finger prints, but the findings of the fingerprint expert have not been made public.

The owners of the store are almost certain that the robber was white. They reason that had the intruder been a colored person he would have eaten a bun and drank a pepsi-cola. The bakery products and drinks were between the window and the cigarettes and were not touched, the owners said.

Earlier in the week, some one broke open a lock on the Bear Grass gas tank and stole 90 gallons of gasoline.

County Board Of Education Holds Regular Meeting

Old School Building Sold To Cross Roads Church Board For \$100

The construction of a three-room addition to the Williamston colored school building has been approved by the State Board of Education, the members of the Martin County Board of Education were advised at a regular meeting of their group in the courthouse here yesterday.

Proposed to relieve badly congested conditions in the present plant, the construction of the addition has been pending for several months. A \$4,000 appropriation was approved by the county commissioners at a regular meeting several months ago but not until recently could official approval be had from State authorities to construct the addition.

The construction work to be handled largely by about a dozen vocational students possibly under the direction of their vocational teacher, Professor Walker, will hardly get underway before the current term is brought to a close the latter part of April or early May, it was learned. The addition will be of brick construction and will be connected with the present building on the Washington Highway.

Holding their first meeting in several months, the board was in session for several hours handling routine matters including a complete study of insurance coverage on school property. Several policies were reduced and several were increased as a result of the study.

The old Cross Roads school building was sold at the meeting to the Board of Trustees of the Christian Chapel Church for \$100. The land already belonged to the church, the donor specifying that ownership of the land was to be returned to the church if and when it was not used for a school. During the past few years and until recently the old building has been used by the county for welfare subjects.

All members of the board except Mr. J. F. Martin, of Jamesville, was present for the meeting.

In addition to the construction of an addition to the colored school building in Williamston, reports stated that the construction of a gymnasium at Jamesville was progressing fairly rapidly and that lumber was being placed for a similar building at Oak City.

Report Thirteen Cases Communicable Diseases

While the campaign carried on last summer against diphtheria has effected a decrease in the average number of cases, the disease continues to make its appearance in the monthly reports released by the Martin County Health Department. Out of the thirteen communicable disease cases reported in the county last month, three of them were diphtheria. Two of the three cases were among the colored population in Hamilton and Robersonville townships and one among the white population in Williamston township.

Democratic Party Is Badly Split In National Congress

Liberals and Conservatives Wage Terrific Fight For Control

Congress began the second month of the session last week amid indications that Democratic Factionalism was developing rapidly into a fight for party control.

Some politicians predicted events of the next few weeks would sharpen the lines of this struggle, with President Roosevelt carrying on his battle for New Deal "liberalism," Vice President Garner working quietly as chieftain of "conservative" forces, and both sides thinking of the presidential nomination in 1940 as the prize to be captured.

There were some signs that the Democratic split had placed the balance of power in both Senate and House in the hands of the "conservatives", a situation made possible chiefly by Republican gains in the November elections.

Republicans, keenly aware of their own possibilities in 1940, have become more active than in any other Congress of the Roosevelt administration, but it is only through the support of revolting Democrats that they may upset President Roosevelt's proposals on specific issues.

The twin issues of foreign policy and national defense are overshadowing all other questions before Congress, but the nature and extent of the Democratic split may be reflected more quickly in Congressional action on other questions.

Two nominations made by the president already have occasioned bitter protests by some senators. Yesterday, the Senate refused to confirm the appointment of Judge Floyd H. Roberts to the United States District Court of Virginia. North Carolina's two men in the Senate opposed the nomination because one Carter Glass and one Harry Byrd said it was obnoxious to them.

Senator Harrison, Democrat, Mississippi, predicted that more than 80 per cent of the members would vote against Roberts.

The nomination was defeated, and Mr. Roosevelt may censure sharply those voting against it. He said yesterday he would write a letter to Judge Roberts in event of its rejection.

Harrison also said he saw little chance for confirmation of Thomas R. Amle, former Progressive Representative from Wisconsin, whom the president nominated to be a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Amle's critics accuse him of having "radical" economic views.

"My present mood is to vote against Mr. Amle," Harrison said. "I made the decision on the basis of what I had read about him in the newspapers and on the bills he introduced and the speeches he made in the House. My views are not conclusive at this time, of course, but my mind would have to be changed if I voted for him."

Senate Majority Leader Barkley, of Kentucky took cognizance of reports he might urge withdrawal by saying no one had asked him to do so and he had no intention of making such a recommendation of the President.

Even if these appointments are disapproved by the senate, the administration will have a record of winning approval of Frank Murphy to be attorney general, James P. Pope to be a member of the board of TVA, Felix Frankfurter to be on the Supreme Court and Harry Hopkins to be secretary of commerce.

State Legislature Enters Sixth Week

Entering its sixth week yesterday, the State Senate still has not accomplished anything in the way of constructive legislation. The joint finance committee has left the general sales tax in the revenue act and changed the name from "emergency" to "permanent." Other acts, a bit typical of the legislature, include the proposal to tax slot machines, the operation of which is already illegal, and a proposed amendment to the State Constitution calling for an increase of \$300 in legislators' pay.

Reports from the legislature last week indicated that the joint finance committees were almost through with their work, but later reports state that both committees quit for a long week-end, and it is likely that another week will pass before the bills are made subject to debate.

Board of County Commissioners Receive Complaints About Bad Condition of Secondary Highways

State School Leaders Address Monthly Meeting Of County Board Held Here Monday

Delegations Urge Authorities To Appeal To Commission

Addressing the regular meeting of the local parent-teacher association in the high school auditorium last Friday afternoon, Clyde A. Erwin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, outlined the major educational problems before the State General Assembly now in session in Raleigh. The school man advocated and stressed the need for increased educational advantages including salary increases for teachers, the twelfth grade, compulsory attendance for all children under sixteen years of age, and provision for a larger program of vocational training. Action by the legislature is problematical, some believing that no marked change in the present school system will be effected by the lawmakers this year.

Officers Continue Raids in County to End Illicit Trade

Nine Distilleries Wrecked During January; Five In February

The illicit liquor trade continues to hold attention of Special Enforcement Officer J. H. Roebuck and his aides, and while a few manage to keep just a step ahead of the sheriff, some are falling into the hands of the law almost daily.

Releasing his January report this week, Officer J. H. Roebuck states that nine stills were wrecked in the county during the period. Nearly 7,000 gallons of beer—6,850 to be exact—and twelve and one-half gallons of liquor were poured out. Ten persons, charged with the violation of the liquor laws, were arrested during the month, and eleven were convicted. The eleventh one was arrested in December.

Apparently the officers are out for a new record this month. During the first four days they wrecked five liquor plants, capturing three 50-gallon-capacity copper kettles and two steam stills. A total of 650 gallons of beer was poured out. The third still, found in Robersonville Township within the past two years was destroyed last Thursday. Two of the other plants were found in Cross Roads, and one each in Bear Grass and Jamesville Townships.

Going in a drove, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, Officers Roebuck and Haislip and Roy Peel and Edwin Holding raided in Hamilton last Saturday afternoon. H. D. Andrews, young colored man, T. Taylor and his wife, and Peter Spruill, all colored, were arrested and booked for possession of illegal liquor. Spruill faced the county court Monday and drew sixty days on the roads. The other defendants are scheduled to appear for trial in the county court next Monday.

The government airplane that spotted several plants in the county the 21st of last month has not made a second trip, but unofficial reports state that one is pending.

Educational Picture At The Watts This Week

The Watts theatre is showing an unusual picture on Thursday and Friday of this week, one that was conceived and produced to educate adults and not to satisfy the morbid curiosity of the mob. While it may be a bold departure from the old and generally accepted policy of surrounding the institution of marriage with secrecy, it offers valuable information to the young couple entering married life.

Regarded in the light of reverence and education, the picture, "The Birth of a Baby" is one that should be seen by young married couples.

Firemen Are Called To Home On Pearl Street

Local firemen were called to the home of Jessie Woolard, aged colored woman, on South Pearl Street last Friday afternoon. The fire, starting from a defective flue, did very little damage and neighbors had it out by the time the fire-fighting apparatus was carried to the scene.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Williams, of Ayden, spent Sunday here with Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Baker.

Monthly Meeting Of County Board Held Here Monday

Delegations Urge Authorities To Appeal To Commission

Holding their regular monthly meeting here yesterday, the Martin County Commissioners spent most of the day listening to delegations point out the bad condition of secondary roads in nearly every part of the county. Five complaints were heard during the day, several sizeable delegations going before the county authorities with stirring appeals for relief.

It is the same old story that has been told and retold, and one that has apparently not registered on the highway authorities. The delegations, pointing out the bad condition of the secondary routes, urged the commissioners to plead with the highway authorities in an effort to have the routes bushed, widened and improved. "We are traveling on roads that resemble sweet potato ridges, and travel on them is dangerous," a member of one delegation pointed out after the meeting. The complaints pointed out that most of the roads were used that school busses and rural letter carriers, that the present condition of the roads constituted a real menace to the safety of children and others who are almost forced to use the ill-kept roads.

The Number One delegation urged the board to appeal to the highway authorities in an effort to have the road beginning at the old Everett Mill and running two miles to Highway 903 bushed, widened and improved.

The Number Two complaint asked that attention be given the road leading from the old Joe Coburn farm and running northwarily to the residence of Tom House, a distance of one mile.

Number three complaint asked that the road leading from the Jamesville-Manning Road in Griffins Jamesville Townships to the

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First Herring Caught At Jamesville Monday

Mr. Ira T. Coltrain Dips First Herrings From the Roanoke

Other Fishermen Turning To Their Nets For the Fishing Season

Big news was flashed from Jamesville yesterday when Mr. Ira T. Coltrain, veteran fisherman, and his daughter, Mrs. C. C. Sexton, Jr., dipped four nice herrings from the Roanoke River at that point the catch being recognized as a sure harbinger of spring. For numbers of years, the fisherman taking the first herring from the Roanoke has been given credit for finding the "key to the county's smokehouse."

Mr. Coltrain and his daughter caught three of the fish in one drift and the fourth one on a second trip. Certain that the fish are beginning their annual pilgrimage up the Roanoke, the two withdrew from the stream and told their friends that the season is not far away. News of the catch was circulated rapidly and fishermen started dragging out their nets and making ready for the season. C. C. Fleming, a large commercial fisherman on the Roanoke, smiled when he heard about the catch. "I have already ordered about 500 pounds of nets and will start next week preparing them for use about a month from now," Mr. Fleming said. During the meantime small-scale fishermen will dot the stream with their small boats carrying long drift nets and their bows nets.

The catch this year comes two days later than the one made a year ago by Tilmon Coltrain, son of the veteran fisherman who dipped the herrings from the stream yesterday. Two years ago, U. S. Hassell and Carl Martin, young Jamesville men, caught three herrings on January

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SOIL PROGRAM

The new 1939 soil program will be aired out by Specialists Broome and Rogers at a meeting of the Martin County Agricultural Committee and community committeemen here on Thursday afternoon of this week, it was learned today from the office of the county agent.

While the program principles remain virtually the same, a few minor changes will be discussed including new methods for determining the 1939 acreage allotments.

Noah R. Roberson Passes Suddenly

Noah R. Roberson, 52 years old, died at the county home last Saturday morning at five o'clock following an illness of only a few hours' duration. The immediate cause of his death was not determined, reports stating that he suffered an acute stomach trouble the day before and that he did not respond to treatment.

The body was removed to the home of a sister, Mrs. J. L. Griffin, in Hamilton, and was carried to the Skewarkey Primitive Baptist church Sunday afternoon where the last rites were conducted at 3 o'clock by Elder William E. Grimes. Interment was in the Skewarkey Cemetery.

He was the son of the late James R. and Nancy Groves Roberson and lived in this county most of his life, spending several years with relatives in Pitt County. He never married. Besides his sister in Hamilton he is survived by the following brothers and sister, Church Roberson, of Greenville; Mrs. W. H. Jolly, of Grifton; Mrs. J. R. Wynne, of Everetts; Mrs. J. L. Daniel, of Williamston Township, and W. J. Parker, a half-brother, of Grifton.

V. E. P. Reduces Its Rates To Municipality

Reduction Affects Rates of Town and County Users Only

Town Commissioners Handle Little Business in Regular Meet

A reduction in power and light rates to the town of Williamston unofficially approximated at about 40 per cent was placed in effect last night when the town commissioners in regular session entered into an agreement with the Virginia Electric and Power Company whereby the lower rate would be made applicable to future purchases. The new agreement, readily accepted by the authorities, does not alter in any way the contract the town now holds with the company granting it free current for the operation of the municipal water pumps and lighting 100 street lamps.

At the present time the town has 102 street lights, but under the contract entered into when the franchise was sold to the power company it only pays for two of the 102. The old rate was \$2.50 per month for each light above the 100. Under the new agreement, the rate will be only \$1.50 per month.

Urgent requests have been made for additional street lights about the town, and just as soon as the new agreement was affected at the meeting last night, the commissioners passed an order for a light on East Academy Street.

Similar agreements have been entered into by municipalities and school governing bodies throughout the territory served by the Virginia Electric and Power Company in this State.

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