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VOLUME XLII—NUMBER 71

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, September 5, 1939.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Notice No Marked Effect On Prices As Result Of War

Imperial and Export Companies Buying About As Freely As Ever

Following declarations of war in Europe Sunday, farmers throughout the Bright Tobacco Belt eagerly awaited the opening of the markets the following morning, reliable reports stating that despite the uncertainties, tobacco prices held up fairly well with the exporting companies buying about as freely as they had at any time this season.

Market observers throughout the belt are of the opinion that the slump came last week ahead of the outbreak of war, and that was the reason no noticeable price reduction followed yesterday.

As sales got underway yesterday morning, the markets were a bit jittery, but within a short time the selling activities were progressing on an even keel. Prices even stiffened as the sales progressed, and before the day was spent some farmers offered the opinion that the trend was upward. "Splitting several grades, I sold part of the barn last week and the remainder today. The average today was two cents higher than it was last week," a farmer on the local market said yesterday.

While it is admitted by all that tobacco prices are low, some have pointed out that unusually large quantities of tips and inferior quality tobaccos are being offered, and that under normal conditions prices would appear low. Possibly no good tobacco was offered yesterday when prices reached only as high as 27 cents for one or two piles.

Just what effect the European situation will have on the tobacco markets and other farm activities in this county remains to be seen. Some say the prices will advance; others say prices will not advance, but will possibly drop. One fellow's guess is just about as good as another's. When war broke out in 1914, tobacco prices averaged around eight cents, according to unofficial records. No noticeable rise in the leaf prices as the war entered the second year, but in 1916 prices started climbing and reached a peak in 1919.

If history repeats itself, and apparently it is as far as actual warfare itself is concerned, then tobacco farmers are apparently holding a big bag filled with a lot of tobacco which they will sell at a low price. On the other hand, prices may advance.

Reports from the belt, as a whole, stated that while tobacco prices are holding up fairly well, the markets were still in a bad slump started last week.

Note Claims Local

Boy Was Kidnaped

"I am being kidnaped. Notify my father in Williamston," read a strange note picked up in Carthage's main street last Saturday evening at 8:30 o'clock. The note was signed, "J. D. Woolard, Jr."

Said to have been thrown from a speeding car, the note was picked up by a Carthage resident and placed in the hands of a patrolman immediately. The local radio station of the North Carolina State Highway patrol picked up the message and immediately got in touch with Mr. Woolard at his main street store. Mr. Woolard was greatly concerned when the contents of the message were revealed to him, for he had not seen his son in almost three hours. The whereabouts of the youth were quickly determined, and while it was learned he was safe at home an explanation of the strange note could not be had.

Reports reaching here state that the car carried two men and a young boy, and added that the boy apparently appeared to be in trouble. Officers here have been unable to throw any light on the case.

Town Authorities

Postpone Meeting

Scheduled for the same hour that the second game in the semi-finals got underway in the ball park here last evening, the meeting of town commissioners was ordered postponed until Thursday night of this week.

Very little business was scheduled for consideration by the authorities, Mayor J. L. Hassell stating that preliminary budget figures had not been prepared in their entirety and that the financial matters would hardly come before the commissioners within the next two or three weeks and possibly not before the regular meeting is held in October. Treasurer N. C. Green is conferring with local government officials in Raleigh this week in an effort to clarify the budget estimate, and he will then prepare the figure for the commissioners' approval.

When the commissioners meet on Thursday night they will, in accordance with law, order the publication of the town's delinquent tax list. A recent report on tax collections is not available, but it is understood that the payments are slightly larger at this time than they were a year ago.

Leaf Sales on Local Market Nearing Three Million Mark

Beginning its third week of activities today, the Williamston Tobacco Market is well on its way to establish a new poundage record, Supervisor K. B. Crawford stating that 379,292 pounds were sold yesterday and that the sales today would push the total for the season to date to approximately 2,800,000 pounds.

Prices continue low, to be sure, but strange as it may seem, the average yesterday was higher than it was last Friday, the supervisor announcing that the price figure stood just under fourteen cents for the day. Operating for the second day since war was declared in Europe, the market reported no change in prices this morning. Reports from over the belt maintain that the slump came ahead of the European war crisis.

Yesterday the market blocked for the first time since the first week of the season. The left-over sales were handled this morning and this afternoon the selling forces will clear the floors and make ready for heavy sales that are anticipated during the remainder of the week.

Odd as it may seem, farmers are not registering any great opposition to the low prices. Occasionally one turns a tag and removed his tobacco to another market. The practice, however, has been declared useless by farmers themselves. They state that tobacco is selling just as high here as it is on any market, that the price is on the low side everywhere they had been.

Unusually large offerings of tips and inferior grades are being placed on the markets these days, and it is possible that these types are aggravating the price situation in that they make the average appear much lower than it really is. Close observations show, however, that good quality of tobacco is not selling as high as it once did.

Offerings were on the local floors today from a number of counties, the farmers stating that they are getting more satisfaction out of selling here than on any of the larger marts.

Europe Settles Down For A Major Conflict

British and French Maneuvers Center On Western Front

Heavy Loss of Life and Great Property Damage Reported in Poland

Following declarations of war issued Sunday by Great Britain and France and later by Australia and Egypt, Europe, scene of that horrible conflict of a quarter of a century ago, is settling down for Part II of the struggle.

Conflicting reports have been numerous from the battle fronts, and propaganda has flowed freely from every country, reflecting a muddled situation in the war territory.

Major events in the first two days of the war centered around the sinking of the British merchant ship, *Athena*, with 1,350 passengers, including more than 300 Americans, aboard. Alleged to have been torpedoed by a German submarine without warning, the ship went down in the North Sea about 200 miles off the coast of Scotland. Headed for Montreal, the ship sailed before war was declared, reports stating that more than 100 lives were lost. A German merchant ship was sunk by a British cruiser off the coast of South America, and several neutral ships were blown up by German-planted mines in the Baltic.

Going into action yesterday with its air forces, England virtually wrecked two German warships, early reports stating that five airplane bombers were lost. No serious air raids have been made on London and Paris, as far as it is known here, but every precaution is being exercised in anticipation of damaging raids.

The little country of Poland, fighting for its existence, is reporting heavy losses of life and untold damage of property. German bombers have swooped down on Warsaw, Poland's capital, time after time, wrecking large building areas and exacting a heavy toll among women and children. The Poles have not offered their main defense as the fighting has been centered along the border, but reports indicate that they will start digging in shortly and offer a stiff fight for the invaders.

While Poland is being victimized by the powerful German war machine, Great Britain and France are putting their war machines into operation. Secrecy apparently surrounds their movements, but indications point to a death-to-the-end fight along the Western front where much of the blood in the last war was lost.

The Bremen, pride of the German fleet, apparently is still flying its native flag after reports were circulated by radio that it had been captured by the British. Reports, claiming its capture, were allegedly confirmed, but still later reports stated that she was nearing her home port under perilous conditions.

Although the war is just in its third day, observers are guessing how long it will last. A review of the guesses by "the best posted men" indicates that Europe is in for a long war.

Wreck Victim Improving In Washington Hospital

Critically injured in an automobile accident at Skewawkee nearly two weeks ago, Tom Watson, colored, continues critically ill in a Washington hospital. Reports state however, that he regained consciousness for the first time last Sunday. He suffered a skull fracture and a severe concussion of the brain when Guilford Brown drove his car into the back of a truck on the highway near here.

Expect No Increase In Enrollment For The Local Schools

Principal Hix Announces Plans Complete For Opening Term Thursday

Preparations are nearly complete for the opening of the Williamston schools on Thursday, September 7. Enrollment in the elementary and high schools is not expected to vary greatly from that of the 1938-39 term. Advance registration for high school students was held last week with approximately eighty per cent of the anticipated enrollment reporting to arrange class schedules. No increased enrollment is expected in the high school but the large group of children entering school for the first time may bring about some slight increase in elementary enrollment.

The attendance at the pre-school clinic last spring indicates that approximately seventy beginners will be present on opening day. The local schools will operate on a continuous schedule again this year with the school day running from 8:30 until 3:00. The continuous session during which children were not allowed to leave school, while not satisfactory to all last year, proved its usefulness to the greater number of children and parents patronizing the school. The fact that the new schedule was a means of keeping children from the city streets during the busy noon hour justified the program from the standpoint of safety alone. The parent-teacher association will continue the operation of the lunch rooms at the elementary and high school for the convenience of the students, but no effort is being made or has been made to urge students to purchase lunches. It is hoped that this year a larger number of students will bring their lunches to school. In spite of the fact that nearly \$500 was spent for improvements last year, the association is making further improvements which will make possible more adequate service during the coming year. The lunch rooms will begin operation next Monday and continue throughout the school year.

Bus drivers have been selected and assigned to busses which have been completely reconditioned during the summer. Parents living on bus routes are asked to facilitate bus service by having their children ready when the bus comes by and to report any failures in bus service directly and promptly to the principal.

The twenty-five teachers who comprise the faculty of the Williamston schools will assemble at the high school Wednesday afternoon to formulate plans for the year's work. Four teachers will assume new work here. Grace Talton, of Clayton, succeeds Rebecca Harrison, who has already begun her work in the High Point City Schools and M. B. Dunn, of Boone, is taking over the position made vacant by the resignation of Lewis Enloe, who is in private employment in Birmingham, Ala.

In the high school, J. R. Barrett, of Elizabeth City, succeeds Frank Neely, who has transferred to the Clinton schools and Betty Mayo Everett, of Palmyra, succeeds Foster Ferguson, resigned.

Few Are Complying With Marriage Law

According to unofficial reports heard this week, few of those Martin County couples marrying outside the State are complying with the marriage health law. To date only one certificate, showing compliance, has been filed with the county health department. Quite a few couples have left the county and married outside the State, but except for the one case, certificates of compliance with the health law have not been filed within the specified time.

The law does not prohibit couples from marrying where they please, but it does direct those marrying outside the State to undergo blood tests and report the results to the county or state board of health.

Refusing to comply with the terms of an agreement entered into when she was given a permit to marry, a colored woman was arrested in the county yesterday and directed to subject herself to treatment for a social disease.

County Colored Girl Wins Magazine Award

Aurelia Jones, colored club girl of Williamston Route 1, recently won a \$15 cash prize given by the County Gentleman, a magazine of national circulation, for submitting a winning letter in a contest. She used the money to attend a state club meeting, the colored home demonstration agent, Cleo Tyner, pointed out in her monthly report to the county commissioners Monday.

Suit For Divorce Filed In County Court Saturday

Suit for a divorce was filed in the Martin County Superior Court last Saturday by Bettie Mae Jolly against Henry Jolly. Handled by Attorney Paul D. Roberson, the action is based on two years of separation.

More Than 7,000 Children Will End Vacation Days in the County When Schools Open on Thursday

First Cotton Price Adjustment Payments Received in County

The first of the 1939 cotton price adjustment payments were received in this county last Saturday, the office of the county agent announcing today that a number of the checks representing a total of \$2,080.96 had already been placed in the hands of cotton farmers. The 225 checks received represent 81 applications, the agent's office explaining that 990 of the 997 cotton farmers in the county were eligible for the payments.

Based on 1.6 cents per pound for base allotments, the payments will average around \$4.75 an acre in the county. More than 400 other applications are awaiting approval in the Washington offices of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and additional checks should be made available within a short time. It is estimated that Martin County cotton farmers will receive possibly in excess of \$30,000 in special price adjustment payments. All farmers regardless of whether they planted cotton or not are entitled to the payments, provided they were allotted a cotton acreage base last spring, and did not plant in excess of their cotton allotments.

Hardly more than two-thirds of the farmers entitled to the special payments have filed their applications with the office of the county agent for the special money, it was learned. The payments are entirely separate from the benefit payments made under the soil conservation program.

Commissioners Order Land Sales For Taxes Issue Conditional Permit For Fair in County This Year

Session Is One of Shortest Held in Several Months

Plans for forcing tax payments in accordance with state law were advanced by the Martin County commissioners in regular session here yesterday. The tax collector, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, in accordance with the commissioners' order, will advertise the delinquent tax list the first of next month for sale at auction on the first Monday in November. Immediately following the receipt of the order from the board, the collector started sending out direct notices to approximately 3,500 of the nearly 7,000 property owners advising them to make settlement on or before October 2. Approximately \$61,000 of the total levy of \$98,300.00 remains uncollected, according to a recent report coming from the office of the sheriff.

Under a new ruling formulated in the last legislature, the 1939 tax books cannot be turned over to the sheriff until he has settled for the 1938 accounts. It is possible an assistant in the sheriff's office will be appointed to handle the remainder of the 1938 accounts and that the new tax books will be placed in the hands of the sheriff within the next few weeks. The new tax books are not quite ready at this time, but the accountant's office is busily engaged in their preparation.

A condition permit for holding the Williamston fair the week of September 27-30 was issued by the commissioners when they offered their cooperation in advancing the event provided the management pays all premiums due 1938 exhibitors. According to an unofficial report, the North Carolina Fair Operating Company planned to make the payments within the next few days. The Art Lewis Shows and grandstand attractions have already been booked by the fair operators, but no official premium list for 1939 entries has been released as far as it could be learned this week.

The commissioners, holding one of their shortest sessions in some time, heard various reports from the departmental heads, and received a petition from an improved road in Williamston Township. Several farmers signed a petition urging the commissioners to have the State Highway and Public Works Commission take over and maintain a road beginning

(Continued on page six)

Principal Martin Announces Plans For Farm Life School

The Farm Life school will start the new term Thursday morning, Principal Russell P. Martin announcing that no formal program will be held, but that Rev. J. H. Smith and Rev. W. B. Harrington will be present for the brief exercises.

Members of the faculty are: R. P. Martin, principal; D. T. Ward and Mrs. R. P. Martin in the high school, and Miss Helen Gunter, Miss Marguerite Cooke, Miss Bettie Hayward and Mrs. B. T. Woolard in the elementary school.

A cordial invitation is extended the patrons to attend the opening-day exercises, the principal announcing that the policies of the school would be explained at that time.

Tomorrow afternoon, Principal Martin and his teachers will hold a meeting at 2 o'clock.

Thirty-Four Schools Have A Total Of 200 Teachers This Year

White and Colored Schools to Start New Term on Same Day

Vacation days for approximately 7,000 Martin County youths will end Thursday of this week when the thirty-four schools—ten white and twenty-four colored—start the 1939-40 term. Plans for opening the new year have been virtually completed, the school authorities today predicting one of the most successful terms in the history of the schools. Members of the various faculties are already reporting for duty, and teachers' meetings are slated in nearly all the schools tomorrow. The teaching personnel was regarded by some as being the strongest to assemble in the county in recent years.

Early reports from most of the school principals indicate there will be no increase in the opening-day enrollment figures. The downward trend reported in elementary enrollment figures last term is almost certain to maintain its course, and it is likely that tobacco grading work will hold fairly large numbers out of the high schools.

Last year 3,251 children enrolled in the ten white schools, as follows:

School	Ele.	High	Total
Jamesville	318	110	428
Farm Life	137	50	186
Bear Grass	245	69	314
Williamston	546	209	755
Everetts	253	253	
Robersonville	322	275	597
Gold Point	69	69	
Hassell	47	47	
Oak City	247	145	392
Hamilton	200	200	

Totals 2384 867 3251

Approximately 3,750 children were enrolled in the colored schools.

While there have been quite a few changes in the faculty personnel, the number of teachers in the county school system remain about the same. The personnel turnover in some schools was almost complete.

Several new departments have been added in the county, the school at Robersonville offering courses in vocational agriculture for the first time. At Oak City, commercial subjects will be offered for the first time, reports stating that quite a few post graduates will return to the school there for the special work.

Teacher assignments were announced complete last week-end when the last position made vacant by resignation was filled. Woodrow Suggs, A.C. College graduate, of Pinetops, will succeed Professor Russell Martin in the Jamesville school.

Thirty-eight buses, including several new ones, are being distributed to the various drivers in the several districts today and tomorrow, a few having been delivered during the week-end. Some difficulty has been experienced in getting eligible drivers. Quite a sizable number failed to pass the physical examinations and were ruled out. The several positions made vacant on that account have been filled with three exceptions. The driving personnel will be appointed in its entirety late today or tomorrow.

Few of the schools are planning formal programs for opening day, and the uniform hour will be observed by all the plants. Oak City will dedicate its new gymnasium and observe a planned program. Local committees will be present for the opening exercises in several schools, and a general invitation is extended patrons throughout the county to attend the opening in their respective school districts.

Local Vocational Head Begins Work

Miss Irene Mizelle, the vocational home economics teacher, has already begun work in the Williamston community. The vocational program consists of teaching home economics in the high school during the time school is in session, supervising and directing home projects of each student, conducting classes for the out-of-school youth and adults if the community is interested, and participating in the other activities concerned with the betterment of home living.

Miss Mizelle, the vocational teacher, is under the supervision of Mr. David N. Hix, principal, and Mr. J. C. Manning, county superintendent but is not included in the regular State allotted teachers. Her salary is paid one-third by the local community in which she works, and two-thirds by federal and state funds through the division for vocational education of the State Department of Public Instruction.

Howard Earp Reopens Local Bowling Emporium

Friday, August 25, Howard Earp, peppery, ever popular, little shortstop, of the Williamston Martins, reopened his bowling emporium for at least the duration of the winter months. He has not decided as yet, whether he will continue open next summer.

Bowling on the modern, well kept alleys, typical of the Earp establishments, is a pleasant form of recreation, affording the maximum of exercise and enjoyment with the least minimum expense.

Associating with Manager Earp in his recreational enterprise are a congenial staff, and a group of well trained pin boys.