

Large Reduction In Tobacco Crop In This Section

Production Estimates in the County Are Far Below General Average

Martin County farmers by their own volition and by the acts of Providence are cooperating 100 per cent to cut down the huge surplus stock of tobacco. Reliable estimates point to a crop hardly half the size of the one produced and marketed last year. Acreages were cut nearly half this year as compared with the plantings last season, and yields will fall considerably under normal production schedules. It has been reliably estimated that the per acre yield as a general rule will not exceed 750-800 pounds against a yield of more than 900 pounds harvested last season.

Expressing uneasiness ten days ago, many farmers in this county are now becoming alarmed over the dry season and its devastating effects. "Unless we have rain shortly, we won't produce more than two or three hundred pounds of tobacco to the acre," several farmers were quoted as saying this week. The corn crop is seriously curtailed already, and production will be far below normal in this county. Almost certain there'll be a corn shortage on their farms, quite a few farmers are marketing their hogs and abandoning plans for swine raising next year.

Light rains have been reported in small areas over the county this week, but as a whole the county is experiencing its most severe dry season in several years. "The crops are at a standstill, and a few of them are actually drying up," farmers declare.

The nation's crop outlook, while hardly up to 1939 production schedules, is considered fairly favorable, as a whole. Even in other sections of the state there has been adequate rains to promote growth and crops are looking good. The Piedmont area starting west of Rocky Mount and running through Durham, Person and other counties in this State and on toward Danville, reports a favorable outlook for tobacco.

It is estimated that this State has 502,000 acres planted to tobacco, and that a production of 458,540,000 pounds is expected, the average per acre yield standing at 913 pounds. Last year 855,000 acres were planted to the crop, the production approximating more than 803,000,000 pounds or a per acre yield of 939 pounds.

The tobacco crop for the entire nation this year is estimated at 1,291,685,000 pounds as compared with 1,848,564,000 pounds produced last season. The estimated yield this year is only slightly under the ten-year average of 1,360,661,000 pounds. The agriculture department estimates the 1940 corn crop at 2,415,098,000 bushels and total wheat production at 728,644,000 bushels on the basis of July 1 crop condition.

Corn production was 2,619,137,000 bushels last year and in the ten years 1929-38 2,299,342,000 bushels. The country's wheat crop totaled 754,971,000 bushels last year.

Sewing Room Here Closes This Week

The Martin County sewing room, operated here during the past several years in cooperation with the Works Progress Administration, suspended operations and closed its doors in the Leggett Building over the Williamston Cafe last Tuesday. The project was forced to close when the county authorities found it next to impossible to include a \$2,800 appropriation in the budget for financing the work during the new fiscal year. It was reported that the commissioners had agreed to appropriate approximately \$1,000 for the project, but the amount was not considered sufficient to finance the work.

When the sewing room was closed this week, most of the sixteen employees there were transferred to a county cleaning project for a short while with the understanding that they would be given places in the school matron service next fall. The cleaning project, already underway in the county courthouse, will be extended to all the school buildings in the county, it is understood. The equipment used in the room, including the nineteen sewing machines, will be removed to the WPA storage warehouse in Windsor.

Monk Patterson, Colored, Dies Suddenly Tuesday

Monk Patterson, colored laborer, died suddenly at his home here last Tuesday evening from an undetermined cause. His passing was so sudden that Coroner S. R. Biggs and Sheriff C. B. Roebuck were called to make an investigation. No evidence of foul play could be uncovered, and the case was dropped. Patterson, a heavy user of alcohol, was taken ill after a hard day's work Monday. A doctor was not called until late the following day, and the man died before he could reach him.

About 45 years old, Patterson was an expert mortar mixer, and it is generally believed that he helped put more buildings together here than any other one man.

Will Hold Several Important Farm Meetings In the County

Recognizing the seriousness surrounding the agricultural situation in the tobacco territories and sincerely anxious to have Martin County at the front in the battle for farm equality, agricultural leaders are planning a series of community meetings in seven districts during the next few days.

In the past these meetings, as a rule, have been poorly attended, but the seriousness of the present situation is such that every meeting house should be crowded to capacity. The community meetings will be featured by an informal discussion of the tobacco outlook and referendum to be held on Saturday of next week, July 20. These informal discussions, to be led by agricultural leaders, business men and farmers themselves, are certain to prove of interest and value, and every farmer is urged to attend one or more of the meetings. Similar meetings are being held in hundreds of tobacco counties in this and other states, and while considerable interest is being shown in some sections there is little attention being given the problem in others, reports state.

The first of the meetings in this county will be held in the Jamesville school Friday night, July 12, at 8 o'clock. Next Monday night at the same hour, meetings will be held in the school buildings at Oak City, Hassell and Everetts. Next Tuesday night hundreds of farmers will attend a barbecue supper at Robersonville. On Wednesday, July 17, meetings will be held in the Bear Grass school, Williams Township House and Farm Life school. All meetings will be held promptly at 8 o'clock, and will last for brief periods.

Activities of War Are Centering on Blocade



Assistant Secretary of the Goldman Package Manufacturing Company, Milton L. Goldman will maintain local residence as director of Southern operations for his firm. The company is opening its new factory here next Monday.

Physical Fitness Is Vital Factor In Prosecuting War

One-third of Man Power Was Physically Unfit for War Back in 1917

Addressing the Rotary Club of Raleigh on physical preparedness, Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, North Carolina State Health officer, recently said:

"There is a time for all things—so at this time when we have at large three desperadoes and their cohorts, pirates, if you please—trampling under-foot all international and moral laws of human security and relationship, it is expedient that we should, as individuals, give to it serious consideration.

"Billions have been appropriated for armament but little has been said as yet as to the equipment of the human machine for prosecuting the war, should it come, at the front and at home.

"When might is right and the Monroe Doctrine is a mere scrap of paper, it seems to me that it is high time for us to take stock of our physical assets and liabilities lest our liberty, freedom and pursuit of happiness be lost."

Cotton Ginnings Reach A New Low Level In County

Gradually bowing before the trend toward tobacco over a period of years, cotton, at one time king of crops in this county, reached a new low production level within the Martin boundaries last year. Aggravated by weather conditions, the case of cotton was all but lost when the boll weevil appeared in increased numbers. As few as ten bales of the lint were harvested from 100-acre blocks, and a few farmers finding their fields almost bare at harvest time did not go to the trouble to pick the white specks from the stalks.

According to an official government report recently released, there were 528 bales of cotton ginned in this county last year. Production, while considerably less than in the previous year, reached 461,715 bales in the entire State.

Hamilton Church To Observe Home-Coming On Sunday

History of Methodist Church In Hamilton Is Briefly Reviewed

By MISS DOROTHY PERKINS. Organized more than half a century ago, the Hamilton Methodist Church is anticipating a red letter day in its history next Sunday when home-coming day will be observed. Special invitations are being extended former members and pastors of the church, and an enjoyable assembly is expected. The present pastor, Rev. Daniel Boone, has been very faithful in getting the building remodeled for the special event, and the membership is looking forward to the program of services and the return of former members and pastors.

Rev. L. C. Larkin, district superintendent and a former pastor of the church, will occupy the pulpit at the 11 o'clock hour, and Rev. S. J. Starnes, pastor of the Williamston Methodist church, will preach that afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

The following members of the Hamilton Methodist Church met January 31, 1901, at the home of Mrs. C. H. Baker to make plans for moving the old Methodist church building, organized in 1879, to the new site: Miss Lizzie Slade, Miss Fannie Slade, Mrs. Bill Sherrod, Miss Georgia Pritchard, Miss Hennie Waldo (now Mrs. Hennie Ballard), Miss Bell Carstarphen (now Mrs. Harry Waldo), Mrs. Arch Sherrod, Mrs. D. C. Jones, Mrs. C. H. Baker, Mrs. Sallie Ewell, Mrs. Lenora Collins, Mrs. Fanny Melson and Mrs. Sherrod Salsbury. Miss Lizzie Slade was president, Miss Hennie Waldo, secretary, and Miss Bell Carstarphen was treasurer.

Mrs. Henry Sherrod gave the lot on which the Methodist church now stands. The first service held in the then new church was in the year 1903.

From records now owned by the Misses Maggie Bell and Annie Jones of Hamilton, we find the following pastors names, date of appointment and term of office:

Rev. W. H. Watkins, 1879, 2 years; W. B. Doub, 1881, 3 years; J. E. Bristol, 1884, 1 year; Joseph L. Keen, 1885, 1 year; J. O. Gurthrie, 1886, 1 year; W. T. Cutchure, 1887, 1 year; W. H. Townsen, 1888, 1 year; J. G. Nelson, 1889, 2 years; G. G. Harley, 1891, 2 years; E. C. Sell, 1893, 1 year; J. R. Sawyer, 1894, 2 years; J. A. Parker, 1896, 2 years; George Fisher, 1898, 2 years; Dr. J. T. Bagwell, 1900, 1 year; T. H. Sutton, 1901-1904, 4 years; E. E. Rose, 1905, 1 year; P. L. Kirton, 1906, 1 year; C. L. Read, J. R. Stanford, N. M. Wright, E. E. Eure, L. C. Larkin, Marvin Chambers, T. W. Lee, Dr. O. P. Fitzgerald, L. C. Brothers, A. E. Brown, Robert Hardesty, Robert Fitts, Daniel Boone.

A fierce air battle was reported again off the English coast yesterday, when the Royal Air Force downed 27 Nazi planes, 14 of them bombers. King George of England had a narrow escape when an air raid followed his visit to an undisclosed point on the island.

The Italians are going ahead with their claims, and it is startling news to the Britons to learn that their big warship, "Hood", has been sunk for the fourth time.

Today marked an intensified air attack by Nazi air bombers on England and a thrust at shipping by Fascist planes on British sea forces in the Mediterranean. The Nazi planes flew over all parts of England in one wave after another, killing many civilians and wrecking and damaging hundreds of homes and other buildings. Italian air attacks were made from every field in Italy on important naval bases belonging to England in the Mediterranean. The Germans claim they sunk five

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WPA Projects Get Official Approval

Hardly before the first in a series of Works Progress Administration projects gets underway, two more have been approved by officials of the organization in Raleigh. One of the latter group has already gained the approval of the President, the third gaining approval in Raleigh this week.

Fair progress is being made on the sidewalk and street project at the present time, the forces having virtually completed the sidewalks and curbing on the south side of Main Street.

The project just approved by the President in Washington calls for a cemetery enlargement and improvement project, the federal government allotting \$7,757 as its share of the cost.

A third project calls for water and sewerline extensions and an increased water supply.

Williamston Native Dies At Home In Pennsylvania

Louella Everett, colored native of Williamston, died at her home in Reading Pa., last Tuesday evening following a short illness. The daughter of Mary Purvis, local resident, she married Haywood Everett and later moved to Pennsylvania. She was 43 years old. No children survive the union. The body reached here this morning, but funeral arrangements had not been completed at that time.

Cat Story Heard In Martin County

No objections have been heard but the general public doesn't know and it can't find out all about the wholesale purchase of cats and kittens in the county. Placing bits of information together from apparently unauthentic sources, it has been learned that a stranger, presumably of foreign nationality, has been purchasing the felines in quantities from rural citizens allegedly for re-sale to a medical school in Winston-Salem.

The purchase of cats is a mystery in the first place, but to add to it all there's no medical school in the Forsyth metropolis. The apparent mystery surrounding the case is deepened by the purchases being limited to the rural areas. Questioned at a local filling station one night this week, the cat man was assured that he could fill his old Model A truck from the supply of cats in town before morning. The filling station man was advised that only country cats were wanted.

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New Budget Estimate For County Released

Nearly Quarter Of A Million Dollars To Operate County

More Than Half The Amount To Go For Retirement Of Old Debts

Nearly a quarter of a million dollars—\$223,507.86 to be exact—is needed to finance the various county activities and lower old debt figures during the fiscal year beginning the thirtieth of last month and ending June 30, 1941, according to a budget estimate released today by the Martin board of commissioners over the signature of J. Sam Getzinger, clerk to the board and county accountant.

Anticipating revenue in the sum of \$55,533.00 from sources other than general taxation, the county authorities are looking to the property owners for a total of \$177,101.84. To raise the latter amount, the commissioners are proposing a tax rate of \$1.45 per \$100 assessed valuation. Income from sources other than general taxation, including that received from the sale of legal liquor in the county's four stores, and that coming from the State as its share of the cost for the care of the poor and for current school expense, is considerably below the 1939-40 estimate. The reduction is expected to approximate \$5,000. Decreases are also noted in the figures based on income from the sale of various types of licenses, including beer, slot machine and schedule "B" permits.

A review of the current year budget estimate shows that old debts continue to upset the equilibrium of the county's financial scheme. More than half of the budget, or \$114,608.02 is to go for the retirement of debts in the form of bond principal and interest.

While the new tax rate is likely to remain the same as it was last year, the county is planning greater economy in its operations during the current period than it did in 1939-40. A year ago, the budget requirements called for an expenditure of \$229,955.08. This year that figure has been reduced to \$223,507.86, a decrease of about \$6,000. One-third of the reduction is traceable to the general fund where it is estimated \$45,102.00 will be required this year as against \$47,100.00 a year ago. Approximately one-half of the reduction is seen in the school capital outlay fund where the 1939-40 figure is \$15,757.00 dropped to \$12,210.00 this year. Other reductions were effected in the school debt service fund, and also in the general county debt service fund. Increases are noticed in the appropriations for the aged and the dependent children, appropriations for other departments remaining virtually unchanged.

A comparison of the budget figures for last year and the current period follows:

	1939-40	Current
General fund	\$ 47,100.00	\$ 45,102.00
Poor fund	19,222.50	19,320.84
Old Age	5,535.00	5,967.00
Needy chil.	2,970.00	3,450.00
Health fund	7,877.68	8,130.00
Debt service	60,330.90	58,877.02
Schools:		
Current ex.	25,682.00	26,930.00
Cap. outlay	15,757.00	12,210.00
Debt service	44,780.00	43,521.00
Totals	\$229,955.08	\$223,507.86

The reduction in the proposed expenditures for the current year is virtually offset by a decrease in the income anticipated from sources other than general taxation, leaving the county to raise from the property owners a total of \$117,101.84 as compared with \$177,098.00 last year.

The commissioners calculate that \$9,126.98 of the general tax levy will not or cannot be collected, and the rate was so fixed to raise that amount over and above the ordinary budget requirements as represented in the appropriations allotted the several departments.

Officers Wrecking More Distilleries

The drive against the illicit liquor manufacturing business continues in the county, J. H. Roebuck, head of the Alcoholic Beverages Control Board enforcement unit, stating yesterday that two additional plants had been destroyed since the early part of the week. So far this month the raiders have destroyed nine distilleries, arrested three alleged violators of the liquor laws and poured out hundreds of gallons of beer. In the latest raids, the officers captured a 50-gallon capacity copper still in Bear Grass Township and poured out 400 gallons of beer. Working in Jamesville Township the following day, the raiders wrecked a plant and took possession of five fermenters and poured out 500 gallons of beer.

A third raid was made Wednesday but apparently the work handled previously was thorough and no plants were found.

Declares Roosevelt Must Run Again For Office Of President

Not a Candidate, But He Can Not Refuse Nomination, Sabath Maintains



While he will be unable to attend in person, Mr. David Goldman, president of the Goldman Package Manufacturing Company, will keep in close touch with the opening of his firm's new factory here next Monday.

Seven Cases Called By Judge Peele In The County's Court

Drive Continues To Get All Properties on County Tax Books

It was an off-day for alleged violators of the liquor laws in this county last Monday when Judge H. O. Peele bore down on them with heavy sentences ranging in length from ninety days in jail to a full twelve months on the state roads.

The drive to get all taxable properties on the books was also continued, the court suspending judgment in one case upon condition that the defendant go forward and list his taxables.

Attracting a larger attendance than usual, the court completed its work and adjourned before the noon hour. The case charging Dave Savage with failure to list taxes was not pressed with leave.

O. H. Peel, Jr., charged with failing to list his taxes in accordance with the law, pleaded guilty, the court suspending judgment upon payment of the costs and upon the condition that he list his taxables.

The case charging James Joshua Meeks with violating the motor vehicle laws was continued until August 5 for the State.

A continuance was granted until next Monday in the case charging James Warren with larceny and receiving and operating a motor vehicle with improper licenses.

Facing a suspended judgment meted out by the court on a previous occasion, James Gilmore, charged with violating the liquor laws, was sentenced to the roads for a term of six months. His wife, Ethel Gilmore, appeared as a second defendant in the case.

Charged with the possession of illegal liquor for the purpose of sale, the Jamesville Negro was sentenced to jail for a period of thirty days. Both of the defendants gave notice of appeal and bond was required in the sum of \$200 each.

William Taylor, colored, charged with larceny, was sentenced to the roads for a term of six months.

Farm Bureau To Give Big Supper At Robersonville

While its executive forces have been active in promoting the interests of agriculture, the Martin County Farm Bureau Federation is fast completing arrangements for bringing its membership together at a big barbecue supper in a Robersonville tobacco warehouse next Tuesday night, July 16, at 8 o'clock. No drive for members is being considered, officers of the bureau explaining that the meeting is being arranged in an effort to maintain a strong farm organization in the county, state and nation, and that the group is expected to express its stand on the proposed three-year tobacco program.

"It is an important meeting, and all members of the organization are urged to attend," an officer of the organization said today.

Ten pigs will be barbecued under the direction of Farmer J. B. Winslow, and the feed will be free to all members. The meeting is the first of the large-scale type to be held in Robersonville, and it is believed that a large representation from the 500 membership list will attend.

Declares Roosevelt Must Run Again For Office Of President

Not a Candidate, But He Can Not Refuse Nomination, Sabath Maintains

While the Republicans question his ability to run the nation, they will have to admit that Franklin Roosevelt has the power to keep his intentions and plans as they relate to a third term to himself. It is reported that Mr. Roosevelt has confided with Big Jim Farley about third-term plans, but upon the eve of the Democratic National Convention which opens in Chicago next Monday, the politicians are still guessing.

It is generally agreed that Mr. Roosevelt is not a candidate for a third term, but there is uncertainty as to his plans for accepting or refusing the nomination which, in all probability, will be tendered him next week at the party pow-wow in Chicago. The question is not whether he wants the nomination, but whether he will accept or refuse it.

After visiting the President this week, Representative Sabath, Democrat, of Illinois, was quoted as follows:

"I told him that if he is thinking of coming down to Chicago to stop the nomination it is useless because not even he can prevent it. He owes it to the party, to the nation, and to the world to accept."

Sabath said Mr. Roosevelt at this point threw back his head and laughed, and then said he did not know whether he would go to Chicago.

"He is going to be nominated and elected and I will stake my life on it," Sabath declared.

While making no move to compete for the nomination if the President is a candidate, he is holding himself ready for any call they might receive.

With the nomination of Mr. Roosevelt more or less certain, attention of the convention is expected to center on the selection of a running mate and the foreign policy or war plank in the party platform. While there has been some talk about the party sponsoring a no-war plank it is possible that it will make its stand clear on foreign policies.

Senator Wheeler who is said to represent a certain German element, is talking about bolting the party and running as an independent if the convention endorses a war plank in its platform. His declarations have not been received with any degree of seriousness, but if he were to resort to such tactics, it would have a strong bearing on the outcome of the November election, possibly.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Senator James F. Byrnes, of South Carolina, and others have been prominently mentioned as candidates for the vice presidency.

Democrats from all over the nation have already started the long trek to Chicago for the opening of the convention next Monday.

Horrors Of War Told By Writer

Delayed by wrecked communication systems and refused by strict censorship, reports describing the horrors of war as they were experienced by millions in the countries overrun by Hitler's hordes are leaking out of the war-stricken nations.

Caught in between the French and German armies, an American writer tells of his experiences as he fled with millions of refugees from Paris to Orleans and to Bordeaux before the ruthless German war machine.

Hungry and sick, their feet swollen and bleeding from days of marching, the fleeing masses sought rest in open fields, alleys, stables and sheds.

Four days out of Paris the writer caught a refugee train which was crowded and jammed by old men and women and children. An hour later the refugee train was stalled in open country behind a hospital train where they were bombed by eighteen German planes. Many were killed and wounded. Several cars were knocked off the track and traffic was blocked. The weary souls turned to the woods, byways and highways. On the seventh day 20 mothers gave birth to babies along the roadside. Each mile covered by the refugee army saw a thinning of the ranks by death or sickness, but as the humans gained another city they found the population figures multiplied many times by refugees from other sections.

Ending the trek after ten days, the writer recalled the horror experienced when the rear guard of the refugee army was bombed twenty times and machine-gunned six.

Ministerial Student To Preach In Local Church

Mr. Sidney Mason, a senior at East Carolina Teachers' College, in Greenville, and who plans to enter the Seminary next fall, will conduct services in the Church of the Advent here while the rector, Rev. John Hardy, is at Camp Leach, it was announced today.

Mr. Mason will conduct the 11 o'clock services on Sunday, July 21, and 28th.