

Three-Year Peanut Program Is Planned By Farm Committee

Anticipate Trouble in Making Equitable Allotments To States

A proposed three-year program for peanuts was given strong support at a hearing before the House Agriculture Subcommittee in Washington this week, but a bone of contention over allotments to the states was advanced by North Carolina witnesses.

The production of peanuts has been extended to new sections, and now those sections are demanding allotments which can be granted only at the expense of North Carolina growers.

Appearing before the House Agriculture Subcommittee studying the bill sponsored by Representative Pace, of Georgia; Representatives Herbert Bonner and Harold Cooley urged an upward revision of North Carolina's acreage allotment prior to final enactment of the legislation which tends to "freeze" present allotments proclaimed under the soil conservation program.

J. E. Winslow, of Greenville, president, and Flake Shaw, of Greensboro, executive secretary of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, told the subcommittee that Tar Heel farmers are in favor of the bill and urged its passage. They were supported in their testimony by Edward A. O'Neal, national president of the federation.

"While we favor enactment of this bill, we do not think North Carolina should be penalized with unfair and discriminatory acreage allotments," Bonner told the committee, as he presented a table showing that present provisions of the bill for determining allotments would prevent North Carolina from receiving a proportionate share of the planted peanut acreage.

He pointed out that present acreage allotments had been determined on the basis of actual planted acreage plus "trends." Insertion of these "trends" resulted in North Carolina receiving but 92 per cent of her proportionate share of planted acreage, while such states as Alabama, Georgia and Texas received allotments well in excess of 100 per cent of the proportionate share.

On the basis of planted acreage, Bonner pointed out, North Carolina should have an allotment of 239,000 acres, as against a proposed allotment of 224,000 acres.

R. C. Holland, of Edenton, president of the North Carolina Stabilization Cooperative, was detained by illness. Bonner obtained permission to file a written brief in Holland's behalf.

"We are going to try to correct this situation if we possibly can," Cooley, who is a member of the agricultural committee, declared.

"But it is possible we may have to agree to the allotment provided for in this bill, even though it is unfair, in order to get it passed. We may have to accept this disappointment to get the many anticipated benefits of the bill as a whole."

Cooley pointed out that North Carolina would receive a smaller share of the total production of peanuts than it would have received if the bill had been passed.

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Victim Of Attack Passes In Windsor

E. W. Gray, 78-year-old Windsor store employee, died in a hospital there at 2:10 this morning from injuries received in an attack there last Friday afternoon.

George Peel, Bertie colored man charged with the dastardly crime, is being held in a "foreign" jail.

Mr. Gray was fatally beaten by Peel when he (Peel) robbed the Rascoe store right next to the courthouse in Windsor. The old gentleman, an employee in the store for half a century, was badly beaten on the head with a rifle in the hands of Peel, and he suffered a broken hip in a fall to the floor.

Immediately following the brutal attack, Peel came to Williamston and visited several places here apparently in an effort to establish an alibi. He was returned to Windsor by a local taxi driver late that afternoon and was left in front of the courthouse. He was arrested under the home of Mrs. C. J. Sawyer early that night and removed to safety by Bertie officers and patrolmen.

Former Resident Dies In Virginia

Mrs. Floyd Hobbs, a former resident of Williamston, died at her home in Roanoke, Va., last Wednesday following a brief illness. Mrs. Hobbs, a native of Roanoke, was the daughter-in-law of the late Jim Hodges, Martin County Superior Court clerk for a number of years, and the late Mrs. Hobbs of this county. She made her home here for a few years following her marriage, but spent most of her life in Virginia. The last rites are being conducted in Roanoke today.

Mrs. Myrtle Bunting, of Hamilton, is in Roanoke for the funeral.

COUNTY 4-H CHAMPIONS



For the third consecutive year, the Farm Life 4-H club has annexed the county achievement banner in recognition for its varied work and recorded feats. Holding the banner are: left to right, Alton F. Keel, boys' secretary; Vera Pearl Williams, president; Thomas Daniel, vice president; and Lala Smithwick, girls' secretary.

PERMANENT?

The establishment of a permanent grand jury for Martin County is being considered as a possibility in semi-official circles. Court officers and members of the board of commissioners are said to have discussed the merits of the permanent system at an informal meeting here late last Tuesday. The proposed system, dependent upon a special legislative enactment, would possibly offer a better check on law violations and recommendations, but at the same time be an imposition on the part of the jury members.

Sixteen Marriage Permits Issued In County Last Month

Small Increase Recorded Over January Issuance of Last Year

Dan Cupid while trailing his record established back in the middle thirties was off to a good start in January of the current year when he placed in the Martin County records seven white and nine colored weddings. In January, 1940, only two white couples dared travel down Cupid's row. Last month the number was increased more than three times, but the number of licenses issued to colored couples decreased from 13 to 9.

The license bureau is reporting much activity so far in February, Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger stating that four licenses had been issued in a single day to white couples.

The January issuance follows:

White
Mack Medford, of Oak City, and Gladys Lewis, of Fountain.

Dempsey Lea Williams, of Plymouth, and Annie Mae Modlin, of Jamesville.

Thomas Redmond Harrison and Quillie Louise McGowan, both of Robersonville.

James William Long, of Jamesville, and Lucia McInnis, of Little Rock, S. C.

Robert E. L. Whitley, of Tarboro, and Ruth Williams, of Oak City.

Samuel Clinton James, of Robersonville, and Selma Louise Deal, of Hamilton.

Colored
William Robert White, of Williamston, and Mamie Laura Etheridge, of Hassell.

Lester Highsmith and Sadie Askev, both of Robersonville.

Dallas Lee Lyons and Zada Jones, both of Williamston, Route 1.

James Daniels, of Stokes, and Essie Mae Joyner, of Robersonville, R.F.D. No. 1.

William Joseph Keys and Rosa Lee Boston, both of Jamesville.

Elbert Jones and Hazel Riddick, both of Williamston Route 1.

Beauty Andrews and Mattie Lee Thigpen, both of Oak City.

O. K. Harrison, of Robersonville.

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TRUTHFUL

National defense projects have called a world of carpenters out of hiding. They have applied for jobs at the busy-bee centers by the tens of thousands, but there was some doubt expressed about the titles, according to a recent story from one camp.

Checking up on the records of his carpenters, one foreman learned that he had carpenters with experiences varying from a dozen to twenty years. Finally he asked a middle-aged fellow how long he had been working at the trade. "I came to work half an hour ago, and sir, that's how long I have been carpentering," was the reply. The fellow was promoted.

Hitler Tightening Hold On France As U. S. Wastes Time

Collapse of Italian Empire in Africa Is Believed Near At Hand

While actual warfare is centered in Albania and the rout of Italian forces in Africa, reports from the European arena indicate that Hitler is effecting a new and powerful line-up for a knock-out blow against Britain possibly within the next two or three months. Hitler is tightening his hold on France and plans, devoid of errors that resulted in his failure to invade Britain last fall, are being formulated while the United States wastes time in advancing an aid program for Britain.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is now hearing the evidence heard by the House Committee last week and the week before. Every person who through foul acts or otherwise has his name before the public is being called before the committee to tell the representatives of the people what to do and what not to do. Mr. Alf Landon, the man who did not get to first base in the 1936 Presidential race, is to be heard. Lindbergh, the daring flier, after stating to the House Committee that it was foolish to believe Germany could invade the United States, told the Senate group this week that an invasion was possible.

While opposition to the lease-lend bill made little of invasion possibilities, warnings were being issued from recognized sources pointing out that South America could not possibly repulse an invasion attempt. Despite those warnings and despite the fact that Britain is working feverishly to defend itself and destroy the threat of barbarism's spread, partisan lines continue tightly drawn with few exceptions and the leaders of this nation sleep.

A high spot in the lease-lend hearings is anticipated when Wendell Willkie, former Presidential candidate, appears before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee next week to tell of his findings on a recent trip to England. The former Republican Presidential candidate, all but read out of his party, is flying home from Lisbon and plans to reach New York tomorrow. He is expected to support the measure, and throw more light on the precarious situation now facing the civilized world.

In the House where the lease-lend bill is now being debated, supporters of the bill today declared they would block further attempts to weaken the aid measure, that no additional amendments would be considered. The opponents to the bill succeeded in inserting amendments limiting the powers of the President, but an amendment to limit available cash to two billion dollars was defeated.

Late reports from the African war front state that Benghazi, important Italian base, had fallen into British hands without much resistance. Fierce fighting was reported just south of the city. On the East African front continued successes were checked up by the British forces. No official figures are available, but it is estimated that the African campaign has taken 110,000 Italian prisoners.

The Italian reverses in Africa are echoing in Rome where increased pep talks are the order of the day. Extra guards were thrown around the American consulate there.

Would Aid Tobacco And Cotton Farmers

A strong drive was in evidence in Washington Wednesday to have the lend-lease bill aid tobacco, cotton and wheat farmers as well as aid Great Britain in defending herself with arms.

Representative Herbert Bonner headed a movement to include tobacco in the definite list of "defense articles" which may be transferred to the British under the sweeping provisions of the bill. Bonner called attention to the majority report on the lend-lease bill which states that the term "defense article" includes "not only all arms, munitions and implements of war, but also other articles or commodities such as cotton, tobacco, wheat and all other agricultural products which may be necessary for defense purposes."

When visiting here last week, Congressman Bonner, at the suggestion of prominent citizens of the county, appointed Louis Etheridge, of Hamilton, to the position of special guard in the National Capitol. The position pays \$1,600 per year.

FARM FORUM

Meeting in their first forum of the year, members of the Martin County Farm Bureau will hear an interesting report on the national convention by D. V. Clayton in the agricultural building next Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock. All farmers are invited to attend the meeting.

A general discussion of farm problems and a review of farm plans will be added features on the program.

Property Revaluation Causes Unpleasantness in the County

Martin County's quadriennial property revaluation now nearing completion has not been advanced without incident, according to unofficial reports reaching here this week. However, the work, for the most part, has been advanced smoothly and in a fair and square manner. That there are inequalities in the new schedule of values is readily admitted by members of the board of assessors, but all property owners are assured that any complaints will be given every consideration possible by the county commissioners when they sit as a board of equalization and review.

Reports state that in at least one case vigorous objection was voiced by a property owner, that the objection actually was advanced in the form of a physical attack upon one of the assessors. Later reports state that the attacker admitted that he acted too hastily. The incident was fairly well guarded in secrecy, and it could not be learned here whether the case, said to have taken place in Cross Roads Township would be carried to the courts.

While it is still generally believed that the total valuation will reflect a small gain, it is quite certain that many inequalities have been eliminated. Variations in listings within Williamston Township were described as shocking by one of the assessors. There was a marked discrimination against the small property owner, one report stating that numbers of cases were found where the valuation figure was two or three times higher than the fair sale price fixed by the assessors.

According to planned schedules, the property lists are to be made available for a preliminary review by the county commissioners on or about the first Monday in March.

Approve Water-Sewer Line Extensions Here

Federal Agency To Lend Town \$35,000 For New Projects

Will Add \$15,000 Deep Well To Bolster Rapidly Diminishing Water Supply

Williamston's two-year-old water and sewer extension program has at last gained financial support, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation this week approving a \$35,000 loan application for supplementing the present water supply and for the laying of several thousand feet of water and sewer lines. An application for a \$35,000 loan to finance a street and sidewalk improvement program is still pending, late reports suggesting that the town will have to turn to the open market for support in financing that program.

The delay in arranging finances may make it necessary for the town to call for new contracts, but arrangements are now being made to launch the program within thirty or sixty days. The go ahead signal for work on the well will likely be given within the next two or three weeks, but uncertainty surrounds the time element for the other projects. Plans are well advanced and much work has been done on the street improvement project and it is likely that this program will have to be completed before WPA forces will switch to the water and sewer line projects. Twenty-five carloads of rock have been placed on the grounds here for use in surfacing the streets. The material is likely to be withdrawn by the WPA if the town does not finance its part of the program within a short time.

Plans call for a deep well to be sunk on the Knight property next to the municipal swimming pool. The contractor is to guarantee a supply of 300 gallons per minute, and the contract also calls for a complete pumping outfit and connections with the present water lines. As a result of the delay in arranging finances, the well project is subject to cost slightly more than the amount stipulated in the old contract.

The following water extensions are proposed in the new program:

A six-inch line from Sycamore Street out West Main to the town limits.

A six-inch line on Elm Street.

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Army Calls Eleven Martin County Men

Martin County will send eleven white men to the army on Monday, February 24th, County Draft Board Chairman R. H. Goodson announced following the receipt of the official call for men today. Five Martin County colored men are now subject to call on either February 27th or 28th, the draft official stating that no official quota had been assigned.

The quota will be filled from a list of eleven white volunteers, making a call on regular draftees unnecessary if all of the volunteers pass the required physical tests. Reservists will be taken from the draft list, however.

Several young men, four outside the draft, volunteered during the past few days. Names of the volunteers who are scheduled to leave on the 24th are: Vernon Gray Weatherbee, of Robersonville Route 2; Georgia Ben Manning, of Robersonville; Richard Randolph Davis, Aaron Brown and Virgil Edmondson, all of Oak City R.F.D. 1; Jesse Edmondson, Joseph Edward Edmondson, Edgar Monroe Taylor and Mack Gilbert Wynne, all of Williamston R. F. D. No. 3; Russell Warren Corey, of Jamesville R.F.D. 1, and Bert Toller, formerly of this county, but now of Vanceboro R.F.D. No. 3.

Nine-Month School Term Gets Setback In The Legislature

Twelfth Grade Given Approval; Retirement Fund For Employees Supported

The ninth-month school term proposed by education leaders in North Carolina was given a definite setback yesterday when the House Education Committee refused to give the proposal a favorable report. While the measure may reach the House by way of a minority report, the cause for a uniform state-supported term of nine months is believed by some to be lost. Proposed by Representatives Pritchett, of Bertie, and Umstead, of Orange, the bill provided a nine months State-supported term only when local units demanded it and the optional feature was frowned upon in some quarters, including representatives.

While education was meeting reverses along certain lines, it was scoring successes along others. The twelfth grade, estimated to cost \$250,000 the first year and \$750,000 the third year and succeeding years, is apparently meeting with favor in committee rooms. A bill providing a retirement fund for school teachers and other State employees was passed on its third reading in the House shortly before noon today without opposition. The measure now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Another measure having to do with education in North Carolina was proposed today. It would increase the compulsory school age limit from 14 to 16 years.

In connection with the retirement fund for all State employees, a proposal has been advanced to increase the salaries of highway employees and prison guards by ten per cent. The increase is applicable only to those whose salaries are not in excess of \$125 a month.

Quite a wrangle is following over sales tax exemptions and the intangible property tax. Moves to eliminate all food items from the sales tax list have met with defeat so far. A near victory was scored for counties and municipalities when a favorable vote was taken to give the subdivisions 90 per cent and the State 10 per cent of the income derived from intangible properties. A motion to reconsider the vote was passed and it is apparent the State will offer a strong fight to retain the approximately \$900,000 derived from that source.

A hard fight is anticipated in the Assembly over the proposed wage-hour law for the State. Hugh G. Horton, local man who is a member of the special commission named to study the problem, is said to favor a law providing for wages and hours.

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Library Aid Bill Has Strong Support

Several major bills have been introduced during the past few weeks in the North Carolina Legislature, but the one attracting possibly more attention here than any other provides an appropriation of \$100,000 for public libraries in nearly every county in the State. While millions are being appropriated for public schools and institutions of higher learning, the general public rapidly recognizing the value of good books, is anxious for an enlarged library service.

Library appropriations proposed in years gone by have been refused while large sums were provided for commissions and agencies ranking far below the public library in importance and value to the common good of the general public.

Those of our people, in towns and rural communities, can help promote the proposed library bill by contacting their representatives and senators, urging them to support the measure.

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Hold Funeral Today For Miss Anna Jones

Miss Anna Jones, respected citizen died at the home of Mrs. Sudie Taylor, near here, yesterday evening at 6 o'clock following an illness of less than a week's duration. She had been in declining health for some time, but was able to be up until last Monday.

The daughter of the late Henry and Nancy Caroline Jones, she was born in Bear Grass Township 64 years ago. She spent her early life there, but had made her home with Mrs. Taylor for some time. Except for a few years spent with relatives in Sanford, Miss Jones lived in this county all her life.

When a young woman she affiliated with the Baptist Church at the little mission maintained at the old Biggs Schoolhouse. She was the last member of her immediate family, leaving several nephews and nieces.

Funeral services are being conducted at the Taylor home this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. Z. T. Piephoff of the Presbyterian Church. Interment will follow in the Mobley cemetery, near the old Taylor home in Bear Grass Township.

MORE CASH

The second distribution of soil conservation payments to Martin County farmers is being effected this week, the office of the county agent stating yesterday that 135 checks, amounting to \$7,096.79, were received last Tuesday. The payments to date approximate \$15,000. Others are expected from week to week.

So far, 1,085 applications for the soil conservation checks have been filed with the Raleigh office. The agent's office states that 200 other applications are being forwarded to Raleigh this week, and that there are around 300 applications awaiting signatures.

Jurymen Are Drawn For March Term Of The Superior Court

Judge W. C. Harris Scheduled To Preside Over Two-Weeks Term

The Martin County commissioners in their recent regular meeting made arrangements for holding the county's first big court of the year when they drew the names of 54 citizens for jury service. Convening on March 17, the term will handle both criminal and civil cases during the course of two weeks.

Judge W. C. Harris, the jurist who has been calling for the prosecution of those owners who did not list their properties, is scheduled to preside. It is generally believed that the Raleigh jurist will call for a check of the tax books in this county during the court term.

The names of the jurors drawn by the commissioners follow:

First Week
Jamesville Township: C. Davenport, W. E. Manning, J. T. Cooper and F. W. Holliday.

Williams Township: Ben Griffin and Edison Moore.

Griffins Township: Asa J. Hardison, J. Dawson Lilley and Ira F. Griffin.

Bear Grass Township: Calvin Ayers, Raymond Lee, Church Cowen, A. L. Hardy, Ophus Bailey, William Herbert Taylor and Clayton Revels.

Williamston Township: Jesse T. Price, Sidney Phelps and W. E. Old.

Cross Roads Township: Cleo Jackson.

Robersonville Township: Gaston C. Andrews, Lester House, Grady E. Smith, Remus R. Everett, J. H. Highsmith.

Poplar Point Township: Joseph R. Harrison.

Hamilton Township: L. R. Everett, P. C. Edmondson, Joseph Harrell, W. J. Beach, L. R. Beach.

Goose Nest Township: Fred White, David Williams, George Mobley, Russell Turner and L. L. Keel.

Second Week
Jamesville Township: Ralph Davenport and C. G. Gurkin.

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RECORD LOW

A record low rainfall for the month of January was recorded at this point last month, Hugh Spruill, in his monthly report, stating that the precipitation was less than 50 per cent of normal. Including one one-hundredths of an inch snowfall on the 28th the rainfall for last month was only 1.82 inches.

The nearest approach to the low record established last month was the precipitation in January, 1931, when 2.17 inches of rain fell here. The current year, following dry 1940, apparently points to a dry time.