

Farmers Of County Interested In New Cotton Stamp Plan

More Questions and Answers Are Offered in Connection with System

According to reports coming from various parts of the county, Martin farmers are greatly interested in the new plan that offers \$25 for not planting an acre of cotton, and \$3 for increasing the size of the family garden. It is estimated that at least 300 Martin County farmers can participate in the plan to a marked advantage. The office of the county agent is ready to explain the plan to the individual grower, and it is generally thought that a goodly number of farmers will participate in the stamp program this year.

Questions and answers in connection with the cotton stamp plan are continued from the last issue as follows:

Q—Will there be any penalty for failure to carry out expressed intentions of acreage reduction?

A—No. The Supplementary Cotton program is entirely voluntary.

Q—What is the basis of payment for voluntary reduction of cotton acreage?

A—A farm payment in cotton stamps will be computed at the rate of ten cents a pound times the normal cotton yield determined for the farm under the 1941 Agricultural Conservation Program times the acreage reduced for stamp payment.

Q—How would the cotton stamp plan work in the case of a farm operator with no tenants who planted ten acres of cotton in 1940, has a 10-acre allotment in 1941, and has a normal yield, as determined under the 1941 Agricultural Conservation program, of 250 pounds per acre?

A—This farmer, if he wished to participate in the supplementary program, could reduce his cotton plantings by one acre, leaving him a total of 9 acres. For the acre voluntarily reduced, he would receive cotton order stamps at the rate of 10 cents per pound for the 250-pound normal yield, or \$25 worth.

Q—If this same farmer had planted only 8 acres to cotton in 1940, how much would he have to reduce his acreage to earn his maximum amount of stamps?

A—He would have to plant only 7 acres of cotton in 1941, in order to receive \$25 worth of stamps.

Q—What is the maximum amount of cotton stamps that may be earned?

A—Each producer may earn a maximum of \$25 worth of cotton stamps on one farm, except (1) that producers interested in more than one farm, or (2) an operator of a farm with two or more tenants or sharecroppers may earn up to \$50 worth of stamps. No one may receive more than \$50 in cotton order stamps.

Q—What is the minimum stamp payment that will be made?

A—The minimum amount of stamps any eligible producer can receive is 50 cents worth; however, no payment will be made to any producer on any farm for which the computed payment for the farm is less than \$5.

Q—How are cotton stamp payments to be divided among tenants and landlords?

A—The computed payment for the farm will be divided in the same manner as the payment with respect to the cotton allotment is divided.

Q—When will cotton farmers who take part in this program get their cotton stamps?

A—As soon as possible after the acreages of cotton, corn, wheat, tobacco, peanuts, potatoes and commercial vegetables on the farm have been measured and performance certified by the AAA committee.

How Supplementary Program Aids Home Living

Q—Can the acreage not planted to cotton under this supplementary cotton program be used for other crops?

A—Yes. This acreage can be used to produce food and feed crops for home consumption, or for any other crop or land use, except that the sum of the 1941 acreages of wheat, corn, (in the commercial corn area), peanuts, potatoes, commercial vegetables, rice and tobacco for the farm

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Sheriff Files His Last Month Report

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck's monthly report for February shows a varied work handled by his office during the period, including the collection of taxes, arrests and the "pitching" of persons out of houses and off farms. It was a hard month for quite a few who were forced to quit certain houses or lands, the report showing that ten ejections were handled during the period by the officers.

The report follows:

Amount of taxes collected, \$6,753.46; warrants served, 13; capias served, 5; subpoenas, 5; civil papers, 25-51; claim and delivery proceedings, 4-5; execution, 2; jurors summoned, 34; investigations made, 5; ejection proceedings, 10; number arrests on jail record, 56; number miles traveled, 2 cars, 2,504.

Permanent Grand Jury Plan To Be Adopted Next September

In accordance with a law introduced by Representative Clarence W. Griffin and passed by the Legislature this week, Martin County will see its first "permanent" grand jury in action next September.

Next August thirty-six citizens will be drawn as now provided by law, the first nine men selected for grand jury service will serve on that body for one year, and the second group of nine men will serve for about six months or for the two courts in September and December. At the first session of criminal court in 1942, nine men will be chosen to serve for one year, replacing the group chosen to serve six months.

The new law will keep at least nine experienced men as members of the jury at all times, that many new members being delegated to service every six months.

While the new system may prove inconvenient for some members of the permanent grand jury, it offers many advantages. Under the present system, a new grand jury is chosen for each court, the men rushing through their work as rapidly as possible with the indirect result that important duties are left for their successors to handle. Recommendations made by one grand jury are lost in the shuffle by the succeeding one, and there is no connected follow-up in the general enforcement of the laws, and needed changes are delayed month after month. The schooling offered by the presiding judge four times each year will not be necessary at every term, making it possible for the court to settle down to business without delay.

Superior Court Opens Term Here Next Week

MORE MONEY

Martin County's share in the soil conservation program is rapidly running into the big figures, the office of the county agent announcing today that an additional \$8,635.97 had been received yesterday for distribution among 215 farmers. The recent payments represent 80 applications.

A total of \$76,249.38, representing 913 applications, has been received for distribution to 913 farmers in the county.

Judge W.H. Coburn Calls Seven Cases In Recorder's Court

County Court Folds Its Tent For Two Weeks While 'Big' Court Convenes

Handling seven cases, the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday cleared the bench and folded its tent to make room for the superior court during the next two weeks. The session, presided over by Judge W. H. Coburn with Solicitor Don E. Johnson prosecuting the docket, was poorly attended. The proceedings attracted little attention and the work was completed shortly before noon.

A high spot in the proceedings was noted when Solicitor Johnson and Attorney J. Calvin Smith expressed their differences over the ability of a small colored child to testify before His Honor. Working a chicken stealing case, the solicitor explained to the court that the tiny witness had offered damaging testimony in private, but with tears in his eyes and between sobs the little witness admitted that he did not know the meaning of the oath that he had just subscribed to or what it was all about. He was dismissed and the court found Rosella Paige not guilty in the case charging her with the theft of an old chicken.

Other proceedings in the court: Noah Stancill is facing a serious charge for the killing of George Andrews, colored, near Robertsonville last Sunday night. Stancill, said to possess a good reputation, is at liberty under a \$500 bond. Bryant Moore, charged with aiding and abetting in the murder of Andrews, is in the county jail awaiting trial in default of bond in the sum of \$500. Stancill is said to have accidentally shot and killed Andrews while trying to stop a fight between Moore and Andrews.

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Two Arrested At Still In Cross Roads Township

Arrested by federal and county officers recently, Cecil and James Phippen, colored men, were bound over to the federal court in Washington for the alleged operation of an illicit liquor still in Cross Roads Township.

Eighteen Cases Are Placed On Criminal Docket For Monday

Believed Judge W. C. Harris Will Check Up On All Non-Tax Listers

A fairly crowded criminal docket will face Judge W. C. Harris, of Raleigh, when he opens the regular two weeks term of Martin County Superior Court here next Monday. Even though the docket carries four capital cases, the session is not expected to offer anything sensational on the crime front. According to reports reaching here from other county seats where the judge has been in recent months, Martin County non-tax listers are likely to get a jolt packed with meaning. It is understood that the jurist has been "bearing down" on those persons who make a practice of dodging their fair share of the tax burden by failing to list their holdings. Tax officials differ in their opinions, but it is generally conceded that there are a hundred or so persons in the county who did not list their properties during the recent period set aside for making up the 1941 tax foundation for the county and several towns. There are cases where the owners did not list despite repeated warnings issued by the county authorities and by the tax officials themselves.

Judge Harris will find a varied docket when he opens the criminal session Monday morning at 10 o'clock. There are two murder cases, a burglary charge and a rape case to add a serious touch to the docket, for each of them is punishable by death. Raymond and Sam Powell are charged with murdering Willie Walter Mitchell, colored, in Oak City, on August 17, 1940. Raymond was caught and placed under a \$500 bond but Sam evaded the law and the case was continued last September and again last December. It is expected that Raymond will face the charge alone next week.

In the second capital offense case, Noah Stancill is facing a serious charge for the killing of George Andrews, colored, near Robertsonville last Sunday night. Stancill, said to possess a good reputation, is at liberty under a \$500 bond. Bryant Moore, charged with aiding and abetting in the murder of Andrews, is in the county jail awaiting trial in default of bond in the sum of \$500. Stancill is said to have accidentally shot and killed Andrews while trying to stop a fight between Moore and Andrews.

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Hard For Father To Hold Tears In Check As Son Boarded Bus Here For Training In Army

MORE TRAINEES

Five men, answering the first call yesterday in the county's March quota for selective training, will be followed next Wednesday by four colored trainees. And then on the 21st, ten white trainees will leave the county for Fort Bragg. No second call for colored trainees has been received so far this month.

Resigned to his fate, the first draftee said he really did not want to go, but that he would voice no objections. Another young man, the second to be called from the regular draft list, was, more or less, indifferent. Whatever the government says is all right with him, but left to decide for himself he would have remained at home. Both of the young men stated that when the order numbers were announced they had started getting ready for the call.

Senate Expected To Support Plans For Control Of Peanuts

Would Control Acreage To Crop and Retain Diversion Features

Given a favorable report by the Senate Committee on Agriculture this week, the bill calling for a peanut production control program is scheduled to come up in the upper chamber of the Congress shortly, according to reports reaching here this week through eastern Carolina farmers and representatives who attended the Senate committee hearing earlier in the week.

Already passed by the House, the bill will be pushed to the front in the Senate, according to a statement made by Senator Bankhead to members of the delegation going to Washington in behalf of the measure. It is generally believed that the bill will be passed with amendments in time to place the control program in effect for the 1941 production.

Under the bill, diversion programs for a stabilized price on peanuts will be mandatory in all years in which marketing quotas are voted in by the farmers, but no diversion program will be operated should the marketing quotas be rejected by farmers voting in the referendum.

Acreage allotments under the quota program for this year will be the same as the allotments already determined this year for the Soil Conservation program, and in no year may these allotments be reduced more than five per cent.

The mandatory diversion program provision, removed from the original bill by the House, was restored by amendment in the bill as it was approved by the Senate Committee Tuesday. It was in support of restoration of this provision, which guarantees farmers a stabilized price for their production on their allotted acreage, that growers' representatives sought the hearing before the Senate committee.

The delegation from this section were led by J. E. Winslow, president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, and R. C. Holland, of the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative.

Increased Tempo In Aerial Warfare Is Reported This Week

Uncertainty Continues To Hang Over Situation In The Balkans

Heartened by the passage of the lease-lend bill this week, Great Britain pushed into service its reserve strength to increase the tempo of her aerial warfare against Germany, one report stating that one of the most devastating raids recorded so far in the war had been directed this week against Germany's industrial centers by British airmen. It is assumed that American-made bombers of the four-motor type, participated in the raids that proved costly to Berlin, Hamburg and industrial points. Germany reports claim that Liverpool, one of England's greatest ports, was extensively damaged. It is apparent that Britain is now gaining in the air duels, and taking the offensive.

The Balkan situation is still shrouded in mystery and uncertainty. While it is still expected that Yugoslavia will sign up with Germany or at least permit Hitler's troops to travel over her territory, there is a stiffening opposition to Germany. Semi-official reports state that Turkey will effectively aid Yugoslavia and Greece if those two countries will resist Germany, and that Turkey will fight if she is attacked. The importance of the Balkan situation is apparently dwindling, observers

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County Authorities Will Hear Tax Complaints Here Monday

Martin County property owners will be given an opportunity to voice objections to valuations assessed against their holdings recently by authorized boards of assessors when the county commissioners sit as a board of equalization and review in the agricultural building beginning next Monday morning at 9:30 o'clock. Any property owner who is not satisfied and who believes he has just cause to complain, is cordially invited to appear before the board for a review of the listings in question.

While it may be inconvenient for some to do so, it is advisable for every property owner who did not learn the amounts assessed against their holdings when the assessors made the quadrennial revaluation to inspect the listings at the courthouse at once and enter their complaint next week. It is reasonable to believe that needed changes will receive more consideration at that time than they will if the property owners wait until the values are set up in the books and taxes computed early next fall.

Conditions In War Torn Coventry Are Related In Letter

Elder E. C. Stone Advised of Food Rationing By His Sister in England

Receiving an uncensored letter from his sister who was in Coventry, England, during one of the most costly raids of the war last November, Elder E. C. Stone a few days ago received a personal account of the damage done and the way life is still being carried on. Several hundred persons were killed, and Mr. Stone's sister barely escaped with her life when a bomb struck near her home and tore windows out and hinges from the doors. "The people are still carrying on," Mr. Stone said, adding that members of his family, including his sisters, are working in defense industries.

The letter, written February 2, reads:

My dear brother, You will see by the address we are back home again. While the bad weather is here we thought it was the time to come. Of course, no one knows how quickly the comparative quietness will end, but thought it was time we came to look after Fred for a while. He found the journey rather trying in the very bad weather we have had, snow and frozen roads. The buses could not run some days and to travel by train meant half an hour's walk into Hinkley Station, getting a train to Yuncaton and waiting at that junction very often for a train to Coventry. In fact though it is only 12 miles from here some days it took 2 1/2 hours by train.

Will and his wife have just been in. Since the terrible night in November, they have been living in a furnished house on the outskirts of the town, but the people want to come back themselves and so they have been very worried about getting somewhere else to live.

Will said he did not feel he could live right in Coventry again, after the awful experience they went through on the 14th. However, they have been very fortunate now in getting a house to rent a few doors away from their present abode, so we may fix it up to go out there to sleep, on moonlight nights at least.

How lovely it will be when we can go to bed in peace. We have not slept in a proper bed upstairs for six months now. Walter did not think it safe out there, yet Amy has been to Vantage this week. They go to bed every night with very little disturbance. The planes pass over that way sometimes.

You will have had her letter now, telling of the death of Jack's wife. Jack is in lodgings at Vantage just now. Hope he will be able to stay there. When he came back to Coventry

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NEW MILL

Added activities were reported on the town's industrial front Wednesday when Lumberman Harry Thompson placed in operation a planing mill just back of the Columbian Peanut Company plant. Employing eight men, the mill delivers dressed lumber to a railroad car.

A customer, said to be in the market for millions of feet of dressed lumber, was on the inspection line as the mill turned out its first order. The lumberman, operating several small saw mills in the county, will dry and plane the output at the local plant.

State Legislature Clearing Calendar For Final Session

Liquor Referendum Loses Out in Finance Committee Report Tuesday

Barring the possibility of a last-minute tie-up, North Carolina's 1941 Legislature will quit Raleigh tomorrow, reports from the "confusion center" today stating that bills were being rushed through the legislative mill at the rate of more than two a minute, and that the law makers and high State officials had already started packing up for a quick exit.

Uncertain of its mind, the Legislature has traveled back and forth in handling its business, leaving some of its business in an uncertain status.

The Dry Cause was virtually lost last Tuesday when it struck a financial bill of opposition, the action of the Finance Committee in rejecting the proposal by a 34-to-10 vote clearly indicating that the control feature had been displaced by the profit motive.

A minority report on the liquor referendum has been reported, but a two-thirds vote will be necessary to give the bill a legal status.

Possibly to appease the Drys, the Legislature passed a wine bill restricting its sale. The sale of fortified wines is prohibited in dry counties but it may be sold in the 26 wet counties under the direction of the ABC boards in "A" grade restaurants, hotels and in grocery stores of natural port, cherry and muscatel brands. It is generally understood that regular wine stores will be forced to suspend operations. Only one wine store is in operation in this county.

Only five new commissions have been authorized this session, reports stating that Commissioner of Revenue A. J. Maxwell will get the choice of appointments under a new department bill.

The re-districting of the State for members of the House and Senate and the National House of Representatives has been effected with a slight shift of legislative power to the west and the creation of a twelfth Congressional district.

The five commissions will have to do with regulation of aviation, creation of farm trade schools for out-of-school boys, a basic code of procedure before quasi-judicial State agencies and review methods; motor vehicle inspections, and need for a training school for delinquent Negro girls.

The State will underwrite the Lost Colony production at Fort Raleigh (Continued on page six)

Announces Hours For The Seed-Feed Loan Office

Effective immediately, the seed and feed loan office in this county will remain open in the agricultural building here between the hours of 9 and 3 each Monday and Wednesday and from 9 to 1 on Saturdays. No applications will be received on other days, Manager W. B. Watts said. About 70 loans have been advanced to date; the manager stating that the soil conservation payments are financing the operations for many farmers.

Russia Will Fight, Club Speaker Says In Address Here

John Barclay Discusses International Relations At Tuesday Meeting

Discussing the international situation before a regular meeting of the Junior Woman's Club and a number of invited guests in the club hall here Tuesday evening, Rev. John Barclay, Wilson minister, declared that Russia is beginning to stir and, in his opinion, will resist Germany in an attempted march to the rich Bakd oil fields. Talking on a subject of vital interest in the world today and one that kept him answering questions during an open forum lasting nearly an hour, the speaker dwelt at length on conditions in Russia and the part that nation is likely to play in the current war. In his opinion, Russia will turn the tide for whatever side she supports, and fearful of Germany, she is expected to "warm up" to England.

"It is clear that Russia does not want to get into the war on either side, and the Russians say they do not object if war continues just so long as they are not involved," Mr. Barclay said. "It is apparent," he continued, "that Russia hates England and Germany, that she hates England as being the most imperialistic nation, and Germany as being the most brutal nation on earth. She hates Germany more than she does England.

"Russia believes it has built a social system and that it will be adopted on a world-wide scale if it is not attacked and defeated. The Russians believe that their plan, if given time, will prove far superior to all other governmental systems.

Explaining the invasion of Finland and the annexation of their territories including Poland, the speaker said that the Russians point out that important bases for defense were necessary in Finland, that Russia today is paying so much rent for the property she confiscated. It was also pointed out that Russia had virtually made agreements to buy the bases considered important to her national defense, but that it was generally believed that England and France blocked the deal at the last minute, and invasion followed. Other annexations, more at the expense of Germany than any others, included territory that once belonged to old Russia and in those cases only white Russians and similar racial groups. Russia was particular not to get any group not in harmony with her economic system.

Russia today is rushing defense work in her new territory, and since she recognizes Germany as her No. 1 enemy, it will be used against Hitler.

Concluding his interesting address, Barclay stated that it was fairly apparent that Russia is now holding the key to the situation in Europe, that her power and resources will win for the side she chooses.

In an open forum, the minister received numerous questions from the interested group, his answers throwing much light on conditions in Russia and several other countries, including Sweden. "Russia today is to be compared with the United States of 1810 in that she has had innumerable difficulties to overcome, but it is apparent that progress is being made and that conditions are vastly improved over those existing under the old Russian Empire. The country is extensively mechanized and there are few mules. Mechanization is further advanced there than in this country. There is a religious foundation still in existence, but the people there have never known the real meaning of religion. Just before the old Empire crumbled and when millions were starving, the religious leaders were arguing such trivial matters as colors for church robes. Russians can hardly believe that religious organizations in this country support educational institutions, medical research and other agencies for the benefit of humanity.

"There is much freedom of speech (Continued on page six)

Mother Of Local Man Dies In S. C.

Mrs. Susan A. Birmingham, mother of Mr. F. B. Birmingham, of Williamston, died in a Lancaster, S. C. hospital last Saturday morning while visiting in the South Carolina town. She was 80 years old, and the widow of S. W. Birmingham.

Funeral services were conducted in the Baptist Church at her home town, Polkton, Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, and interment followed in the Griffin Cemetery there. Besides her son here, she leaves two sons, Messrs. W. Clay Birmingham, of Polkton, and G. W. Birmingham, of Durham, and five daughters, Mrs. J. A. Burns, of Lancaster; Mrs. D. W. Lower, of Durham; Mrs. Joe Bennett, and Mrs. S. B. Lee, both of Polkton, and Mrs. J. B. Watson, of Wadesboro, a brother and two sisters. Mr. and Mrs. Birmingham and Miss Louise and Charles Birmingham have returned home after attending the last rites.