

Many Economists Predicting Good Business In 1949

No Marked Change From 1948 Level Is In Prospect At This Time

Although there may be a slight drop, good business is being predicted by many professional economists for the New Year. However, reverses can be expected in some fields, according to thirty-four leading economists who dared forth with predictions.

All thirty-four of the men questioned said that the new year will be much like the past one, though there may be a slight drop.

At this time last year, a large majority of these same men saw a "slump" ahead. Two years ago, almost all of them gloomily predicted a serious depression. The professional "wise men" have been wrong two years in a row, on the dark side. Now their forecasts are brighter, but are they "righter"?

Some other men who are supposed to be in a position to know the facts, still see a slump in the near future. A few insist it will come within four months.

These latter views in the eyes of some are, a "hangover" from the election, and are not justified by the facts in sight. Some people just can't get over the feeling that the Republican defeat means economic catastrophe.

Before Christmas there was some talk that a "recession" was already beginning. For example, sales in department stores were running behind those of the year before. A "last minute rush", however, boosted sales in most instances above those in 1947, and "put an end to talk of pessimism."

On the other side, a report from New York City says "businessmen of the Big Town are wondering whether they are in the middle of a 'little recession'."

"More than a quarter million workers in the city are now unemployed. The troop of jobless increased more than 31,000 in a week. Many key industries have been doing less business. Corporate failures have been inching higher. Some hotels are occupied at as low as 41 percent of capacity."

This report concludes, however, that New York is not a "typical city."

Despite all adverse signs, there are big differences between the situation now and in the period which ended in the crash of 1929. Some of these differences were mentioned this week in a report by the three conservative economists who are the "President's Council of Economic Advisers."

Now, they pointed out, Uncle Sam is spending, and will continue to spend "for many years", huge sums for "defense, foreign aid and public works." Some of these "economic props" must be ended sooner or later, but meanwhile they increase purchasing power and prosperity.

Now we also have "social security"—on a very inadequate scale, it's true, but one which helps to maintain the buying power of the aged and unemployed.

We also have "farm price supports" which the council said must be continued to prevent a farm slump such as helped bring on the general economic crash of 1932.

Makes Appeal To Postal Patrons

Calling attention to the minor changes in postal rates, R. Clyde Winebarger, secretary of the North Carolina Rural Letter Carriers' Association, this week addressed an appeal to rural postal patrons.

"Your rural letter carrier appreciates your cooperation in the past and further solicits it in keeping your mail box in good order, keeping the approach clear of objects, in filling in your money order applications, in keeping stamps on hand so that your letters and cards may be stamped before placing in the rural box, and the other little things that help your carrier render better service with a smile."

Operate Peanut Pickers At Full Blast In The County

Hampered by unfavorable weather conditions during the greater part of two months, Martin county farmers Monday chalked up the busiest day of the season in their peanut fields. The dust was seen flying on farm after farm from one end of the county to the other, and it is believed that more of the goobes were picked that day than on any day since operations were started back in October. But unfavorable weather threatened the threshing operations today, and no end of the work is yet in sight.

It has been one of the most hectic threshing seasons on record, authorities declaring that it is even worse than the one encountered in handling the 1947 crop.

Comparatively few crops have moved to market clear of wet or damaged kernels this season, and possibly one-half of the crop has been diverted into oil stock, meaning that the farmer took a two-to-three-cent "beating" on each pound sold. The cleaners have handled possibly their smallest crop for the edible trade so far.

It is estimated that about 75 percent of the crop has been picked in this county, that fully 65 percent has been moved to market.

Reports state that those peanuts properly stacked and picked yesterday are about the best seen on the market this season.

FEW CHANGES

Few changes in the business field have been reported here so far during the new year, and no marked changes are anticipated.

The Harrison Brothers store, vacant since Colonial Stores moved to the apartment building, is to be rented but no contract has yet been signed. Very few changes have been reported in business house personnel.

Mrs. George Bailey Died In Hospital Saturday Morning

Funeral Held at Home Near Jamesville Monday Afternoon

Mrs. George Bailey, well known citizen of Jamesville Township, died in a Washington hospital at 2:30 o'clock last Saturday morning. She had been in declining health for almost a year. When her condition became critical suddenly about ten days ago she was removed to the hospital and was thought to be getting along very well until just a few hours before she died.

The former Miss Myrtle Jones, she was born in this county on December 2, 1882, the daughter of the late John H. Jones and wife, Martha Widdy Jones. She spent most of her life in the Jamesville Community where she was held in high esteem. During the past three months she had made her home with her daughter in Vanceboro.

Mrs. Bailey was a devoted member of the Baptist church in Jamesville for a number of years.

She was married in 1904 to George Bailey who died just before the war. A son also died the same day his father died.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Reba Barrow of Vanceboro, a son, Raymond Bailey of near Jamesville; and a brother, Wesley Jones of Takomia Park, Maryland.

Funeral services were conducted at the home near Jamesville Monday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock by her pastor, Rev. W. H. Harrington and interment was in the Bailey family cemetery near the home.

Resigns Post At Freezer Locker

Claude J. Goodman, manager of the Colonial Frozen Foods plant here since it was opened in the fall of 1946, has tendered his resignation to accept a position with the N. C. State College Agricultural Extension Service. The resignation is to become effective on or about the 15th of this month, a director of the company stating yesterday that Goodman's successor had not been named. Definite plans have not been announced, but one report stated Mr. Goodman would possibly be associated with the county agent's office in Pitt.

Mr. Goodman came to this county from western North Carolina in 1945 and it was largely through his efforts that the locker plant was organized. During his stay here he has been active in civic club and other fields.

100-Bushel Corn Club In County

Billy Edmondson of the Oak City 4-H Club led the County 4-H Club boys in corn production with 107.9 bushels per acre last year. Billy planted Dixie 17 Hybrid in 3.5 feet rows and 14 inches in the drill. The land was first covered with manure. At planting time 450 pounds of 4-9-6 was used and was top dressed with 500 pounds of nitrate of soda. Billy lives on Leroy Taylor's farm.

The other 4-H Club boy, Earl Warren of Parmelee, made 100.5 bushels per acre. This was also planted to Dixie 17 hybrid.

The Guaranty Bank and Trust Co. of Williamston is offering cash prizes toward 4-H Camp expenses to the five highest 4-H members in the county. Additional top five winners are Noah Bennett of the Bear Grass 4-H Club with 92.1 bushels per acre, Boyd Bailey of the Robersonville 4-H Club with 85.6 bushels per acre and G. H. Forbes of the Everetts 4-H Club with 84.9 bushels per acre.

All 4-H members entering the contest averaged 78.9 bushels per acre compared to about a 30 bushel per acre county average.

Only one adult farmer was able to beat these 4-H boys and that was Dock Hollis on the Van Taylor farm with 113.9 bushels per acre. He also used Dixie 17 hybrid. The adult farmer County Champion Dock Hollis and Billy Edmondson, 4-H County Champion, will be entertained in Raleigh at a banquet in late January sponsored by the N. C. Crop Improvement Association.—Jesse W. Sumner, Assistant County Agent.

Last Year One Of Wettest on Record

While the rainfall fell 2.26 inches short of the all-time record reported in 1947, last year goes down in history as being one of the wet years. According to Hugh Spruill, bridgekeeper and weather observer on Roanoke River here, 54.86 inches of rain fell during last year, 4.82 inches recorded in December when rain fell on fifteen of the thirty-one days.

Medium rainfall was recorded during the summer months last year, but along about peanut harvest time the clouds opened up. The records show that 5.55 inches of rain fell in October, followed by 8.62 inches in November.

Since the first record was kept on Roanoke River here in 1931, an average of 46.80 inches of rain have fallen each year.

More rain fell last November than in any other month since August, 1940, when 11.07 inches of rain fell at this point.

Rainfall, by months, for 1948 was recorded as follows in inches: January, 4.59; February, 5.27 including two snows, one 5.7 inches and the other, 15 inches; March, 4; April, 2.41; May, 5.03; June, 2.57; July, 4.08; August, 4.27; September, 3.85; October, 5.55; November, 8.62; December, 4.82.

Girl Scouts To Sell Candy Here Saturday

In an effort to raise funds to finance the purchase of furniture for their hut, the Girl Scouts of Troop 2 will sell candy, cake and peanuts in front of Davis Pharmacy here next Saturday.

Victim Of Attack Passes In County Saturday Evening

Norman Worsley Charged With Rape, Attack And Also Drunken Driving

Lawrence Andrews, 39-year-old colored man, died at his home near Parmelee at 11:00 o'clock last Saturday evening, the apparent victim of an attack by Norman Worsley on the night of December 24. No formal charge of murder has been lodged against Worsley, a 35-year-old colored man, officers explaining that a report from an autopsy is being awaited before further action is taken.

Worsley, still at large, is also charged with raping Andrews' 14-year-old daughter in Edgecombe County on the night of December 23 and with drunken driving on December 29.

Andrews, almost totally blind, had arranged for Worsley to live with him and to handle the heavy work on the farm. On December 23, Worsley's wife's sister wanted to go to Tarboro and the young Andrews girl accompanied them. When the sister got out of the car, Worsley drove away with the young girl and allegedly raped her. The following day, Andrews quarreled with Worsley about the alleged attack, and Worsley struck the father over the head with a deadly weapon. The victim's condition was not considered serious at first but he became worse gradually, dying eight days later. While it is thought that the man's death was caused by the blow on his head, doctor's explained that they could not swear to it as the cause and the autopsy was ordered.

A warrant, charging Worsley with rape, was issued by the county judge.

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Congratulations For The County

The people of Martin County have been warmly congratulated by Rev. Wayne McLain, director of the Friendship Train in North Carolina for their part in relieving suffering humanity overseas. In a letter to Jesse W. Sumner who chaired the movement in this county along with Mayo Little of Robersonville, McLain said the work in this county was about the best in the State.

"I want to express to you my sincere thanks for all the time and hard work you put into making the Martin County campaign such a success. Please express my appreciation to those who worked with you and to those who so liberally gave in the name of suffering humanity," the director said.

A complete report on the train in the State is not available, but the train will hardly run up to fifty-five cars, it was indicated by Mr. McLain in his letter just received here.

First Fire Call Of Year Sunday

Local volunteer firemen were called out for the first time in the New Year last Sunday morning at 6:45 o'clock when an oil heater went out of control and fire threatened the offices at the Marvel Package Company plant near the river. The stove was red hot all over, but the oil supply was checked in time to keep the fire from spreading.

While no general alarm was sounded, firemen answered two calls the latter part of last year, but the fires were of little consequence.

ROUND-UP

Only two persons were arrested and temporarily detained by local, county and state officers during the New Year week-end.

One person, a white woman, was detained for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, and the other, a young colored man, was arrested for an assault with a deadly weapon.

Inspection Dates Fixed For Motor Vehicles In State

All Vehicles Must Be Carried Through Lanes By June 30th

Following the first annual inspection in 1948, all motor vehicles in North Carolina are scheduled for inspection semi-annually this year, highway officials point out.

Dates for the inspections have been fixed and all cars must be inspected by June 30. It should be noted, however, that certain models are to be inspected not later than the 31st of this month, others not later than February 28 and so on.

It has been found that the inspections can be handled without delay when the vehicle owners visit the inspection lanes a day or two before the deadlines.

The inspection schedule for the first six months of the current year follows:

(1) All motor vehicles of year model up to and including the year models 1936 shall be inspected on or before January 31, 1949.

(2) All motor vehicles of the year models 1937 and 1938 shall be inspected on or before February 28, 1949.

(3) All motor vehicles of the year models 1939 and 1940 shall be inspected on or before March 31, 1949.

(4) All motor vehicles of the year models 1941 and 1942 shall be inspected on or before April 30, 1949.

(5) All motor vehicles of the year models 1943 through 1947 shall be inspected on or before May 31, 1949.

(6) All motor vehicles of the year models 1948 and 1949 shall be inspected on or before June 30, 1949.

The operation of any motor vehicle after the time limit set out above for the inspection of such vehicle, without displaying the official seal of approval will be a violation of the Motor Vehicle Law of 1947.

The inspection lane will be open in Williamston on January 13-18, February 11-17, and March 12-19. A schedule for the next three months will be announced later.

A provision is made that beginning January 1, 1949, the owner of a vehicle will have 30 days from the date of acquisition of a vehicle to have it inspected, provided that pending inspection, the owner shall have with him at all times a bill of sale or other sufficient evidence to show the date and

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School Reports Big Enrollment

Enrollment figures continue to climb in the local schools, Principal B. G. Stewart stating this morning that the count is now just eleven short of the 1,000 mark. The school man believes late registration this week and the early part of next will carry the enrollment over the 1,000 figure.

During the first few days of the New Year, the school lost twenty-one pupils, mostly in the elementary grades. So far it has gained thirteen, and it is reasonable to expect at least twelve or fifteen additions next week.

No One Injured In Car Accident

No one was injured but property damage estimated at \$125 resulted in an automobile accident near the Martin-Beaufort boundary on the Leggett's Cross Roads road at 10:30 o'clock last Friday night, Patrolman J. T. Rowe reported yesterday.

Curtis W. Hopkins, home from college in Raleigh and accompanied by Muriel Brown and Elizabeth Hopkins, was driving from Bear Grass toward Leggett's Cross Roads in Beaufort County when the steering apparatus broke, throwing the car into a ditch beside the dirt road.

The Highway Patrol office said Monday that there were no wrecked cars in this county.

Discusses Proposed Laws With Officials

Would Change Law For Vaccination Of Swine In County

Board Silent On Offering Any Instructions On ABC Referendum

Going before the regular meeting of the Martin County Commissioners, Representative A. Corey on the eve of his departure for the legislative sessions in Raleigh, discussed proposed laws affecting the county and sought instructions on other matters.

The board recommended two or three changes in present laws as they relate to this county, but remained silent when the representative asked instructions as to how he should vote if and when a showdown is reached on the proposal calling for a state-wide referendum on liquor. The board discussed the liquor referendum briefly, but Commissioner Henry Johnson, explaining that he was speaking for himself and not the board, declared that he believed the people should have a right to express themselves, that he did not think something should be rammed down their throats. "I don't know how they'll vote on the matter, but I believe they are entitled to the right to express themselves," Commissioner Johnson said.

While he declared that he wanted to abide by the wishes of the people, Representative Corey left the impression that he would vote against a referendum, adding that he reserved the right to change his mind. "If I vote against the referendum they are likely to throw me out of the church and if I vote for it everything is likely to go broke," Corey said.

The representative placed before the commissioners a proposed bill that would expand the system for vaccinating hogs in this county. According to the proposed terms of the bill, the county farm agent would be made director of the program. Vocational teachers in the several schools would teach and train their students to handle the vaccinations. The students would be certified by the teacher or the director of the program to the commissioners who would approve a county license for the student.

The plan was recommended by the county agent who pointed out that there were more hogs per acre in Martin County than in any other county in the State, that there is one hog for every three acres of land. The agent also stated that he believed there would be more hogs in the county, and that the farmers were demanding vaccination service.

While discussing vaccinations, the commissioners discussed a change in the present setup for handling dog vaccinations in the county. The present system is too expensive, Commissioner C. A. Johnson said. It is his belief that the board will call for the payment of the vaccinations at the time dogs are vaccinated, leaving the dog owner a receipt to present to the tax collector for credit on

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A. Corey Leaves For Legislature

Elected in November for his first term, A. Corey, Martin County representative, leaves today for the legislature in Raleigh. He will attend a party caucus there tonight and be on hand for the first session of the assembly at noon tomorrow. The inauguration comes Thursday evening to highlight the early activities in the session.

Representative Corey is of the opinion that the legislature will be in session at least three months.

Miss Gardner is accompanying him to Raleigh as stenographer in the House. Mr. H. M. Burras is planning to attend the session in an official capacity.

Award Contract For Addition To The Courthouse

Very Little Business Before Regular Meeting Of County Board This Week

With very little business on their calendar, the Martin County Commissioners spent most of the morning Monday discussing proposed legislation with Representative A. Corey, awarding a contract for an addition to the courthouse and handling routine duties. The slate was cleared before lunch.

The construction contract, calling for a three-room addition to the courthouse, was let to Hugh B. Wyatt for \$5,840. The plans call for the construction of two rooms on the second floor for the jailer's quarters and a large room on the first floor for the grand jury and the commissioners, making available one of the old rooms for use by the register of deeds. The motion to build the addition which is to be located between the old courthouse and the annex, was made by Commissioner C. C. Martin and was seconded by Commissioner C. A. Roberson. It could not be learned when the contractor planned to start work on the project.

No changes were made in the schedule of values fixed by the tax list-takers at their meeting last week. Motor vehicles are to be listed by the automotive Red Book which carries values about ten percent below the listings of a year ago.

Rev. John L. Goff was named a member of the B.-H.-M. Regional Library board for a term of six years.

An extensive program to spray against mosquitoes and flies was discussed but no final action was taken. It was explained that the government would furnish the materials and a truck, leaving the county to furnish one or two laborers. The cost to the homeowner would run about \$1.

Various officers' bonds were examined and approved, including personal bonds offered in the sum of \$500 each by H. Ernest Leggett, Hamilton Township constable; Wiley Craft, Goose Nest Township constable; and J. Paul Holliday, Jamesville Township constable.

Tax relief orders, based on errors in listings, were allowed, as follows:

W. C. Hopkins, Williams Township, \$1131; John T. Smithwick, Williams Township, \$351; T. L. Johnson, Heirs, Robersonville, \$980; W. S. Raynor, Williamston, \$7; O. R. Roberson, Poplar Point, \$2. Explaining that the owners of eleven dogs could not be determined or found, the list-taker was relieved of accounting for \$11 dog taxes.

Reporting on his collections, Tax Collector M. Luther Peel said that \$205,719.43 of the \$283,168.49 levy for 1948 had been collected. Incidentally as of January 1, one

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Minor Changes In Postal Rates

This year you can still put your three cents' worth in the mail for a letter. (It was the same last year, wasn't it?)

But if you send it via air mail, special delivery, special handling, COD, or registered mail, you will have to dig deeper into your pockets now that Uncle Sam's new postal rates are in effect.

Domestic air mail is 6 cents per ounce or fraction thereof—up 1 cent.

Special delivery charge is 15 cents for first class mail up to 2 pounds (a 2-cent increase); 35 cents above 10 pounds (a 10-cent increase).

Special handling and COD rates have taken a 5-cent jump all up the scale.

Insured mail was 3 cents for \$1 to \$5. The new rate is 5 cents for \$1 to \$5. From \$5 to \$25 was 10 cents. The new rate is 15 cents.

Air parcel post rates (everything above 8 ounces) remain unchanged. Among all these increases is one bargain. For the first time an entirely new rate has been established for air mail post cards and postals—4 cents each.

PRECAUTION

Those farmers who saw portions of their tobacco crops wiped out by black shank or stalk rot last season are guarding against the disease this year, a report from the office of the county agent said.

A special type of seed, resistant to the disease, is being purchased from recognized seed dealers, while other farmers are deserting the disease-infested fields for new ones as a step for controlling the disease.

Local Lions Get Leading Spot For Band And Float

High School Musicians Are Working On Music and Routines for Parade

The Williamston Lions Club has been advised that it has been accorded the lead-off position in the big parade of Lions Clubs' floats and high school bands at Rocky Mount on January 19. In addition to the float which is now being made ready, the Williamston High School Green Wave Band will be the first unit in the parade representing the local club.

The occasion is a district meeting of Lions Clubs from Raleigh to the coast and from Elizabeth City across the state. Weather conditions at this time of the year are uncertain but barring bad weather, Williamston is again preparing to put its best foot forward and is getting a break in position ranking for a change.

The band is busy preparing special routines and music for the big event as Professor Jack Butler is getting in as many rehearsals, both complete and in sections, as he can without impairing the students' work in other departments. There will be rehearsals this week but mid-term exams will halt the band work for several days next week.

Concentrated rehearsals will be held the week-end of the 14, 15 and 16 and if weather permits the band and the float of the Lions will probably appear on the street here in Williamston on Tuesday night preceding the trip to Rocky Mount on Wednesday. It will be in the form of a full-dress rehearsal of what the young musicians plan to do in Rocky Mount.

Professor Butler has expressed satisfaction with the fine way the band has started to work on its plans for Rocky Mount and declares that continued effort on such a scale will result in a good performance in the parade. Before plans for the trip to Rocky Mount became definite, Director Butler had been working toward a concert program for the band in the early spring and to a certain extent that program is being followed with the more recent activities.

Good news for the members of the junior band was released this week when it was reported that the younger group will make a formal public appearance in March. It is hoped to work out a unified dress appearance for the group using the old capes of the Green Wave band which gave way to the present uniforms of the Green Wave Band.

The band is to travel to Rocky Mount in buses supplied by the Lions. One bus will be exclusively for the use of the band and the other for as much as the band requires, the rest of the seats to be taken by Lions or others lacking transportation.

Local Boy Serving On The Cruiser Helena

Benjamin Enoch Davenport, commissaryman, first class, USN, son of Kelly Davenport of Jackson Street, Williamston is serving aboard the heavy cruiser USS Helena, which has returned to Long Beach, Calif., after completing a normal tour of duty in the Western Pacific Area.