

CAPITAL REPORTER

Scott Summers

Raleigh, N. C., Oct.—With election time just around the corner, some of the so-called political experts in Raleigh are predicting that Willis Smith — senatorial nominee — will be low man on the Democratic ticket.

They don't think he'll be defeated by Republican E. L. Gavin of Sanford, but they do think he'll receive less votes than any of the other Democrats on the State ticket.

Meantime, nothing much has been said about the five proposed constitutional amendments. All of them are favored by Governor Scott and other State officials, as well as members of the North Carolina congressional delegation. They have been mentioned—some of them—briefly at district rallies.

All five of the amendments have been approved by persons who have studied them. Generally, they would help improve the personnel of the legislature, safeguard retirement funds and help speed and improve justice.

In a local beer and soda emporium there is a card on the mirror advertising the business of insurance. It says, "Face the Future with Security", it says. Day apparently leaves no stone unturned to try to help his own fu-

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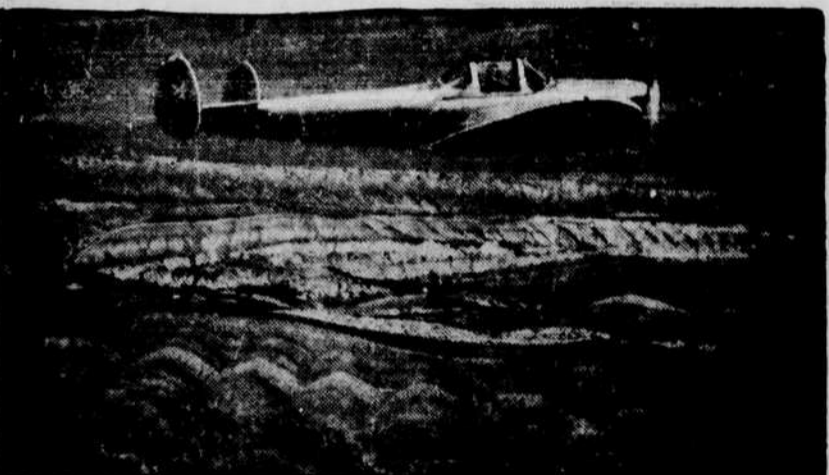
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plies, needs and products to help the farmer, they claim. Now, the critics aver, here is the farmer's professed best friend proposing elimination of these same exemptions.

They are the same critics who have charged the Governor with being more friendly to farm folks than city folks. They have been critical of everything he has done. They have been unhappy whenever his actions proved right. They have been happy only when they thought the Governor was slapping in the face, first with defeat of his senatorial candidate Frank Graham and second when the Democratic executive committee refused to name his appointee Murray James as Democratic candidate for the supreme court.

From here, it looks as though the Governor's suggestion seems to show that Kerr Scott believes farm folks should bear their proportionate part of the tax load in accord with their ability to pay.

But, except for farm and food exemptions, the exemptions now favor the man more able to pay than they do the poorer folks in North Carolina. The unfortunate truth seems to be that the folks who now are trying to make it look as though Kerr Scott has turned his back on his farm friends are the ones who would benefit most if exemptions stayed in the sales tax.

Several Raleigh druggists are unhappy. All of the drug business from Central Prison Hospital has been going to the same lone Raleigh druggist for the last 12 years. Ironically, the druggist getting this business has fought Kerr Scott tooth and toenail on everything, including the Governor's senatorial nominee Frank Graham. But he still gets Central Prison's business. Some of the other druggists, particularly those who supported Kerr Scott, don't think they're being done right. But it so happens that one of the prison's top brass and the anti-administration druggist are buddies, so he keeps on getting the business.

Slickest maneuver of the week was by Conservation and Development Board Members Eric Rodgers of Scotland Neck and Roy Hampton of Plymouth. At the C and D meeting in Charlotte, they railroaded a resolution through favoring erection of a dam on the Roanoke River by the Virginia Electric and Power Company instead of by the government.

The coup was staged in the last five minutes of the four-day ses-

Higher Incomes For Farmers Are Expected In 1951

Most farmers will receive higher incomes in 1951 than this year, but production goods, family living and taxes will cost them more.

The outlook for higher incomes stems from: 1. the likelihood that prices of most farm products will average well above 1950 levels, and 2. the prospect that agricultural production will total the largest in history, if the weather is normal.

Prices received by farmers crept upward through most of the first half of this year, then climbed rapidly after the Korean War broke out. By mid-September prices averaged 10 percent higher than in mid-June. The gains so far mean that farmers prices will be considerably higher than a year earlier as 1951 begins.

Much of the expected boost in farm output will come from meat animals and cotton. Cattle and hog marketings are expected to increase and the cotton crop is likely to be much larger than this year's small output. Smaller increases are expected for other farm commodities.

With prices and production both up, farmers probably will get about 10 percent more from marketings than this year. Since production expenses probably will not go up as much, the net income realized by operators may rise 15 percent or more but probably not to the levels of either 1947 or 1948. And rising prices will hold the purchasing power of farm income below each of those two years.

Behind the prospect for a stronger consumer demand for farm products is the outlook that business and industrial activity will continue at a high rate well into 1952. The economy has been on the upgrade since mid-1949; is now operating at the highest levels in history except for the peak of the World War II effort. Employment and consumer income are at record levels, and will be pushed higher.

Chief factor in the business and industrial outlook is the Defense program. Military spending is now running at an annual rate of about 15 billion dollars. Under the present program, the rate is expected to about double by mid-1952.

VEPCO showed no interest in building the dam at Roanoke Rapids until the federal government had built the Buggs Island dam, which regulates the flow of the water at Roanoke Rapids and makes the new dam possible.

The federal government has plans for a dam there, too, and the Federal Power Commission has held extensive hearings on whether the dam should be built by private enterprise or federal funds.

All of which makes the last-minute move by Rodgers and Hampton take on new significance. They simply are siding with the private power companies in their running fight with Governor Scott.

At the Charlotte C and D meeting, Interior Department officials charged that there is not ample power and that public power development is necessary in our expanding economy and war effort.

Hampton, presiding over the meeting, called for questions or statements by private power representatives — headed by Louis Sutton, CP and L. prexy. They said nothing at the public meeting.

But immediately afterward, Sutton held a press conference, where his statements could not be challenged, and reiterated his statement that there is plenty of power and that private companies are doing a fine job.

CP and L, incidentally, has been putting on quite an advertising and promotion campaign stating this and cussing Governor Scott, who has said repeatedly that North Carolina needs more power than the private companies are providing. CP and L is taking costly ads in newspapers and is using direct mail to try to plug the fact particularly that they pay taxes. Actually, the consumer pays the taxes when he pays his light bill, so from the consumer standpoint it doesn't make much difference. He comes out about the same. If he has private power but pays more to help the company pay its taxes, or if he has cheap public power but has to pay more taxes personally, it winds up coming out of the consumer's pocket any way you look at it.

But, I think, under the American way all of us would rather see private industry do the job—if it will provide the service. Americans have always turned to public building—now suddenly termed socialistic—whenever private enterprise failed to deliver the goods.

1951, and will continue to rise in the 1951-52 fiscal year. This will mean more jobs, higher wages, longer hours of work—and expanding buying power of consumers.

Foreign demand for many U. S. products is also likely to increase, with food a probable exception. We are now importing at the highest rate since the war ended and are likely to buy more abroad as the stockpiling program gains momentum. The additional dollars received by foreign countries from this trade will more than offset reductions in U. S. economic aid. Furthermore, special appropriations for foreign military aid will finance exchange of goods for military uses.

Strengthening in domestic and foreign demand will push upward on prices of most consumer and industrial commodities.

Production Of Honey Reduced

Based on reports from beekeepers in North Carolina, including farm and non-farm apiaries, honey production in 1950, estimated at 3,515,000 pounds, is well above the "bad year" of 1949.

Even so, this will be the second smallest take of honey since 1945 when a record low of 2,124,000 pounds was taken.

Due to several adverse conditions such as a mild winter, late spring freezes, low prices, etc., a loss of several colonies was experienced this year. A total of 185,000 colonies is currently estimated for this year. This is a decline of over 2 percent from a total of 189,000 colonies in 1949.

Yield per colony is estimated at 19 pounds compared with 13 pounds in 1949. Yield this year was below normal and was the second lowest since 1945. Due to late spring freezes, and a prolonged period of rainy weather during mid-July the spring and early summer honey flow was far short of normal. However, late summer and early fall weather was very favorable to bee activity and in part compensated for the short early season flow.

For the United States as a whole, the 1950 honey crop is now estimated at 234,153,000 pounds—3 percent more than last year's crop. This increase in production was attributed mostly to higher per colony yields, particularly in North Central and South Atlantic states.

Estimated stocks of honey on

Champion Cotton Grower In Bertie

Six bales of cotton grown on 3.7 acres in spite of heavy rainfall and severe boll weevil infestation prove the value of cotton dusting and following approved practices. That is the yield one Bertie County Negro farmer, Charlie Hardy of Roxobel, received from his cotton acreage this year.

M. W. Coleman, Negro county agent for the State College Extension Service, says Hardy is being called the "most successful" cotton grower of the year in Bertie County. The total yield was 2,958 pounds of lint. Hardy still has on hand 300 pounds of seed cotton.

The cotton was ginned at Rich Square and Hardy has sales slips showing that the six bales weighed 503, 505, 502, 500, 480, and 463 pounds. The acreage figure for the land is the official PMA measurement.

Hardy used the Coker 100 variety and planted it between April 18 and April 25. He used 600 pounds of 5-10-5 fertilizer at planting time and later sidedressed with 110 pounds per acre of nitrate of soda.

The cotton was dusted seven times, the first application having been made around June 15. For each application he used between 15 and 20 pounds of dust per acre and did his dusting with a six-row tractor-drawn dusting machine. Although the dusting material cost him \$120, Hardy says he wishes he had dusted the crop at least once more.

Ever notice how much more it costs to support one bad habit than many good ones?

Hand for sale in all states by producers in mid-September were 120,274,000 pounds compared with 115,342,000 pounds last year and a 5-year average of 63,744,000 pounds.

Farmers' Worth Is \$115 Billion

The nation's farmers in the aggregate had a net worth of \$114.7 billions: at the beginning of this year nearly \$2 billions lower than the year before but more than 2-1/2 times greater than a decade ago, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The dominant factor in agriculture's worth, of course, is the farm plant, including livestock, machinery, etc. This was appraised \$105.3 billions on January 1 this year as against \$105.9 billions the year before and only \$48.8 billions in 1940. However, the biggest relative gain was in farmers' cash assets which in the aggregate came to \$21.8 billions at the beginning of this year, little changed from last year and more than four times as much as a decade ago.

Agriculture's debts rose somewhat over a billion dollars in 1949 to a total of \$12.4 billions at the beginning of this year. Total liabilities 10 years ago were \$10 billions. All things considered, therefore, farmers' debts as a whole have as yet risen only moderately in the decade.

Carnivals To Pay Regular License Taxes In Future

(Continued from page one)

lines project.

All members of the board, including Commissioners David Moore, K. D. Worrell, W. O. Griffin, Leman Barnhill and N. C. Green were present at the meeting which was presided over by Mayor Robt. Cowen.

One thing a student of mathematics never learns is that curves can make a triangle.

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