

"HOW'S CROPS?" EVERYBODY IS WANTING KNOW

Even City Slicker Has Found That Question Is One That Means Much to Business

GOOD CROP YEAR

Present Indications Are That Crops Will be Good and Business Correspondingly So

By J. C. ROYLE

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New York, April 7. — "How's crops?"

Even the city slicker has become wise to the fact that the above question is no bucolic platitude; that it means something to every business man and worker in the United States. On the answer depends whether the last half of this year will be a prosperous one for America or not. From present indications, it will be a good crop year.

The weather has been favorable for winter wheat throughout much of the "bread basket" sections of the Middle West. A rapid improvement in the business situation in the Northwest from Lake Superior to the Pacific Coast is in present now that farming is getting under way and railroad improvements are calling for men. About 20,000 railroad workers will be needed in the next few months on repair work and new construction, bringing the total employed in such work to around 45,000.

The employment of workers in fields and on the rights of way will take up whatever slack there has been during the winter in Northwest employment. This section of the country, according to bankers of St. Paul and Minneapolis, is no longer so dependent on grain growing as in the past. Diversified farming has resulted in an attention to dairy products which has yielded tremendous sums to the farmers of Minnesota and Wisconsin and is now spreading into the Dakotas. This trend is being helped by the recent addition to the tariff on imported butter.

Total values of dairy products for the coming years in the northwestern district is estimated at \$340,000,000.

It is not surprising therefore, that "talk of big butter and eggs men" is something more than mere Gotham slang. Flour mill grain products in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Wisconsin and Montana are expected to yield around \$210,000,000 while meat packing can be counted on to make returns of around \$125,000,000 for that district.

The livestock men are doing far better than they hoped some months ago all over the country. Pork prices are now such that it is estimated that with cash corn at around 73 cents a bushel, the farmers are receiving \$1.18 a bushel for their corn marketed in the form of meat. Wool prices are low, but most growers can afford to wait for a more favorable marketing opportunity and after all, since this country uses more wool than it produces, the price reflected today in reductions in floor coverings from last November's level.

Range cattle are doing splendidly and herds which were sadly depleted are being built up again. Fruit has been injured in various sections, but orchardists declare the returns from the reduced yield will probably be fully as large as those resulting from a big production with a consequent glutting of markets.

California has splendid prospects for perishable fruits and vegetables, although more moisture and a large flow in streams devoted to irrigation would not come amiss. The railroads are already spending big sums in equipment to rush the crops to market.

Shipments of fruit and vegetables from the South are now under way and are bringing splendid returns to growers. Cotton planters are still on the anxious seat and only the weather can spell profit or loss correctly to them.

WELL-KNOWN PASTOR WILL LECTURE HERE

A lecture, "The Enchanted Wand," will be delivered by Dr. Howard I. Stewart, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Norfolk, and one of the most prominent ministers in Virginia, at Blackwell Memorial Church, Friday night at 8:30 o'clock. No admission fee will be charged, and no offering will be taken. Dr. James H. Thayer, pastor, announces, issuing a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

HERE FROM COLUMBIA

W. D. Cox, superintendent of Tyrell County schools, was in Elizabeth City Wednesday on his way to Columbia from Moyock, his former home. "I had rather drive from Elizabeth City to Columbia than from Elizabeth City to Moyock," said Mr. Cox.

'Tis Shame How Unashamed Dogs Are!



Mrs. Sidney Williams and Francie

New York, April 7. — It's just positively shocking, that's all! The way the ordinary canine citizen of this great and glorious country runs around unclothed, that is. Will dogs as a class never learn the rudiments of modern fashion? And begin to live up to them? "Francie" wonders. Morning frocks, afternoon dresses, evening garb, golf togs, dressing robes, pajamas — these and many more you'll find in Francie's wardrobe. Once a year, at least, Francie goes to Paris with Mrs. Sidney M. Williams, New York social leader, to replenish her store of raiment. Five thousand a year it costs — but tush! Think of the money that's spent on chewing gum! Wotta shame that more dogs don't follow Francie's example. Wotta shame, indeed!

Local Talent Vies Fearlessly With Playmakers

An unusual opportunity to compare local talent with the best amateur actors in the State is afforded the Elizabeth City public by the two plays to be given in the high school auditorium this week-end. Tomorrow night the young hopefuls of "the old home town" will present the popular comedy, "Kempy." Then on Saturday night Professor Koch's far-famed entertainers, the Carolina Playmakers, will present an equally popular comedy, "The First Year."

After the first public performance of the newly organized high school dramatic clubs last year, the representative of The Advance in his review of the two one-act plays, "Neighbors" and "Miss Civilization," expressed the opinion of the audience to the effect that the local group was fast approaching the standard set by the Playmakers. Certainly the recent performance of "The Hoodoo" must have strengthened that opinion, but any who remain skeptical may, for the price of a dollar and a half, reserve seats for both shows and draw their own conclusions.

Comparison will be the easier since the two plays offered are of the same general type. The three-act comedy is out of the usual line of Playmaker productions, which ordinarily consist of one-act folk plays. "The First Year," however, like "Kempy," is a full-length comedy dealing humorously with American life, and, like "Kempy," was successfully produced on the New York stage.

With one more night for dress rehearsal, the "Kempy" cast shows the poise and pep resulting from a long period of careful training. While not making too many boasts, the directors and members of the cast are confident that the inevitable comparison will be to their discredit. If allowance is made for the difference in age and previous experience of the actors.

GERMAN NOBILITY FIGHT NEW DANCES

Berlin, April 7. — The campaign against immodest dress and modern dances is spreading to all branches of the German nobility. Following the edict of former Bavarian royal houses that only waltz and polkas were to be danced at elite social functions, the executive committee of the Deutsche adeligensschaft, an organization of deposed nobility, has issued a statement that it is "unbecoming for women to be slaves of fashion and neighbors of the demimonde." Women of noble birth ought never to wear gowns which expose too much of the body the statement continues. "Immoral" dances must be barred. But what nettles the committee most seems to be the fact that some noble women "have sunk so low" as to be seen at public dance halls mingling with the bourgeoisie.

WOMAN ATTEMPTS TO SLAY MUSSOLINI

Rome, April 7. — An attempt was made to assassinate Premier Mussolini this morning. A woman fired a revolver point blank at him but he escaped with a slight wound. Mussolini was shot through the nose. The shooting occurred at about 10:15 o'clock this morning while he was leaving the session of Congress of International Surgery in the Place Di Capitoile to enter his automobile. A great crowd was about the entrance cheering the premier when the woman pressed to the front and pointing the revolver directly at him pulled the trigger. The woman who fired the shot gave her name to the police as Violet Aitina Gibson nee Dalkey. She is 50 years old and a British subject.

FOREST FIRES ARE NOW UNDER CONTROL

Elkins, N. C., April 7. — Forest fires which have been raging in Surry County forests for four days were under control today, according to word received here. The damage will exceed \$150,000, according to the foresters. All the good don't die young. The good auto dodgers live a long time.

MENCKEN ACQUITTED OF COURT CHARGES

Boston April 7. — H. L. Mencklen, editor of the American Mercury, was acquitted in municipal court here today on the charge of possessing and selling obscene literature. He was arrested Monday when he sold a copy of the April issue of his magazine on the Boston Commons.

Marathoner



Frank O'Donnell, star Montreal marathon runner, who will compete in the famous Boston A. A. race to be held shortly. O'Donnell is 32 years old and while comparatively new at the long distance sport, hopes to make a noteworthy showing. He's a sergeant in No. 3 Company Grenadier Guards.

Condition of Mann Still Unchanged At Hospital

Little or no change in the condition of Tommie Mann, aged 25, of this city, who was shot down mysteriously late Sunday night, was reported by the staff of the Elizabeth City Hospital, where he is under treatment, this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Mann, who is wounded in the abdomen and left lung, developed indications of a slight cough late yesterday, leading attending doctors to fear that pneumonia might develop and lessen materially his chance for recovery. This, however, had not taken place at the time his condition was reported this morning.

Offsetting this unfavorable symptom, to a considerable degree, there was every indication that peritonitis had not set in. Peritonitis is one of the worst conditions which physicians have to combat in injuries of the type of Mann's, and those attending him expressed much encouragement over this phase of his case.

Meanwhile, the investigation of the shooting had developed virtually nothing in the way of a clue leading to solution of the mystery surrounding it. Mann still maintains he knows nothing about it, other than that he was shot down in the darkness while he was removing a flat tire from his car in the vicinity of Berea Schoolhouse; and that he didn't see his assailant.

HOTEL DIVISION GROUPS NAMED

Stock Salesmen are Being Signed Up as Final Preliminary to Drive

Completion of the divisional organization for this city's approaching general campaign to finance erection of a modern hotel was announced today by R. S. Toxey, leader of Division "C," who stated that he had signed up W. C. Dawson, J. J. Hughes, and W. P. Wood as group leaders.

Today, also, a large score board was erected on the Main street property, in order that each day after the campaign is begun, the standing of each team may be shown. As soon as the 12 group leaders have signed up ten salesmen each, or 120 salesmen in all, the active campaign for the sale of stock to the public at large will begin, it is announced. This signing up of individual salesmen is expected to require the remainder of the present week.

Since the announcement last Saturday that the \$100,000 quota of stock assigned to the general hotel committee had been oversubscribed substantially, the committee has made no definite statement as to the progress made in stock sales to a selected list approached as a prelude to the general campaign, other than that the results obtained had been decidedly encouraging.

UNBIASED PROBE OF DRY LAW TO BE UNDERTAKEN

Private Inquiry to be Instituted by National Research Council of Social Sciences

HAVE AMPLE FUNDS

Contributed by Disinterested Philanthropists who Think Question Has Been Political Football

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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Washington, April 7. — To determine whether prohibition is a success or failure with respect to social conditions in the United States, a private inquiry soon will be instituted by the National Research Council of Social Sciences under the leadership of Dr. Charles E. Merriam of Chicago.

Detailed announcement of the scope of the investigation has not yet been made, but the general purpose of it is to secure information from all sources which will answer the question of prohibition's favorable or adverse effect on social conditions in America in the last few years.

Ample funds for the inquiry have been contributed by disinterested philanthropists who have become convinced that as long as prohibition is regarded as a political football, little progress will be made toward an understanding of it.

Neither the wet nor the dry side of the controversy is in any way responsible for the initiation of the movement to get the facts. College professors, themselves experts in sociology, have banded together to furnish to the nation by scientific methods data on perhaps the leading social question of the day in America. With the political aspects they will give themselves no concern but will undertake to study what classes in the community have been improved and what classes have been injured by the prohibition laws. Their recommendations, no doubt, will carry considerable weight with independent-minded people and it can be authoritatively stated that the investigators will approach their tasks with no preconceived idea of what conclusions will be found.

Prohibition enforcement has been treated as a legal problem by the Government and by the various agencies seeking to support the law. It has been considered as a social problem only incidentally. Facts and figures on the number of arrests have been compiled and attacked according as they seem to prove the case for one side or the other. What the investigators now want to learn is what effect prohibition has had on the general health of communities, if any, what relationship the crime wave has to prohibition, and of moral codes among the youth of the country is in any way abnormal and whether it is the cause or effect of conditions noted under the era of prohibition.

It is estimated the inquiry will take at least two years or more. The theory in which it is being undertaken is that the controversy over prohibition is not going to be settled in a few months but that public opinion will constantly be kept enlightened on the operations of the prohibition law and that it wants reliable information and not prejudice argument.

The colleges themselves have become the victims of some of the changes introduced by the combination of the automobile and the sale of "bootleg" liquor. College authorities everywhere are growing more and more concerned as to the effect of prohibition on the amount of serious attention given to studies now, as contrasted with ten years ago. The fact-finding inquiry will have the co-operation of the leading colleges of the country as well as local and state agencies engaged in prohibition investigation and enforcement.

ROTARY ON HAND AT GENEVA CONFERENCE

Asheville, April 7. — In an address before a thousand Carolinians gathered from both states assembled for district rotary meeting, A. F. Graves of Brigton, England, director of Rotary International, revealed the intention of organization to send representatives to the economic conference to be held in Geneva this fall under the auspices of the League of Nations.

VACATES ORDER ON FREIGHT TO FLORIDA

Washington, April 7. — The Interstate Commerce Commission today vacated its service order of December 25 which permitted railroads to forward their freight to Florida by the best routes available in order to avoid congestion in traffic.

Don't Believe All You See



Finders' keepers — if they can get it! On April the first this little scene was enacted on many a street corner in many a city throughout the land.

TICKETS ON SALE TOO MANY SEEKING FOR "FIRST YEAR" Their Rights at Capital

Packed House Expected to Enjoy Carolina Playmakers Saturday

Tickets went on sale this morning at Selik's Jewelry Store for "The First Year" which is to be presented Saturday evening at the High School auditorium by the Carolina Playmakers, sponsored by the Elizabeth City Rotary Club, and there is every indication that the house will be packed.

"The First Year," produced by the Carolina Playmakers in Chapel Hill, February 1, 2, and 3 in their beautiful new theater on the campus of the State University, brought to light several new players of exceptional talent.

Miss Helen Leatherwood of Fayetteville as Grace Livingston carried away the honors of the performance. Miss Leatherwood came to the Playmakers from N. C. W. where she produced this play as student director with the N. C. Playmakers. In addition to this role, Miss Leatherwood proved her versatility by playing two widely different parts on the Playmakers' recent Northern trip to Washington, Baltimore, Richmond, and other points in Virginia and Carolina.

Harold G. Gabriel of Lincolnton played the leading male role with refreshing spontaneity and showed real artistic ability. Tressel Hawkins was excellent as the irascible old father and won many laughs during the evening of the original production in Chapel Hill. The mother, Mrs. Livingston, was well performed by Miss Margaret Ellis of Savannah, Georgia. M. L. Radoff gave a finished portrayal of the bachelor uncle who was influential in bringing about the happy union after the first year of married life for Grace and Tommy.

The other players in the cast were: Tom Rollins, Jr., of Asheville as Dick Loring; Miss Thelma Moody of Whittier as "Hattie" the negro cook; James C. King of Wilmington as Mr. Barstow and Miss Katherine Martin of Burlington as Mrs. Barstow.

French Students Now Pay Way By Working

Paris, April 7. — Changed conditions in the latin quarter, increased cost of board and lodgings have produced a French counterpart to the American university student working his way through college. Heretofore work has never been popular with the French undergraduates but French readers now are becoming accustomed to newspaper advertisements like the following: "Students in his last year seeks job as floor cleaner, waxer and polisher, or any domestic work reasonably well paid which will leave certain mornings free."

The floor polisher in Paris gets his work done early between five and seven in the morning.

COTTON MARKET

New York, April 7. — Cotton futures opened today at the following levels: May 18.72, July 18.22, Oct. 17.52, Dec. 17.22, Jan. 17.15.

New York, April 7. — Spot cotton closed quiet, middling 19.30, an advance of 10 points. Futures, closing bid: May 18.79, July 18.25, Oct. 17.51, Dec. 17.07, Jan. 17.08, March 17.17.

STORE LOOTED BEFORE BLAZE, OWNER THINKS

Police Investigating Suspicious Circumstances Surrounding Early Morning Southern Avenue Fire

DOOR FOUND OPEN

Opinion Expressed That Building Was Accidentally Set Afire by Intruders, in Haste to Leave

Indications of robbery in connection with the destruction by fire of the store of M. H. Payne, at Southern Avenue and "up" street, in the vicinity of the County Home, early this morning, were being investigated by police today. The officers are working on the theory that the store was entered by a rear door, and the bulk of the stock removed, when probably the robbers were frightened by a passerby and fled, dropping a match which started the fire.

The blaze was discovered by Annie Peyton, living on Southern avenue, next door to the store, this morning at about 4:30 o'clock. Her son, George, turned in the alarm. Firemen, responding in a hurry, undertook to extinguish the flames by the use of chemicals, but they had gained too much headway for that, and by the time a line could be run from a "pumper" stationed at Harrington Creek, 900 feet away, the blaze had reached such proportions that it was impossible to save the store, Fire Chief Flora stated today.

When firemen reached the scene, they found the back door of the store closed, but unlocked. A bicycle which Mr. Payne's son declared he was certain had been left in the building the night before, was found outside, at the rear, and several packages of sugar are said to have been discovered lying on the ground nearby. The store was a one-story structure, with a small room at the back, used for storage, and a larger room at the front. The fire originated in the front room, behind a counter, and near the partition separating the two rooms. It is believed that, if the store was robbed, the intruders dropped a match accidentally on waste paper behind the counter, and that caused the fire.

The store building was owned by C. W. Evans, living at Goodwin avenue and "C" street, in the Euclid Heights section, and had been rented by Mr. Payne since November 1. The latter kept a stock of groceries, confectioneries and soft drinks, which he valued at about \$400. The total loss was estimated at \$1,000, partly covered by insurance.

In fighting the blaze, firemen were handicapped seriously by lack of hydrants on the south side of Harrington Creek. The loss of 900 feet on the "pumper," together with the considerable "lift" involved, since the store and adjacent dwellings are on a slight elevation, made still more difficult the task of fighting the flames. The firemen succeeded, however, in confining the blaze to the building in which it originated.

Increasing indignation is expressed over continued petty thievery in this city, and there is daily a more insistent demand that the police break it up. In the main, this is confined to the pilfering of automobile tires from cars left parked on the streets.

It isn't always tires that are stolen, however. For instance, Granville F. Jones, Jr., representative of a Louisville, Kentucky, firm dealing in undertakers' supplies, reports that the rear compartment of his car was forced open while it was parked near City Road Methodist Church Sunday night, and six highly valuable shrouds stolen. He expressed the opinion that things were coming to a pretty pass in Elizabeth City when folks started stealing shrouds.

HOLD CONFERENCE AT MT. HERMON CHURCH

The second quarterly conference of Pasquotank County circuit will be held at Mt. Hermon Methodist Church Saturday and Sunday, April 10 and 11. Ray C. B. Culbreth, presiding elder will preach at 11 a. m. Saturday. Dinner will be served on the grounds with a business session following in the afternoon. Mr. Culbreth will also preach at 11 a. m. Sunday and administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

PRISON CHAPLAIN W. S. SHACKLETTE IS DISCHARGED

Raleigh, April 7. — The board of trustees of the state prison today discharged prison Chaplain W. S. Shacklette, effective at once. The chaplain will be allowed to draw full salary for this month and to occupy his present residence until the end of the month. This action was taken, said a statement issued, "as his usefulness" as prison warden's officer "is at an end."

The chaplain is alleged to have made charges of trafficking in pardons by prison warden C. P. and pardon commission Hank which he later denied.

MIT WITH POP CRATE

Charged with having struck Johnnie Jennings in the eye with a pop crate during a squabble Sunday night, Louis W. Smith was fined \$5 and costs in recorder's court Wednesday morning. Jennings was let off under a suspended judgment upon payment of the court costs for his part in the affair, which occurred in Smith's restaurant in the colored community known as Pennsylvania. Both participants are colored.