

America's Farmers Are In Bad Shape

RALEIGH — Democrats and Republicans may be at each other's throats in this hot election year—but there's one thing on which they apparently agree: America's farmers are in bad shape.

They disagree to some extent, however, on just how bad the farmer's plight really is.

The February issue of The Tarheel Banker, official publication of the North Carolina Bankers Association, carries articles written by a host of farm leaders, State and national. The comments range from that of Secretary of Agriculture Benson, who pledges a study of the "price margins between the producer and the consumer," to that of M. G. Mann, head of the N. C. Cotton Growers Cooperative Association, who says that the nation needs a "new doctor" to cure the nation's farm illness.

Here are some of the views as voiced by the farm leaders in the banker's magazine:

Secretary Benson: "Farm income and national income should move in the same direction — American farmers produced a record volume of crops last year. . . . The purchasing power of farmers must not be allowed to continue its downward course."

Benson charged that the farmer's plight was emphasized by a "round of wage increases (in industry) and an increase in the cost of machinery and other equipment."

Benson said that he would like to determine "how well these were justified in view of diminishing farm income."

Benson advanced the "soil bank" program, coupled with increased use of farm products, as ways which the Administration seeks to head off the downward economic trend of the farmers. Said he: "We are inflexible in our determination to restore the purchasing power of agriculture through sound policies which will remain valid over the long pull."

U. S. Senator Allen J. Ellender (D-La.), chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, says that "American agriculture, especially the small farmer, is in a dangerous situation." He sees the possibility of another great depression if something isn't done to curb the decline in farm income.

Ellender promises that the Senate will receive a three-pronged farm bill which would (1) expand the program of surplus disposal, (2) stimulate the production of "high quality, readily salable commodities," and (3) "some form of soil fertility bank."

But Ellender says the job cannot be done entirely by legislation. He calls for labor and industry to "join hands with agriculture in seeking the causes of today's farm depression."

Rep. Harold D. Cooley (D-N.C.) says that "we find ourselves forced to act in an atmosphere of emergency." Cooley, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, began by saying that "Hard times have settled again on the farms of America." Then he proceeds with criticism of Secretary Benson and a defense of mandatory rigid supports. Cooley charges that Secretary Benson's program "has failed

utterly. . . . He put his whole reliance on 'flexible' or lower prices for farmers."

Said Cooley: "The President has presented Mr. Benson's new program to the Congress, but there is little that is new in it. . . . That makes the job before Congress very difficult." Cooley also called for all segments of the American economy to cooperate in helping solve the farm problem.

L. Y. Ballentine, N. C. Commissioner of Agriculture, sees "little room for optimism in this year's agricultural outlook." Ballentine said that North Carolina farmers "may as well face the fact that there is no rosy glow on the horizon, although they can be thankful that their over-all income held up as well as it did last year in the face of late spring freezes, hurricanes and high water."

Ballentine took a dim view of political promises as an immediate answer to the problem: "Some may find hope in the idea that an elec-

tion year is bound to bring improvement; but it is well to remember that it takes time for any political party to fulfill political promises."

M. G. Mann, general manager of the N. C. Cotton Growers Cooperative Association, reminded that the Eisenhower administration has been described as "one of indecision and do-nothing." Said Mann: "I do not believe anyone will deny that the picture was dark three years ago, but if you were very sick and changed doctors and within three years the new doctor had not found some way of easing you of your pain, I am certain you would be looking for another doctor."

Mann said that there is justification for fears that we may be headed into another depression. He compared newspaper headlines of 1930 with those of today, and commented that "the identical pattern is forming today that formed in 1930." Saying that he realized that "this is pessimistic talk," Mann added

that "it is time that we looked things squarely in the face and realize that (a depression) is possible unless we strengthen the purchasing power of the farm people of America."

W. F. Hedrick, tobacco marketing specialist with the N. C. Department of Agriculture, acknowledged that tobacco growers have serious problems but, he said, "In every instance since John Rolph first planted tobacco along the James River, tobacco growers have met crises and gone on to greater heights." Hedrick added that "1936 will be no different."

Zeb C. Strawn, president of the Citizens Bank of Charlotte, wrote that farm troubles are being somewhat exaggerated. He admitted that there are troubles in farming but "there is no indication that the farm, as a class, are going broke." Strawn emphasized that North Carolina farmers "are still A-1 credit risks" and that "North Carolina agriculture is still a going concern."

SEARCH YOUR
ATTIC, BARN
OR GARAGE
For Old Scrap Metals

WE ARE PAYING
HIGHEST PRICES

DELIVER TO OUR PLANT
WAYNE AGRICULTURAL WORKS

South John St. Goldsboro, N. C.

Former Dean Named Mt. Allen



A. C. LOVELACE

The appointment of A. C. Lovelace to the faculty of Mount Olive College was announced this week by W. Burkette Raper, president of the college.

Lovelace, a native of Forest City, brings a wealth of teaching experience to the Free Will Baptist-supported junior college founded here in 1854. He was formerly dean of Wingate Junior College and served on the faculties of Coker College, Hartsville, S. C., and High Point College, High Point. For a number of years, he was principal and principal supervisor in the North Carolina public school system.

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wake Forest College, his Master of Education from Duke University and has taken post-graduate studies at the University of North Carolina.

At Mount Olive College, he will teach psychology, rural sociology, and geography. He also will set up a counseling and guidance program for the school.

Mrs. Lovelace, the former Maude White of Rutherford County, is a fifth grade teacher at Forest City. She expects to join her husband here when her school term is completed.

The Lovelaces have two sons, both instructors at seminaries. Dr. Austin Lovelace is professor of music at Garrett Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, and Dr. Marc Lovelace is professor of archeology at Southeastern Seminary at Wake Forest.

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

Place Your Order With Us NOW for ANHYDROUS AMMONIA to be applied to your crops.

We Are Well Prepared To Give You A Complete Service.

We are also distributors for these well known brands of FERTILIZERS!

- ARMOURS
- ROYSTERS
- CONTENTNEA
- NACO
- AGRI HYD LIME and LIMESTONE
- A. N. L.
- AMMONIUM NITRATE
- ARCADIAN and CHILEAN SODA

OUR WAREHOUSES ARE WELL-STOCKED . . . WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS!

COMPELAND SUPPLY COMPANY

117 W. Gordon St. Kinston Telephone 3366

Performance made Ford the LARGEST SELLING 8

Ford's Thunderbird V-8 engine is the most powerful standard engine in any low-priced car today!

A Test Drive will tell you why the Ford V-8 has been the largest-selling eight over the past 24 years! The mighty Ford Thunderbird V-8—the standard eight for Fairlane and Station Wagon models—is the most powerful standard eight, at no extra cost, in the low-priced field! It has terrific take-off power . . . extra muscle to send you zooming up the steepest hills . . . top performance for all driving situations. Test Drive a Ford V-8 at your Ford Dealer's today. When you drive one, you'll know that its performance made it America's favorite . . . and you'll know why people automatically think of FORD when they think of V-8!

FORD V-8

THOSE WERE THE DAYS by BEEMAN

But NOW-NOW!

HOSSFACE HANK By FRANK THOMAS

SONNY SOUTH By AL SONNERS

RURAL DELIVERY By AL SMITH

LITTLE FARMER By KERN PEDERSON

OFF MAIN STREET By JOE DENNETT

DEEMS By TOM OKA

GRANDPA'S BOY By BRAD ANDERSON