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President Urges Steps to Foster Farm Ownership

Outlines Evils of Farm Tenancy in Exhaustive Report to Capitol Hill; Presents Findings of Own Committee

Washington, Feb. 16.—President Roosevelt asked Congress today to save the "American dream" of individual farm ownership.

Reporting that it is increasingly difficult for energetic young men to ascend the traditional ladder from hired man to tenant to independent owner, he proposed to bring federal millions to their assistance.

"Obviously, action by the states alone and independently cannot cure the widespread evil," the President said in transmitting the report of his special committee on farm tenancy.

"A nation-wide program under federal leadership and with the assistance of states, counties, communities and individuals is the only solution. Most Americans believe that our form of government does not prohibit action on behalf of those who need help."

Its proposals:

1. Government purchase of good farm land for sale on liberal credit terms to selected tenants. Purchasers would have to pass through a trial leasing period not to exceed five years, would have 40 years to complete payments, and could acquire title in 20 years if their finances permitted.

2. Federal and state purchase and retirement of about 100,000,000 acres of poor crop land, and assistance to families moving from it to better farms. This would be carried forward at the rate of 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 acres a year.

3. "Most loans" to prevent small farm owners from slipping into tenancy and to help tenants, croppers and farm laborers to increase their standards of living. The committee said about 1,300,000 tenant and cropper families and members of other groups of "disadvantaged farm workers" needed such federal assistance.

4. A federal "windfall" tax to take a large percentage of profits from sales of land made within three years after its purchase. This was proposed as a means to discourage land booms and to encourage families to stay on and develop one farm.

5. State legislation to improve the general leasing system and provide compensation to tenants for property improvements they make.

6. Construction and operation of "decent places to live" for itinerant farm laborers.

7. Creation of a farm security administration, under the Secretary of Agriculture, to direct the federal program. A farm security corporation would handle legal transactions concerning purchase and sale of land, stock and equipment, and the making of loans.

Other proposals.

The report went to a Congress already considering various proposals to help tenants to farm ownership.

Chairman Jones, (D-Texas) of the House Agriculture Committee commented that the President's message was a good one. He expressed belief, however, that recommendations of the special committee should be broadened.

Jones pointed out his own committee had been conducting hearings for several weeks on a \$500,000,000 tenant aid bill offered by himself and Senator Bankhead, (D-Ala.).

The House committee expected to hear Secretary Wallace or a member of the President's special committee Thursday. Afterward, Jones said, a tenancy bill using the Bankhead-Jones measure as a basis would be worked out.

In his special message submitting the tenant aid proposals, President Roosevelt said they would represent a logical broadening of the administration's present farm program.

Urging prompt action, he said:

"For the past 10 years, the number of new tenants every year has been about 40,000. x x x The agricultural ladder, for these Americans, has become a treadmill.

"At the same time, owners of family size farms have been slipping down. Thousands of farmers commonly considered owners are as insecure as tenants. The farm owner-operator's equity is, on the average, 42 per cent, and in some of our best farming sections is as little as one-fifth.

"When fully half the total farm population of the United States no longer can feel secure, when millions of our people have lost their roots in the soil, action to provide security is imperative, and will be generally approved."

Advertising never pays a man who thinks it's a device for fooling the masses.

HORTICULTURIST HERE MONDAY

Garden Club Sponsors Public Meeting With Dr. Weaver As Speaker

Sponsoring a public meeting with Dr. J. B. Weaver, of the State College Horticultural department as speaker, the Garden Club, of which Miss Bettie Joyner is the head, extends a cordial invitation to all flower lovers of the community to attend.

Speaking on the general phases of gardening, on which subject he is an authority, Dr. Weaver will discuss annuals in particular.

The Garden Club will act as hostesses also during a social period, which is to follow the address.

Members of the club have spent several days of this week distributing Paul scarlet climbing roses in furtherance of their plan to beautify the town and interest home makers in growing roses.

Dorton Elected Manager Of Fair

Shelby Man Chosen From Field of 6; Would Make It 'State Show Window'

Raleigh, Feb. 18.—Dr. J. F. Dorton, of Shelby, was unanimously elected manager of the North Carolina State Fair following an all-day session of the State Board of Agriculture yesterday.

President of the North Carolina Association of Agricultural Fairs, he was one of six applicants for the position who were interviewed by the board members during the session.

Other applicants were C. A. Purnell of Mebane, Norman Y. Chambliss of Rocky Mount, Arthur H. Fleming of Louisburg, Thomas C. Foster of Durham and Charles W. Mangum of Raleigh.

Commissioner of Agriculture W. Kerr Scott told the board prior to the interview with the applicants that he would work with any person the members named.

"I believe the fair should be a state fair and representative of the state," Dr. Dorton told the board during his interview, pointing out that he would cooperate with the Grange, board, commissioners and others to make the fair "the show window of the state."

D. S. Weaver of the State College agricultural extension service, appeared before the board and presented models and data to be considered in planning future buildings at the fair, livestock buildings in particular. The board went on record commending the expert for the presentation of plans, adding that "if ways and means can be found at some future day" a systematic plan should be followed in construction work.

The entire board was present for the meeting.

SPONSOR WEEK!

This is Sponsor Week for the Symphonic Chorus! The Farmville Symphonic Chorus is doing splendid work under the leadership of Lewis Bullock, of Goldsboro, and individuals or firms that can sponsor this movement will make a contribution towards a worthy cause that promises to be of great benefit to the community.

Sponsors, who have pledged their support to the Chorus prior to the canvass were the Bank of Farmville, Farmville Furniture Co., Merry Matrons, Woman's Club, J. W. Joyner and J. T. Thorne.

DRUNK JUROR

Greenville, Feb. 16.—An 11-man jury, thought to be the second in the history of Pitt County courts, considered a case in Superior Court Tuesday when the 12th member was declared intoxicated and lodged in jail.

C. C. Haddock of Chicod was the juror who was excused. As the inquiry into the lunacy of Newsome Worsley, which took up all of Monday's session, was resumed Tuesday morning, the juror began asking questions. Suspecting something wrong, Judge E. H. Cramer asked Clerk J. F. Harrington to call the Chicod man into the jury room.

There, it was decided by the judge and clerk that the man was intoxicated and not capable of serving as a juror.

By agreement of both sides, the case continued with an 11-man jury.

Fire Warden King Urges Caution In Burning Of Brush

Attention Is Called To North Carolina Laws Protecting Forests From Carelessness With Fire

Greenville, Feb. 16.—R. W. King, Pitt County fire warden, issued a statement today urging farmers to exert every care to prevent forest fires when they begin their spring burning.

Warden King called attention to North Carolina laws protecting forests from conflagrations and asked that all forest fires be reported to the proper officials at once.

The statement in full follows: "We have had a very wet winter. Up to date we haven't had dangers of fire to our forest land. The farmers will have lots of burning to do when weather permits. I am asking all to be careful with your fires and caution your tenants to be careful.

"It is a violation of the North Carolina Fire laws: to intentionally set fire to another's woodlands; to let fire escape from your own land; to start a woods fire on your lands without having first notified adjoining landowners of your intention; to build a camp fire without first having cleared all inflammable materials around such fire for a distance of 10 feet; to leave a camp fire unextinguished; to burn a slab pile, sawdust pile or any other material without leaving a watchman with it; to refuse to assist a warden in fire fighting when called upon; to interfere with a warden or workers under him while engaged in fire fighting on anyone's land.

"We hope it will not be necessary to see any one prosecuted for violation of the N. C. Forest laws.

Towermen will be on duty every day during dry weather. Please report all forest fires to towermen, phone 2005 or to the county warden, phone 956-W2."

Huge Sum Paid State Veterans

Gant Says Veterans Administration Paid Out \$9,000,000 Last Year

Durham, Feb. 17.—Veterans' Administration expenditures in North Carolina, during the fiscal year of 1936 amounted to \$9,837,519, according to a report received by Robert M. Gant, State Director for the National Emergency Council. This sum did not include payments made to veterans on bonus certificates.

Living veterans of all wars received the sum of \$4,939,433 in compensation and pension payments, while payments to 3,630 dependents of deceased veterans of all wars amounted to \$1,305,275.

Military and Naval insurance payments were made to dependents of 2,905 veterans in the amount of \$1,843,817; adjustments on service and dependents pay amounted to \$20,011; payments were made on adjusted service certificates matured by death in the amount of \$436,178; State administrative costs of the Veterans' Administration including operating expenses of all offices and hospitals amounted to \$1,292,607.

The Veterans' Administration reports that pensions are still being paid to dependents of deceased veterans of the War of 1812, one a resident of the State of New York and the other the State of Oregon.

At The Rotary Club

Twenty members were present at the Rotary meeting, Tuesday evening and with several guests, enjoyed a delicious chicken dinner.

Dr. W. M. Willis announced a concert in the school auditorium by the school band and Glee Clubs immediately following the supper, and the flood-relief committee reported that contributions had reached \$682.18. Coy Monk was elected to membership in the Club at this time.

Mayor John B. Lewis, program leader, presented Hon. J. F. Harrington, of Greenville, who introduced the speaker of the evening, Hon. E. H. Cramer, Presiding Judge of the Fifth Judicial District.

Judge Cramer praised the organization of Rotary and other civic clubs, commending them for the fine work they are doing throughout the state, nation and world, and spoke briefly on "Brotherly Love."

In addition to Mr. Harrington and Judge Cramer the Club had as guest F. G. Copeland, manager of E. & W. Chevrolet Co.



COURT RIGHT BEGINS SOME GOOD IDEAS PRESIDENT SURPRISES HARD BATTLE CERTAIN COURT IS CONSERVATIVE BLOCKS THE NEW DEAL PUBLIC AND THE COURT REVIEWING THE CASES SUMMING UP

By Hugo Sims, Washington Correspondent.

The lines are beginning to form in the Senate for the fight which will center around the President's proposal to appoint, under certain conditions, up to six new justices of the Supreme Court. In the House, little chance exists for a successful battle against the President's proposal, but, in the Senate, where foes of the suggestion will concentrate their attack, it is likely that the battle will be prolonged. Hearings before the measure reaches the floor will consume considerable time and certain senators are sure to debate the bill at great length.

So much interest has been aroused by the proposal of the President that he be empowered to appoint, until the total number of justices reaches fifteen, one new justice for each member who has not resigned within six months of his seventieth birthday, that the public is apt to overlook the broad reorganization of the entire Federal Court system which has been urged to speed up and make modern the function of the fifty new judges in the lower Federal Courts to supplement judges past seventy who refuse to resign, create a "protector" to keep up with the work of the lower courts, authorize the Chief Justice to assign judges to other congested dockets, ban decisions or injunctions in cases involving constitutional issues until the Government has been given ample notice and full hearings and certain measures to expedite appeals in cases involving the constitutionality of legislation.

The President's message undoubtedly was a surprise and amazed many members of Congress. Generally, Republicans and anti-New Deal Democrats denounced it and full-fledged New Dealers gave it their support. Outside comment aligned conservative businessmen against "packing" the Court, while Labor leaders announced their support. Reports indicated that a fringe of those who have supported the President's earlier legislative program inclines to desert him on the crucial court issue.

Strressing the need for "new blood" the President's message indirectly called attention to the age of the present justices. Six of them are past seventy and three are over seventy-five. Here are their ages: Chief Justice Hughes, 74; Justices Van Devanter, 77; McReynolds, 75; Brandeis, 80; Sutherland, 74; Butler, 70; Stone, 64; Roberts, 61; and Cardozo, 66.

While the President's proposal to change the number of justices is not new, his position undoubtedly creates a crisis in the long history of the court. Originally in 1789 it had six members. The number was reduced to five in 1801, up to seven in 1807 and to nine in 1837. During the Civil War, the number was ten because a Confederate was not sitting. Later the Court was reduced to seven members and, under Grant, moved again to nine, with the President accused of "packing" the Court in order to reverse the four-to-three "legal tender" decision.

Despite the carefully worded language of the President's message, its implication clearly emphasizes that the Supreme Court is to be subject to the executive and legislative branches of the Government. Since the days of John Marshall, the Court has asserted the right to finally decide whether Congress or the President infringes upon the Constitution. For more than a hundred years, the meaning of that document, as translated into governmental machinery and using governmental power, has been influenced by the economic and social trends of the times and undoubtedly interpretations have been the result of the personal philosophies of the justices.

DR HUSKE TO SPEAK

Dr. B. F. Huske, rector of St. Mary's, Kinston, will be the guest speaker at the weekly Lenten service on Wednesday evening of next week, February 24, in the Episcopal Church, to which the entire community is cordially invited.

Dr. Huske had charge of Emmanuel Church for several months as the young clergyman, just out of the seminary, and has many friends here who will welcome this opportunity to renew their friendship.

Discuss Amendments To Fertilizer Laws

Farm Group Would Make Manufacturers Guarantee Acid-Forming Qualities

Raleigh, Feb. 17.—Fertilizer manufacturers, farmers and chemists discussed here yesterday proposed revisions of the State's fertilizer laws.

Three amendments to the present law, recommended by the group follow:

1. To make manufacturers guarantee the acid forming or non-acid forming quality of their product.

2. To raise the minimum plant food content of fertilizer from 14 to 16 per cent, effective December 1, 1939.

3. To assess manufacturers \$5 for each brand of fertilizer sold.

D. S. Coltrane, assistant to the commissioner of agriculture; Dr. B. W. Kilgore, State chemist and J. G. Staton of Wilmington, a member of the State Board of Agriculture, led the discussion.

A tax of five cents a ton on agricultural lime was recommended.

MUSIC GROUPS IN CONCERT

A splendid concert, and one very successful from both angles of program rendition and attendance, was that presented by the Farmville graded school band and the Junior and Senior Glee Clubs, on Tuesday evening.

The singers, under the direction of Mrs. Daisy H. Smith, with Mrs. Haywood Smith at the piano, won praise for their beautiful work, especially in shading and harmony, and the band, directed by Mr. Burt, of Wilson, was given commendation for the improvement and progress shown.

An appeal from Superintendent J. H. Moore, in behalf of the musical organizations, met with a ready response from the large audience, which contributed around \$25 to be used in a final payment for a bass horn and as the beginning of a fund to insure entrance of the Glee Clubs in the annual State music contests.

Warren Seeking Air Base In This State

Washington, Feb. 16.—Representative Lindsay C. Warren of Washington, N. C., said today he believed a new coast guard aviation station between Cape May, N. J., and Charleston, S. C., would be authorized if a new public works list is submitted to Congress.

Establishment of a new station has been approved by the coast guard, but the budget bureau eliminated a proposed expenditure for it from the treasury supply bill reported to the House yesterday.

Warren said in the event funds were made available from other sources he would seek establishment of the station somewhere along the Northeastern coast of North Carolina.

Wilson Merchant Held On Meat Theft Counts

Wilson, Feb. 16.—Joe Boswell, a Wilson County storekeeper for the past decade, was bound over to Superior Court under an \$800 cash bond by Magistrate J. R. Hardy today on the charge of receiving meat after Squire Hardy had held a hearing on three of nine cases against the Wilson man and Boswell had waived hearing on the other six warrants.

Two other warrants charging Boswell with receiving stolen meat were also served on him today by officers from out of the county. One of these was a warrant charging Boswell with receiving around 275 pounds of meat stolen from Clinton Murphy of Farmville and another one charged him with receiving around 1,800 pounds of meat stolen from Mary B. West of Wayne County.

Boswell is charged with receiving around 4,200 pounds of stolen meat from four Negroes, Willie Smith, Edgar Hilliard, Roland Hill and Henry Sheppard, during the last two months. The Negroes were bound over to Superior Court by Magistrate A. J. Hines several days ago for the robbery of the meat after local and county officers had raided Boswell's store and had found the meat there.

3,750 MILES IN CANOE

New Orleans.—After a 3,750-mile trip in a canoe which took seven months, Albert Troelstrup, 22, of Julesburg, Colorado, arrived here Milk, Alberta, Canada. He travelled via the Milk River to the Missouri and then to the Mississippi.

County Liquor Measure Passed, As Senate Kills State-Wide Referendum

SECOND PUBLIC FORUM TO BE HELD TUESDAY

The second of a series of Public Forums, being sponsored by the United States Office of Education, will be held in the school auditorium, Tuesday evening, February 23, at eight o'clock.

Each of these meetings will be addressed by a nationally or internationally known speaker, and while the name of the speaker for Tuesday evening and his subject has not been announced as yet, Supt. J. H. Moore assures the community of an evening well spent at the Forum, which will include a discussion period for the audience.

These Forums, for which there are no admission charges, are a splendid means of bringing the people of a community together for exchange of ideas, and to hear discussion of timely subjects by well informed speakers.

It is earnestly hoped by the promoters that the people of the community will avail themselves of this splendid opportunity to become educated for better American citizenship.

Sanitation Campaign Plans Being Mapped

The Pitt County Board of Health is busy preparing its general sanitation campaign to be carried on in the schools, beginning March 8.

The program calls for a visit to each of the schools at which time a thorough check will be made in regard to sanitary conditions in general.

Easier Divorce Asked In State

Action Taken Upon Separation Measures — Higher Marriage Age Approved

Raleigh, Feb. 18.—Two steps towards making divorce easier and one to make marriage later in North Carolina were taken by the General Assembly yesterday.

The House passed a bill by Representative B. C. Jones of Swain and George Uzzell of Rowan to eliminate the requirement for a bond of separation in suits for absolute divorce on grounds of two-years separation. It was sent to the Senate.

Meanwhile Senate Judiciary Committee No. 1 recommended passage of the Larkins-Abernathy bill to raise the minimum age limit for marriage from 16 to 18 years and to allow special licenses for girls between 16 and 18 instead of between 14 and 16, was recommended for passage.

Then, the committee sent to the floor a measure to permit absolute divorce on the grounds of one year separation, instead of two years as now.

Passage also was recommended for companion bills to require residence in the state for one year of parties to divorce actions and to amend laws on testimony of husbands and wives.

Dudley Bagley, chairman of the State Rural Electrification Authority, asked the committee to order a probe of his agency as asked by a Caldwell county rural electrification cooperative and proposed in a resolution introduced by Senator Abernethy. The committee voted to re-draft the resolution and report it favorably later.

The House-approved measure to extend jurisdiction of the State Bar in disciplining attorneys was recommended for Senate passage.

House Judiciary Committee No. 2 recommended passage of bills to create a civil service commission and a boxing and wrestling commission in High Point.

It also reported favorably for damage done to validate acts of J. H. Waggoner, a justice of the peace; and one to permit Wrightville Beach officials to govern operation of motor boats in banks channels.

Senate Judiciary No. 1 favorably reported: The Joyner bill relating to drunkenness in Ireland; the Quinn measure to punish drunkenness in Duplin; HB 253 to allow Wake county's commissioners to exempt certain persons from the peddlers' license; to extend jurisdiction of Mooresville police one mile; and to include Warren county in the law requiring contribution among heirs. It unfavorably reported the Johnston bill to give persons whose property is damaged by motor vehicles a lien on the vehicles involved.

Amendment By Wake Senator Would Prohibit Liquor Stores in Drying Townships; State Vote Proposal Rejected By 27-to-17 After Long Debate

Raleigh, Feb. 17.—Defeating by 27 to 17 an amendment for a State-wide referendum, a burly majority in the Senate yesterday passed on second and third readings the county option liquor control bill after inserting changes which would—

(1) Prohibit drinking at football games or "at any other public assembly."

(2) Provide that no township which voted dry, except a county seat, should have forced on it a liquor store.

(3) Make liquor prices uniform in all stores throughout the State.

(4) Require supervision by the State Board of Alcoholic Control of all purchases of liquor by county boards, instead of just in cases where it is deemed necessary. And—

(5) Require written reports from the sheriffs of counties at regular intervals on the status of control, these reports to be read by the Superior Court judge to the grand jury.

Back To House. The bill now goes back to the House for concurrence in the Senate amendments.

County elections on the establishment of liquor stores may be possible in less than a month after the bill is ratified.

The measure would authorize county boards of commissioners to call for special elections and boards of elections to set the dates.

An amendment passed by the Senate, however, specified that at least 20 days notice of an election must be given in order that voters may register.

Under the bill, elections also must be held if demanded by 15 per cent of the registered voters who participated in the last gubernatorial election.

No elections would be held in the 17 counties now operating liquor stores under the New Hanover and Pasquotank Acts. Not more than one election on the liquor question might be held in any three-year period in any one county.

Martin To Try Again.

Senator L. A. Martin of Davidson, Dry leader and author of the referendum measure, yesterday changed his vote from "aye" to "no" on it so he might have the privilege of moving for a reconsideration of the amendment. He said last night he would ask reconsideration at the 11 o'clock session this morning, but legislative leaders saw little chance for his proposal to succeed. It would throw the bill back on second reading if successful.

No Record Vote.

The Senate vote on the bill itself, which was not a record vote, came at the conclusion of a five-hour session in which no less than 18 of the 50 Senators took the floor for some part of the debate. Everything from the white supremacy campaign of 1898 to the circular letter written by Cale K. Burgess, vice president of the United Dry Forces, written in April, 1935, and condemning a State-wide referendum—was injected into the argument.

The Senate majority, quickly picking up confidence after its victory over the referendum amendment, shouted down several others while adopting the five principal amendments and clarifying amendments. Senator L. Y. Ballentine of Wake was the sponsor of the first four, and Senator W. I. Halstead of Camden wrote into the bill the fifth amendment, providing for reports from enforcement officials.

Senator Martin, after the defeat of the referendum provision, immediately sent forth one which would have made the bill apply only to the 18 counties in which legalized liquor is now available. Proponents, declaring it would "cut the heart out" of the bill in so far as it pretended to be a control bill, voted down the amendment thunderously.

SPECIAL LENTEN-EASTER PICTURES AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SUNDAY

The Rev. John Everington, of Ridgewood, New Jersey, will deliver his illustrated lecture—"A Pilgrimage to Calvary"—at the Presbyterian Church Sunday evening at 7:30. He will show beautiful colored pictures of places in and around the Holy City, a Journey to the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane. Mr. Everington has visited our town on several former occasions and has proven that he is a lecturer of the highest type. The public is cordially invited to attend this service.