

VOLUME THIRTY

FARMVILLE, PITT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1940

## Judge Fines Man \$500.00 For 'Joke'

### Mitchell Farris Also Is Put on Probation In Extortion Case

Wilson, April 16.—Mitchell Paul Farris, 24-year-old Wilson and Farmville man, was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and placed on probation for five years by Judge I. M. Meekins in U. S. District Court here today after he pleaded guilty to attempting to extort \$500 from Nassif Cannon, Farmville storekeeper, by asking him for the money in a threatening letter sent through the mails.

In sentencing Farris, Judge Meekins called the case "one of the most outrageous things I have ever heard of" and declared that "the jury would have probably found you guilty." He said that he was placing Farris on probation at the recommendation of Assistant District Attorney John Hall Manning of Raleigh.

The guilty plea came at the end of the evidence after Farris, through his attorneys, had pled not guilty at the start of the trial, which took up most of the day in Federal Court. Farris was arrested by Federal agents last October when the Farmville and Wilson man went to a bridge on the Farmville-Fountain road one night to collect the \$500 to be done up in a package by Cannon as ordered by Farris.

Farris characterized the whole affair as a "joke" when he took the stand in court today and said he had not meant to keep the money if he got it, but had simply meant to "tease Cannon for a few days and then give it back to him."

But the story that was unfolded on the stand had all the aspects of a "G-Man" thriller of movieland.

According to the evidence, Farris wrote a letter to Cannon and signed it "A friend in need." He ordered Cannon to place the money in a package at a certain place or "you'll be sorry." A few days later Cannon received another message simply saying "don't forget tonight at 7:15."

Farris then admitted that he had mislaid the wording in the letters on purpose "so that Cannon wouldn't suspect anything." He also admitted he had borrowed the automobile of William H. Fisher, Farmville storekeeper, so that "Cannon wouldn't recognize the car if he saw it." He then, according to Farris, borrowed a typewriter from a place in Farmville to write the letter on.

Through a letter to his brother, Robert Farris, in Chapel Hill, was admitted in evidence and indicated that he had written to Robert before the incident occurred and that he was going to play a trick on Cannon, the letter did not contain any detailed information.

The story of his capture was also told on the stand and Special Agent he and another agent and Farmville J. D. Sullivan of the FBI told how officers planned to trap Farris on the bridge and how they had the road fiked so that when the extortionist's car got on the bridge a shot would catch him in a trap.

Farris came to the scene with Fisher, whom he completely exonerated from any blame in the affair, and officers signaled to others with a shot and yelled at the Farris car to halt. From then on it was a chase by FBI agents, with Fisher, not knowing what it was all about, hanging on to the front bumper of the car while the car sped away from the FBI men at 80 miles an hour. The Federal agents finally pushed the car into a ditch and stopped it.

## The Lucile Shop Gives Fashion Show

A Fashion Revue, in which several of Farmville's charming young ladies acted as models, was presented at the Wilson Theatre Monday evening.

Among the Farmville girls who gracefully modeled the evening gowns were: Misses Mildred Vann, Eva Mae Turnage, Elsie Carraway, Hazel Monk, Lona Green and Margaret Thompson.

Other towns represented in the Revue included Wilson, Elm City, Black Creek, Walstonburg, New Bern and others.

A beautiful wedding scene climaxed the show, which was received with much applause.

### CARRYOVER

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that the world carryover of American cotton on August 1 would likely be about 1,000,000 bales smaller than the record carryover of August 1, 1939.

### POWER

A pronounced power farming trend in recent years has been the great increase in the number of so-called "power farms" sold to American farmers.

## British Warning Given Mussolini

### Minister Cross Declares "We Should Like To Know Where We Stand With Italy;" Observers Predict Early Italian Step

London, April 17.—Britain's Minister of Economic Warfare, Ronald C. Cross, declared tonight he believed that Italy wanted to be treated as a neutral, but warned her that she must behave as one.

"We have no quarrel with Italy," he said. "We have every wish to be friends. But we are plain-dealing and plain-speaking people, and we should like to know where we stand with Italy."

Cross also expressed the opinion that Germany might invade Sweden within a month to get supplies of iron ore. Britain, he added, is ready to help Sweden, "but she must be ready to help herself."

The 43-year-old minister, taking cognizance of the strongly pro-German tone of the Italian press in the last few days, declared this tone as "hostile."

"That makes us reflect," he said, "upon the attitude of Italy toward us."

London has cast anxious and hurt eyes toward Italy for several days, and the Cross speech may have diplomatic repercussions, at least. But Britain is anxious to determine whether the tone of the Italian press, which is playing up German claims of victory in the North and minimizing Allied military prowess, clearly reflects the viewpoint of Mussolini, or whether Mussolini has a more subtle purpose in mind for which he is using the controlled papers.

Some informed Britons predicted that the Italian press reaction to war developments might improve in a few days. The war reviewer, W. N. Ewer, said in the Daily Herald that the Allies "are watching Italy very closely. . . . We still cannot be really sure about Il Duce's intentions."

The writer said that all necessary protective naval, military and air arrangements are being made on the hypothesis that Mussolini means to join in; and that if he does, "we must strike hard and swiftly."

He added that "all this Italian raging and threatening may be simply a diplomatic offensive in the aid of the Fuehrer; an attempt to frighten the Allies into diverting ships to the Mediterranean from the North Sea. If so, it is more noisy than serious."

## Pitt YDC Plans For Huge Rally

### U. S. Senator Josh Lee To Speak at Greenville Monday; Big Crowd Expected

Greenville, April 16.—Officials of the Pitt County Young Democratic Club last night made plans and announced committee assignments for the Fifth District Y. D. C. rally to be held here next Monday and to be addressed by U. S. Senator Josh Lee of Oklahoma, a native of Union County, North Carolina.

Hoover Taft, State Y. D. C. organizer, said the Pitt Young Democrats have promised to make this one of the biggest political gatherings of the year in Eastern North Carolina. The address and a banquet are to be held in the City-County Armory. Candidates for various key State offices will be on hand, but will do no speaking.

Committee assignments announced by S. B. Underwood, Jr., Pitt Y. D. C. president, are: Eli Bloom, Press Committee; L. C. Skinner and Bruce Sugg, Jr., arrangements; James Whitfield and Dave Mosier of Greenville, and Paul Liverman of Plymouth, publicity; T. E. Wilson, Ed. Waldrop, M. O. Blount, H. Jack Edwards and J. R. Taylor of Ayden, entertainment; Jake Hadley, chairman of the ticket committee; Eli Joyner, Miss Hazel Monk and George Moore of Farmville, Richard Nelson and Ivan Blaisette of Grifton, John Hooker and J. C. Wynne, Jr., of Bethel, out-of-town committee.

### CATTLE

Demonstration farmers of Madison County are taking the lead in an active campaign to place better cattle in the county, says John S. Hollamon, Madison farm agent.

## Battle Between Germans and Brit- ish in Prospect

### Nazi Force Said To Be Pushing Northward Along Norwegian Coast To Meet British Forces Landed At Namsos

Stockholm, April 17.—German forces reinforced by troops brought from Denmark in huge transport planes tonight were reported to be striking northward along the Norwegian coast toward Namsos for a battle with a British force landed there.

The Germans, pushing northward from the Trondheim zone, where they already have succeeded in cutting Norway in half, were said in press dispatches to be encountering strong Norwegian resistance.

The Norwegian defenders, according to the newspaper Allenda, have at least temporarily halted the Germans at Steinkjer, 50 miles northeast of Trondheim and about 30 miles from Namsos.

It was indicated that the Norwegians were attempting to stall the German push at Steinkjer until the British forces can secure their hold on Namsos and come to their aid.

The Germans, according to frontier reports reaching Stockholm, were trying to occupy Namsos before the British can bring it under control and set up an air base.

Namsos, lying deep behind a network of islands and fjords, has been regarded as a likely place for the landing of Allied troops, but there was no official confirmation to-night of the Allenda's report that the British had landed there.

However, strong British naval forces had been reported off Namsos earlier.

While the Norwegians battled the advancing Germans at Steinkjer, a small, but desperately fighting force of Norwegian soldiers held out in the surrounding fortress of Hegre about 30 miles east of Trondheim toward the Swedish border.

Cut off when the Germans struck across to the Swedish border at the Storlien Heights with amazing speed—some went by special train—the Norwegian forces at Hegre, which is along the main railroad line, continued to resist.

Norwegian reinforcements from north and south of the railroad line attempted today to break through and relieve the fortress, but the task seemed almost impossible.

German planes heavily bombed the fortress during the day, according to frontier reports.

The German 50-mile line from Trondheim to the Swedish border was said to be under almost constant guerrilla-like attacks by the Norwegians, striking from both the north and south.

The Germans reached the border in a final push from Skudalsvolden, which they had taken yesterday.

The Norwegian high command, in a communique tonight, admitted the loss of Kangvinger, an important fortified city northeast of Oslo and about 13 miles from the Swedish border, and said the Norwegian forces were being compelled to retreat in most other sectors under the superiority of German arms.

## Trevathan Seeks Pitt Board Post

G. E. Trevathan, mayor of Fountain and prominent in farm organization circles, has formally announced his candidacy for the board of county commissioners from the Third District, which embraces Farmville, Fountain, Falkland and Beaver Dam townships.

Mr. Trevathan declared that this was his first entry into politics, other than in his home town, where he has been mayor for the past three years.

Active in the Farm Bureau Federation since the state organization was formed several years ago, Mr. Trevathan at the present is president of the county organization. He also is a member of the local AAA committee and has served on the county committee.

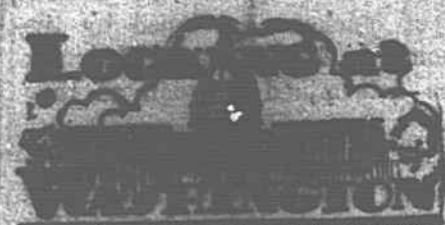
Mr. Trevathan, who is a farmer, said that he devoted all his spare time to projects which he considered to be for the betterment of Pitt county and its farmers.

### WHEAT

The domestic wheat supply in 1940-41 is expected to total approximately 900,000,000 bushels, estimated the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Spring gardens are getting along fine—in the minds of the planters.

You never can tell what some people mean by what they say; you can only suspect what they think.



By HUGO S. SIMS  
(Washington Correspondent)  
NAZI MOVE AFFECTS U. S. NORMAL TRADE SUFFERS. NEW WORLD CONDITIONS. CLOSED ECONOMY FEARS. PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES. MORE MONEY FOR WPA. ABOUT RE-APPORTIONMENT. COTTON STAMP PLAN.

Germany's sudden invasion of both Denmark and Norway last week overshadowed all domestic issues in the nation's capital. Official reaction to the surprising German aggression was guarded. Proclamations were issued by the President extending the ban on American shipping to the new belligerent areas and impounding the money and assets of the nationals of the two countries attacked.

The German attempt to incorporate these two small neutral nations into the economic regime of the Reich created a profound impression. Slowly, the idea is becoming accepted that after the war, regardless of which side wins, the world will be divided into closely organized economic groups. Just what position the United States will occupy in relation to the groups depends, of course, upon how the war culminates.

If Germany wins, it is a foregone conclusion that world trade as it was known twenty-five years ago, will be seriously crippled if not almost destroyed. If Great Britain and France win, it is argued, the war effort will produce such economic strain that these nations will be compelled to adopt methods heretofore used by the totalitarian states.

In the light of these facts, there is some speculation as to the future effectiveness of the trade agreement act, recently extended by Congress until June 12, 1943. Unless the nations of the world return to something like normal trade relations, there will be many difficulties in the way of successfully promoting the Hull trade program. While progress may be made in the Western Hemisphere, there is doubt as to what may be done in the other regions of the world.

In the Far East, the Japanese campaign against China is designed to capture control of Chinese raw materials and trade. If Japan wins, the Japanese will claim exclusive control of Far Eastern commerce. The interests of the United States will be seriously affected and our future trading rights will be dependent upon the whim of the Tokyo Government.

It is already apparent that Soviet Russia, due to various reasons is following a policy of nationally controlled trade. There is little prospect that there will be any reversion to normal commercial practices so far as Soviet Russia is concerned. There will be, and there has been, some buying and selling to foreign nations, but the bulk of Russian economy is geared to the system developed in Germany, with its controls, restrictions, quotas, embargoes and bartering.

If Germany succeeds in her present effort to incorporate various neutral nations in the economic organization of the Reich, the commercial interests of the United States will be curtailed. Back of the sudden invasion of Denmark and Norway is the effort of Germany to extend her economic frontier, to secure a source of supply which can be compelled to work in harmony with German purposes. Without adequate credit, and unable to build up sufficient foreign exchange to facilitate the natural commerce, Germany is grabbing adjacent territory in order to control the raw material and trade of the area.

It is hard to imagine that Italy, under Mussolini, will continue the development of her economic affairs in close harmony with those of Germany. Consequently, not only the domestic trade of Italy but her foreign commerce will be organized upon the Nazi pattern. Gradually, the pressure of Russia, Germany and Italy, exerted upon the smaller Balkan powers, will infold them into the new economic scheme.

Every time this happens, the prospect of the United States and our hope that foreign markets for our products may develop in the future are given a serious setback. If the process continues long enough, there will be nobody for us to trade with except South America and we may have to resort to drastic methods to protect this market.

The Illinois primaries produced no great surprises, with the President and Mr. Dewey scoring successes at (Continued on page 4)

## Third Set of Panama Canal Locks Okehed

### Senate Approves Appropriation of \$15,000,000; Fund Inserted In House Bill

Washington, April 17.—The Senate approved today a \$15,000,000 initial appropriation for construction of a third set of Panama canal locks.

The action came on a committee amendment to the \$223,362,517 House approved appropriation for non-military expenditures of the War Department.

Economy advocates still clung to a hope of preventing an increase of \$55,000,000 the bill carries for waterways.

As it stands, the appropriation measure would provide \$19,889,950 more than a similar bill approved by the House and \$2,069,917 more than President Roosevelt's budget estimates.

The House worked toward a vote on the Logan-Walter bill drafted to set up a single pattern for issuance of rules and regulations by administrative agencies and to expedite court reviews of such orders.

Representative Rogers (R-Mass.) broke into the Logan-Walter discussion with a speech proposing that Congress direct the State Department to establish a protectorate over Greenland "until such time as Denmark regains her sovereignty" from Germany.

Admiral Harold R. Stark told the Senate Affairs committee that the navy would welcome a genuine attempt at disarmament when the European war ends.

The chief of naval operations asserted, however, that if a disarmament conference were called, the United States should insist that other nations make "a clean breast" of their naval strength.

## Quota Provisions Upheld By Court

The provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act which will govern marketings of the flue-cured and Burley tobacco and cotton in 1940 have been completely upheld in a criminal case against a group of Cleveland County farmers, according to E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive officer of N. C. State College.

In the first criminal prosecution in the Nation involving cotton under the Farm Act, Federal Judge E. Yates Webb levied a \$25 fine on each of the 10 defendants who pleaded guilty to charges of aiding and abetting evasion of penalties incurred on cotton marketed in excess of their marketing quotas. In addition, the court ordered the defendants to pay approximately \$4,500 to the Cleveland County Agricultural Conservation Committee as unpaid penalties. "This decision is of great significance to farmers who have voted for and will use the National marketing quotas for 1940," Floyd commented. "The way is cleared to enforce the law against any person who has sought or will attempt to evade the provisions and penalties of the marketing quotas for cotton and tobacco. Cooperators in the farm program can be assured that they will have the full protection of the law in their efforts to obtain better net income and avoid wasteful surpluses."

Floyd urged farmers and business men who are in doubt about their responsibilities under the marketing quota provisions to consult their county AAA committees for further information. The quota provisions of the farm program will be enforced by both civil and criminal action whenever necessary, he said.

### CHANGE

How the change from horse to mechanical power has affected farm demand is shown in the fact that it took 82,000,000 acres to feed workstock in 1916, while in 1935 only 46,000,000 acres were required.

### SEQUOIA

H. Neil Blair has been able to secure 100 pounds of the high-producing new Sequoia Irish potato variety for demonstration purposes on his Watauga County farm in Boone township.

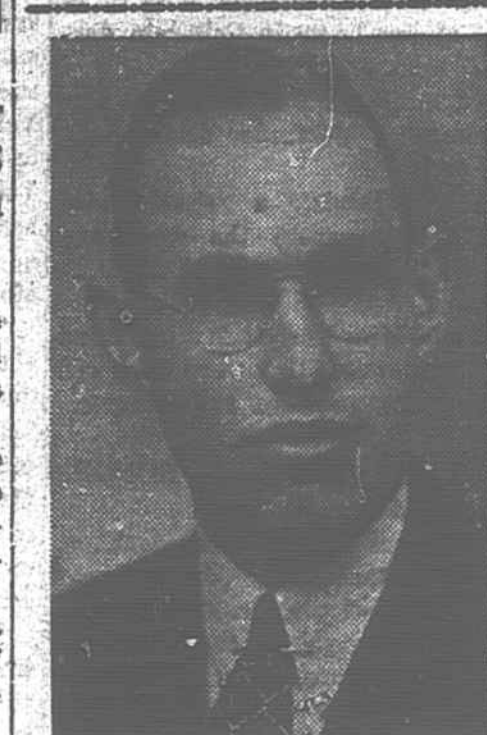
### WORKSTOCK

Since a high-grade jack was placed on the farm of N. H. Perry of Erwin, Harriet County farmers have exhibited greater interest in raising their own workstock.

### TORACCO

Barring serious blue mold attacks and inclement weather, tobacco plants should be available for transplanting in Wilson County between May 1 and 10, says Assistant Farm Agent J. A. Marsh.

## Hull Calls on Japanese To Keep Their Hands Off Netherlands East Indies



SAM B. UNDERWOOD, JR.  
Candidate for Solicitor of the County  
Court of Pitt County.

## LUNCH ROOM NOTES

Menu for Week Beginning April 22

Monday—Meat loaf, tomato sauce, creamed potatoes, slaw and biscuits, 10c.

Tuesday—Snapbeans, smoked meat, candied yams, corn bread and apple sauce, 10c.

Wednesday—Salmon croquettes, pork and beans, fruit salad, biscuits, 10c.

Thursday—Spaghetti, vegetable salad, corn bread and stewed prunes, 10c.

Friday—Scalloped corn, greens, graham muffins and baked apples, 10c.

Served Daily—Vegetable soup, crackers, 5c.—Plain and chocolate milk, 5c.—Ice cream, 5c.—sandwiches, 5c.

The school lunch room has been opened this week from 9 to 3, for the people of this community to see just how it is being operated. Thursday evening following P. T. A., the members and guests were invited to visit the lunch room and were served punch and wafers.

Those in charge of the lunch room appreciate the interest that the citizens of the town have shown in this project, which has been made possible by the W. P. A. and individual gifts.

The chief aim of the project is to help our children build healthy bodies and sound minds by giving them the food and milk that they need. About 90 free lunches along with 30 to 40 paid ones are served daily.

Each one is urged to visit the lunch room and see the wonderful work that is being done there.

The lunch room has four workers and in addition to these there are two matrons, who are also rendering a needed service on the Matrons' project, for the children.

## Better Business Picture Painted

### Federal Bureau Predicts Improvement in General Economic Conditions Soon

Washington, April 17.—The Bureau of Agricultural Economics predicted today an improvement in general economic conditions by Summer.

The bureau's view was set out in a statement which noted that the sharp winter downswing in industrial production had leveled off. The Federal Reserve Board concurred in this latter observation with an announcement that the industrial activity rate of decline had slowed down in March and that there was "little further decrease" in the first half of April.

The seasonally adjusted index of industrial production was 103 for March, the board said, compared with the record high of 128 in December, 109 in February and 98 in March, 1939.

The Economics Bureau said that its prediction of business betterment was supported by "signs of better demand for steel and textiles than since last Fall, reviving interest in home building and an increase in industrial exports relative to production."

Pointing out that the industrial production decline during the first three months of this year was one of the most rapid of record, the bureau said that ordinarily this condition would have developed a "vicious downward spiral" and possibly a severe depression.

Several factors prevented such an outcome, the bureau said, adding that:

"Inventories were increased last Fall, but at prices which were not sufficiently higher than those at present to cause apprehension of se-

## Vigorous and Unexpected Washington Statement Will Be Handed To Tokyo Foreign Office; Hull's Declaration Follows Statement By Japanese Leader

Washington, April 17.—Vigorously, if indirectly, the United States, called on Japan tonight to keep her hands off the Dutch East Indies, vital source of rubber, tin and other raw materials for America and other nations.

Secretary Hull issued a formal statement, which is to be handed to the Japanese foreign office by Ambassador Joseph C. Grew, asserting that any intervention there "would be prejudicial to the cause of stability, peace and security in the entire Pacific area."

His pronouncement was prefaced with the remark that he had "noted with interest" a recent Japanese statement expressing concern for the maintenance of the status quo in the Netherlands Indies. This statement, made by Foreign Minister Arita, had raised some speculation as to whether Japan might move to "protect" the Indies in case their mother country, Holland, became involved in the European war.

While Hull's statement was being issued, news despatches from Shanghai stated that authorities of the British, French and American fleets in that area of the world had said there was a "serious possibility of a Japanese attempt to seize the Dutch East Indies in the event of a German invasion of the Netherlands."

Tonight's statement by Hull was in preparation during most of the day, and although newspapermen made many inquiries, there had been no intimation that it would be forthcoming.

But for many days there had been much concern, the world over, as to what fate Japan's expansion in the Orient might hold for the vastly rich chain of tropical islands which for years have been the source of much of Holland's wealth and maintained her status as a world power.

Before the outbreak of the European war, the British fleet—Britain, too, draws heavily upon the islands for raw materials—had been counted upon to maintain the status quo there in the event of any emergency. But with England preoccupied with her war with Germany, a different situation was presented.

American relation with Japan have been strained since her invasion of China. Widespread demands for an embargo on shipments, especially of war supplies, to the island empire and a boycott upon her essential silk exports were raised. When it was found that the Japanese-American commercial treaty of 1911 would prevent any such action, the treaty was abrogated by the United States, after legal notice.

It expired in January. No embargo has been imposed, or other action taken. Since then, commercial relations with Japan have been upon a day-to-day basis.

The board basis of Hull's statement of tonight was his confidence that no matter what might happen to Holland, the East Indies with their population of 60 millions were capable of governing themselves. For some years, the islands have had virtually a dominion status.

## WHO KNOWS?

1. What is the official position of Thomas C. Corcoran?
2. When will the Census Bureau announce total population figures?
3. What is the birth rate in the United States?
4. What is the life expectancy of a white baby born in 1940?
5. How much is the government spending for relief?
6. How old is Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt, the President's mother?
7. Does the HOLC continue to make loans on homes?
8. What is the largest chainstore system in the United States?
9. What is the pay of census enumerators?
10. When did Congress authorize reciprocal trade agreements? (See "The Answers" on page 4)

### CORN

Ordinarily the United States can be expected to consume domestically and sell abroad about 2,450,000,000 bushels of corn, or about 19 bushels for every man, woman, and child in this country.

vere losses. Another factor helping to prevent the development of a depression psychology among businessmen is the war in Europe, which appears to be throwing considerable new business our way, both directly and indirectly.