

Government Estimate Places 1931 Cotton Production at High Figure

North Carolina Crop For Year Estimated To Be 713,000 Bales; Condition For This State Is Best For Country; Highest August 1 Condition In 16 Years, Board Reports.

Washington.—With Carl Williams, cotton member of the farm board, insisting there is no reason at all for a panicky sensation in the cotton trade, since there is a prospect of greater consumption this year, the market nevertheless broke badly Saturday in Chicago, one of the largest markets remaining open, when a bearish report was issued by the government, the New York and New Orleans markets being closed early. Many growers followed the advice of the officials here to reduce acreage, but still they may suffer, for a very large yield is in prospect.

A cotton crop of 15,544,000 bales is indicated by conditions as of August 1, an increase of approximately 1,650,000 bales over last year. North Carolina's crop is placed at only 713,000 bales, a reduction of 62,000 bales, by the crop reporting board of the United States department of agriculture, in the first of its seasonal estimates.

The condition of the North Carolina crop on August 1 was 73 per cent of normal, 4 per cent better than on the same date last year, and 6 per cent better than the average for the 10 years ended with 1929, while the indicated yield per acre is 255 pounds, an increase of 30 pounds over last year and eight pounds better than the 10 year average, indicating that the state's reduced crop will be due entirely to reduction of acreage.

The condition of the North Carolina crop is considerably above that of the country as a whole, which was 74.9 per cent, and which, the board commented, is the highest August 1 condition since 1915. The present high condition, it was stated, seems to indicate that the distribution of rainfall has been such as to make possible the maximum utilization of plant food by the cotton plant.

"In interpreting conditions as an indication of probable yield," it was explained, "the board has made an allowance for crop loss due to the boll weevil, on the basis of reports received concerning weevil presence and activities. These reports indicate that if usual weather prevails during the remainder of the season weevil damage will be somewhat higher than last year for the country as a whole, but still considerably less than the average loss during the last 10 years. In the southeastern states weevil damage is indicated to be about equal to last year, and for the western states it is indicated to be somewhat greater than last year."

Comes As Surprise
The high estimate of the crop reporting board came as a surprise to all cotton interests, although it has been known for some time that the condition of the crop was excellent, and gave promise of reaching high proportions. Neither members of the federal farm board nor the cotton trade expected such a figure, however, it was indicated by Mr. Williams, cotton member of the board.

"When the trade is faced with a 1,500,000 bale increase, as is indicated by the report, it is natural for it to become panicky, but it will recover," Mr. Williams declared. "The board can see no sound reason why cotton prices should go lower."

"While it is true the crop, on the basis of this report, is larger than expected it is also true that consumption is going to be much larger than generally looked for. My opinion is that consumption of American cotton throughout the world, during the current crop season, will be at least 2,000,000 bales higher than last year, and possibly as much as 3,000,000 bales higher."

October Under 7 Cents
Chicago reports reaching here put October cotton at a fraction under seven cents, and there was some recession in other commodity prices. "Strangely enough, coincident with this break in prices came reports from Berlin to the effect that Germany would renew the offer to buy American cotton, and would suggest a somewhat better price. But prices decreased after the first tentative offer from Berlin, and now there is a prospect that the same thing will

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CLAN McPAUL HOLDS REUNION

Annual Reunion Is Held At Riverton, On Lumber River, Last Thursday; Over One Hundred Fifty Attend.

The McPhaul Clan, a Scottish family that has been prominently identified with this section for many generations, held its annual reunion on the historic banks of the Lumber River at Riverton last Thursday, July sixth, with a large attendance of members and guests, estimates placing the number at about one hundred and fifty. Under the leadership of the president of the Clan, F. F. McPhaul, Chairman of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, the usual perfect dinner was arranged and about everything that the inner man could desire, was there. A feature of the dinner was a barbecue, which is also the custom when the clan assembles.

Speeches were made by Solicitor Tom McNeill, of Lumberton, prominently mentioned as a candidate for governor, Rev. G. W. Hanna, J. M. Williams, J. A. McGoogan, W. P. Hawfield and H. F. Currie.

The younger portion of those present enjoyed a swimming party in the river in the afternoon and those of more mature years renewed old friendships and made new ones during the afternoon.

Officers for another year were elected as follows: F. F. McPhaul, President, W. D. McLeod, Vice-President, and Miss Kathrine McPhaul, Secretary.

MANY CONTRACTS MADE BY STATE

Shoes, Underwear, Steel Auto Parts And Machinery Are Included In Letting; State Saves Money.

The contract for 18,600 pairs of shoes to be used in the State penal and correctional institutions was awarded Tuesday to Efrid's Department Store, Hudson-Bell Company and the Asheville Army Store, at the letting of the State Division of Purchase and Contract at which a variety of other contracts were awarded.

Director S. A. Brower said that bids on the shoes, all of which had been rejected at a previous letting, were very satisfactory yesterday. Efrid's low bid was \$1.20, that of the Asheville Army Store on a better grade of shoes \$1.64, and that of Hudson-Bell \$1.85 and \$2.10. The last named prices were on 600 pairs of boys' shoes to be used at the Jackson Training School.

The contract for 275 tons of "pickled" sheet steel to be used in the manufacture of the 1932 auto license tags was awarded to the American Hardware and Equipment Company, of Charlotte, at \$3.16 per hundred pounds, the total contract price was \$16,850 less \$92.84 discount. Samples of enamel to be used on the tags, on which bids were also received, are to be run through the process at the State's Prison and the award made at the next letting.

Contract for 20,000,000 fertilizer tags was awarded to the Reyrburn Manufacturing Company at 13 cents per thousand.

Moore and Sons of Wadesboro secured the contract for 1,660 dozen pairs of long underwear for prisoners at \$9.067.53. Repair kits for use by all State motor vehicles went to the Firestone and the Goodyear companies at nine cents and 65 cents for the large and small sizes. The Texas Company secured the contract for a year's supply of fuel oil at seven cents per gallon, while the N. C. Equipment Company of Raleigh secured the contract for 25 road graders to be delivered as needed at \$502 each. Contracts for pressure grease guns and fittings went to the Corbett Truck Company.

The Dixie Culvert and Metal Company secured the contract for corrugated metal pipe at prices varying with the size, and Gray and

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McNEILL CHOSEN BANK PRESIDENT

E. B. McNeill, Prominent Business Man, Chosen President Of Bank of Raeford; Succeeds Late J. W. McLaughlin

The Board of Directors of the Bank of Raeford, at their regular monthly meeting on August 6th, elected Mr. E. B. McNeill, of this city, president of the bank, to fill the vacancy caused by the death on June 24th, of Mr. J. W. McLaughlin, who was the bank's president for many years.

Mr. McNeill has been closely associated with the Bank of Raeford since its early days and has been one of its directors since 1910. He is one of the leading business men of Raeford, and Hoke county, and in addition to being president of the bank, he is vice-president of Raeford Power and Manufacturing Company, vice-president of Upchurch Milling and Storage Company, vice-president of Hoke Oil and Fertilizer Company, and general manager of McLaughlin Company, all Raeford institutions.

Present officers of the Bank of Raeford are: E. B. McNeill, president; T. B. Upchurch, vice-president; H. L. Gatlin, vice-president; R. B. Lewis, cashier, and G. D. McQueen, assistant cashier. Members of the Board of Directors are: E. B. McNeill, T. B. Upchurch, H. L. Gatlin, F. B. Sexton, C. W. Seate, J. B. Thomas, R. B. Lewis, and J. L. McNeill. The Bank of Raeford was organized in 1903, and is Hoke County's oldest bank. Its statement published on June 30th, 1931, showed deposits of \$317,988.41 and sources of \$395,184.95. Surplus and Undivided Profits were \$52,136.54. Its Capital is \$25,000.00.

AT THE CHURCHES

Rev. B. P. Robinson, of Hamlet, will preach at the regular morning service at the Methodist Church, Sunday. His subject will be "Clothes Make the Man." Rev. Robinson is a former pastor of the church. There will be no preaching service in the evening. Young People's Service at 7:30 p. m. Sunday School at 9:45 a. m.

There will be no preaching service at the Presbyterian Church, due to the absence of the pastor, Dr. Fairley. Sunday School meets at 9:45 a. m.

Rev. J. R. Miller, pastor of the Baptist Church, preaches in Wagram, Sunday, so there will be no preaching service at the local church. Sunday School is at 9:45 a. m., and B. Y. P. U. at 7:00 p. m.

In the absence of Rev. A. D. Cariswell, there will be no preaching service in the churches which he serves, Sunday.

HAS BIRTHDAY PARTY

Kenneth McNeill, young son of Mr. and Mrs. John K. McNeill, entertained a number of his little friends last Saturday afternoon, August 8th, in celebration of his sixth birthday.

Games and refreshments were enjoyed by all those present.

POLITICS AND PERSONALITIES

There are few skeletons left in the nation's secret closets after those trotted out in a bright red book labeled "Washington Merry-Go-Round" recently published by Live-right and dedicated "To those who still reach for the brass ring."

Every one from the President up and down is stripped. No author's name appears, however. Those familiar with the writing mannerisms, of Capital news reporters guess the anonymous work to be the product of a group who did not choose to remain inactive and bored when the Seventy-first Congress passed on.

There is a good deal of back stairs gossip in the first two chapters headed "Boll'd Bosoms" and "Starched Futility", but the book gets down to paragraphs on economic conditions and some challenging criticisms in the chapters on the Senate and the House. The latter is treated with real humor under the title "The Monkey House." Our relations with Europe and South America are well aired in pages on the State Department and various ambassadors and ministers.

HUNTING SEASON TO OPEN ON SEPT. FIRST

County Game Warden, H. R. McLean, Gives Summary of Game Law, Open Seasons And Bag Limits.

The North Carolina Game Law, passed by the 1927 Legislature, and amended by the 1929 and 1931 Legislatures makes it unlawful to hunt or trap without the proper license; to take or kill game birds and animals out of season; to take in one day, or in one season, more than the bag limits; to kill a female deer; to buy or sell any game except rabbits and squirrels; to take game by trap or poison, to hunt by auto or boat, or to bait for upland game. Fur-bearing animals may be trapped in accordance with laws and regulations.

Open seasons and Bag Limits are as follows:

Squirrel, from September 1st, to December 31st; Bag limit, ten in one day.

Rabbit, from November 20th, to February 15th; no bag limit.

Deer (Buck), September 15th, to January 1st; limit two in one day, four in one season.

Deer (Doe), season closed until September 1st 1933.

Fur-Bearers: Coon, Possum, Mink, Skunk, Otter and Muskrat, may be hunted with dog and gun, from October 1st, to February 15th. Trapping from November 15th, to February 15th.

Quail, from November 20th, to February 15th; Bag limit, ten in one day.

Wild Turkey, from November 20th to February 15th; Bag limit, two in one day, five in one season.

Dove, from November 20th, to January 31st; Bag limit twenty-five in one day.

Pheasants (all species) Season closed until September 1st, 1933. Fees for hunting licenses are as follows: County Resident, \$1.25; State Resident, \$3.25; Non-Resident, \$15.25; County Combination Hunting and Trapping License, \$3.00; State Combination Hunting and Trapping License, \$5.25; State Hunting and Fishing License, \$4.50.

Wildcats, English Sparrows, Great Horned Owls, Coopers and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Crows, Blackbirds, Jays and Buzzards, are unprotected. Hunters and trappers will save money by getting the Combination License.

Fur-bearers may be taken with dog and gun, beginning October 1st, but no trapping will be allowed until November 15th. Trappers will note this change in the law for the coming season.

Warden McLean also advises that Licenses are now on hand, and will be placed with selling agents throughout the county before the season's opening date.

PAY YOUR 1930 TAXES

On page six of this issue of The News-Journal, appears an ad by D. H. Hodgkin, Sheriff of Hoke County, in which all those who have not paid their 1930 taxes, are requested to do so immediately. Property on which these taxes are unpaid by the first Monday in September, will be advertised.

Local Citizen Outlines Plan That Would Dispose of Cotton Surplus and Weevil

SOUTH ASKED TO DESTROY COTTON

Federal Farm Board Calls Upon Farmers To Plow Under Every Third Row; Offers Hold Carry-Over.

Washington, Aug. 12.—The Farm Board today called upon Southern planters to destroy one-third of their cotton crop now under cultivation, promising in return to hold stabilization surplus stocks from the market for one year.

Telegrams were dispatched to the governors of the 14 cotton growing states urging them to enlist the cooperation of every available agency, including farmers and bankers, in this dramatic step to increase the low price of cotton.

Chairman Stone, of the Farm Board, said if the Governors promised to plow under every third row of cotton now growing, the cotton cooperative would be asked also to withhold the 2,000,000 bales it owns, from trade channels.

"This program," he asserted, "if fully carried out by Southern Farmers as well as by ourselves, will mean reduction of total supply by at least 4,000,000 bales, and withholding from this year's market 3,000,000 bales more."

The proposal to plow under every third row of cotton was advanced yesterday by Governor Bilbo, of Mississippi.

SHOOTS HIS WIFE FOR A BURGLAR

Mrs. W. C. Hamer, Of Moore County, In Pinehurst Hospital; Will Recover But Loses Arm.

Carthage, Aug. 11.—Mrs. W. C. Hamer, of the Hemp section of Moore county, is in the Pinehurst hospital recovering from wounds inflicted by her husband several days ago when he mistook her for a burglar. It was necessary however to amputate one of her arms where the load of shot took effect.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamer had retired and were later awakened by a suspicious noise, which they thought originated in the vicinity of their garage near the house. Mr. Hamer arose from bed and procured his gun before going out to investigate. Finding nothing amiss outside, he returned to the bedroom. As he walked into the door of the room, he saw a figure outlined in the light streaming in at the window. He at first called his wife, but receiving no answer, and thinking that the figure which he saw outside the window was that of an intruder, he fired twice. With a fearful shriek his wife fell to the floor and it was then that he learned of his tragic mistake.

It is believed that his wife was merely looking out the window while he was investigating the noise at the garage, and that she failed to hear him re-enter the house and call to her. The shooting occurred about the middle of the night. The Hamers live at the talc mine of the Standard Mineral Company, where he is employed as a book-keeper.

Night workers at the mine heard the two shots fired. When Mrs. Hamer screamed, they rushed to the home to find her wounded twice at the hands of her own husband. She was rushed to the hospital at Pinehurst. One load took effect in one of her arms and the other in her back.

ATTEND CONVENTION

Sheriff D. H. Hodgkin left Tuesday for Rutherfordton, where he will attend the State Sheriffs Association meeting Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr. J. A. McGoogan, County Accountant, left Tuesday morning to attend the County Commissioners and Auditors Convention, held this week in Asheville.

Dr. A. C. Bethune Tells How Division Of Cotton Belt Would Cause Big Reduction In Production, Also Complete Eradication Of The Dreaded Boll Weevil.

To the Editor: All my life I have worshipped at the shrine of Old King Cotton; likewise have all my people for two or three generations. We have been told that the old gentleman was sickly, and subject to spells, especially sinking spells, often followed by some kind of fits, terminating in a coma that would last for days and months. The old gentleman, however, has always been attended by sundry doctors, each of whom had an infallible cure; but the old man has grown worse as time passed by.

Personally I have seen these sundry doctors go into a huddle, and after much time and hard work bring forth a prescription, in the form of the Farmers' Alliance—this, of course, was to be a cure! I have seen similar groups after much deliberation bring forth the cooperative movement, covering both the holding and selling of cotton, and I have heard much about cooperative production, but so far I cannot say I have seen any good results follow the use of these prescriptions.

It seems to me that our cotton-growing South, while continuing to worship the old King, continues to wallow in its poverty, and that all of our high-browed efforts, whether political or in the name of business, have acted only like a dose of salts, ending in a washout that has increased our miseries, and reduced the strength of our King to a state of utter weakness.

About as far back as I can remember, I have been told that the cause of the old man's trouble was that he had been fed on over-production; or in other words, too much cotton. It seems that our production has increased from year to year faster than our consumption, so that we have, held over our heads every year, a great bogey in the form of a carry-over, a thing that Col. Hester begins to tell us about around June 1st each year.

This overproduction or carry-over, back in the old days when America used about 3,000,000 bales of cotton a year, was about 1,000,000 bales, but now, with us using around 6,000,000 bales and producing around 15,000,000 bales a year, this carry-over reaches the appalling figure of some 9,000,000 bales, so no wonder the old King finds himself bedridden from having to find a way to rid himself of this vast amount of cotton.

Now, it must be plain to anybody, even to a country doctor like myself, that there is something wrong with the King, and this something must be too much cotton—more than the cotton consuming world wants or can use. It doesn't matter what the world conditions may be, it is a fact that if the world cannot consume the cotton we produce, then we just have too dad-blamed much cotton, and should do something about it.

That's the question: do something about it! But what is that something? Through congressional enactments we have cut out most of the information that used to go out to the people from our agricultural bureaus, and we have tried to put our exchanges out of business with investigations and congressional restrictions, none of which has helped the conditions of our very sick King. Like other nostrums, these have only made him worse day by day and year by year, and now the King seems to be growing weaker and it may be the end is not far off. I say he is better dead, than always sick and threatening to die.

With these congressional investigations, and with laws restricting the New York and New Orleans exchanges, with tariffs and boll weevils, with cooperative marketing and Federal Farm Boards and their holding schemes and other helpful aids, and especially our reduction in acreage, the old King continues on the down-grade. Now, I ask, what are we going to do about it?

Texas says she is going to reduce her acreage. This is one of the same old useless remedies that we have threatened to apply for years, but never did, and never will. Somebody wants Congress to pass laws controlling acreage, but

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