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ACTIVE MEMBER

isters general improvement: Right now the sandhill section of North Carolina is a busy place. Peach trees are loaded with fruit and prices on the New York market are good. Already Tar Heel growers have shipped away 53 carloads of peaches, against the 15 carloads shipped to the corresponding date last year. True the season is earlier and there is a bigger crop, but the fact remains that peaches are being sold, and folks don't buy peaches when they are broke and discouraged.

This means that landowners in Eastern Carolina will have need for less red ink when they go to footing up their ledgers. And by the same token farmers specializing in other lines will not feel the pinch of continued depression. Evidently the country has not gone to the demnition bow-wows—not yet.

Is the Gas House About to Pass?

Those who observed the execution of Payne and Turner at State prison last Friday say that Payne, at least, tried to help the gas do its deadly work—quickly. At the click of the little dinkus that set the fumes in operation, Payne was seen to lean forward for a deep breath, reasoning, we reckon, that it would save him pain that a struggle would bring.

The observers declare, though, that more than a minute after, Payne was heard to mumble, "God have mercy." Evidently it was something over a minute before consciousness left him. He was pronounced dead a little over ten minutes after the ceremony began.

Friday's experience and others like it has started talk about abolishing the gas house method of execution and the return of the electric chair. The impression gained, when the legislature was arguing about it before, that killing by gas was the easy way; that the victim simply shuffled off this mortal coil among dreams made sweet by immediate unconsciousness, has been dispelled. It is agreed that the suffering is even greater than when the victim is fried to death in the electric chair.

And so no less authority than Governor Hoey himself declares that the State should abandon this method of killing. He probably will recommend to the next legislature that the gas house be abolished and that the old electric chair be brought in, dusted off and put back into use.

Funny, isn't it, that we should be discussing the best method of killing human beings. Especially when there are so many reasons why we should not kill at all.

Bill Payne and Wash Turner are dead, the State has its revenge, but that doesn't bring life back to Patrolman Penn. The State has taken "an eye for an eye," and will continue so to take in spite of the biblical injunction: "Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord."

It is not popular now to talk about abolishing capital punishment, but some day we will get around to that.

Not Optimistic About It

Paul Leonard, executive secretary of the North Carolina Fair Tax Association, backed by a number of outstanding merchants of the State and ably advised by competent legal counsel, opened a store in Winston-Salem for the avowed purpose of testing the legality of the sales tax.

Merchandise of various kinds usually bought across the counter were stocked, and customers were not charged the sales tax as required by State law. The original purpose was to make payment of the tax upon demand by the State, but under written protest. However, when State authorities came to collect, Mr. Leonard, following the advice of his attorneys, refused to pay out that which he had not collected. Yet he was not pitched in jail, nor was his store closed up. Presumably the issue will be carried promptly to the courts and an interested public will be watching eagerly for the result.

Most of the newspapers of the State have had only sarcasm for Mr. Leonard's plan. For our own self, we hold little optimism that, under the circumstances, he will be able to shelve the sales tax. But we are crediting him with honest purpose, and refraining from joining in the chant of scorn. Evidently the State revenue department is not as sure of its ground as its whistle would indicate. Else why hasn't the challenge been accepted promptly and finally. And why have other merchants, behind in their payments in tremendous amounts, been allowed to settle on a compromise basis, when others have been compelled to pay?

Tom Bost says of Mr. Leonard's efforts: "Here is real fighting by the only organization which ever has fought the sales tax intelligently. These fair tax and merchants' associations answer all arguments as to what will take the place of the sales tax as a revenue raiser, by using just two words: 'Economic government!'"

But the Leonard plan is to test the constitutionality of the tax. It is a little late to approach the problem from this angle. One would think that if there were plausible grounds for this issue it would have been presented to the courts long ago. But it must be remembered that the merchants, the unpaid collectors for the State, continued to hope that the promise that it was an emergency measure would be kept, and were reluctant to pool their dollars in an expensive trip through the courts. They may get nowhere now, but their courage in trying is to be commended—not censured.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY CAPITAL

The Tennessee Ramblers, of "Grand Ole Opry" fame, gave a program at the school building Friday evening, proceeds to go for benefit of the school.

Mrs. Edwin Sexton, of Mocksville, spent last week with the family of her brother, Rev. C. W. Russell. Miss Lillian Russell, of Asheboro, another sister of Mr. Russell, arrived Sunday to spend some days with the Russell family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivey Rogers and Mrs. Mary Folger are visiting Mr. Rogers' family at Samora.

Eugenia Reid and Marianne Mock returned home Sunday after spending a week at Camp Dor-ker, near Winston-Salem. The girls report a very fine week of camp sports.

Mrs. Emma Hampton and Mrs. W. L. Reece and Henry Hampton attended the burial service of Mrs. Mattie Benbow Jones, widow of the late Winfield Jones, at the cemetery in Boonville Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Jones resided in Boonville several years during her husband's life, afterward going to Winston-Salem where she lived for several years and where she died suddenly Saturday morning.

Rev. C. W. Russell, assisted by Rev. Miller, of the Central Methodist church of Mt. Airy, has just closed a most successful series of meetings at the Siloam Methodist church.

Mrs. Sam Poole and children, of Greensboro, are spending some time with her mother, Mrs. Sallie Folger.

Miss Edythe Reece, who attends the smmuer session at the Appalachian Training school at Boone, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn Reece.

Miss Julia Comer, who attends summer school at Chapel Hill, spent the week-end with home people here.

Freddie Best returned to Dobson Sunday after spending a week at Camp Dor-ker.

Spencer Norman, of Boone Training school, spent the week-end in Dobson with home people.

Roby Marion waresB shandr ad Miss Maud Marion and Mr. Roby Marion were married at Galax, Va., Sunday, and went immediately to Blowing Rock and other mountain resorts for a short honeymoon vacation.

Mr. Woodhouse, an officer at the CCC camp near Dobson, has gone to Currituck County to visit his mother.

Mrs. J. W. Comer was hostess at two tables of contract Saturday evening, honoring her house guest, Miss Nettie Gibson, of Gibson, N. C. Miss Eva Hancock was winner of high score prize and Mrs. Emma Mock received a prize as "runner up." Miss Gibson was presented a guest gift by the hostess. Ices and sandwiches were served at the conclusion of the games.

Mrs. W. B. Norman and daughters, Misses Elizabeth and Mary Betty, have gone to Carthage where they will spend several weeks with Mrs. Louise Norman McNeil and Mr. McNeil.

Mrs. Mock and Marianne spent the Fourth with Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Folger, at Mt. Airy.

PLEASANT HILL

Miss Venious Lyons has returned home from Virginia, where she spent the past three weeks with her brother. She was accompanied home by her brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lyons and their daughters, and Mr. and Mrs. Joyce Transou. Mrs. Lyons is spending some time in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Lyons.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Darnell and daughters and Mrs. Zora Couch and David Couch spent the week-end visiting relatives in Leaks-ville.

J. T. Cockerham and family spent Sunday night and Monday with the formers sister, Mrs. T. F. Handy, near Dehart, N. C.

Mrs. Curtis Couch returned Saturday from a visit to relatives in West Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery Hinshaw of Winston-Salem, were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Couch. Mr. and Mrs. Couch and son, Robert, visited in Winston-Salem Saturday.

Several from Pleasant Hill attended the revival at Cool Springs church last week.

Several also attended the singing at Wilkesboro Monday.

Too Late

"Where's Bill?"
 "In the hospital."
 "What happened?"
 "He came down a ladder ten minutes after it was taken away."

Anxious Moment



TOBACCO TOPICS

"A World of News from the Tobacco World"

By R. H. WYATT

The stage is set—the curtain is about to rise upon another act in the great southern drama "Lady Nicotine"—Smoke belches from thousands of tobacco barn flues in the Bright belts of Northern Florida, Southern Georgia, North and South Carolina—it won't be long now until the cheerful chant of the auctioneer is once more heard. The Florida and Georgia markets will open on July 28, the South Carolina markets on August 2; the Eastern North Carolina markets on August 25; the Middle Belt on September 13; the Old Belt on September 27 and the Dark Fired Virginia markets on November 28.

Already there is feverish activity in northern Florida and southern Georgia as warehousemen prepare for the reception of the crop which promises to be a most excellent one . . . from the time these markets open on the last Thursday in this month there will not be a dull moment in the marketing drama until after the close of the dark fired markets in Tennessee and Kentucky next summer.

Concerning the Georgia-Florida crop, J. M. Purdom, assistant agricultural agent of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad company and tobacco specialist, says: "The crop this year could be called a dry weather crop—while some of the earlier crops have been picked, curing became general ten days ago and the tobacco that has been cured looks good and bright and is very sweet." . . . Throughout the tobacco producing states of the south farmers will await with great interest the news from the north Florida and Georgia "opening" . . . Prices paid on those markets during the early days of the marketing season will more than likely be reflected upon the other belts of the south as the marketing is extended.

The editor of the South Hill (Va.) Enterprise gives some sound advice with reference to the marketing of tobacco. In part he says "Tobacco publications all over the Old and Middle Belts advise selling good tobacco first as soon as the market opens. It is pointed out that tobacco growers are given an average allotment and a poundage quota. If tobacco has been planted in excess of the allotment, deductions from the growers' agricultural conservation payment will be made at the rate of 10 cents a pound on the average production of the excess acreage."

"Tobacco sold in excess of the poundage quota is subject to a penalty of one-half the gross value of the leaf or three cents a pound, whichever is greater."

"If a grower keeps within his acreage allotment, but produces more than his poundage quota, he will still have to pay the penalty if he sells more than his quota. "Therefore, if there is any possibility at all of a grower having more tobacco than he can market without penalty he certainly should see to it that his best and most profitable leaf is sold before his quota limit is reached."

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has just released statistics on the sales of all types of

fire-cured tobacco during the 1937-1938 season which amounted to 116,658,064 pounds averaging \$10.61 per hundred. This compared to \$94,062,436 pounds sold in the 1936-37 season at an average of \$12.38. The past season showed an increase in total sales over the 1936-37 season of approximately 21 1-2 million pounds an increase in value of \$619,601, but a decrease in average price of \$1.77 per hundred pounds.

The U. S. Department of Commerce reports the tobacco import and export trade of the Union of South Africa during the year 1937 to have registered a substantial increase over that of 1936 . . . The strong demand for Virginia-type of tobacco in the Union of South Africa has risen from the great increase in the sale of cigarettes in the last few years from about 250,000,000 a month five years ago to 400,000,000 a month now. Production in the Union did not increase materially during this period. During the past two years the crop has actually been somewhat below normal but the quality of Union Flue-Cured tobacco has improved each year . . . The consumption of Cuban cigarettes has shown a substantial increase during the past five years, advancing 77 per cent. since 1933 . . . Harvesting of the 1938 crop of tobacco in Sumatra is practically completed . . . the crop is poor, due to lack of rain . . . The German demand for cigarettes is growing slowly.

South Boston, Virginia, is preparing for its fourth great annual National Tobacco festival on September 8 and 9 . . . The best method of controlling the tobacco budworm is to apply poisoned corn meal to the buds attacked. One pound of arsenate of lead thoroughly mixed with 75 pounds of corn meal or six heaping teaspoonfuls of arsenate of lead to one peck or twelve pounds of corn meal is very effective. The efficiency of this mixture is due to the attractiveness of the corn meal to the budworm. Apply a pinch of the mixture to the center of each bud. Applications at weekly intervals will usually suffice.

Addressing the Tobacco Association of the United States, meeting in annual session at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, E. J. O'Brien, the retiring president, expressed the belief that the tobacco industry would be hard hit by the twenty-five cent an hour minimum wage. He said it would abnormally increase the cost of hand stemming and reidrying.

From Fairmont, N. C., comes the report that tobacco has suffered considerably during the past ten days as the result of continued rains. Tobacco that has been cured is of good color, but is said to be of light weight . . . Whiteville, N. C., is preparing for a Border Tobacco Belt Fair, sponsored by the Whiteville Merchants Association, to be held on August 10, 11, and 12. A dispatch from Whiteville says "The main purpose of the fair is to encourage better grading and handling of tobacco as well as more scientific culture" . . . From Wilson, N. C.,

it is reported that approximately 1,000 acres of fine tobacco in Wilson, Green, and Wayne counties have been completely destroyed by hail . . . Oxford, N. C., reports considerable damage to the crop as the result of heavy rains . . . Somewhat similar reports come from Henderson, N. C. . . . Lumberton, N. C., reports the beginning of construction on a large tobacco storage warehouse for the Interstate Tobacco Company.

R. H. Milton, tobacco specialist of the Tennessee Division of Extension has expressed belief that blue mold may continue to infest tobacco plants after they have been transplanted to the field. In Montgomery county, Tenn., Mr. Milton and county agent H. W. Shore discovered diseased plants in the fields of W. E. Wilson at St. Bethlehem and N. E. Hewell of Oakwood. It was said that the plants were thought to have been infested with blue mold when set in the field and the spread of the disease has continued. Plants have been sent to laboratories in Washington, D. C., Greenville, Tenn., and the University of Kentucky at Lexington for examination . . . The Austin Company estimates that the tobacco acreage of East Tennessee this year is ten per cent. under that produced around ten days earlier this year in 1937 . . . Planting has been and plants are looking fine . . . During the first quarter of this year Ireland imported 2,897,000 pounds of leaf tobacco compared to 1,910,000 pounds during the first quarter of last year . . . Lake City, S. C., reports a fine crop growing and being harvested under ideal conditions . . . George Wainwright, supervisor of the Wilson, N. C., market, says, "Experiencing an unusually wet June, eastern Carolina's tobacco crop, as a whole, is poor at this time. There are countless acres of yellow, peaked tobacco of small size and carrying no weight. Rains have fallen almost every day. Tobacco on light land has suffered terribly. It is estimated that the crop has been cut from 15 to 20 per cent. . . . Damage to the crop at Henderson is reported even more severe, the loss being estimated at 25 per cent."

At Winston-Salem, N. C., the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company announced the company has closed a contract for the construction of another large rehanding plant at Springfield, Ky.

AUTO ACCESSORY STORE OPENS HERE SATURDAY

A new Western Auto Associate Store, owned and operated by J. F. Curtis, will open for business here Saturday in the new store building at the corner of East Main and Court streets.

Mr. Curtis will make Elkin his permanent home, and states that the new store will offer the largest and most complete stock of auto supplies and accessories in this city. Every item is said to be of selected quality and guaranteed.

Although the store is to open Saturday, the official opening day will be staged on Saturday, July 16, at which time special prices will be in effect on a number of popular items.

A benevolent officer—one who will give a criminal a "tip" so that the criminal may get away and thereby avoid the necessity of an arrest and trial.