

## RAILROAD UNIONS TRY TO SETTLE DISPUTE

### Labor Leaders Agree to Cooperate With the Government and Railroad Executives

### PROPOSE TO GIVE NEW LAW A TRIAL

### President Wilson Urges Prompt Action That Negotiations May Not Be Delayed.

Washington, Mar. 2.—Definite steps were taken today toward settlement of the railroad wage controversy which has been pending since last August. Representatives of railroad workers, with the exception of one group, agreed to cooperate with the government and the railroads in giving a trial of the new Transportation Act, with its arbitration clauses, and President Wilson in letters to both the Association of Railway Executives and heads of the fifteen workers' organizations, requested that they select representatives to sit on the bipartisan wage board. Prompt action was urged by the President in order that the negotiations between employer and employe might not longer be delayed.

The one group of workers which has not entered into the agreement to go along with the President was the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way and Shop Laborers, which recently withdrew from the conferences between union heads and the railroad administration. Committeemen from the locals of the Maintenance Union, however, will meet in Chicago Thursday and, it was believed, would follow the lead of the other workers in compliance with Mr. Wilson's request.

### Will Give Law a Trial.

In a statement tonight explaining their position the union spokesmen declared that while they could not approve of the proposition, they had agreed to aid in giving the law a trial "in the interest of railroad labor" and, "as American citizens." "Notwithstanding the fact that labor in general, and railroad labor in particular, with the full cooperation and support of other bodies representing American citizens, urged the Congress not to pass the railroad bill, and the President to veto it and return it to Congress," the union statement said, "we are now officially advised that the President has signed the bill and it is now the law.

"Labor's criticisms and protests against the legislation are a matter of record and were presented to the Congress by the President and the public. We have not changed our views regarding this legislation and, therefore, do not endorse the law; however, as American citizens, we feel that, in the interest of railroad labor, there is nothing left for us to do at present except to cooperate in the prompt creation of the machinery provided for in the law.

### Will Convene Thursday.

In the case of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes and Shop Laborers, this organization has not had duly authorized representatives in this last conference. Therefore, in compliance with their constitution, it was necessary to convene such representatives, which they will do in Chicago Thursday, March 4."

The President in his letters said he had turned over direction of the preliminary wage negotiations to Director General Hines, who was entrusted with details of the winding up of government control by the President in his proclamation turning back the roads. Both the railroad executive and the union heads were asked to notify the director general of their representatives on the board, and were informed that Mr. Hines would arrange for the first meeting, at which will be determined all questions of procedure.

Agreement of the unions to give the law a thorough trial was regarded as making remote prospects of a strike. Certain groups of the union memberships, however, were keenly disappointed, and may yet assert their disapproval of and opposition to the law by strike votes, but this possibility was expected to be eliminated when full explanation of the leaders' action is received by the rank and file of the more than 2,000,000 workers.

## BIG PRIZES FOR PEANUT CLUB BOYS

Clarendon County is going to have a Peanut Club this year and it will be a good chance for some of our boys to make some extra money and also teach them how to grow and harvest peanuts. The Peanut Club will be under the supervision of the county agent and will be carried on according to the rules made by L. L. Baker, State Club Leader. The rules will be the same as those in all other counties of the State and will be announced later.

In Clarendon County the county will be divided into three parts and the boy making the best yield in each of the three parts will receive \$50.00 in cash. Each of the three parts will have smaller cash prizes also. Then the boy making the best yield in the whole county, which will necessarily be one of the three \$50.00 winners will also receive \$50.00 additional, making a cash prize of \$100.00 for the best yield in the county. Some prize!

Boys between the ages of 10 and 18 only are eligible, as well as girls of the same age. Boys and girls here is your chance to make some money for yourself. Ask your father to give you an acre of land this year and join the Peanut Club.

### Fight the Boll Weevil with Peanuts.

Ryan Kennedy, one of the Pig Club boys who lives at Gable has raised a fine gilt. Ryan got his pig last summer and took good care of it and fed it well and now he has something to show for his efforts. It will now weigh about 275 pounds. Ryan is an enthusiastic club member and will make some money out of his pig.

### Fight the Boll Weevil with Peanuts.

Well farmers, what have you decided about the Bull Association? Do you think it is a good thing, or don't you? When we form this Association we will do it this way. We want to get from three to five communities where the farmers in that community have from 30 to 50 milk cows. Each of those communities will organize and buy a good purebred bull. One man will be selected to take care of the bull all the time. One bull can stay in a community two years and then will be sent to another community in exchange for the one the other community has. In that way if we have five communities organized we will have good purebred bulls for ten years without buying any more. And ten years will do wonders with your dairy cattle if you use purebred bulls all the time, and do it cheaply too. Mr. Cooper, breeder of purebred Guernsey cattle at Wisacky, S. C., got his start in the purebred business through a bull association. You can do the same.

Mr. T. H. McFaddin of Gable is going to boost things around his place in a short time. He will do the boosting with dynamite and will boost stumps. It is always better to boost than to knock but be sure to boost good things. And the only time to boost stumps is out of the field like Mr. McFaddin is going to do. Everybody is invited to be on hand and help boost, see how it is done, then go home and boost your own.

A. M. Musser,  
County Agent.

## COTTON MEETING DATES

Montgomery, Ala. Mar. 2.—Following an exchange of telegrams between Governor Kilby and Dr. S. W. Welch, State health officer who is in Washington, and J. S. Wannamaker, announcement was made here tonight that the annual convention of the American Cotton Association will be held in Montgomery, April 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

### Expect Large Numbers.

St. Matthews, March 2.—Mr. J. Skottowe Wannamaker, president of the American Cotton Association, stated tonight that invitations had been received from several cities for the convention but that it was thought best of postpone it on account of assurances from the board of health that at that time Montgomery would be perfectly safe. Five thousand acceptances from persons who intended attending the sessions had been received.

A delegation of English spinners will be on hand to confer with a special committee regarding the handling of cotton.

## ANOTHER LETTER FROM MR. COTHRAN

### TOBACCO IN THIS STATE

#### Mr. Cothran Discusses Further Some Phases of Subject.

To the Editor of The News and Courier: It is not my intention, as Mr. Spratt has stated, to continue this discussion about what my friend terms tobacco evils. But since Mr. Spratt no longer assumes the attitude of a jurist and since he no longer puts his articles under the caption of hypothetical questions, since he now assumes the attitude of a layman and launches out and discusses real tobacco fundamentals, or reforms, I think I can give the public some real information about what my friend advocates or terms much needed reforms.

I want to be as brief as possible, as the public will doubtless get tired of reading what my friend and I have to say from time to time through the columns of this splendid paper. Mr. Spratt launches out and advocates the grading of tobacco from what he claims that he saw in visiting several North Carolina bright tobacco markets last fall. He tells us about seeing tobacco bring from ninety cents to \$1 per pound. What Mr. Spratt states is true he visited some of the finest bright tobacco sections in the whole world. North Carolina leads all other States when it comes to producing bright cigarette tobacco. Mr. Spratt tells us that he heard the same rain complaint up there that we had down here. I am glad that he mentioned this, as it gives me a chance to show the public the difference in what really happened here and what took place in North Carolina. After the excessive rainfalls of last July which caught us at a time when it did the most possible damage, our tobacco was caught by the rains just as it reached maturity and what was the result? Why it washed out and drowned. This wasn't the case in North Carolina where they have better drainage of lands. I was born and reared in North Carolina and know where of I speak. The excessive rains, of course, injures tobacco anywhere, but in North Carolina it usually stands rains better than it does with us down here where the lands are low and flat. But some one will say what about the eastern part of North Carolina? They are not as low as we are and they certainly have a better drainage system.

I will say right here that this is needed more in eastern South Carolina than any other improvement that I know of or can think of. The rains that hit North Carolina had more of a tendency to wash the fertilizer from the tobacco and reduce the weight than any thing else. I will give the facts directly. Now going back again to what happened here, in 1918 Mr. Spratt and I both raised good crops of tobacco. It was currently reported that Mr. Spratt realized more than \$15,000 for his crop, or we will say an estimated value of \$100 per acre. This is what I realized for mine. I had the same land in tobacco this past season 1919 and made \$100 per acre. I had a much better crop than I had in 1916. What was the trouble? It is easily answered: my tobacco simply drowned. I got one curing before this that averaged me \$53 per hundred which was what the old North State averaged. I am taking my own tobacco for an illustration. I would have made at least 1,000 pounds per acre, had not the rains drowned it, and I certainly would have averaged easily \$53 per hundred. We had growers all over the tobacco belt of South Carolina thousands and tens of thousands that made more money this season out of tobacco than the much talked about North Carolinians, and these same farmers made cotton, pea vine hay, corn and many other crops, and raised hogs and cattle in abundance. I do not mean to say that North Carolina doesn't raise some of the things mentioned, but certainly she does not grow crops, and raise as many cattle and hogs as we do, and especially is this true through the old tobacco belts of North Carolina and Virginia. Any one with common sense knows fully well that a farmer can not have as much time to grow these things mentioned that we are enjoying in South Carolina and be tied down from four to six months grading and tying tobacco. We are doing well. Do we know it? Well let's see.

Mr. Spratt says that we are the only State that do not grade tobacco. I think I can give my friend some pointers that he hasn't thought of; we are the only State that grades tobacco as we cure it. I mean this we are the only State that prims tobacco exclusively. If we grow our tobacco uniformly and take it off the stalk one curing at a time, we are classing it as we cure it. This fact had as much to do with the companies adopting the method of buying ungraded as anything else. We first cure the sand lugs, and then what is known as the second lugs and then our leaf or middle of the stalk, and so on until we have cured our tobacco uniformly as I have already stated why it is already classed when it comes to the warehouse for sale. And what Mr. Spratt says about some one having to finely grade it he is mistaken about this. The company that buys this tobacco buys it by grade, puts his grade on it just as he would do in North Carolina or Virginia. It is shipped to the various plants that have machinery

equipped to handle tobacco of this kind, I doubt seriously if any of the large companies ever bundle any of it. It is first redried put back in huds and later stemmed when it is ready to be manufactured into smoking tobacco or cigarettes, the bundling isn't at all necessary.

But my friend will want to know why it is graded as he terms it, in other States? The answer is simple. As I have already stated, we are the only State that prims tobacco exclusively. In the other States they use the knife largely for all but we will say the first curing or what is known as the primings, in some sections some of the farmers prim the first lugs, and of course, this tying question comes perfectly natural to him and he ties up this part too. But why does he grade and tie the rest of his crop or all of it where he doesn't remove the sand lugs? He has to grade his tobacco because he doesn't use our method of grading as he cures. He cuts his entire stalk and when he puts his tobacco off this stalk he has all the tobacco that grows on a stalk from top to bottom. Hence it is very necessary that he class his tobacco, and if we used the same method of cutting here it would be necessary to grade ours.

Mr. Spratt I think this is clear. We find that we make more tobacco to the acre than North Carolina, or Virginia. This is easily explained thus from week to week our tobacco takes up more weight as the bottom leaves are removed and so on to the top of the stalk. I have frequently seen the tips or top cropping the best leaves tobacco that was grown on the stalk. This isn't often the case where the stalk is cut, the tips are usually on the green side and light. North Carolina has one advantage here over us with her curing method and it is this: if it is a rainy season our tobacco will get worse off from week to week and in many instances finally gets ruined from excessive rains, which could have been averted at least in part if we had cut the entire stalk. We would have thus saved all we cut from further rains, this would only happen where rains set in about curing time. But we have found from experience as I have already stated, that our method of curing suits the hot sandy soils better. Most of our tobacco would lose too much if we waited for the entire stalk to ripen. I mean it would burn too much from the hot sun. In the Piedmont section of North Carolina, or Virginia, this isn't usually the case unless it happens to rain too much about maturing or curing time, and then it burns at the bottom just like it does down here with natural seasons. This is what happened in North Carolina and Virginia last season. It burned at the bottom and reduced their weight very materially. I doubt if my friend Mr. Spratt knows that North Carolina only made an average weight of 550 pounds to the acre. You can give them fifty cents per pound and we still beat them not to mention their trouble and expense of grading over us. I haven't the South Carolina weights but am reasonably sure it was considerably more than that. I know that all the best experienced farmers made from 800 to 1,000 pounds to the acre and better. Of course this applies to the farmers that use good methods of cultivation, we had plenty of farmers that made from 1,250 to 1,800 pounds per acre in 1918. We have grown as many as 2,500 pounds per acre in this county. Mr. G. M. Hicks of the Padding swamp section produced this much one year on a part of his crop.

Our farmers that had good tobacco that did not get injured too much from rains realized from \$400 to \$600 per acre. North Carolina only realized an average per acre for her 550 pounds around \$291.50. This probably beats us on an average, but it certainly does not reach those that were successful in growing good crops.

Mr. Spratt mentions another so-called objection to selling tobacco ungraded, he says that we usually sell by the sorriest tobacco in the pile, or lot. He says the buyer bids in a way to always save himself. Of course, this is the case with any buyer that buys at public auction, but this phase has another side to it. He can not see all the sorriest tobacco that is in the pile of tobacco, and he frequently gets stuck. So this will break about even between him and the seller. The thing for the farmer to do is to keep his tobacco as uniform as possible. If it isn't this way why he can class it. We have a number of farmers that do this. I mean he removes the green or burnt, should he happen to have this scattered through his tobacco, which is usually caused from poor stands in the field, different settings, this can be averted by having good plants and getting a good stand the first setting which he should do by all means if possible. The farmer can much more easily remove tobacco that does not match up properly and do it more hurriedly than the farmer that has six or seven grades to pick out class and tie up as they do in North Carolina.

Mr. Spratt did not mention the shortage that became apparent in North Carolina and Virginia after the excessive rains that visited those two States as well as ours. The North Carolina bureau of crops estimate coupled with government cooperative reporters, gave North Carolina only 235,000,000 pounds or estimated lbs. in their September report, which was

in round numbers about 45,000,000 shorter than 1918. The United States Government report at that time for the tobacco crop showed a condition of 73.6 for the entire United States. This was based on October forecast. First government report, which forecasted a production of 1,278,012,000 lbs. The crop condition, September 1, 1918, was 85 per cent and the United States report for 1916 was 1,300,019,000. Later reports gave North Carolina 68 per cent of a normal crop, with an increased acreage of 15 per cent over 1918. And note another appalling statement that her quality was 80 per cent, I think the final reports will give North Carolina about 315,000,000. The reports that were abroad at the time referred to no doubt helped North Carolina in realizing higher prices than she would have otherwise realized, notwithstanding that she raised the finest bright tobacco grown in the entire world, and leads all other States naturally in sales for her products, viz tobacco.

So to sum up, North Carolina, grew 550 pounds per acre, her condition was 68 per cent and her quality 80 per cent. Now I can not see how my friend, Mr. Spratt, or anybody else can see why she should not have done exceptionally well under these circumstances.

Now Mr. Farmer the thing for us to do in the future is to give more attention to better methods of cultivation. Let's drain our land, let's use more good wood in curing our tobacco let's be sure that we cure well. I know plenty of new planters in South Carolina and especially in this county that did not have enough wood last season to cure properly two curings of tobacco will say, out of five that he had grown. What else do we need? We need to exercise more care about letting too much moisture get into our tobacco, keep your barns closed in wet weather, and be doubly certain that you have killed all your stems when you cure. Should you find any why take them out at the barn, and by all means keep them out of your cured tobacco. Run them over in the next curing. You should give every phase of tobacco growing marked attention. This certainly is done in North Carolina.

Let's profit by what our sister State is accomplishing. Use good common sense in producing tobacco. You can not treat it like cotton or corn, and expect good results, you certainly will be disappointed. Cultivate what tobacco you can reasonably attend to with good care, and be sure you do not neglect other crops, which I have enumerated that we can grow and profit by along with the cultivation of our tobacco. I want to see South Carolina tobacco stay in good demand and this can be promoted and fostered by the methods mentioned above. I have been handling South Carolina tobacco for more than twenty years and am certainly in a position to know where of I speak. My position about the grading of tobacco isn't new with me. When it was agitated in 1915, I then opposed it and wrote several articles to this paper in answer to one by Col. Sellers, of Sellers, S. C.

Mr. Spratt made special mention of the fact that we need more time to handle our crop. I think his suggestion timely and am highly in favor of having more time. I think the middle of September or first of October would meet the required demand along this line. I find in my business that the farmers, want to sell reasonably fast, as he wants to get through with tobacco, so he can handle other crops, cotton, hay, etc. Now about the South Carolina markets being so crowded last season that my friend referred to in his last article, this was largely caused by the railroad strike in August. The same condition prevailed in Virginia and North Carolina. There was one continuous rush from start to finish. The tobacco warehousemen in Virginia and North Carolina worked night and day. South Carolina wasn't crowded in selling like the above named States. North Carolina alone sold 117,000,000 pounds during the month of October; Lexington, Ky., sold 47,000,000 pounds on one market in about two months. You can not hold the boys down when tobacco sells to suit them.

R. D. Cothran  
Manning, S. C., Feb. 27, 1920.

## COURT TO PROBE

### CHARGES OF SIMS

Washington, Mar. 2.—Investigation by a court of inquiry of the circumstances of Rear Admiral William B. Fletcher's removal from command of American naval forces at Brest by Admiral Sims in October, 1917, was ordered today by Secretary Daniels. The court will convene in Washington Monday, the day before the opening of the investigation by the Senate naval committee of Admiral Sims' criticism of naval policy just preceding and during the war.

Rear Admiral Fletcher was temporarily detached from command at Brest following the torpedoing of the transport Antilles on a return trip to the United States. Representations by Admiral Sims at the time that Admiral Fletcher was "so unsatisfactory in initiative and judgment that he should no longer be entrusted with the Brest command," will form the subject of the inquiry ordered by Mr. Daniels.

## WOULD ELIMINATE GREAT PACKERS

### Plan Presented to House Agriculture Committee.

### EFFORT FOR ECONOMY

#### Representative of Texas Live Stock Growing Organizations Gives Views at Washington.

Washington, Mar. 2.—Virtual elimination of the big packers from the meat industry and substitution of small, local and cooperative stock yards and slaughter houses was suggested today by Ed C. Lassiter of Texas, representing live stock growing organizations, before the house agriculture committee.

The packing business now is uneconomical, Mr. Lassiter asserted causing injury both to live stock producers and consumers. Transportation of cattle to the packing centers and return shipment of meat to consumers involves an economic loss, he said which can be eliminated only by legislation to reduce control of the big packers and to foster small, cooperative agencies widely distributed.

Lassiter also urged separation of large stock yards from packer control. The yards, he said should not be owned by a holding company but by the railroad and a transportation adjunct. Transfer of packers' stock in the yards to other than railroad interests, the witness said, would not meet the demands of the live stock producing interests.

Independent stock yards and slaughtering points can not be developed, Mr. Lassiter said, so long as a congress permits the large packers to have such a preponderant share of business. Mere size of the freight the big packers have to distribute the witness declared, obtained for the packers special favors from the railroads sufficient to shut off successful competition.

Mr. Lassiter opposed ownership of refrigerator cars by the packers, who he said, also should be divested of all interest in cattle loan companies. Many of the witnesses who have opposed the pending legislation for packer control, Mr. Lassiter said, were borrowed from the packers or "packer banks."

Lassiter in the course of his testimony charged that Herbert Hoover when food administrator in 1917 suppressed a report by an administration committee justifying prices charged for milk by dairymen's organizations. Mr. Hoover decided, the witness said, that public opinion was so adverse to the dairymen that a report in their support would have an unfortunate effect. The former food administrator also was said by the witness to have refused to extend the food administration's control to cattle and other live stock, except hogs.

Committee members objected to the trend of the testimony, saying Mr. Hoover ought to have opportunity to answer Mr. Lassiter's charges.

## DECLARES CHARGES FALSE

Washington, March 2.—Charges of immorality and lax discipline among the inmates of the Portsmouth, N. H. naval prison were held to be without foundation in the report of the special board of investigation, made public today by Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, a member of the board.

The board's report upheld the administration of Commander Thomas Mott Osborne, declaring that the allegations made against his administration were based on "headway evidence and unreliable witnesses."

## GLASS ATTACKS PROPOSAL

Washington, March 2.—Making his maiden speech today, Senator Glass, Democrat, of Virginia, protested against what he claimed to be efforts on the part of some Senators to place the responsibility on the Treasury Department for delay in completing the new speedway hospital at Chicago. The former Secretary of the Treasury declared that to complete the hospital for the estimated cost of \$3,000,000 would be to erect "a perpetual eyecore and a disgrace to the nation."

The new Senator attacked an amendment to the second deficiency bill, contained in the conference report which would add \$400,000 to the \$3,000,000 already appropriated, and declared that the action, if approved by the Senate, would virtually make a gift of \$650,000 to the builders of the hospital.