

TOBACCO MARKETING

Open Forum for Expressions for or Against Co-operative Marketing

SIX THOUSAND MORE HAVE SIGNED TOBACCO ASSO.

Six thousand new members—thirty million pounds more of tobacco, added to the Tri-State Pool of the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association during the past three months prove the irresistible progress of the movement which now includes over 72,000 tobacco farmers of the Carolinas and Virginia.

The directors of this largest Co-operative Marketing Association in America, who are tobacco farmers elected by their fellow growers of tobacco, predict that this recent increase of members and pounds will be doubled before the warehouses open.

When 175 warehouses of the organized growers open their doors, those who have failed to sign the contract, must trust their crop to the auction warehouses for another year, according to the directors.

The minority of growers in three States who are waiting to see what the auction system will do with their tobacco this year becomes smaller by hundreds every day.

Since thousands of Eastern Carolina growers heard the message of Aaron Sapiro and the doors of four big warehouses towns swung open in Eastern Carolina the campaign has taken on new life.

Several Eastern North Carolina counties have now passed an 80 per cent sign-up and intense campaigning continues by warehousemen of the association to bring the average sign-up of the Eastern Carolina counties to more than 75 per cent of their production.

Celebrating the successful sign-up of 85 per cent of Surry county tobacco, thousands of farmers from six counties staged a mammoth meeting at Elkin, N. C., last Saturday where Oliver J. Sands Executive Manager of the association assured the growers of the successful progress of each department of the marketing association. Hundreds of contracts from Virginia and South Carolina reached Raleigh headquarters last week.

SAPIRO'S CAMPAIGN

We must confess that we are not impressed with the campaign of Mr. Aaron Sapiro, the California lawyer who is in this state seeking to line up the farmers for co-operative marketing. He seeks to arouse the feelings and prejudices of those in his audiences, against the warehousemen who dare to conduct their business as they have a right to do under the law and the constitution, just as much as Mr. Sapiro has the right to organize the farmers to sell their tobacco in a pool.

In other words it is nothing more or less than a business proposition and that is all there is to it, and it seems to us that Mr. Sapiro is rather hurting his causes when he criticizes the warehousemen who dare open their warehouses and refuse to come into his pool, for we repeat who can honestly blame them for not being willing to give over a business in which they have spent their lives, to an uncertainty where there is no guarantee, and there can be no guarantee that they will even come out whole with their business intact as it was before and their property free of encumbrances if they should accept the dictum of Mr. Sapiro and quietly acquiesce in his plan.

But there is another reason why The Times cannot sit idly by and publish articles that the Co-operative Marketing Association is sending out broadcast in quoting from Mr. Sapiro without criticism for it reaches quite as deeply the morale and the confidence of the people and their intelligence and sane development as the economic side of the situation in the sale of their tobacco, and it is this: What if the farmers of Eastern North Carolina take Mr. Sapiro at his word and believe that the warehousemen of Wilson and Eastern North Carolina who dare to sell their tobacco on the open market are wolves, hypocrites and blind sheep? Mr. Sapiro may be able to say that and get away with it because he will return to his home in California and the space of a continent will divide the community where he has dropped the seed of his incendiary doctrine and where he abides. But what of the folks in eastern North Carolina, if they shall believe all that Mr. Sapiro has pictured them? The only thing in the world worth while is confidence, on that our homes and credit are built, and men trade and rely on the word of each other, but if they are wolves how can they have any faith in each other.

We have noticed that nearly every farmers movement generally ends in an appeal to prejudice and passion rather than reason. Why is this? Is it because the leaders of these movements believe the farmers are fools and cannot be aroused in any other way, or that they really feel that every business man who has anything to do with the farmers starts out with the sole intent and purpose of skinning him.

We are thankful to say that the

farmers of Wilson county have learned in the sad school of experience that every one who comes along with such talk is not to be relied on, and whenever they do, they take what is said with a grain of salt and they should. The whole truth of the matter is that the farmers have a right to pool their tobacco if they feel it is to their interest, and on the other hand the farmer who does not care to pool his tobacco and sell it on the open market has an equal right to do so, and the warehouseman has just as much right to open his warehouse and sell tobacco as the warehouseman who so desires has the right to place his in a pool.

We are simply writing this editorial to say that any campaign that seeks to array one class of people against another is not properly conducted. The Times has always sought to keep our people together that they might cooperate in the best sense of the word, they cannot cooperate with their hearts full of bitterness towards each other. We feel that we must condemn such tactics whenever they appear. The appeal should be to reason and not to passion.

Time will tell whether selling tobacco on the open market and the pooling is the best. It will be better demonstrated on account of the competition between the two systems. If the Co-operative marketing system has secured all the territory except Wilson as they say they have, they certainly have sufficient to ascertain whether their system will be better of the two. Let's keep cool while we wait and see.—Editorial taken from the Daily Times, (Wilson, N. C.) of June 2, 1922.

STORM HITS FERRIS WHEEL; SIX DEAD, FORTY INJURED

New York, June 12.—The fury of the electric storm that swept New York late today destroying property and life, broke suddenly over a little amusement park at Clason's Point, the Bronx, lashed into a Ferris wheel crowded with young people, crushed it to the ground and passed on leaving six dead and more than forty injured.

Shrieks of mirth broke from the steel cars of the wheel as it carried its cargo of youth high up into the breezes. Then the storm and maddened cries of fear and agony as the upper half broke away and was catapulted by the winds into the shallow waters of Long Island Sound. The lower half buckled and fell a twisted mass of steel, wooden girders and human bodies. The hundreds of men, women children in the restor were thrown into a panic. Amid the lightning flashes, the thunder's roar and the rain torrents, women fainted, and men fought and children were brushed aside in frantic efforts to reach shelter and to lose sight of the ghastly pile that so shortly before had been a wheel of

merriment. But many rushed to the wreck and worked madly to extricate the bodies of the living and the dying and the dead. Efforts were made to telephone for ambulances and physicians but the storm had taken the wires. Men in commandeered automobiles were sent to nearest hospitals two miles away and seen corps of physicians, surgeons and nurses were at the park. Four ambulances responded and they worked in relays removing the injured.

Many of the frail buildings of the concessionaires in the park were blown away or badly damaged. As the bodies were taken from the wreckage of the wheel they were placed on the bathing pier. After an hour, more than forty persons had been extricated. Five were dead and a number of others were said to be dying.

Members of the crew operating the wheel declared the storm broke so suddenly that it was impossible to remove the passengers. They said about sixty persons were in the cars when the storm struck.

Night fell as a half hundred men were set to work tearing apart the wreckage and the removal of the victims progressed slowly. Under one huge piece of steel, in a depression in the ground, lay a boy of fourteen and his ten-year-old sister. As the steel was removed they stood up unharmed and ran to the arms of their sobbing parents. The boy said they were in a car that had just left the ground when something happened, he did not know that he was stunned for a moment and the next thing he knew; that he was stunned for a moment by the arm and asked: "Are we in a tunnel, bubbie?"

The dead were taken from the cars that were thrown into the sound. A wheel 100 feet in diameter was constructed only recently, park officials said, and was considered one of the best in construction.

"DUST EXPLOSIONS" SUMS UP 7 YEARS OF INVESTIGATION

Dust Explosions, a book containing the results of 7 years of investigation by the United States Department of Agriculture, is soon to be issued by the National Fire Protection Association, Boston, Mass., in the interest of reducing fire and explosion losses. The book was prepared by David J. Price and Harold H. Brown of the Bureau of Chemistry of the department, and is expected to be a welcome

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addition to the meager literature on a subject that has been found of great economic importance to divers industries. It is of interest particularly to manufacturers in dust-producing industries, operators of grain-thrashing outfits, coal mine operators, owners of cotton gins, fire and accident insurance companies, inspection departments, engineers, architects, colleges, and libraries.

One of the numerous tables shows that in this country there are now about 21,000 manufacturing plants in which combustible dust is an unavoidable by-product. These factories, always under the menace of loss through dust explosions, annually turn out products to the value of nearly 7 billion dollars. That there is widespread danger has been proved by the occurrence of disastrous explosions of dusts of aluminum coal, cork, cottonseed, flour, grain, leather malt, phonograph records, rice rubber, sawdust, spices, starch, sugar, and sulphur. The authors have investigated every notable dust explosion in the United States and Canada many of which are discussed in the new publication.

Chapters are devoted to nature and theory of dust explosions, industries producing dust and their extent, elimination of sources of ignition, prevention of explosions by control of explosive mixtures, phenomena of explosions, dust collection and removal, static electricity, explosions in grain thrashing machines, plant construction, cotton gin fires, coal dust explosions, and review of explosions.

EFFORTS MADE TO INTRODUCE WILT-RESISTANT TOMATOES

Most of the work with wilt-resistant tomatoes in the South, where Fusarium wilt is prevalent, has been successful, and further effort is being made by the United States Department of Agriculture working in cooperation with State agricultural colleges through county agents to improve the varieties of tomatoes grown and introduce the wiltless varieties into new communities.

All the 5 resistant varieties, Marvel, Norton, Columbia, Arlington, and Norduke, sent to boys and girls' club members have been grown successfully in many localities where regular commercial varieties failed because of wilt. Although these varieties are not immune, they possess enough resistance to insure a good crop if other conditions are favorable. A few reports of failure have been received, but the real cause in all such cases investigated was root-knot, bacterial wilt, or blight. It therefore seems wise to urge the general introduction of these and other wilt-resistant varieties wherever Fusarium wilt is prevalent, says the department.

From the 3 years' work already accomplished it seems that these varieties will have to be tested repeatedly to determine which is best adapted to the local needs and conditions of any

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community; but this is true of varieties of any other crop; it is pointed out. In some gardens the resistant tomatoes were free from blossom-end rot and in no case reported did they suffer more from this disease than the varieties formerly grown.

NEW DEVICE TESTS POWER OF SOIL TO SUPPORT ROAD

An instrument for testing soils on which roads are to be built has been devised by the Bureau of Public Roads of the United States Department of Agriculture. It consists of a metal disk resting on the soil and supporting a cylinder into which shot can be poured. The apparatus is held in position vertically by means of a tripod, at the top of which is mounted a small dial that tells to one-thousandth of an inch how far the disk sinks into the soil as shot is poured into the cylinder. By means of the instrument it is possible to get information as to how the soil will act in wet

weather. The kind of soil beneath a road surface has a great deal to do with how it will stand up under modern traffic, and engineers look upon this as an important consideration in determining the kind of road to be built. This is confirmed by a number of instances where two sections of the same road have been built in exactly the same manner and subjected to the same traffic but on different types of soil. One section has lasted well while the other has broken up in a manner that can only be explained by a lack of supporting power of the soil beneath the road. The bureau has for some time been investigating this question along various lines both in the field and in the laboratory, studying the characteristics of different soils and experimenting with means to keep down the moisture content of the soil and thus increase its bearing power. The latest development has been the new device.

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