

The Watauga Democrat.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY

ONLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN WATAUGA COUNTY

ESTABLISHED IN 1888

VOLUME XXXIII

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY AUG. 24, 1922.

NUMBER 4

COAL REPORT IS YET INCOMPLETE

DIRECTOR SELF ESTIMATES THE MONTHLY CONSUMPTION AT 186,260 TONS.

LITTLE IS HEARD OF PRICES

Applications for Coal With Cashier's Checks Attached Keep Pouring Into Director's Office.

Raleigh. — Still lacking definite reports from the fifty coal dealers who are making a survey of the coal consumption and supply of the state, Coal Director R. O. Self got down to the census books and with the help of a few reports in hand, calculated that North Carolina is using 12,500,000 tons of coal annually, or 185,000 tons or 3,785 carloads per month.

Applications for coal, with cashier's checks attached to guarantee payment, keep pouring into the director's office, and a force of a dozen clerks endeavor to keep the tide moving out again, approved or disapproved, as the judgment of the director directs. And that is about as far as the work of the coal committee has gone, and as far as it will go for the present.

No definite figures are available from the Federal coal administration as to whether North Carolina is going to get two thousand or two million tons of coal. Director Self continues to fill in the application blanks, together with the guarantee of payment, and forward them to the administration in Washington. What is becoming of them there is a matter yet to be discussed.

Coal continues to trickle into Raleigh and other cities, a car some days and then perhaps days without a shipment. Famine is nowhere in control of the situation as yet, but practically every bunker in the state is being emptied faster than it is being refilled. Railroads are giving coal some priority over other classes of freight, and movement is somewhat expedited.

Eastern North Carolina will probably begin to feel the shortage ahead of the west, where hydro-electric power is used in most industrial work. The railroads themselves are having no difficulty in fueling themselves. Movement from the mines is said to be slowing up somewhat, and transportation is feeling the effects of the railroad strike.

Little is heard of prices in the office of the State Coal committee. Most dealers and large consumers have contracts that are not yet satisfied, and it is likely that any approval of orders will be made to apply on these contracts. Coal to the domestic user, the man who keeps a ton or so for burning in his cook stove, is not yet figuring in the situation. Usually he gets no coal and will need little until winter.

Cotton Advance Will Be \$50 Flat.

Fifty dollars flat will be advanced on each bale of cotton at the time of delivery by members of the North Carolina association, it was decided by the executive committee, with further advances to be made as fast as sales are made.

The committee decided to include cotton held over by members from last year in the same pools as new cotton. The date set for the first delivery before that date, if early maturity of crop should demand it.

The committee decided to make the first advance upon a flat rather than a percentage basis in order to facilitate the initial bookkeeping. After the cotton is classed in the grading departments in Raleigh, the grower will be notified of his grade and he will receive further advances upon the basis of the grade instead of upon a flat basis.

Chesley B. Howard, general sales manager, met with the committee and went over the entire plans for the sale of cotton of the association. He has established foreign and northern connections. He was optimistic over the prospects for handling the cotton of the association in an expeditious and prompt manner.

The selection of branch sales managers for the concentration points of the association at Charlotte and Greensboro was left with General Manager J. B. Blalock and a special committee.

Those attending the meeting of the executive committee were: President W. H. Asplin, of Smithfield; L. B. Robinson, of Whitesboro; Vice-President R. W. Christian, of Manchester; B. W. Kilgore, Raleigh, and the executive association.

SEVERAL HUNDRED MADE HOMELESS

TWO TOWNS ARE WIPE OUT BY FOREST FIRES IN MINNESOTA.

SIX PERSONS KNOWN DEAD

Governor Personally Took Charge of Situation, Ordering Out National Guardsmen.

Duluth, Minn. — Six known dead, hundreds made homeless, at least two towns wiped out and a dozen others in imminent danger was the apparent toll of a series of forest fires which swept northwestern Minnesota, causing the worst conflagration since 1918, when 400 persons lost their lives.

With numerous forest fires blazing throughout the wooded area of northern Minnesota, Governor J. A. O. Preus personally took charge of the situation, ordering out national guardsmen here for relief duty.

Drought conditions have increased the menace to alarming proportions, according to state forestry officials, and more than 2,000 men were fighting the fires in various sections.

Official reports were that the towns of Fairbanks, Silver Creek and Pimlico, in Lake county, all small settlements, had been destroyed, the refugees mainly fleeing to Two Harbors. Cotton and Central Lakes, in St. Louis county, were also reported destroyed.

Fires were reported in Wisconsin, where it was said the city of Drummond was menaced. Telephone communication with that place was interrupted and no details were available.

Upward Jump in Food Costs.

Washington. — Wholesale and retail costs of food and other commodities took an upward jump during the month July, retail prices averaging a 1 per cent increase, while wholesale prices registered a gain of about 3.13 per cent, as compared with June prices, the department of labor announced.

Comparison of wholesale prices in June with those of a year ago, indicated, the department said, that the general price level advanced about ten per cent with fuel and lighting materials registering an increase of 36 1/2 per cent.

The average retail price level was determined, the department stated, by an analysis of prices charged for 43 food articles by dealers in 51 important cities, and, it was explained, the quantity of each article consumed in the average working man's family also entered into the determination. The largest increases were noted in the sale of granulated sugar, 7 per cent; strictly fresh eggs, 6 per cent; navy beans, five per cent; potatoes, three per cent, while increase was registered against certain kinds of meats, cheese, baking beans and prunes. Thirteen food staples decreased in prices, onions dropping 13 per cent, cabbage 10, hens 10, lambs and flour 2, while canned goods showed but slight decrease.

Southern Retailers Elect Officers.

Richmond, Va. — An appeal to the Southern Retail Merchants' convention to encourage co-operative marketing movement, discussion of sales methods and the election of officers marked the coming session of the conference here.

The present officers were re-elected. For the first time in the history of the conference a woman was named on the first board of directors. She is Mrs. J. R. Council, of Durham, N. C.

Resolutions were adopted urging local associations to organize more strongly and send a delegate to the next annual convention, which it was decided will be held here.

The officers elected are: L. M. Wiggins, Hartsville, S. C., president; N. J. Parks, Parsley, Va., vice president; A. R. Cannon, Ayden, N. C., vice president; W. T. Dabney, Richmond, secretary, and W. H. Snyder, Charlottesville, Va., assistant secretary.

60,000 Lives Lost at Swatow.

Amoy. — Swatow's death toll in the typhoon of August 2 is conservatively estimated at 60,000, a representative of the Associated Press learned in a visit to the stricken area. The storm was one of the worst disasters which has visited this part of the globe. The property damage will run into many millions, the Standard Oil company alone suffering a loss of \$100,000.

No foreigner was seriously injured in the storm, which almost obliterated the native section of Swatow.

TARIFF ON DYE IN AN EMBARGO

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS SPLIT IN VOTE ON COAL TAR PRODUCTS RATES.

ROLL CALL FOLLOWED DEBATE

Few Other Changes in the Administration Tariff Bill Were Made By the Senate.

Washington. — Tariff duties on dyes and other coal tar products which were declared by opponents to be equivalent to an embargo, were approved by the senate, 33 to 2. Republicans and democrats split on the issue, seven republicans opposing the increased rates and five democrats supporting them.

The new duties proposed by Senator Bursum, republican, New Mexico, are based on an American instead of foreign valuation—an option framers of the tariff had desired to leave to the President—and are:

On coal tar dye intermediates 10 1/2 cents per pound and 75 per cent ad valorem; in place of the old rates of seven cents and 50 per cent; and on finished dyes and coal tar products, 10 1/2 cents a pound and 90 per cent instead of seven cents and six per cent. Senators Broussard, Jones of New Mexico, Myers, Ransdell and Sheppard, were the democrats who voted for the amendment. Senators Capper, Kellogg, Lenroot, Keyes, Moses, Newberry and Smoot, republicans, voted against it.

A roll call followed a sharp debate in which Chairman Wadsworth of the military committee presented a letter from Secretary Weeks urging extension of the dye control act now in force, declaring that "no ordinary tariff can prevent the destruction of the American dye industry, which will thereby cripple the organic chemical industry."

Few other changes in the administration tariff bill were made by the senate in the final drive to clean up individual amendments. When the senate recessed at a late hour work on the measure in the committee of way next spring.

With the approval of the finance committee majority and without a roll call, the senate eliminated from the bill retaliatory provisions relating to wood pulp and newsprint paper, which are on the free list. Under the provisions the President would have been authorized to impose a duty of 10 per cent on these materials imported from countries, dependencies and provinces which imposed any export or other tax restrictions on their exportations. In addition the President would have added the amount of the export tax so imposed.

Legion to Aid in Keeping Order.

New Orleans, La. — Confronted with the task of handling a crowd of 150,000 visitors to the American Legion National convention, to be held here in October, Police Superintendent Guy R. Molony will call his brother legionnaires into action.

One thousand uniformed former soldiers, Molony has announced, will be deputized to assist his police force in regulating the large crowds that will throng the parade route. The legionnaires, he said, will serve as "provost guards" in the business district during the five days of the convention.

Superintendent Molony is himself an active member of the American legion and expects to participate in the sessions of the convention.

During a recent visit to Kansas City Molony investigated conditions prevailing in that city during last year's American legion convention. He discovered, he states, that the city and police officials have no criticism to make concerning the way in which the 150,000 visiting former service men conducted themselves. Kansas City, he learned, would welcome the opportunity of having the organization again choose Kansas City as their convention city.

Two Young Women Drowned.

Richmond, Va. — Miss Anne Bolling Weatherell, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Weatherell, of Richmond, and her companion, Miss Page Beasley, of Caroline county, Virginia, were drowned at Waverly Beach, near Fredericksburg, Va., according to news received here by relatives. A third girl, who nearly drowned, was rescued. It was reported that the girls were swimming in shallow water when suddenly they stepped into a deep channel.

NO LICENSE TO OPERATE GINS ARE REQUIRED

"Many inquiries from ginners throughout the state are coming in regarding the license to operate this year, and it is high time," says J. M. Workman, warehouse engineer of the North Carolina Division of Markets, "that the ginners should know that a license is not required."

"This law has been repealed," states Mr. Workman, "and at the same time the law requiring ginners to collect a tax of 25 cents a bale on all cotton ginned was repealed, which the farmer as well as the ginner should know."

Twenty-five cents doesn't seem much to individuals, but when the whole crop is considered it means a saving of approximately \$200,000 to the North Carolina cotton farmers.

Road Projects Scheduled for Letting.

Twenty-nine projects scheduled for letting August 30, with an aggregate mileage of 186.02 miles, will bring the years letting of roads by the state highway commission to 1,114.35 miles, or more than 100 miles beyond the "1,000 miles in 1922" program, and the total obligation for new construction for the year more than \$22,000,000.

Three projects included in the list remove the last unlet sections of the Central highway from Smithfield to Salisbury, a distance of 170 miles of continuous paving. The Thomasville-Lexington link, the Hillsboro-Mebane link and the bridge over the Yadkin river between Lexington and Salisbury are the more important projects.

With the award of contracts at the end of the month, the commission will have achieved more than a hundred miles beyond the mark set in February for 12 months, and will have set up a record that is without parallel in the records of road building in America. Since January 1 contracts will have been let for 508.31 miles of hard surface road and 545.94 miles of gravel.

The August letting will be the final big letting for the year, and thereafter the commission will focus attention on construction now temporarily held up on account of strike conditions. Chairman Page has pushed the work of getting roads under contract in anticipation of more widespread demand for contractors when other states get their road programs under way next spring.

Altogether the road program outlined at the work under Governor Bickett in 1919 is now approximately half done. Slightly more than 2,700 miles of new roads have been built, or are under construction, or under contract. In addition to this mileage the system includes many hundreds of miles of good roads built by counties before the state took over the system.

Somewhat of the tremendous undertaking the 29 projects offered for August 30 presents may be gathered from the fact that the specifications call for the clearing of 153 acres of land, excavations totaling 1,349,450 cubic yards of earth and rock, and the bridges on the projects will require 2,328,110 pounds of structural steel.

Forecasts Point to Good Crops.

North Carolina's corn crop, it is forecasted by Frank Parker, agricultural statistician, will this year be 48,508,000 bushels or 5,626,000 acres, still the ten-year average for the state, while the forecast of wheat production indicates 5,508,000 bushels or less than half of the state's food requirements, although it is an increase of 22 per cent over last year's crop.

The cotton belt outlook, judging from the present conditions, forecast a crop of over 11,000,000 bales, at 73 per cent of a full crop—normal condition. The boll weevil has done very little damage as yet, but this is only the first part of his working season. Less than half of our cotton area is yet infested and only a few counties seriously so. The state condition of 77 per cent is about the same as for the past two years for cotton, with the acreage much more than last year.

With an average condition of 83 per cent of a full crop, the probable yield of oats will be 3,838,000. The national condition is almost seven per cent less, but our yield is much less per acre than the national average.

Cotton Staple Will Be Graded.

An expert English cotton grader has been employed by General Manager U. B. Blalock, of the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Co-operative association. This expert will devote his time largely to what the cotton buyers call "stapling."

While it is generally known that long staple cotton brings a much higher price than that ordinarily grown in North Carolina, it is not so widely known that the difference in the length of the staple in a cotton is just as important as the grade.

CONDENSED NEWS FROM THE OLD NORTH STATE

SHORT NOTES OF INTEREST TO CAROLINIANS.

Statesville. — Three walls of the freight depot were knocked down and considerable damage was done to freight when westbound train No. 87 ran into the house track unexpectedly.

High Point. — A beautiful memorial to the veterans of the World War will be erected here on Broad street just off of Main street by Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Wrenn.

Tarboro. — Tarboro's two auction warehouses for the sale of leaf tobacco opened here with sales of 95,000 lbs. at an average of \$24.20 per hundred lbs.

Asheville. — Josiah Norton is dead and Grant Sams, a young man, is being held in the Madison county jail at Marshall as a result of a shooting several nights ago in the Shelton-Laurel section. No motive has been assigned for the deed.

Charlotte. — The Noll Construction company was awarded the contract for paving seven miles on the Yorkville road at approximate cost of \$186,000. The road is to be the same type of construction as the Camp Greene road. There were three bids.

Greensboro. — The Southeastern Passenger association, Atlanta, Ga., announces reduced passenger fares for the American Legion convention, department of North Carolina, to be held here September 8 and 9.

Goldboro. — The boll weevil and water covers the finest cotton crops in Wayne county. For thirty days the water has been standing in the finest cotton fields in the county, B. C. Thompson, the largest cotton buyer in the county, said.

Greensboro. — Claude Schoofield, a young white man of Guilford county, was convicted in the Guilford superior court of swindling the American Exchange National bank here out of ten thousand dollars last April by means of a forged check.

Wake Forest. — Mrs. Bettie Stell, of the cotton mill district of Wake Forest, was instantly killed here when she was struck by Seaboard train No. 11. The train struck her about a mile from the Wake Forest station and opposite the Royall cotton mill.

Durham. — Local authorities have been unable to find a clue as to the identity of the mother of a pretty four-months-old baby left at the door of Dr. E. H. Bowling's office in the Greer building. The baby is in the local Salvation Army home, where it will receive temporary care.

Greensboro. — Dr. J. W. Long, president of the North Carolina Medical Society, has appointed a committee of thirty members of the society to take some action on the proposed four-year medical school to be established by the University of North Carolina.

Charlotte. — The News Publishing Co. has just collected an advertising bill for \$7.50 made in 1901, just 21 years ago October 20. The bill was part of the costs of a commissioner's sale of a piece of property in the city which, for some reason or other was allowed to remain pending in the courts until recently when the owners, desiring to make a sale of the real estate, went to clear the title to the land and found that the costs of this sale had never been paid.

Lumberton. — An election to vote on a \$20,000 road bond issue in Brittis township, Robeson county, has been ordered by the county commissioners. The election will be held at an early date.

Selby. — The Kiwanis club has launched a movement to improve the baseball park at the high school, two blocks from the court square, and convert it into a general playground for grown-ups as well as children.

New Bern. — W. D. Allen, prohibition enforcement officer, announced the capture of a solid copper 250-gallon distilling plant and 200 gallons of corn whiskey on the Perry farm up Brice's creek, about ten miles from New Bern.

Wadesboro. — The unusually cool weather of the past few days is thought by farmers to be conducive to the operations of the boll weevil. The weevil is supposed to be hindered by warm, dry weather and to become more active in cool, wet weather. They seem to be increasing everywhere and to be spreading over all sections of the county with remarkable rapidity.

Rocky Mount. — Work on the Main street beautifying and improvement program which was adopted by the board of aldermen some time ago is progressing as rapidly as possible since a gang of workmen began preliminary steps towards laying the underground cable for the White Way in the business section early this week.

Offers to Return Cable Licenses. — New York. — Newsom Cable, president of the Western Union Telegraph company, who recently received permission from the Harding administration to use the Miami-Bahamas cable to relieve the emergency caused by seizure of European cables by Irish irregulars, made public a communication he had addressed to Mr. Harding, offering to return the state department license. The communication added that "to attempt to operate the cable would involve us in difficulties with Brazilian government."

Will Employ Only Single Teachers. — Chicago. — Cost of living and social demands are so excessive in Evanston, Ill., site of the Northwestern University; that the school as long as it will employ married instructors, according to Professor Roy O'Connell, dean of the college of education, Northwestern educators are equal to those paid in other universities, but Evanston's cost of living and social demands are such that in some instances wives of instructors have had to accept employment in Evanston to meet expenses.

Chowan Advanced to Class B. — The accredited committee of the state department of education raised Chowan college, Murfreesboro, from Class C to Class B. Action was taken after a conference with President P. S. Vann and after a careful examination of the catalogue for the institution for 1921-22.

President Vann announced that the outlook for the opening of the college is very promising. He is planning to still further advance the standard of the college, which is one of the oldest colleges for women in the state.

Lenoir. — Sheriff J. A. Triplett captured a large home-made copper still of Bed mountain, about seven miles north of here. The still was of about 75-gallon capacity, and was still warm at the time it was captured although there was no one at the still.

Lumberton. — The Lumberton graded and high schools will open for the fall term on Wednesday, September 9. Prof. W. B. Crumpton, Jr., will superintend the schools this year and practically all the faculty has been selected.

PUBLIC SALE OF TOWN LOTS IN BOONE.

On the 4th day of September, 1922, it being the first Monday of Superior Court, I will offer for sale on the premises four lots in the town of Boone. These lots are located on the ridge near the court house and near the center of town. If you desire to buy the cheapest property in Boone attend this sale. A sufficient amount of brick can be made on the premises to build a mansion. Term will be made known on day of Sale. This August 8, 1922.

L. D. LOWE.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION.

Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of James W. Vines, deceased, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to present the same for payment within twelve months from the date of this notice, or it will be plead in bar of their recovery, and all persons indebted to said estate will please make payment of the same immediately. This July 20, 1922.

W. R. VINES, Administrator.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION.

Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of B. C. Green, deceased, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to present the same for payment within twelve months from the date of this notice, or it will be plead in bar of their recovery, and all persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment of the same. This Aug. 10, 1922.

W. F. SHERWOOD, Adm. B. C. Green, Deceased.

FOR SALE. I am offering for sale a beautiful plot of land with bold spring on same, located within half mile of Training School, and just off the Boone Trail Highway. An ideal location. See D. E. Hartley, Boone, N. C. \$20, 400