

Farm Department

Devoted to the Interests of Those Engaged in Agricultural Pursuits. Conducted by J. M. Beatty

Price and Profit.

Within the past week cotton futures in New York have twice reached 20 cents. The newspapers of the country have announced the fact with such headlines as: "Cotton Soars," "Cotton Reaches Highest Price Since the War," "Wealth for the South."

Editorial writers have taken up the refrain that the whole South, but the cotton grower in particular, is to enjoy the rewards of the most profitable crop ever grown.

Thoughtless or misinformed writers have asserted that the cost of making cotton was only 8 cents per pound. On this basis it is easy to figure enormous fortunes on a twelve million bale crop sold at 15 cents.

These assertions are woefully misleading. Unless counteracted, evil results are inevitable.

Let us, therefore, calmly consider a few actual facts bearing on the present situation.

The first point to fix in mind is that the phenomenal price on which all this excitement is based is fictitious—not real. The 20 cents so much discussed is merely the price quoted for cotton futures on the New York Exchange. It is a speculative price forced by the exigencies of a gambling game.

On the days when 20 cents was thus quoted in New York, the highest price offered for spot cotton in any Southern market was 15 3/8 cents and no cotton to be had.

The real fact is that cotton growers are not receiving a phenomenal price for their crop, practically all of which is yet to be harvested. In the winter of 1904 cotton was sold in Southern markets for higher prices than any yet quoted for the present crop.

The men who are making such exaggerated claims as to present conditions forget the fundamental economic law that cost of production determines profits.

Because of this fact the recent comparatively high prices received for cotton have been misleading. Fifteen cents is not really a high price. It is not even a lucringly profitable price.

Every man who has actually grown cotton for ten years with real business management knows that there was more profit with cotton at 8 cents than there is today at 15 cents.

The eight-cent crop was grown with mules costing \$100 to \$125, corn 40 cents, side meat 5 cents, and other supplies in proportion. The labor and raw material, including fertilizers, entering into the eight-cent crop averaged about half the cost of the materials going into the present crop.

Another point is overlooked by the theorists who figure out great profits for cotton growers at present prices. Their paper estimates of the cost of production are based on the possibilities of large yields per acre. Yet it is the actual average yield which determines the real profit to the average grower. It is easily seen that the cost of growing 200 pounds per acre—about our average yield—is the same, except for picking and ginning and possibly fertilizer, as would be the cost of producing 450 pounds on the same acre. If 8 cents is the cost of growing the bale per acre, it is obvious that the average crop must cost the producer nearly twice as much.

The plain fact is that the average crop is not very profitable at present prices. It puts tens of millions of dollars in circulation. It enables the grower to meet his obligations, but he is not getting rich.

The man who is really making money under present conditions is not the man who grows the cotton, but the man who receives rent or share cotton—the same quantity he received ten years ago—which he now sells for double the former price.

These actual facts can hurt no one. The constant assertion that cotton prices are high and the growers are making great profits can only tend to depress prices and injure the grower.

In his behalf we insist that the present price is not high.—Southern Ruralist.

It Saved His Leg.

"All thought I'd lose my leg," writes J. A. Swensen, of Watertown, Wis. "Ten years of eczema, that 15 doctors could not cure, had at last laid me up. Then Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured it, sound and well." Infallible for Skin Eruptions, Eczema, Salt Rheum, Bolls, Fever Sores, Burns, Scalds, Cuts and Piles. 25c. at Hood Bros.

The Farmers' Union.

The betterment of the conditions surrounding farm life has been widely recognized as a matter of such importance as would be difficult to exaggerate. The Farmers' Union is attacking the problem in no superficial or over-hasty fashion. Its leaders desire to make the individual farmer's fields yield a larger return than heretofore. They want the farmer himself to become acquainted with such business principles as are necessary to enable him to dispose of his products to the best advantage. In a larger sense, they want him to keep alert to what is going on about him, in order that he may make the best of himself and be a valuable citizen in the broadest sense of the word. Judging by what has been accomplished in North Carolina the organization is proving of most material benefit to the agricultural interests of all sections of the country, in that it is keeping in sight the aims mentioned and not allowing its force to be wasted upon any side-issues whatever, no matter how alluring they may appear.—Charlotte Observer.

A WINTER COVER CROP.

The farmer who does not try to get all he can out of his land annually and yet leave it in condition to yield more the following season has mistaken his vocation.

One way to do this is to plant cowpeas in the corn at the time of the last cultivation; harvest the corn in September and pasture the cowpeas in October. Early in November deep break and plant to rye, using about one bushel per acre. Our reasons for preferring rye are the following:

1. It is hardy. It will germinate and make a stand when other grains fail. Oats and barley will winter uninjured by the frost. It stands tramping and grazing better than other grains.

2. It takes kindly to poor soils, which is an important factor on most lands.

Where hairy vetch will succeed, the addition of a peck of vetch seed to a bushel of rye is an improvement.

Where there is no boll weevil infestation, rye or rye and vetch may be planted between the rows of cotton in October, and not later than the first of November. It is better to use a narrow drill in planting, but where farmers do not have this the seed may be sown by hand and cultivated or harrowed in.

CRIMSON CLOVER.—On lands adapted to it, crimson clover sown in the corn at the last working has given excellent results. About 15 pounds to the acre is generally used and by the first of the following April it furnishes a cutting of 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 tons of cured hay or, turned under, adds a great body of manure to the soil. The territory in which the crimson clover thrives best appears to be from the latitude of the northern portion of the Gulf States to the latitude of the Ohio River.

Oats or barley do well some winters. When they succeed they furnish a large amount of winter grazing and considerable humus for plowing under in the spring.

Facts About a Winter Cover Crop.

1. A winter cover crop largely prevents loss of soil fertility by washing (erosion); some lands suffer greater loss than others by washing, but all lands are more or less injured by it.

2. Soils without cover lose considerable fertility by evaporation during the fall and winter. A winter crop reduces this loss to a negligible quantity.

3. Such crops, to some extent, prevent the seeding of the land to foul weeds.

4. They increase the porosity of the soil and add the humus so essential to fertility.

5. They make a valuable crop while the land would otherwise be idle, which is a net gain to the land. We must increase the vegetable matter in the soil to an amount sufficient to enable the soil to retain a much larger proportion of the rainfall than at present and to greatly increase the mechanical conditions of the soil.

6. A very important consideration in the winter cover crop is the large amount of grazing that can be secured from it at a time when it is especially valuable for young stock, and its value is not limited altogether to the mere supply of food. It adds to the health and vigor of the stock. On an average from 2 to 2 1/2 months grazing can be secured at a nominal cost of a little labor in preparing and seeding the land.—S. A. Knapp, Special Agent in Charge, of Farm Demonstration-Work.

Don't waste your money buying plasters when you can get a bottle of Chamberlain's Liniment for twenty-five cents. A piece of flannel dampened with this liniment is superior to any plaster for lame back, pains in the side and chest, and much cheaper. Sold by Hood Bros.

Farmers' Union For Good Roads.

There will be a mass-meeting of Union county citizens held in the court house at 2 o'clock on the first Monday in October for the purpose of organizing a good roads association for the county. The State Good Roads Association, of which the State Geologist, Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt is the president, is very anxious that associations be formed in all the counties, and this is rapidly being done. The object is to create sentiment for good roads and to study ways and means for road improvement.

At the invitation of the editor of The Journal Dr. Pratt has promised to come to Monroe on the first Monday in October, deliver an address and organize a local association. There never was so much enthusiasm for road improvement as at present. Dr. Pratt and the other men employed by the government will help us to find out what we can do, and how to do it. That is the object of the association. And we are going to have a good one. Town and country people alike are interested and when Union county gets started something is going to be done.

Yesterday the farmers' union of the county passed a resolution endorsing the plan to have a road improvement association.

The union is wide awake on all the subjects that help the farmers, and nothing will so help them as good roads.—Monroe Journal.

South's Agricultural Growth.

Within ten years the South has more than doubled the value of its agricultural products. In the opinion of Richard H. Edmonds of Baltimore, who is better qualified to pass on Southern conditions than almost any other man, the value of the South's farm products this year will be \$2,700,000,000. This is \$200,000,000 more than the value of the Southern agricultural products for 1909. The greatest increase will be in the grain crop, which is estimated at 200,000,000 bushels in excess of the yield of last year.—Nashville Tennessean.

Uncle Sam a Spend Thrift.

If reports about our National Extravagance are even half way true, it is time we were calling a halt on our out goes. We are told that the Government is spending over one billion dollars annually, which is about one-third the entire gold product of the nation for the past 120 years! It is one-third the value of last year's foreign commerce. It is more than the value of our entire corn crop, and nearly twice that of our wheat crop. It means at daily expenditure of over \$3,567,000!

It means for every man, woman and child in the country we spend each year \$11.

It means that for every family in the United States the yearly expenditure at Washington is \$55.

Every citizen, especially every voter and taxpayer owes it to himself to find out if these things are so. Let us ask our Congressman, and if the items are true, urge him to use his best endeavor to reduce this vast torrent of extravagant expenditure. The figures are taken from an article in the N. Y. World.—Indiana Farmer.

Law Enforcement.

Numerous homicides have occurred in Asheville during the past few months, and The Citizen, in an outspoken and fearless editorial, traces the trouble to the "near-beer" joints and similar dives which are all too numerous.

A general reign of lawlessness seems to have evolved from inadequate law enforcement, and, facing a situation which called for prompt action, the Law Enforcement League has just held a meeting. Addresses were delivered by such men as the Hon. Locke Craig, and as a result it is believed much good will come.

According to The Citizen the near-beer joints have been prolific in their fruits of lawlessness, a result not surprising in the least.

The News considers near-beer one of the gravest menaces to proper law enforcement to be contended within the state today, and it trusts that the legislature will clothe towns and communities with authority to refuse them license when this course is deemed wisest.

Without popular co-operation and backing it is difficult for officers to adequately enforce the laws, and in order to stir up the people to a keener sense of duty this meeting was called.—Charlotte News.

"Can be depended upon" is an expression we all like to hear, and when it is used in connection with Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy it means that it never fails to cure diarrhoea, dysentery or bowel complaints. It is pleasant to take and equally valuable for children and adults. Sold by Hood Bros.

Free Sample For Baby's Ills

Something can and must be done for the puny, crying baby, for the child that refuses to eat and is restless in its sleep. And since the basis of all health is the proper working of the digestive organs, look first to the condition of the stomach and bowels.

A child should have two full and free movements of the bowels a day. This emptying of the bowels is very important, as with it comes a clear head, a lightness of step, good appetite and sound sleep. But it is equally important to know what to give the child in the emergency of constipation and indigestion. Cathartics are too strong and salts and other purgatives are not only too strong, but the child refuses them because of their bad taste. Have you ever tried Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin? It is a liquid tonic that families have been using for a quarter of a century. It is mild, pleasant-tasting and promptly effective. It is good for you as well as the child, but there is nothing better to be found for children. They like its taste—you will not have to force them to take it.

First of all, if you have not yet used it, Dr. Caldwell would like to send you a sample bottle free of charge. In this way you can try it before buying. Later, when convinced of its merits, you can get it of your druggist at fifty cents and one dollar a bottle, just as thousands of other families are doing. The family of Mr. D. W. Spangler of Strattonville, Pa., as well as that of Mr. A. F. Johnson of Walnut Grove, Tenn., started with it in that way and now write that it is their one family necessity next to food itself. If you are unfortunate enough to have a sickly child, one given to constipation and indigestion, you should send for a free sample of this remedy.

Dr. Caldwell personally will be pleased to give you any medical advice you may desire for yourself or family pertaining to the stomach, liver or bowels absolutely free of charge. Explain your case in a letter and he will reply to you in detail. For the free sample simply send your name and address on a postal card or otherwise. For either request the doctor's address is Dr. W. B. Caldwell, R. 500 Caldwell building, Monticello, Ill.

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