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VALUE OF JOHNSTON COUNTY'S COTTON CROP.

The value of the cotton crop of 1916 of 11,443,000 bales is in round numbers \$1,073,105,000. The crop of 1915 of 11,156,000 bales brought \$602,295,000, or \$470,810,000 less than the 1916 crop. This makes the crop of 1915 average about \$54 per bale while the crop of 1916 averaged almost \$94 per bale.

The Johnston County cotton crop for 1915 was 37,174 bales. This crop at an average of \$54 per bale brought to the people of Johnston County the nice sum of approximately \$2,007,388. Take the crop of 1916 which to March 20, was 37,322 bales, and fix the average at \$93 per bale and we shall see that the Johnston County crop for 1916 has brought to the people of this county about \$3,470,946. This means that the people of Johnston County received for the 1916 cotton crop \$1,363,568 more than they did for the crop of 1915 which was only 148 bales less than the 1916 crop. Taken as a whole the farmers of this county are in better condition than they have ever been if we are to judge by the money brought in by the cotton crop. Not only has the cotton crop brought in more money, but the farmers have been able to get more for everything they had to sell than ever before.

The farmers of Johnston have a great opportunity before them. They start off the year in a better financial condition than ever before. They are better prepared to finance a crop and the aim of every farmer should be to make all he needs to use on the farm in the way of food stuffs for man and beast, and then use his surplus land and energy to make a money crop of cotton or tobacco.

AMERICA IS IN THE WAR.

The United States is now at war with one of the great world powers. Our President and the leaders have done all they could to keep out of the great conflict, but there seemed to be no way of escape. When the great world war began in August 1914 it was seen at once that Germany was determined to win at any and all costs. No nation that dared stand in the way of her ambition could escape her fury. Nearly three years have passed. Nearly all the world has been drawn in the great conflict. Millions have given their lives and the end is not yet. The value of the property destroyed and the cost of the war to date is incomprehensible to the mind of man.

Now the force of America is to be thrown into the conflict. America, with all her resources, is called on to aid in bringing Germany to a quick and lasting peace. America is the richest nation in the world. She has not yet realized her power, but the time is now at hand to take measurement of her resources and see what they are. The manhood of the nation is to be put to the test. A call for volunteers will show how true the men are to the country that protects them. That they will be true to go at her call no one doubts. In men, moral and money the United States will aid the Entente Allies against a common foe.

The world sees and knows that German militarism is doomed. Its day is passed and a better day is dawning. The great and efficient Germany of the past forty years is slowly being hammered to pieces apparently without her realizing it. And when a treaty of peace is signed the greatest and proudest military power the world ever saw will be shorn of her glory. The United States enters the war to have a part in bringing this nation which has disregarded the rights of civilization and humanity to terms. May the war speedily close and every mother's son who responds to the call to the colors be returned to home and loved ones.

LAST YEAR AND NOW.

It is interesting to note the difference in prices of some farm products as given by the United States Bureau of Crop Estimates, of April 1, 1916 and April 1, 1917. A year ago the price of wheat in North Carolina was \$1.28. Now it is two dollars a bushel, or was on April 1st. Last year the price in the United States on April 1, was 98.6 cents per bushel. On April 1st this year it was \$1.80.

Last year the average price of oats in North Carolina on April 1, was 66 cents. This year on same date, the price was 83 cents. Last year the average in the United States was 42 cents, while on April 1, this year the price was 62 cents.

On April 1, 1916, the North Carolina price of potatoes, (Irish) was \$1.06 per bushel. This year on same date the price was \$2.64. Last year the average price in the United States was 97.6 per bushel. This year on April 1, the price was \$2.35.

On April 1, last year the average price of corn in North Carolina was 90 cents per bushel. On same date this year the price had advanced to \$1.34. And the price of corn in Smithfield this week is \$1.50 per bushel.

The above shows something of the great advance in prices in the past year. The prices for the next few months will go higher and higher and it is the duty of every person who is farming to use his best efforts to produce all he can and help himself and his neighbor to help keep prices within the bounds of reason. Europe has got to be fed by outsiders while the war lasts and it will be one of the problems of America to do her part toward feeding the Allies while they fight the German foe. Every man who does all in his power to produce all the food stuffs he can will be regarded as a benefactor. This is a time for everybody to get to work in an effort to produce what is needed at home. Some folks will not produce all they need for themselves and others will have to help them. It is for this reason that strenuous efforts should be made for a tremendous crop of wheat, corn, peas, potatoes, sorghum, and everything that will help to feed man and beast. Should the war close any time this year there will still be a good market for all the surplus crops.

DISAPPOINTMENT IN KITCHIN.

The action of Democratic Leader Claud Kitchin in making a speech against the war resolution and voting against it in the House last week was a keen disappointment to his many friends throughout the country. That he was clearly within his rights, no one questions, but there are times when it becomes expedient for a man to forego his rights, and especially when asserting them will do neither him nor his cause any good. As Democratic leader, Mr. Kitchin is placed in an exalted position. The stand he takes is watched by the people everywhere. When he raises his voice on a great question the people sit up and take notice. It is for this reason that a speech by him on the question of going to war will have great effect. And it is again for this reason that his friends are sorry that he voiced his sentiments in the House against the administration measure at a critical time in the nation's history. There are those who agree with him but who feel that a time like this demanded that the leaders stand with the Administration against a foreign foe and not give voice to sentiments that may do the country no good in this trying hour. If Mr. Kitchin felt that he could not conscientiously vote for the war resolution, many there are throughout the country who would not have felt quite so much disappointed in him if he had only voted against the measure and not spoken against it. Mr. Kitchin is a big man. Everybody admits that. And it is because he is such a big man that his course in the matter appears all the more grievous. However, we are glad to believe that Mr. Kitchin will stand with the Administration in the prosecution of the war. Though he be against the war he will be found working and fighting if need be for the honor of his country.

WE AND THE WAR.

(By A. Vermont.)

There seems to be many misgivings as to the part the United States will take in the war. Let us sit down and reason.

First of all, we are at war not against the German people, but against a coalition of governments, who still uphold the outworn theory of the Divine Right of Kings. Thus for instance, in Prussia, to-day, the stronghold of Germany, not everybody votes. The vote is by classes. Only certain landed men have the right to vote. Similarly in the Reichstag, the Chancellor is responsible only to the Kaiser. In England the Premier is directly responsible to the People. The difference will be evident to every student of politics.

In all probability the nations will not treat with the house of Hohenzollern of which the Kaiser is the head. They would not treat with Napoleon the First. They banished the latter to Elba and after the period of the Hundred Days, they sent him to Saint Helena.

These facts being known, a change of policy in the German Government may bring the war to a sudden end. It is just as possible to see it end next week, as it is to see it prolonged many more months. A man who bets on peace is reasonably as safe as the man who bets on war.

It is sensible, however, to prepare for the worst and lay our plans as if war should be. This implies that we must be prepared to meet the higher cost of living.

Here is where the sane and safe man will do some thinking. Higher food, higher fuel, higher clothing all mean larger incomes or greater salaries. We either must produce more or spend less.

Wherein can our standard of living be changed? Do we reduce our luxuries? We are not made that way. Go to the stores any day and see for yourself. Are less luxuries sold? Wherein are we practicing economy? A man will complain of the high cost of things and turn around and spend two or three dimes on purely unnecessary luxuries.

As to the cost of production of things, there is right now before us the chance of making our gardens. And right here a word to the wise. Not every garden pays. Where all the work is to be done by hired labor, it may be wiser not to work the garden yourself, to let some one work it on halves with you. Our town is divided in half acre lots and most everybody can have his own vegetables.

I believe that gardening should be taught in the schools, just as much as geography and history and arithmetic. Gardening, sewing, cooking are all things that the children should learn. But, that may be discussed some other time.

As to the part we shall take in the War, that has been fully discussed by the newspapers. Our help will be that of money and ammunition. There is no danger, whatever of invasion. Germany and her Allies can not spare their troops to have them attack us. The first line of defense of the United States is the English fleet. The second line is our own fleet. Only after these have been defeated is a landing possible.

That we should guard our bridges and ways of communication is an elementary part of the part we must play. Troops may have to be shifted. It would be foolish to run the least risk, and our Government is too wise to allow any danger to threaten our means of transportation.

Let us prepare ourselves individually for war by economic living; let us further prepare ourselves by keeping our bodies in the best of condition. If the country calls us, that we may be fit to go. And for the rest let us believe that Providence still rules the world.

None of us knows the great outcome that will be after the end of this great trouble. There has, however, never been a night so dark, but what some brighter day has followed it.

A tool that unrolls a roll of paper and spreads it with paste as it is passed over a wall has been invented to enable amateurs to do their own paperhanging.

GAINS ON BRITISH FRONT.

Advance Over Considerable Front Near Louveral by Haig's Men Only Big Operation. Artillery Duels, Trench Raiding and Airplane Activities.

(Monday's War News.)

Except for an advance by the British over a front of nearly a mile and three-quarters north of Louveral, which lies about midway between Bapaume and Cambrai, artillery duels, trench raiding and airplane bombing operations have featured the fighting on the Western front in France and Belgium.

There was no infantry action Sunday on this front, the British having carried out their attack against the Germans Saturday night at the same time Gen. Neville's forces were penetrating German positions near Lombaertzyde, Belgium, and inflicting casualties on the defenders.

Berlin reports the repulse with heavy losses of French attacks Saturday at Laffaux, northeast of Soissons.

British airmen are continuing their fighting, bomb dropping and scouting operations over the German lines in France and Belgium. A foray 50 miles behind the German front was one of the exploits recorded for the aviators Sunday. Considering the results they have achieved in fighting, bombing and observations, the British airmen count the cost in the loss of airplanes a small one.

London reports that in naval operations off Zeebrugge, two German torpedo boat destroyers were torpedoed. One of them sank and the other was at least heavily damaged.

A landing by Russian troops on the coast of Asia Minor has been established from a torpedo boat in the Black Sea. The operation was carried out at the mouth of the river Termeh, 180 miles west of Trebizond, and a Turkish sailing vessels with valuable cargoes were captured by the Russians and taken to Trebizond.

The usual artillery duels are in progress in the Austro-Italian theatre. There has been no change in the situation on the Macedonian front. British aviators have dropped bombs on Teutonic allied positions in the Vardar river valley and at Chestovo, northwest of Lake Doiran.

CHICAGO PRICES THURSDAY.

The following dispatch giving an idea of food prices in Chicago, was sent out from that city Thursday and published in the daily papers:

With Government officials considering plans for Federal control of food supplies, prices continued to go up to unprecedented heights Thursday.

Wheat futures opened strong with May bringing \$2.02½ per bushel in the pit, the highest price since 1869. Corn and oats also opened strong and made good gains. Cash wheat ranged as high as \$2.11¼, which sales of cash corn went to \$1.30, a high figure for this generation.

Following the upward trend of the hog market provisions registered steady gains. May pork was \$35.35 and July \$34.85 per barrel, a gain of 20 cents each over Wednesday's close. May lard was up 10 cents and July 20 cents.

The hog market gained impetus after Wednesday's inactivity and closed strong, 25 cents higher. Top prices were \$15.75 per hundred pounds on the hoof. Pigs sold at \$14.25 per hundred. The cattle market was firm, beefs being quoted at \$15.15 on the hoof, the highest known.

Eggs retail from 36 to 39 cents per dozen, an unusual figure for this time of year. Large quantities are being placed in storage by speculators.

The Prices of Groceries.

The advances in the prices of groceries recently have been very rapid. From a leading salesman for a Richmond, Va., house we got the following prices on board cars at that place last Saturday:

- Rib side meat 20½ cents per pound.
- Pork loins, 27 cents per pound.
- Corn meal, \$3.10 per sack.
- Corn, 1.42 per bushel.
- Red Dog ship stuff, \$56.50 per ton.
- Other ship stuff, \$49.50 per ton.
- Beef, per carcass, 17 cents.
- Dressed pork, whole hog, 22 cents.
- Lard, 23¾ cents.
- Butter, delivered, 51½ cents.
- Prices advance every two or three days.

How Long Since the Crucifixion?

How long since Christ was crucified? Some of the ablest journals put it down as 1917 years. According to the accepted chronology of the Bible the Saviour was crucified in A. D. 30, which makes it 1887 years ago.

Love is never as blind after marriage as in the days when he is making sheep's eyes at her.

The pessimist is the fellow who is never happy unless someone else is miserable.



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COMING!

The Wake Forest College Glee Club will give a concert at the Opera House

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This is one of the best Glee Clubs in the State and always gives a good entertainment.

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Given under Auspices of the Woman's Club of Smithfield.

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