

# Mr. John T. Thorne Reviews The Nation's Present Cotton Situation

## Prominent Cotton Grower and Co-operative Leader Discusses Advancing Prices and Marketing of Cotton This Season.

In an interview yesterday, with John T. Thorne, president of the North Carolina Cotton Growers Co-operative Association, who is a master farmer and prominent grower of Farmville, Mr. Thorne predicted that the North Carolina farmers will receive approximately 10 per cent more for their 1941 cotton than they did for their crop of a year ago, despite an expected 32 per cent decrease in production.

Mr. Thorne based his prediction on an official government production estimate of 497,000 bales for the 1941 season, against a 1940 production of 732,000 bales for the State.

But even a 10 per cent gain in cotton income may be increased, he said, if farmers will collectively refuse to flood the market with their newly-picked crop.

"If farmers will not act too hastily and market their cotton the moment it is ginned," Mr. Thorne said, "there is a good possibility that their income from their 1941 crop may be further increased. Our government has placed a floor of 14.02 cents a pound on 7-8-inch middling gross weight, based on parity prices of 16.49 cents for August 1."

Whereas at one time over two-thirds of the American cotton crop was exported, our own mills are now consuming cotton at almost the same rate at which it is being produced, he said. "It is estimated now that only 10,817,000 bales will be produced in this country this year. Many leaders in the cotton industry express themselves as feeling that this will be the largest estimate announced this year, and with domestic consumption exceeding 10,000,000 bales annually, if we have only 1,000,000 bales of export business, we can readily see that there will be no further increase in carryover. In fact, it will probably be necessary to draw on the government's loan stock to meet the demand.

"I firmly believe," Mr. Thorne continued, "that if we cotton growers will place our cotton in bonded warehouses and hold it until next spring, we will get much more out of this crop than if we rush it to market as soon as it is ginned.

"Last fall I begged farmers not to sell their cotton because I was certain in my own mind that the price would advance. Those farmers who held their cotton have been richly rewarded, securing prices over and above last fall's prices of from \$10 to \$25 a bale and more."

Mr. Thorne emphasized the need for careful marketing of a crop that requires an entire year to produce. "The 'Re-Purchase Pool' of the Cotton Cooperative Association, of which I've been a member since 1922," he said, "offers to farmers the fairest and surest way to market their cotton than they have ever had before.

"I can deliver my cotton to the Farmville Bonded Warehouse, and if I need money at the time I can get a liberal advance. Mr. Williams, the manager, will take samples, forward them to the classing rooms of the Cotton Association in Raleigh, and as quickly as government-licensed classers can grade it, I am advised of the maximum advance I can get through the 'Re-Purchase Pool,' which equals loans made by the government.

"Then, when I am ready to sell, the Cotton Association will quote me a price, and if I am not satisfied with what the Association can get for me, I can get my same cotton back and sell it to my local buyer who will offer me more. All I have to pay the Association is 50 cents



JOHN T. THORNE  
President of the North Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative Association

a bale. If the Association sells my cotton for me at my request, I only have to pay an additional 25 cents a bale to cover the cost of delivering the cotton to the mills."

Quality and acreage yield is important, Mr. Thorne said, but "that is only part of the way. Until we market in a way to get the highest possible price the day we sell our cotton, based on grade and staple values, we have not taken the full step toward making cotton production profitable.

"Our government is doing everything it can and rightly so to prevent inflation, but we all know that if this war continues more of our land will have to be used in the production of food and feed crops, which may make it necessary to further reduce the acreage of our money crops. Therefore in order as farmers to get our share of increased in-

come, let's put our cotton in bonded warehouses and hold it for better prices."

"I want to again make a plea that we as farmers grow our home supplies first, and make cotton, tobacco and peanuts our clean surplus crops."

## Boy Scouts Appeal For United Front

We, the active members of the Boy Scouts of America, Farmville Troop No. 25, Farmville, North Carolina, appeal to the non-active members of said troop to rally to the call of service and make Farmville Troop No. 25 one of the best troops in the State.

Fathers and Mothers of non-active members of Farmville Troop No. 25, we intreat you to impress upon your son the importance of self-reliance, mental and physical development and character building—which are among things taught in our troops. There are several boys in our troop who seem to have lost interest, and to them we are calling, with a voice of appeal, as representative of American youth. There are many things we have done and can do to bring peace and comfort to suffering humanity, and if we fail in our duties in our youth, we will fail in our responsibilities as a man. Let us walk in unity and build a structure that will resist all evil and carry to our parents news of good tidings.

During the Month of February, 1910, the first Boy Scout Troop was organized in America; it was born in the bosom of wisdom and rooted in the hearts of American Youth, and, to-day, more than NINE-MILLION MEMBERS have answered its call of service; therefore, we appeal to you not to become careless, negligent and overlook your duties because our responsibilities are becoming greater every day.

FARMVILLE SCOUT TROOP No. 25

Defense Savings Bonds can be registered in the name of children as well as adults.

## Proper Sorting Pays Dividends

Raleigh, August 20.—There is no tobacco so poor in quality but what it can be improved through proper sorting.

That is the opinion of W. P. Hedrick, tobacco marketing specialist of the State Department of Agriculture, who asserted today that "farmers who adhere to the Agricultural rules of marketing their leaf this season will reap thousands of dollars in additional dividends."

"The large amount of poorly sorted tobacco offered for sale on the warehouse floors has prompted the North Carolina Department of Agriculture to extend aid to the farmers in the preparation of their crop for market," he added.

"North Carolina's leadership in the sale of fine-cured tobacco is due to the prominent place it occupies in the production of fine quality leaf and farmers can only maintain their position by properly handling and preparing their crop before it is placed on the warehouse floor."

"The problem of at least a part of the present day marketing difficulties must be solved at the farm. Growers should study the demands for the various grades and strive to produce tobacco that meets the buyers' demands. With cigarette consumption increasing and the demand for plug tobacco decreasing, adjustments from the types and grades used for chewing to those in demand for cigarettes."

"A movement toward improving the fine-cured sections is under way, and is now available on some markets in this State, that is, Government inspection of tobacco combined with current price quotations by grades. The Inspection Service together with the market news service, it is hoped, will improve and preserve the principle of the auction system and protect the seller."

Hedrick said that "tobacco correctly sorted is easily graded and bought," adding that "the grower, to command the best market for his crop should remember that:"

1. Tobacco should be in proper order before sorting begins. The proper amount of order is determined when the leaves can be handled without breaking or when they are pliable enough to open for examination to determine the grade. If handled too dry, injury will result from breaking or tearing and, on the other hand, if the leaves contain too much moisture, injury will result from discoloration or bruising and therefore, decrease its value on the sales floor.

2. Proper light is necessary to careful sorting. A north light is preferable. However, indirect light is the minimum requirement to distinguish color in any case. A grower should use the same precaution in sorting his tobacco the buyer does in buying. The crop should be sorted as nearly as possible in the same light as prevails in the warehouse.

3. No more grades should be made than is absolutely necessary. A normal barn usually can be sorted into three or four grades. Good average-size piles command more respect from buyers than a number of small lots; however, uniformity should not be sacrificed for size.


4. Strings, feathers, and straw are objectionable in tobacco and should be removed as the leaves are being sorted at sorting bench, rather than on the warehouse floor.

5. Many farmers do not realize the importance of color separation in sorting, especially in dividing lemon and orange leaves into different grades. Most domestic companies prefer orange tobacco, whereas the foreign companies lean to the lemon colors, therefore, when the colors are mixed a certain amount of bidding competition is lost on the sales floor. Off-colored leaves should never be mixed with true colors.

6. Length of leaves, where the quality is uniform, is an important factor only in the sorting of leaf grades. When sorting Lugs or Frimings, length is of minor importance, except where there is too much difference in the length to give uniformity of appearance to the "hand." Leaf grades should be sorted according to the length, quality and color.

7. The group division in the sorting of tobacco is of major importance because each of the groups is used for a different purpose in the manufacture of tobacco products and when mixed hurt the sales value of the particular lot or "pile" of tobacco. The order in which tobacco grows on the stalk forms the group division; the leaves or Lugs near the ground, medium bodied leaves or Cutters in the center; heavy bodied tobacco or Leaf and Tip at the top of a stalk.

8. Neat and careful handling bundles or "hands" bring a premium on the sales floor. Tobacco being sold at auction is naturally sold somewhat on appearance and the maker the hand is bought the more appeal it has to the buyer. The hand of a bundle should contain from 15 to 20 leaves with a 1/2 leaf from the same group of the quality and color. The hand should contain only one or two leaves of a different color, and the leaves should be sorted after having been first in 2-3 days by hand. This procedure prevents the loss from poor handling and sorting, and will thoroughly




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grows on the stalk from the lowest to the highest, that is, place the lowest grade of the Lug group first and so on if more than one group is being sold. Know your tobacco, sort and grade it properly, offer it for sale when it is in the best condition for market and follow the market news reports in your daily paper or over your radio.

**PREPARED**

Philadelphia, Pa.—When Aviatrix Connie Wolf attended an outdoor Robin Hood Dell music concert, she went prepared. A rainstorm sent some 5,000 persons scurrying for shelter, but Connie calmly unslipped her dress and presto, she was clad in a green bathing suit, in which she braved the elements.

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**Recommends Cowpeas In Tobacco Middles**

Cowpeas make a good crop to plant between tobacco rows at the time of the last cultivation.

The peas will not hurt the tobacco, says E. C. Blair, extension agronomist at State College, and they will produce a big crop for soil-conservation purposes.


He suggested that the cowpeas be planted in each tobacco "middle" with a corn planter.

While growing they will help conserve moisture and hold the soil in place. After the tobacco is harvested, they may be left on the land or turned under to add organic matter and nitrogen to the field.

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