

THE CAROLINA UNION FARMER



Vol. 5. No. 36.

GASTONIA, N. C., SEPTEMBER 7, 1911

One Dollar a Year

A CALL TO BATTLE--THE FIGHT IS ON

(BY J. Z. GREEN)

I don't mean for you to shoulder your old musket, for that's not the kind of fighting that needs to be done. It's a *business fight* that we are in, and we must either stand up like full grown men and do our duty, or we must surrender like cowards and weaklings to a gang of commercial pirates that have conspired to take this year's cotton crop, and cotton seed included, at a price *below cost of production*. The time has arrived for *plain talk* and that is why I put my name at the head of this epistle. There are some things that need to be said and I want to assume personal responsibility for saying them.

There is less cotton carried over from the last crop than has been in sight since the Civil war. I have seen men on the road eagerly hunting "spot cotton" for spinners, for the simple reason that spinners can't make good yarns out of "futures" written upon tissue paper. The reason there is less visible supply of cotton now than has been in sight in any year in a half century exists in the fact that for two years just past we have had two *abnormally short crops*, something that never occurred before. Two years of high-priced cotton has brought to the South a period of prosperity never before witnessed in this country. It wouldn't take many years of such prosperity to make the South commercially independent. *With a wise use of our natural monopoly of cotton production*, it wouldn't take many years to transfer the financial centre from New York to New Orleans, and the only way for the gamblers and financial conspirators, under leadership of Morgan and Rockefeller, to prevent this change in favor of the South is to *hammer down the price of cotton*. They can't cry down the price of cotton successfully without government aid, and the government played into their hands again this year by sending out a false, misleading, premature crop report that indicated a fifteen-million-bale cotton crop. This first report came out before some of the cotton seed had sprouted in the fields. It is a well-known fact that nothing like an accurate estimate of the cotton crop can be made until frost comes in the South, and there is absolutely no reason why there should be any government report before the middle of October, except to afford an opportunity for cotton gamblers to play the game at the expense of the men, women and children in Southern cotton fields. The government does not give publicity of this kind to the busi-

ness of the manufacturing classes of this country, by making estimates of the probable output of their various productive enterprises, and I would like for somebody to give me even a puny little excuse for this criminal meddling with the farmers' business. Even an accurate estimate of the crop which farmers have to sell can not be defended by the ethics of business which allows the professional classes to have business and professional secrets and which in all history has permitted the business classes to have business secrets, but when a government not only persists in giving publicity to the farmers' business, but gives a kind of publicity that snatches from the pockets of the tillers of the soil more than two hundred million dollars and puts it into the pockets of European and American cotton spinners, it shows a favoritism that borders well-nigh upon the criminal.

But students of modern governmental problems, who have watched the course of events, are not surprised that our national government should lend aid to the "special interests" of this country, because predatory wealth has owned our national government for nearly half a century, but when I see reports from men in the employ of our State department of agriculture that are on the "bear" side of the cotton market, it makes me wish heartily for these men to keep their mouths closed unless they can talk in the interest of the Southern farmers who pay their salaries and travelling expenses. I have seen it reported in the press of the State that certain employees of the State department of agriculture of North Carolina, who have been engaged in farmers' institute work, give it as their intelligent(?) opinion that there will be an average crop of cotton in North Carolina, and when I see hundreds of acres in the Piedmont section that will not produce enough cotton to pay for the fertilizers used, this thing just grates on my nerves, and I can't help it. Why should men who are paid by farmers get on the side of the bear speculators by giving out such reports? The State could afford to double the salaries of such "reporters" if they would sign a contract to keep silent and not let the public have their estimates. Hon. Chas. S. Barrett never made a more significant utterance than when he said: "A great many people are, with honest motive, striving to help the farmer produce more goods at less cost and labor. They really want to help him. And then there are a few who are urging him on to production that

prices may drop and everybody get a lift—except the farmer." No one appreciates the enthusiasm of the folks who are doing what they can to teach the farmer how to produce *more stuff* than I do, but when that enthusiasm strains a point to report *results* by giving to the press premature big crop estimates, which European and American spinners and bear speculators would be willing to pay a big price for, I feel like registering a protest. The crop estimate of last week, as sent out by the national government, was nearly two millions bales less than the first estimate. The next report will, no doubt, be still lower.

Hold on to your cotton and cotton seed. Don't be stampeded. There never has been a time in history when Southern patriotism and Southern manhood needed to assert itself as it is needed now. Under the leadership of the Farmers' Union we won the fight in the panic of 1907. We have a better fighting chance now than we had then, and we can win the fight—we will win the fight, if we act the part of grown men! Southern prosperity hangs in a balance. The farmers' interests are directly affected, and all other legitimate interests are indirectly concerned. The Southern merchant, banker or professional man who refuses to line up in support of the *holding movement* is a traitor to the South's financial interests and isn't entitled to the respect and confidence of his neighbors.

From State Business Agent.

Dear Bro. Members:—I wish to announce that fall prices on fertilizers and materials are ready to send out to our members. Am glad to tell you prices are lower than ever before. Will be glad to furnish these prices with other Union price lists and literature. Write for same, but in doing so, write under seal of your local, or make yourself known. Stand loyally by the Union, purchase your fertilizers through your State Business Agent, by doing so you help to build up our Trade System, and at the same time save money for yourself. If it was not for the Union and our strong co-operative trading system, fertilizer would be from 3 to 5 dollars higher per ton. Therefore it is your duty to buy your fertilizer through the Union and help keep prices down. I am glad to serve you at any time.

Yours fraternally,

J. R. RIVES,
State Business Agent.

Sanford, N. C., Aug. 30, 1911.