

REPORT ON COTTON

Government Statement of the Crop of the Past Season

A FULL RECORD OF BALES GINNED

There is no Guess Work About the Figures This Year, as Gin Records Have Been Kept.

Washington, Special.—The Census Bureau report on the cotton ginned from the 1902 crop up to and including December 13, last, is 9,311,835 bales, irrespective of shape or weight, equal to \$,905,503, according to the commercial counting. This is 90.2 per cent of the crop.

The above statistics of the quantity of cotton ginned to December 13th, are expressed in bales as pressed at the ginneries, irrespective of shape or weight. In the total of 9,311,835 bales, there are 812,661 round bales averaging from 240, to 300 pounds each. Counting such round bales as half bales, as is the custom in the commercial community the total ginned to December 13 is 8,905,503. The ginners have not yet returned their bale weights for this crop, but 40 cotton compress companies distributed throughout the cotton States advise the office that they compressed an actually weighed from the growth of 1902 up to December 13, 1,060,434 bales, averaging each 503.8 pounds gross. Using this weight as the average for square bales and for round bales 253 pounds, the average obtained from the weight returns of the home offices of the companies operating such patents, the equivalent number of 500-pound bales ginned to December 13th is found to be 8,974,722. Deducting the weight of the bagging and ties (22 pounds per square bale), the number of equivalent 500 pound bales, net weight, is found to be 8,600,758.

By two most thorough canvasses this season, 32,528 ginneries, active and idle, have been located and reported, of which number 30,194 have been operated for this crop. In their December canvass the local special agents ascertained the quantity of cotton ginned from the beginning of the season to and including December 13th, and also secured from each of the active ginners his estimate of the quantity of cotton to be ginned by his establishment after December 13. The estimate of the percentage of the crop ginned is based on the estimates of 626 canvassing agents, who were instructed to confine their estimates to the territories canvassed by them and to the knowledge gained therefrom. One estimate, therefore, serves as a check against the other. According to the estimate of the ginners 10.2 per cent of the crop remained to be ginned after December 13, while, according to the estimate of the canvassing agents the percentage was 9.8. Applying these percentages and the general average bale weight obtained from combining round and square bales, the crop, according to the ginners, is 9,969,300 bales, and, according to the canvassing agents 9,954,106 bales of an average gross weight of 500 pounds. The Census Office assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of these estimates. This report will be followed by a third and final report at the end of the ginning season, about March 16th, which will distribute the crop by counties, segregate upland and Sea Island cottons, and give weights of bales. In giving out the report, Director Merriam said:

"It seems important to again state in connection with these statistics of the cotton crop of 1902, that is, so far as they relate to the bales of cotton ginned to December 13 last, they involve no guess work at any point, no estimate by anybody, and no uncertainty of any kind. They represent the

exact number of bales of cotton that have passed through the ginners. All that has been done by the Census Office is to make and verify the additions. Anybody is at liberty to examine the whole process adopted by the Census Office in handling these returns. The returns represent the ginning operations of every ginning establishment which has handled any portion of the growth of 1902."

The report is made at a time so near the close of the ginning season as to

permit a very close approximation of the actual growth of the year, in 500-pound bales. It seems probable that the final report, to be issued about March 16th next, will not show a variation of 50,000 bales from the estimates of the total crop which are submitted from two sources in connection with the figures of cotton ginned to December 13th.

This is the first time in the history of the American cotton crop that definite and exact knowledge of the season's growth has been placed in possession of the public at so early a date, or within a date five months as early. The Census Office is already perfecting plans for more frequent reports in connection with the crop of 1903. Its first report will cover all the cotton ginned of the year's growth, up to and including September 1. This portion of each year's crop is now assigned in the commercial estimates to the production of the previous year as the commercial cotton year ends September 1.

The second report will include all cotton ginned up to and including October 18th, 1903, the date of the first report for 1902, enabling an exact comparison in the two seasons. The third report will cover the cotton ginned up to and including November 18th, a period of the utmost choice to the growers and manufacturers. The fourth report will represent the cotton ginned to December 13th. The fifth will be the final report.

It will be seen that this plan contemplates practically a monthly report during the cotton ginning season of 1903. If it shall be found that still more frequent reports are desirable, the Census Office will be prepared to make them for the crop of 1904.

The census method of ascertaining the annual cotton crop can be gradually extended and developed with comparatively little increase of expense so as to include statistics of the cotton seed oil industry, the acreage annually devoted to cotton, and the mill takings and consumption of cotton, thus making the reports a complete showing of the production and consumption of domestic cotton.

The Colorado Senatorship.

Denver, Special.—The senatorial situation in Colorado is becoming decidedly complicated and should present declared plans be carried out the contest over the selection of a successor to Senator Henry M. Teller, which will begin in earnest with the convening of the Legislature on Wednesday next, will, to say the least, be exciting and more than likely spectacular. The solid support of the Democratic wing of the Legislature for Teller is still maintained, while the Republican strength is parcelled among four candidates, of whom former Senator E. O. Wolcott is the most conspicuous.

Destructive Fire.

Olympia, Wash., Special.—The building occupied by the Capital Brewing Company, as bottling works, was almost completely demolished Saturday night by a slide of sand from the bluff back of the building. The bluff is about 50 feet high and was almost perpendicular with the side of the building. The office building is in immediate danger and the officials of the company are expecting it will be crushed at any moment, as small slides are constantly coming down.

New Railroad.

New Orleans, Special.—The New Orleans and San Francisco Railroad was chartered here, with a capital stock of \$5,000,000. Local capitalists have become associated with officials of the St. Louis & San Francisco road in the enterprise. The object of the corporation is to build a line of railroad from New Orleans by way of Arkansas to Chicago. The organization is in connection with the entrance of the Frisco into New Orleans.

Mascagni Acquitted.

Chicago, Special.—Signor Mascagni, the composer, was arraigned in court Tuesday on a charge of embezzling \$5,000 from his former manager, Richard Heard, of Boston. After hearing both sides Justice Hurley immediately dismissed the case. The court room was filled with Italians who applauded vigorously as Mascagni, thankful and smiling, left for his hotel.

Fire at Toxaway

Brevard, N. C., Special.—Thursday night the general store building and contents belonging to Dr. Fisher, at Toxaway, was entirely consumed by fire. Loss \$3,000. Insurance \$1,200. Origin of fire unknown.

"Editress" Complimented.

There has been no deterioration in the Emporia Gazette since William Allen White went to Idaho and left Mrs. White to get out the paper.—Kansas City Star.

OPERATORS' REPLY.

Markle and Company File an Answer Before Strike Commission

THE OWNERS TELL THEIR STORY

Their System of Dealing With Their Employees—Not Required to Trade At Company Store.

Philadelphia, Special.—The answer of G. B. Markle & Company, independent coal operators, to the demands of the miners, was made public here Sunday. The answer will be submitted to the Anthracite Coal Strike Commission, which re-assembles in this city tomorrow. It was written by John Markle, managing partner of the firm. The statement says the firm employs about 2,400 men, and many of its employees reside in the villages of Freeland, about two miles distant, and Hazleton, about seven miles distant, from Jeddo. The lessees erected and own the improvements upon the property, including breakers, stores, shops and tenement houses. It says the company always has maintained two physicians for the men, deducting 75 cents a month from the married and 50 cents a month from the single men therefor, and paying it over to the physicians without charge or deduction. This arrangement was not compulsory upon the men or families. Stores for the sale of general merchandise and of miners' supplies have always been maintained upon the property, and have been, and are an accommodation to the men and their families. The men have never been required to deal there.

It says in September, 1897, a committee of miners presented certain demands to the firm. An agreement was then in existence between the company and men to settle differences by arbitration. The company replied to the demands and received no further communication from the miners. Work at the mines continued uninterrupted until the latter part of 1900 when John Mitchell made his headquarters at Hazleton and endeavored to organize the Markle employees.

In September, 1900, another list of grievances was furnished the firm, which offered to arbitrate, but the men struck. Between 1900 and 1902, many requests were made for the correction of alleged grievances which were all taken up and considered and acted upon, "but neither individually nor collectively, orally or in writing," says the statement, "did the men make any complaint in reference to the collecting of dues for the doctors or the priests; nor was our attention called to any defect in respect to ventilation, or unfair treatment at the store; nor as to the size of the cars; nor as to the slope cleaning; or the docking, until April, 1902; and we had every reason to believe that, taken as a whole, the men were entirely satisfied with the conditions of their employment. Objection is also made that the full 10 per cent. advance was not given. The manner in which the advance was computed was repeatedly explained to the men and it will be shown by the expert accountant that it was correctly calculated."

The statement goes into the matter of eviction of men from the firm's houses after appointment of the arbitration commission, and says the 12 men evicted were so treated because they had been active in preventing men from resuming work. No attempt was made to collect from them arrears of rent which had accrued during the strike. The evicted men in 1901, it is stated, each made net earnings ranging from \$350 to \$1,000. Specific denials are made of the statement before the commission alleging harsh treatment of various individuals whose names had been given.

Against American Cotton.

Paris, By Cable.—It is said that Jules Stegried, Richard Warrington and Felix Meline, as well as other deputies and Senators, and a number of leading cotton manufacturers, have formed a Colonial Cotton Association, with a view to resisting the American cotton monopoly, by aiding the development of the growing cotton in the French colonies and especially in the Soudan.

AFTER THE HOLIDAY RECESS

Congress Gets Down to Work Once More.

When the Senate reconvened Monday after the holiday recess, few Senators were absent. Almost immediately a discussion began regarding the coal situation. Mr. Lodge prefaced his introduction of a bill suspending for 90 days on coal, with the statement that in New England there was much distress owing to the scarcity of coal and that unless relief was afforded at once, a number of factories would have to shut down. He was aware, he said, that such a bill should originate in the House of Representatives, but it was his desire to call the attention of the finance committee to the state of affairs. Mr. Culberson followed with a resolution providing for the removal of the duty on anthracite coal and asked for its immediate consideration. Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, objected, saying it was his understanding that there was no duty on anthracite coal. Mr. Vest took exception to this statement and said that the board of general appraisers and President Roosevelt had decided that such a duty is imposed. Mr. Vest also introduced a resolution on the subject. Another resolution bearing on the subject of coal, introduced by Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, referring to the charge of W. R. Hearst that there was an illegal combination among certain railroads to control the shipment of anthracite coal and calling upon the Attorney General for the evidence which it was alleged had been secured by him, caused a lively debate, in which several Republican Senators vigorously resented what they thought was a reflection on the Attorney General.

The discussion continued until 2 o'clock, when the resolution went over being displaced by the omnibus statehood bill. Mr. Nelson, of Minnesota, addressed the Senate in opposition to the bill and favored single statehood for Oklahoma and Indian Territory. At 4 o'clock the Senate adjourned.

House on Military Bill.

The House resumed its work Monday after a recess of two weeks, but within two hours the machinery broke down for lack of a quorum. The bill to create a general staff in the army was the issue. An attempt was made to pass it under suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority of the military committee endorsed it, opposition developed because of the hurried manner in which it was proposed to pass the bill.

When the bill was called up, Mr. Richardson, of Tennessee, the minority leader, said he did not believe such an important measure should be considered by unanimous consent and he objected.

In reply to a question by Mr. Bartlett, of Georgia, Mr. Hull said that the general of the army at present was a myth. Mr. Hay, of Virginia, a member of the military committee, in support of the bill, detailed the chaotic condition which existed during the Spanish war, owing to the conflict of authority. This condition, he said, could not exist under the pending bill. "I would like to ask," said Mr. Steele, of Indiana, "if this bill does not practically eliminate the lieutenant general from command. The lieutenant general is not chief of staff under this bill."

Mr. Hay: "He could be detailed as commander of the army in time of war if the President chose to detail him."

Mr. Steele: "The President can assign any office to the command of the army now, subject to this title, the choleric, petticoat army in Washington."

Mr. Hay: "Do you mean the President is subject to that?"

Mr. Steele: "That is what I mean." The roll-call resulted 108 to 59, not a quorum. A call of the House developed the presence of only 150 members not a quorum, and at 2 o'clock the House adjourned.

White Elephants Not White.

A perfect white elephant is not white but merely of a lighter hue than ordinary. His eyes are pink, with a yellow iris; its hide a light brownish red, and hair red.

Indecision is the reef on which enterprise is wrecked.

SUIT FOR DAMAGES.

Claimed That Many Were Kidnapped and Sent to the Mines.

New York, Special.—Suits have been brought by 22 residents of this city, who claim that during the recent coal strike they were decoyed to the mines in Pennsylvania by agents of the Erie road and of the Pennsylvania Coal Company. Damages for \$50,000 for each, amounting to \$1,100,000 in all, are sued and the attorney for the plaintiffs consulted with an assistant district attorney today about bringing the matter before the grand jury to be sworn in next Monday. The plaintiffs claim that under pretence of doing work for the railroad and coal company they were decoyed to Hoboken, where they were locked in a car and carried, against their will, to the coal regions in Pennsylvania and compelled to act as strike-breakers under threats of "being turned over to the fury of the miners." The men say they finally succeeded in making their way back to the city, but declare that on their way home they had narrow escapes from being mobbed.

An officer of the Erie Railroad said that no complaint had been served as yet on the company. He said he had no doubt that the companies would be able to successfully defend any suits that might be brought against them. The company, said this officer, is always extremely careful to explain to the men the conditions under which they are employed.

Pacific Cable Opened.

Washington, Special.—The following cablegram was received at the White House at 2:30 this morning, dated Honolulu, January 1, 9:33 p. m.:

"The President, Washington:

"The people of the territory of Hawaii send their greetings to you and express their gratification at the inauguration of telegraphic communication with the mainland. We all believe that the removal of the disadvantage of isolation will prove a strong factor in the upbuilding of a patriotic and progressive American Commonwealth in these islands.

(Signed) HENRY E. COOPER, "Secretary of Hawaii."

The President's response was as follows:

"White House, Washington, Jan. 2, Henry E. Cooper, Secretary of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii:

"The President sends through you to Governor Dole and the people of Hawaii his hearty congratulations upon the opening of the cable. He believes that it will tend to knit the people of Hawaii more closely than ever to their fellow citizens of the main land and will be for the great advantage of all our people.

(Signed) GEO. B. CORTELYOU, "Secretary to the President."

To Fight Trust.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Special.—Wholesale hardware dealers in this city have received advices from the headquarters of the East Tennessee Hardware and Implement Dealers' Association to the effect that a policy has been adopted for the dealers in the association to refrain from signing the new contracts presented by the International Harvester Company of America, otherwise known as the trust. A fight against the allied concerns has been announced here by the local representatives of the McCormick Company, who state that they will transfer their allegiance to another concern not in the trust.

Seaboard Changes.

Norfolk, Special.—Vice President and General Manager J. M. Barr, of the Seaboard Air Line, refused to confirm or deny the report that Major F. K. Huger, superintendent of the second division of the Seaboard, would be named as general superintendent of that system, to succeed N. D. Maher, resigned. It is generally believed, however, that he will be appointed. Major Huger and Mr. Barr were together in conference for some time.

Another Victim Dies.

Hot Springs, Special.—Joseph Kinney, the third victim of the turf exchange explosion in this city Christmas eve, died from his injuries. Almost daily facts come to light of additional injured, swelling the list to more than 60. Two more victims are still in a serious condition. R. C. Chambers, of the Canadian racing circuit fame, is considered to be out of danger.