

PREPARING FOR THE BOLL WEEVIL

Last year the boll weevil crossed the line from South Carolina into the Southern counties of North Carolina. If this State is to be safe, and not sorry a few years hence, it is necessary to know how to face the weevil.

The Robesonian will present facts about the boll weevil and how to meet it in a series of articles, of which this is the first.

1. What to Expect.

The boll weevil is now present in the southeast corner of North Carolina, and judging by experience in other States, it is estimated that it will travel north at a rate of about

70 to 80 miles a year. It is expected to reach the northeastern corner of North Carolina in the fall of 1922 or 1923, and afterward in the years 1924 to 1927 to fill in the remaining territory of the entire cotton area of this State.

The first year after invasion is one of light injury, because the weevil is not yet established in all fields, according to Franklin Sherman, State Entomologist, who says that the second year after the first invasion is the real test.

"The fact that the first year after invasion is one of light injury is dangerously misleading. Thoughtless and hasty farmers in the territory already invaded will say this spring when preparing for cotton, 'Well the weevil is here, now we will see what it amounts to.' The fact that 1920 is the first year, will normally be one of light injury will lead these same men to say next fall: 'See, we have made a good crop with the weevil among us, it isn't nearly so bad as it has been described.' But this year, 1920, will not be the year of real

proof in that corner of our State, 1921 is the first year that can give the real test.

Amount of Damage Varies.

"The year of first real test, the second year after first invasion by the weevil, may be one of unusually heavy damage by it, or one of unusually light damage, for just as there is no fixed regularity about its spread, just so there is also no fixed regularity about the amount of damage done by it.

"In some years in some localities it has decreased the yield per acre, when cultivated and tended by former methods, as much as 80 or even 90 per cent. In other years the loss in the same localities may be as low as 10 or even only 5 per cent, again, there is no fixed regularity about it."

Mr. Sherman's estimates of the 10-year average loss from the boll weevil after it has been fully established, assuming that present methods of cultivating cotton are continued, give an average loss of 25 per cent in the southeast corner, the warmest part of the coastal plain; 20 per cent in the northern part of the coastal plain; and in the upper or higher part of the coastal plain a loss of 15 per cent. In the piedmont the loss is expected to vary from 5 to 10 per cent.

Losses May Wipe Out Profits.

In commenting on these estimates, Mr. Sherman says: "Let us take the upper coastal plain, that area for which I am predicting a normal loss of 15 per cent in the yield assuming present methods of culture. Does it seem to you that farmers can easily stand this loss? If a farmer in this area is now producing cotton at a net profit of 15 per cent on his total investment, then, theoretically, this loss of 15 per cent will exactly cancel his profits, leaving his cotton an absolute profitless crop. I venture the guess that the majority of men who grow cotton in this area do not clear 15 per cent on their investment, or have not averaged it over any period of years, and it is averages that I am talking about. Much less can growers lower down in the coastal plain afford to ignore their expected loss of 20 and 25 per cent. If the loss averages these figures it will be a heavy blow.

"Those who can produce cotton so economically as to offset the loss from weevil can continue to produce cotton in spite of weevil. Those who cannot, cannot continue. So it is a test of the skill and resource of the farmer.

The Trying Re-adjustment Period.

"One of the most important factors in the situation is the feeling of panic and alarm that strikes into a neighborhood during the first three to five years after the weevil gets fully established. That is the trying re-adjustment period. When the farmer who has not carefully laid his plans in advance has planted his usual acreage of usual varieties in the usual way, on the usual credits, and then finds at picking time that he has far less of a crop than usual, he is seized with panic. This state of mind affects laborers, tenants, landlords, merchants and banks. It is a state of psychology in dealing with a new big problem. It is here that county agents, banks, merchants and all kinds of economic organizations can contribute toward holding the morals, if you will of the community at a high level.

"Sober sense and shrewd judgment will win out, as they always have. To meet this condition we must tell our people frankly that the weevil problem is serious, but not insurmountable, that it has been met and surmounted in all the States to the South of us, even those where the weevil will probably always be more destructive than with us."

CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

Purpose is to Bring Together Representative Citizens to Confer on State's Most Important Interest, the Education of Its People.

To the People of North Carolina:

At the request of His Excellency, Governor Thomas W. Bickett, the Honorable E. C. Brooks, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Julius I. Foust, President of the State College for Women, and many prominent citizens, educators and others, I am, as United States Commissioner of Education, calling a conference on education in North Carolina, to meet in Greensboro, April 29 and 30 and May 1, 1920.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together representative citizens, men and women, from all parts of the State; State, county and city officials, farmers, laborers, merchants, manufacturers, home makers, lawyers, physicians, ministers, editors, educators and others, to confer on the State's most important interest—the education of its people. Theme of the conference will be "The Crisis in Education in North Carolina and How to Meet It."

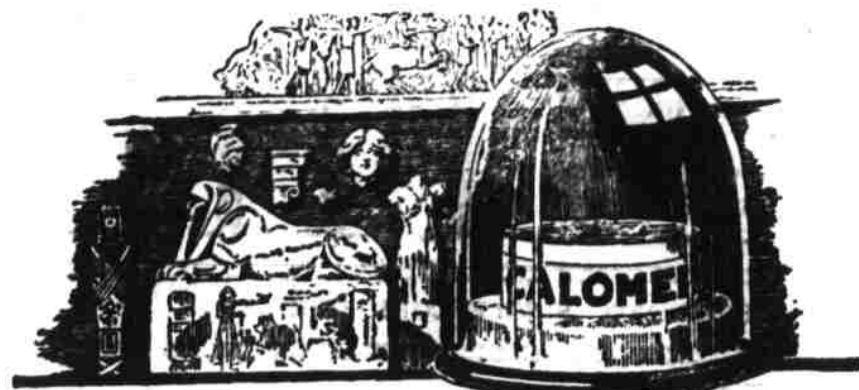
The discussions will relate directly to the pressing problems of education in North Carolina, the principles upon which they are to be solved, and the formulation of a program of action looking toward legislation.

To the end that the conference may have the largest possible practical results it will consist of general sessions, with set speeches alternating with periods for meetings of the several sections into which the conference will be divided for the consideration of specific problems in education.

Special invitations will be sent to certain individuals to participate in the conference, and to institutions, societies, clubs, and other organizations to send accredited representatives. But all citizens who are interested in the educational welfare of the State are cordially invited and urged to attend.

The general program, to be issued soon, will state the time and place of the general and sectional meetings of the conference, most of which will be held on the grounds of the North Carolina College for Women.

Yours sincerely,
P. P. CLAXTON,
Commissioner.



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19 Lv. Lumberton	7:35 a. m.	14 Lv. Lumberton	10:40 a. m.
13 Lv. Lumberton	6:25 p. m.	20 Lv. Lumberton	10:04 p. m.

No. 13 connects at Hamlet for points North and South, No. 19 connects at Hamlet for point North.

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ANNOUNCEMENT.

Dr. R. L. Pittman announces that he now confines his work to diagnosis and treatment of surgical diseases. Also that Dr. W. P. McKay is associated with him. Dr. McKay's work is confined to diseases of the eye and refraction. Office at present in Judd building opposite postoffice. Offices in Pittman hospital after March 1st. Fayetteville, N. C., Feb. 1920.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION.

Having qualified as administrator of Joseph Rezan, deceased this is to notify all persons holding claims against said estate to present same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of Feb. 1921, or this notice may be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make payment to the undersigned.

Dated this Feb. 5th, 1920.

A. R. McEACHERN,
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The more valuable the crop, the more exacting the farmer should be as to the class of fertilizer he uses. An inferior fertilizer may jeopardize his entire crop since the materials used in such a fertilizer may either leach out before the crop can utilize it or fail to become available in time for the needs of the crop. Many a farmer has lost a valuable crop from this cause, while others have suffered staggering losses from shedding and premature development.

Our GOLD BOND BRANDS offer absolute protection and security against such losses, and insure quick, steady growth, well fruited stalks and an early, healthy maturity. As corn fertilizers, they are without an equal, and they are made to hurry the cotton crop to early maturity to beat the boll-weevil. We stand behind them just as we stand behind our SUPREME and PACKING HOUSE BRANDS.

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