

# King Cotton Must Fight To Retain Throne; What To Do About It Is Widely Debated

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The outlook for cotton in the United States appears to be favorable for the immediate future but the time will soon come when it will have to wage a real fight to retain its throne. Kings are toppling throughout the world, or have already abdicated, and what will happen to cotton and what should be done to solve the cotton problem is being debated from the halls of Congress to the smallest hamlet.

From 1920 to 1930 the United States supplied about 60 percent of the world's cotton. At the beginning of the war it was supplying only about 40 percent. While supplies of cotton in the U. S. are exceptionally large, we are faced with a textile shortage. At present the armed forces are accepting tent twill, for example, where they are unable to get as much duck as they need. Supplies of textiles for civilians are short and will probably remain so until after the Jap is beaten.

It is reported that the textiles most suited for use in the Pacific are different from those which were used in Europe and Africa. Therefore, the demand for such textiles by the armed forces, as they switch zones of operation, may be much larger in the coming months than at any other time during the war.

As to the supplies of textiles for civilians, we may come to a point where we will measure patriotism by frayed collars. Last year's shirt may be just the thing to wear to the best dinner party or the Sunday School picnic.

## EUROPEAN CONDITIONS

Port facilities for handling cotton in Europe have been extensively damaged. Many railroads are wrecked. Estimates place the damage done to cotton mills at about 15 percent, with German and Polish mills showing the greatest damage. There is also a scarcity of fuel and this

will be a limiting factor. Thousands of homes in the textile mill areas have been destroyed. The number of available workers has been reduced by the war, especially in certain countries.

Before the war Continental Europe consumed about 5½ million bales of cotton. Since 1940 little or no cotton has been able to reach these countries and they have had to depend on rayon staple fiber, which amounted to the equivalent of about 600,000 bales of cotton before the war.

The production of this competing staple increased tremendously during the war years and for 1942 it was estimated as the equivalent of about 3 1-3 million bales of cotton for Continental Europe. Since it requires more power to manufacture a given quantity of textiles from rayon than from cotton and since fuel is such an item, the shift in the immediate future may be back to cotton.

## U. S. AND CANADA

Domestic consumption of cotton in the United States and in Canada has recently shown a slight decline, due principally to labor difficulties. The War Manpower Commission has given U. S. mills a high manpower priority and every effort is being made to hold production up to 9.9 million bales consumed during the 1943-44 season.

Since workers in the textile industry are among the lowest paid in the nation, it is very difficult for the industry to attract workers, especially during a period of labor shortage.

Some mills are considering a third-shift operation but this often involves premium pay and may not be undertaken.

## WORLD CONDITIONS

As to world statistics on cotton, the Department of Commerce of the U. S. says that "because of war conditions and difficulties in obtaining dependable world statistics such data are being omitted from reports for the

time being." As to imports and exports of cotton and lint, it further states that "in the interest of national security, the Department of Commerce has discontinued until further notice the publication of current statistics concerning imports and exports of cotton."

Cotton in consuming establishments, in public storage, and at compresses in the U. S. totaled approximately 12,275,000 bales on May 31, the supply being about 600,000 bales larger than in 1944 on the same date. This supply is to be compared with the consumption of 9,900,000 bales during the 1943-44 season.

Much of this cotton is reported to be low in grade but just the same it has its effect on the market. It will be remembered that after World War I, the boll weevil did tremendous damage and prices were relatively high because of small supplies of the staple. The situation at this time is entirely different and, too, cotton will face increasing competition from rayon staples.

Every grower should carefully consider all of these factors and plan to fully cooperate in every worthwhile movement for the betterment of cotton.

Before the war there were about 57 countries actively producing cotton and the U. S. was gradually losing some of its markets. It is safe to say that all of these countries will actively compete in cotton production after the war is over, and some have suggested that it may be necessary to have world agreements on cotton.

This matter is further complicated by the great increase in the production of rayon staple in practically all countries producing large amounts of textiles.

**COTTON IN NORTH CAROLINA**  
All agricultural agencies are seriously considering the cotton problem as it relates to the states east of the Mississippi and

especially to cotton grown on small farms. Some have gone so far as to predict that the Southeast will go out of the production of cotton, while others maintain that growers in this section can compete with other areas by producing better quality cotton, more cotton per acre, and cotton at a cheaper cost per pound. They point out that cheaper production costs can be achieved through improved seed, through better fertilization, cultivation, and harvesting methods, and through mechanization.

At any rate, more attention is being given cotton by more varied interests than ever before in its history.

Much is being done to create new uses for cotton and it is probable that such work, coupled with the advances suggested by the Extension Services and the Experiment Stations, may lead us to a solution of a problem that most vitally affects the future of the South.

Chowan County is reported to have only about one-third as much acreage to cotton as three years ago.

# Combined Tobacco - Sweet Potatoes, Proved Profitable

A combination of tobacco and sweet potatoes proved to be a profitable venture last year for L. J. Sanders, who operates a portion of T. J. Heckstall's Indian Woods Farm in Bertie County.

After Sanders build a combination tobacco barn and sweet potato curing house in accordance with a blueprint prepared by State College Extension specialists, he and Heckstall laid plans for the growing of tobacco and sweet potato crops.

The State College Extension Service and the State Department of Agriculture were accepting orders for certified Louisiana Porto Rico seed potatoes in the Winter of 1943, and Heckstall placed an order for 30 bushels. Sanders took them, treated and bedded

them for producing plants. From this bedding, he transplanted three acres, and Heckstall filed an application with the North Carolina Crop Improvement Association to certify the crop produced in 1944.

A sweet potato harvesting demonstration was held on this farm in 1944 when agricultural experts from State College and the State Department of Agriculture demonstrated improved practices in digging, grading, and curing sweet potatoes. After experimenting with varying lengths of spacing in the drill, Sanders found that he produced more Number 1 potatoes and fewer jumbos from the ten-inch spacing. He used his barn for curing the crop. In March of this year the stored crop of potatoes was inspected

and it will take time for them to recover from this condition.

Question: How can I rid a cemetery lot of blackberry briars? Answer: Dr. Roy Lovvorn, in charge of forage crop investigations for the Agricultural Experiment Station, suggests that you try either chlor-arsenite or ammate, but he is not sure that they will do the job. The ammate should be used as a spray one pound of the powder to one gallon of water. He says that you will probably need to repeat the application of either of these materials in about a month.

There have been miracles of production in this war, including miracles in food production, but hard work is still ahead, says Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson.

Cotton acreage is relatively small in Wilson, Pitt, Beaufort, Chowan, and Bertie counties this year. These counties are large tobacco and peanut producing areas.

**FARM QUESTIONS**  
Question: What can I do for some crippled shoats?

Answer: The trouble is evidently due to a lack of minerals. Jack Kelly, Extension swine specialist, suggests the feeding of a mineral mixture of 10 parts of ground limestone, 5 parts of steamed bone meal and 2 parts of salt. This should be kept in a box so that the shoats can eat it whenever they wish. Kelly points out that the mineral mixture acts slowly. The shoats have developed the crippled condition over a period of months



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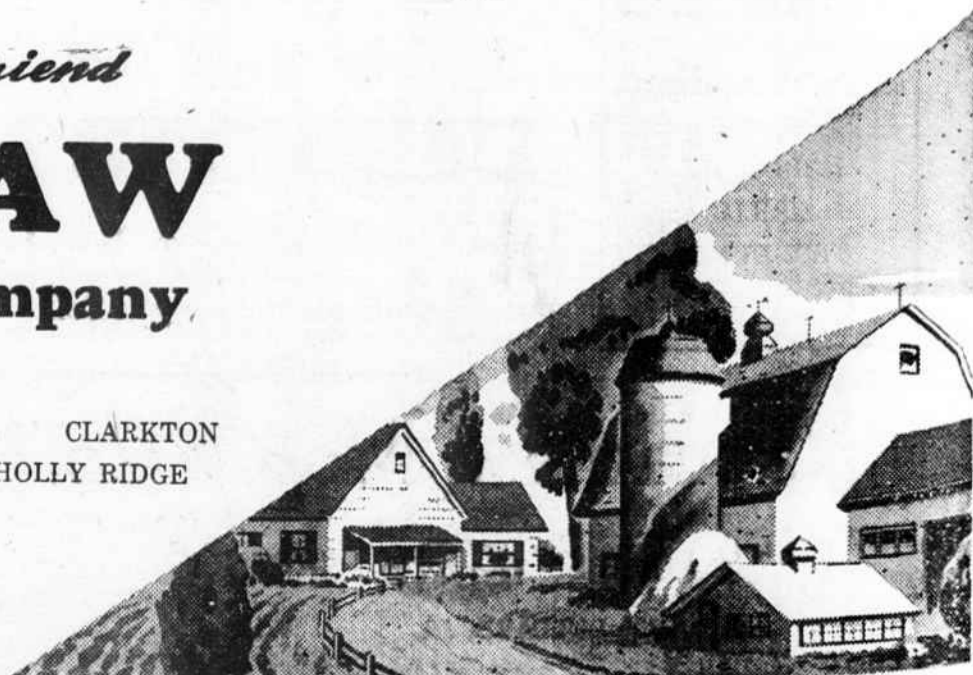
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