

THE NEXT COTTON CROP

Ninety-five per cent. of southern cotton producers are no longer interested in the present price of cotton beyond what its effect may be on the price of the next price and its present exerting influence on the price of mules, supplies, guano and other commodities needed on the farm at this time.

I have been actively engaged in farming twenty-five years and this is the first time I ever sold a bale for fifteen cents per pound. Cotton is high and the supply is so limited, while the demand is so heavy that it is hard to tell where the market will stop in its upward flight before August.

That a tremendous mistake will be made in wildly increasing the acreage is hardly needed to be argued. We possess neither the labor nor the facilities for increasing the acreage over the

STATEMENT.

National Fire Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn. Condition December 31st, 1903, as shown by statement filed.

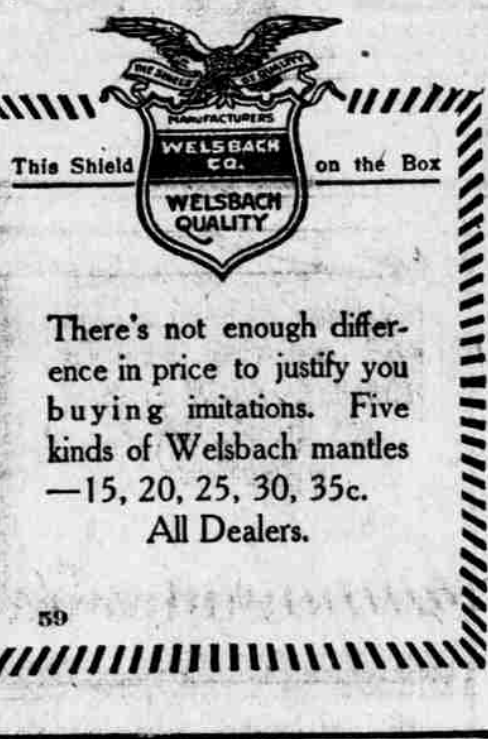
Table with financial data: Capital paid up in cash \$ 1,000,000.00, Amount Ledger Assets 5,727,193.19, Income—From Policy-holders \$3,979,101.45, Disbursements—To Policy-holders \$2,020,276.15, Fire Risks—Written or renewed during year \$486,612,055.00, ASSETS: Value of Real Estate (less amount of encumbrances) \$393,650.17, Mortgage Loans on Real Estate 617,715.00, Value of Bonds and Stocks 4,783,228.00, Cash in Home Office and deposited in Banks 336,779.80, Agents' balances, representing business written subsequent to Oct. 1, 1903, 371,250.57, Agents' balances, representing business written prior to Oct. 1, 1903, 475.47, Total, \$6,503,099.01, Less Assets, not admitted, \$9,270.42, Total Admitted Assets, 6,463,828.59, LIABILITIES: Losses and claims unpaid \$417,118.11, Unearned Premiums, 3,173,451.55, All other Liabilities, Reserve Fund for Contingencies 50,000.00, Total Liabilities as to Policy Holders, 3,640,569.66, Capital paid up in cash, 1,000,000.00, Surplus as regards Policy Holders, 1,823,258.93, Total Liabilities, \$6,463,828.59, BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 1903: Fire risks written, \$31,215,308.00; premiums received, \$31,727.50; losses incurred—fire, \$23,741.93; paid, \$19,970.11; losses now unpaid, 5,236.27. President, JAMES NICHOLS. Secretary, B. R. STILLMAN. Home Office, 95 Pearl street, Hartford, Conn. General Agent for service, Insurance Commissioner, Raleigh, N. C. Business Manager for North Carolina, Manager from Home Office.

Witness my hand and official seal the day and date above written. JAMES R. YOUNG, Insurance Commissioner.

LEGAL ADS

North Carolina, Mecklenburg County, in the Superior Court. Mathias Boulevard, Plaintiff vs. Hattie Boulevard, Defendant. NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS.

The defendant above named, who is a non-resident of the State of North Carolina and cannot, after due diligence, be found therein, and whose place of residence cannot, after due diligence, be ascertained, will take notice that the above entitled action has been commenced in the Superior Court of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, by the above named plaintiff against her for the purpose of obtaining a divorce a vinculo matrimonii, and said defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear at the next civil term of the Superior Court of said County of Mecklenburg, to be held on the second Monday in March, 1904, at the court house in said county, in Charlotte, N. C., and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, a copy of which will be filed in the office of said Court according to law, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This January 29th, 1904. J. A. RUSSELL, Clerk Superior Court.



There's not enough difference in price to justify you buying imitations. Five kinds of Welsbach mantles—15, 20, 25, 30, 35c. All Dealers.

28,000,000 acres planted in 1903. No farmer can be criticised for entertaining a deep-seated desire to increase the number of bales per acre when cotton is worth in the world's market from \$60.00 to \$75.00 per bale. But we cannot increase the yield per acre with increased acreage, and do so advantageously to the producer. We must at this time seriously consider the best ways and means to increase the yield per acre.

HOW TO DO IT.

We cannot afford to reduce the usual acreage of spring oats, corn, peas, and other side crops which help out the supply bills at home. It would be suicidal to do so even in the face of twenty cents cotton. Then if we are to restrict our acreage to that of last year and at the same time carry out our wishes for increasing the number of bales per acre, how is it to be done? We must work hard and begin early to prepare the land better this year before planting than we did last year.

We must plow as deep as possible while the preparation is being made. After the land is bedded, take a good harrow and run it across the beds to pulverize clods and level the land. We must use better grade guano and more of it, at least 300 to 400 pounds per acre. Cotton seed and stable manure is better than guano, but that supply is too limited to depend upon. We must be sure that we have good sound seed to plant that are as little mixed with other varieties as possible. We must plant as early as the weather will permit and get a soon start.

The crop must be chopped to a stand quickly and plowed over every ten days if possible until "laying by" time. Cotton ought to be hoed twice and plowed from five to six times. Now this kind of preparation, fertilization and working cannot be properly done if the acreage is larger than can be handled easily. Too many acres in cotton means poor preparation, neglect of corn and other crops, poor cultivation and disappointed yield at the end of the season. Increased acreage will be a powerful factor to depress prices and also to reduce the average yield. Farmers should lend every energy to make an average of half a bale of cotton to the acre on every farm where proper facilities for working and fertilizing can be had. We ought to make an average of ten bales to the acre and yet raise all of the needed supplies at home. This plan would give a cash income next fall of at least \$600 to the plow in case the crop is properly marketed, and not sold in arush during October, November and December.

OPPORTUNITY OF LIFE TIME. Southern cotton producers now have the opportunity of a lifetime to control the cotton market next season and maintain prices at present high levels. We are beginning to reap the rewards that we have been fighting for since 1900, when the Southern Cotton Growers' Protective Association was organized all over the south and a demand was made for better statistical information, that was reliable and a crusade made in the interest of producers marketing the crop slowly. Cotton has been annually advancing since that time and can be kept at high prices in the future.

The worry now depends upon our bureau reports and gives but little or no credence to the private estimates which a few years since were issued for selfish purposes and which controlled the market for low prices. Such men as Neil and others of his class have been put out of business, and in the future we will get the truth and the opportunity of the private estimates that manufacturers can well afford to pay from 12 to 14 cents for our cotton and make a good profit at present prices for dry goods. It was the knowledge that the crop was not large enough to meet the demand that caused prices to advance, and that knowledge was foreshadowed by the United States government report and was sufficiently reliable to cause the world to believe it. Speculators could not have advanced the price in the face of a full supply, but present prices are due to the law of supply and demand. Even with a 12,000,000-bale crop the next season's prices ought to be maintained at from 10 to 12 cents per pound. If the farmers permit the prices to get back to 8 or 9 cents now, it will be due entirely to their willingness to continue to stand up and be robbed of their legitimate profits on this magnificent staple crop.

As president of the Southern Cotton Growers' Protective Association, it is my intention to go into all the principal cotton growing states within the next six months and have a grand rally in each state, along the line from North Carolina to the Brazos river in Texas. If I can secure the necessary co-operation we should have at least one big meeting in each state where the entire situation can be fully discussed and plans adopted for co-operation in the selling and maintaining prices next season.

We could meet at the capitals in each state, get reduced rates of railroad fare, have large delegations from every county and provide for a fight that can and must be won by the producers. Now is the time, the year 1904 must witness success for our efforts, or the people who have so long dominated the markets of this country to the detriment of the producers will once more get into control. I am willing to give freely all of the time necessary to cover the whole south on this matter

this year, and all that I ask is the active co-operation of all who are in favor of the movement.

We ought to hold one general meeting in every state, such as we held in 1901 and 1902. Two general meetings ought to be held in Texas. Then afterwards meetings ought to be held in all of the 750 cotton producing counties. What every farmer needs now most is information as to how to best market his crop to make it bring the highest price. We can fix the price for the next crop and the mills will pay it. All that we need is business-like co-operation all along the line and break up the old system of deluging the market in September and October with cotton at whatever price is offered.

Let us get together and stand shoulder to shoulder like men who appreciate the value of a valuable product being raised by their labor and which the world must have. I would like to have letters from farmers on this subject. Certainly now is the time to win if we ever hope to do it. Every farmer can now be posted on the entire situation and with correct knowledge of actual condition there is no need for us to work any longer in the dark. I want to begin this campaign in the different states this summer and make every effort to get the active co-operation of every farmer, merchant and business man generally, who will enlist for high prices next fall.

SPINNERS' ORGANIZING. The spinners all over the world are organizing now to get prices back to 8 cents next fall. Shall we stand idly by and do nothing to strike down the hand that would rob our families of what they are justly entitled to as a reward for their long years of labor and hard suffering? We need no compact or organization or any dictatorial boss. What we want to do is to get together and discuss the situation, learn the truth, know the exact value of our staple and then let each man handle his crop as a business man ought to handle his affairs. This is an inter-state movement, and must have co-operation in all the states to be made effective. Every farmer who has any suggestions to make on this line, write your views for publication in this paper, and let us begin to start the ball in motion. It is none too soon to begin now, because time is flying and the selling season for the next crop will soon be here. Let everyone raise his supplies and make all the cotton possible. Then let us make a united effort to maintain high prices throughout the years 1904 and 1905.—Harvey Jordan in Atlanta Journal.

WONDERFUL NERVE.

Is displayed by many a man enduring pains of accidental Cuts, Wounds, Bruises, Burns, Scalds, Sore feet or stiff joints. But there's no need for it. Bucklen's Arnica Salve will kill the pain and cure the trouble. It's the best Salve on earth for Piles, too. 25c. at all Druggists.

Forcing a Decision.

Governor Mickey, of Nebraska, that staunch Methodist, was visited a few days ago by an escaped inmate of the Grand Island Soldiers' Home, armed with a huge paper-knife. Brandishing his weapon, he declared that Senator Dietrich, now under indictment for bribery, is innocent, and compelled the Governor to express the same view. The Governor was agreeing with everything he said when Capitol employes rushed in and overpowered the lunatic.

The Governor was quite right, though the late Dr. Trumbull would probably have declared that he was lying. It is not a lie to deceive an insane man to prevent him from injuring himself and others. A man brandishing a huge knife forced his way into the presence of the Duke of Wellington, and thus addressed him: "I am Apollyon, and am sent to kill you." "What!" said the duke, "you see that pile of letters; I can't stop now. Come again when I have finished them." The man had politeness enough to withdraw, and was soon taken in custody. Mr. Spurgeon once found himself face to face with a lunatic, who had gotten into his private room, and who said to him: "I am sent by God to do everything you wish." Said Spurgeon, with the wit that never failed him, "I wish that you would go away," and he records that the fellow had sense enough to do it.

However, it hardly does to agree all ways with the deranged. After Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, a clergyman, dressed in clerical attire, who thought he must agree with everything a patient said, visited an asylum, and as he entered one of the wards, an inmate, drew near and said, "What a terrible thing this is that our President should be killed!" "Yes," said the minister, "it is." "And then think, too, that they should beat Secretary Seward almost to death." "Awful!" said the minister. "And then that they should kill General Grant, after all that he has done." "Yes," said the minister, "that was worst of all. The general had risked his life on many a battlefield for the Union." "And then to think," said the insane man, "that the wretches should come on to Plymouth Church and slay Henry Ward Beecher, while he was administering the communion, so that his blood mingled with the wine." "Yes!" said the minister, "that was a most sacrilegious thing." "Now here," said the lunatic, "you look like a minister, but you are the biggest liar I ever met."

The insane often have their mother wit left, and amuse themselves at the expense of those who stare at them as if they were wild animals.—New York Advocate.

A VERY CLOSE CALL.

There will be special music at the services Sunday evening and the services will be well worth attending. "I stuck to my engine, although every joint ached and every nerve was racked with pain," writes C. W. Bellamy, a locomotive fireman, of Burlington, Iowa. "I was weak and pale, without any appetite and all run down. As I was about to give up and take a bottle of Electric Bitters, and after taking it, I felt as well as I ever did in my life." Weak, sickly, run down people always gain new life, strength and vigor from their use. Try them. Satisfaction guaranteed by all Druggists. Price 50 cents.

Advertisement for Uneeda Biscuit. Includes illustrations of a man in a top hat and a sailor, and text: 'A Stock Broker would define fine common soda crackers (usually damp and soggy) as "WATERED STOCK." A Sailor would define Uneeda Biscuit (Always dry and light) as a little "PLEASURE SMACK." are preferred stock—everybody's choice—and everybody finds a smack of pleasure in their goodness—always clean, dry, light and crisp in an air-tight package. 5c NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

Advertisement for Hindipo. Includes text: 'FREE! FREE! 1,000 BOXES of the famous Kidney Cure and Nerve Tonic. "HINDIPO" To Be Given Away SATURDAY. In order to demonstrate the wonderful merits of the above remedy, we want every one suffering from Kidney or Bladder Troubles and all Nervous Disorders such as Nervous Debility, Nervous Exhaustion, Sleeplessness, Dizziness, Cloudy Brain, Lost Vitality, etc., to come to our store and allow us to present them with a regular 50c. box of Hindipo, the New Nerve Tonic and Kidney Cure. Cut this ad out and bring to our store. R. H. JORDAN & CO., THE DRUGGISTS, CHARLOTTE, N. C. BANDRUFF AND SCALP BRUPTONS. Mrs. Grier's Real Hair Restorer IS A QUICK, POSITIVE AND PERMANENT CURE. Free from oil, cantharides and all injurious matter. Pleasant in its application, imparting a delightful odor to the hair. ONLY 50c. A BOTTLE. ASK YOUR DRUGGIST FOR IT.

Advertisement for Cascarets. Includes text: 'FREE! Write to us for Free! Trial Package of Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills, the New Scientific Remedy for Pain, Also, Erysipelas, Eczema, Our Specialist will diagnose your case, tell you what is wrong, and how to right it, free. DR. MILES' MEDICAL CO., LABORATORIES, ELKHART, IND. I have suffered with piles for thirty-six years. One year ago last April I began taking Cascarets for constipation. In the course of a week I noticed the piles began to disappear and at the end of six weeks they did not trouble me at all. Cascarets have done wonders for me. I am entirely cured and feel like a new man. George Kryder, Napoleon, O. Pleasant, Palatable, Positively Taste Good. Do Good. Never Sickens. Cakes of Grape, 10c. Do Good. Sold in bulk. The genuine tablet stamped "C.C.O. Guaranteed to cure or your money back." Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago or N.Y. 50c. ANNUAL SALE, TEN MILLION BOXES

Advertisement for Sun Cured Tobacco. Includes text: 'RAISED IN THREE COUNTIES USED THE WORLD OVER. Pure Sun Cured Tobacco is raised only in about three Counties in the World, Carolina, Louisa, Fluvanna, Va. Brought to, Manufactured and Sold in Richmond, Va. Supply always limited—the best of the crop goes in GRAPE PURE VIRGINIA SUN CURED PLUG TOBACCO. Manufacturers of 50 years experience have brought Sun Cured Tobacco up to the highest Standard in GRAPE. 10 cents a Plug Not Made by a Trust. UNION MADE. R. A. PATTERSON TOBACCO CO. RICHMOND, VA.

Advertisement for Gram's Standard Railway System Atlas. Includes text: '1904---Gram's Standard Railway System Atlas The only business Atlas—Has 75,000 Changes and Latest Official Census. Complete Business Edition, 560 pages. Price \$10.50. It is the only Atlas that shows Railway Systems in colors. It locates and names every Postoffice. It names Towns, not Postoffices, and tells you where to send mail. It names every place that has a name and tells you the location. It shows you what Railroad a Town is. It shows you by what Express Company to ship. It shows whether Town contains one or more Banks. It shows you whether a Town is a Money-Order Station. It shows you whether a Town is a Telegraph Station. It tells you whether a Town is a County Seat. It tells you Population of Counties. It tells you Population of Cities and Towns. It is a necessity as a reference work for the Counting House and Library. George F. Cram, MAPS AND ATLASES, 552-554-556 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill. COCHRANE SHOW-GASE CO. CHARLOTTE, N. C.