

The Farmer's Forum or Monthly Digest

Edited by J. N. BIGHAM

Look at Conditions Now And Consider What is Best to Do; Says Moore

Written Especially for the Farmers' Forum.

We are right at cotton planting time, will we take a look at conditions prevailing now and consider what is best to do?

The price of cotton is lower than it has been in twelve months. Our home cotton mills can not sell their product. It does not seem to be a question of price, but an actual fact that there is no demand for the products of our mills.

These are thoughts the cotton grower should take with him to the field and talk them over with his mule as they work along preparing for the planting of cotton.

The farmer might tell the mule that the report is out that within 10 per cent of as much fertilizer has been sold in North Carolina as was sold last year. What is it to be used for? It was not put under oats because there was but a small seeding of oats in this state. If all the fertilizer sold already is to go under cotton, that means a very much larger acreage than last year.

The farmer might say to the mule that the New York Cotton Exchange people are saying the crop for this year will be the largest ever planted. The mule will not understand how the New York folks know what we are doing. Some of us farmers do not understand this, but it is a fact all the same and we should tell our mules about it.

We might tell our mule that corn, hay, meat and truck are in great demand and each article selling at a high price. When the mule learns this, he may persuade some of us to look for a better sale product than corn and some that carries more profit than growing cotton does.

Mules are not as idiotic as town folks think they are. They are a good sort of companion and one of

the best places for a man to think out loud, is when the man is following a clear-headed, bidable mule.

The writer has a very high regard for a good mule, but the price of the critter is a matter to think about. Some of us might consult our mule about trading him off for a mare and raise a mule to sell. Certainly there is money in mule coats, good money.

On a great many farms there are good mules but no milk cow. The farmer might ask the mule to tell how the farmer's wife can make calves, chickens and other stock with no milk or cream. The mule may not care anything about the pie, cake, but the wife does and the old man always eats his share, when his wife sends to the neighbor to get a little milk to make such things.

A good cow on a farm is the best use money can be put to.

The land owner who rents to "croppers" could improve both the cropper and the land by furnishing each cropper with one or more cows. The increase could be divided the same as crops from the land. The landowner would be benefited. Many hand owners furnish mules to the tenant. Why not give them brood mares? Let them raise mules and when sold divide proceeds on same basis as crops are divided? Would not this plan tend to hold the good tenants for longer time?

That was a fine body of farmers in our court house on Wednesday. I am personally acquainted with nearly all of them. They are men who can make the Farmers' Union a great blessing to their community. They are the men who are foremost in movements for good in their respective counties. I was pleased to see so many of such farmers on a visit to our city.

C. C. MOORE.
Charlotte, N. C., April 3.

WHITNEY CO. PROPOSED PLAN.

Details of Scheme Presented by A. O. Brown & Co.

New York Journal of Commerce.

A proposition providing for the reorganization of the Whitney Company, now in the hands of receivers, has been presented to bondholders by Edward F. Buchanan, of A. O. Brown & Co. Mr. Buchanan stated in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000 cash to the company and that his company represented about half of the \$5,000,000 Whitney Company bonds. The proposition provides for the formation of a new company with \$5,000,000 7 per cent non-cumulative preferred stock, \$5,000,000 common stock, \$5,000,000 first mortgage 5 per cent 20-year bonds and \$5,000,000 6 per cent second mortgage 60-year income bonds. Present bonds are to be surrendered for 50 per cent of their face value in income bonds, and a part of the preferred stock will be allotted to all bondholders participating in the agreement. A large part of the common stock is to be allotted to the present holders of the \$19,000,000 Whitney Company stock.

The first mortgage bonds are to be issued to provide funds to complete plant at not less than 80 per cent of their face value. All present bondholders subscribing for the first mortgage bonds shall receive a bonus of 50 per cent in income bonds. The value of the plant in its present condition is about \$2,000,000, and it would take at least \$2,000,000 to complete it. The company has large holdings in North Carolina, and was organized for the purpose of utilizing the power of the Yadkin river.

THE MAN AND HIS JOB.

By Herbert J. Haggood.

Brains are at a premium the world over. Good money stands waiting for the man with ideas and ability, at all times, everywhere. The bottom may fall out of the stock market, prices may go all to pieces, crops may be poor, and money scarce. But even under such conditions, the right man can sell his brains at a good price. There is always an insatiable demand for the man with the right brains.

Some days ago an employer whose very name is a synonym of success, speaking to one of his managers, in regard to a stenographer who had just been hired, asked "Has he any brains?" This is the first, last and foremost thing that an employer wants to know about his employees. There are millions who labor, but only a few who think, and employers throughout the whole world are paying good money for the man who has the brains and who knows how to use them.

The German emperor once conferred upon Goethe a title that placed him dangerously near the nobility, but the master of German literature brushed the honor aside, and curtly informed those who happened to congratulate him that the title was not worth the paper it was written on, that his only title to nobility consisted of his natural endowment from God—his brains, his character and his capacity for work.

A tramp has no more use for a cake of soap than a train announcer has for a course in elocution.

The Turkey—"You are dressed to kill, aren't you?" The Peacock—"Well, that's better than being killed to be dressed."



GERMAN COTTON MILL PROFITS

Large Dividends Declared by a German Factory at Bamberg.

Counsel Wilhelm Bardel, in advising that a cotton spinning and weaving mill at the German city of Bamberg is declaring an annual dividend of 27 1/2 per cent on its capital stock, gives the following account of this mill's prosperity:

This concern, which now consumes annually about 25,000 bales of American cotton, is thereby the best customer of the United States in this consular district. The preliminary annual report by the board of directors of the mills show how, by judicious and timely investment in the raw material, large profits were gained in a rising market, so that a fair profit would have been realized had the demand for yarns and finished textiles, most plain sheetings and shirtings, been less pronounced than it proved to be during the past year. Owing to the great scarcity of labor in the textile branches at times this brisk demand had to be met by extraordinary efforts, but it was met successfully. Even now this factory has orders ahead for yarns and textiles to keep it going in full force until next October, and inasmuch as they are fully covered in raw material at comparatively low figures, the prospects for another successful year are bright.

The net profit of the Bamberg cotton mills for the year 1907 was \$366,768. On this amount the directors propose to apply \$53,597 for workmen's pensions, for extraordinary deduction for wear and tear of machinery and other matters, and after declaring a dividend of 27 1/2 per cent on all their stock, amounting to \$556,000, making the sum of \$235,620, they will put the remaining, viz., \$17,641 to the reserve fund. During the last 22 years this concern has not lost one cent in bad accounts.

Picked-Up Codfish.

Wash enough salt codfish to fill a cup when faked. Pick it apart, removing bones and membrane. Cover with cold water and let it heat gradually to the simmering point. When ready to serve drain off the water and cover with hot cream or with a cupful of white sauce. Cook one rounded tablespoonful of flour in one of butter, melted, add gradually one cupful of hot milk, a dash of salt and pepper and then the fish. Just before serving add one beaten egg, and stir until the egg is blended. Garnish the dish with toast points, or slices of bacon or minced sweet green pepper or hard boiled eggs halved lengthwise.—The Delineator.

ABOU BEN ADHEM.

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase)

Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,

And saw within the moonlight in his room,

Making it bright and like a lily in bloom.

An Angel writing in a book of gold,

Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem hold,

And to the presence in the room he said:

"What writest thou?" The vision raised his head,

And with a look made all of sweet accord,

Answered: "The names of those who love the Lord."

"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"

Replied the Angel. Abou spoke more low,

But cheerily still; and said, "I pray thee, then,

Write me as one who loves his fellow men."

The Angel wrote and vanished. The next night

It came again with a great awakening light,

And showed the names whom love of God had blessed—

And, lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

—Selected.

The wise man is thankful for what he has and for a lot of things he hasn't.

NEED OF STRONG COTTON GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Written especially for The News' Farmers Forum.

Clinton, N. C., April 3.—If ever there was a time in the history of this country when cotton growers were in need of organization it is now. It ought to be apparent to all that to try further to do it alone and unorganized will mean bankruptcy. If things were left to a normal condition, with the present short crop on hand, the value of cotton would be at least 15c per pound. But instead of that it is nearer 10 and dropping every day. Now what has brought about this unnatural condition. They tell us that one of the causes is the money panic. If this was so wheat and corn and oats would be affected also but they are not. They are as high or higher than they have been in years. Cotton alone of all the great farm staples seems to be affected. They tell us again that another cause is because the American mills cannot sell their output. This is exceedingly strange when we hear nothing from the English, German and other European mills to this effect and they have loaded up on cotton at least ten dollars a bale higher than what it is now bringing. Why is it that the American mills haven't as good a chance to sell their output in the markets of the world as the European mills have, especially when they have the cotton fields at their door. Their excuse last fall was that the reason why they could not buy cotton then was the scarcity of money owing to the money panic. Now they say that they are overstocked with goods. Why don't they follow the example of the European mills and get out into the markets of the world and sell those goods? It looks to me that if the European mills can pay 13c a pound and freight across the ocean and still make money that the American mills could make at least expenses when they can get it at least two cents a pound cheaper and save the freight. It is a queer state of affairs, Mr. Editor. In the past we had wide prosperity and a billion dollars in new loans in the United States treasury we have a money panic. With the European mills making money paying thirteen to fourteen cents a pound and the American mills can't make a red penny paying 10 cents a pound with the freight thrown in.

They told us in the past that the reason we did not get a good price for our cotton was overproduction; they tell us now that it is underconsumption. So whichever way we turn we are between the "devil and the deep blue sea." Whether we produce much or little our condition is the same and so long will it remain the same if we continue to allow others to do our thinking and acting for us. Setting the price on our great staple and we walk up like lambs dumb before their shearers, yet open we are in our mouths. Now how is the best way for us to set about to remedy this state of affairs and make cotton raising a paying business? The answer is plain—by organization. What should the organization teach? First, that the first great principle that underlies all successful farming is a fell corn crib and smokhouse. That upon these two things hangs the whole law and gospel. Conform to this and the cotton acreage question is settled. Second, it should teach better baling and handling of cotton. That a great money loss it is to throw such a valuable article out into the weather and let it rot from sheer neglect and carelessness. Such careless handling brings our cotton into bad repute abroad thereby lessening the demand. Our cotton should be carefully ginned and carefully handled and if this policy was strictly carried out the demand for American cotton abroad would be greatly enhanced. We produce the best staple in the world for making

cloth and its careful handling should receive more consideration on our hands. We lose millions every year by such neglect and carelessness and it reflects seriously upon us as a business people. Again, all past experience has shown how unbusinesslike it is to continue to follow the old plan of selling cotton in small lots from wagon or cart. By this method the farmer loses from a quarter to a half cent a pound. It would be just as easy for him to establish the warehouse system and sell in bulk. If the warehouse system the manufacturer would find it a great advantage over the present method of buying from the different cotton exchanges. Because by the warehouse system the manufacturer would have delivered to him exactly the grade he bought. As it is now when he buys through an exchange there are a great many different grades that can be delivered on the same contract. In other words the cotton exchanges as far as practical purposes for manufacturing go are almost useless. As now constituted they have degenerated into "gambling halls" where men buy that which they have no intention of receiving and sell that which they never expect or intend to deliver. So you see that the cotton farmer, if he is wise will organize his forces just as others are doing. Self preservation is the first law of nature and if others arm the cotton farmer must arm too or wear the yoke. Which will you do Bro. Farmer it is up to you. There are many other reasons why they should organize but I will reserve them for another article.

Very respectfully,

S. H. HOBBS.

Editorial Comment

SEED-BED.

There is a striking analogy between the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Each are influenced by three prime forces—an inherent bent to go back to the wild, heredity, and environment. It is assumed that the farmer has before this time selected the very best seed possible. The variety of seed selected whether of corn or cotton being settled, it is of the last potential influence we wish to speak—environment, which simply means the surroundings, circumstances and conditions under which the man, plant or animal may develop.

If you have spent some time and good money in procuring good seed, remember that no matter what the breeding may be, from the moment that life begins the environment begins to effect the progeny.

This is the law of life. Plants like animals must have a house to live in. The house for the baby plant must be fashioned out of the upper ten inches of surface soil. If you have been thinking about this all along as you watched the furrows turn from the plow, the reason for plowing will have become more apparent and the work have a fascination rather than being a drudgery. It is somewhat difficult to describe in words the proper condition for an ideal seed bed. It should be porous but not loose; firm but not hard nor consolidated; closegrained but not run together nor adhesive. The breaking up of the soil into granules with the pressure of the disc and smoothing harrow brings close together without destroying them. The soil must have a mealy, crumbly texture. It is in this environment the plants make their best development. Such a seed bed will hold the water, not as water is held in a dish but rather as it is held by a sponge. In such a soil too, beneficial bacterial life finds its most favorable environment and the mineral nutrients it contains are readily reached and absorbed by the fine hairlike roots of the plant. It is a well known fact that this innumerable bacteria that make their home in a mellow, nicely pulverized soil perform important work in preparing it for the higher plant's life.

We can hardly lay too much stress on the importance of finely pulverized, crumbly soil for a seed bed for while the soil grains should lay close together, there must be circulation of air within the soil.

Make Home Supplies in Abundance--Thoughts For Thinking Farmers

Written especially for The News' Farmers Forum.

Many exhortations have recently been made on this text, "Cut Down the Cotton Acreage." That is a very good text, but farmers pay little attention to the exhortations. Suppose we change it somewhat and let it be—"Make Home Supplies in Abundance." When preparation is made for a large corn and pea crop with a view to a large acreage sown in small grain next fall, the cotton acreage will then take care of itself. Let every farmer plant for 150 bushels of corn to the horse. Then he should plant peas, sorghum and potatoes in abundance, so that he would have some to sell. When he does that he will have fine horses or mules, good milk cows, fat hogs and plenty to eat the year round. A farmer in that condition can hold his cotton or sell it, as he pleases. There is no need to independence for the farmer except through larger grain crops and more cattle and hogs.

During the last three months there has been little plowing done in the piedmont country. It is too late to use disc and two-horse turn plows. Clay should never be turned up when it is wet. The fact is it requires more to make a first-class two-horse farmer than it does for a legislator. Any sort of a man can make a passable legislator, but it requires constant thinking, clear judgment and good executive ability to make a good farmer.

Here we are at the beginning of the planting season. What little preparation that has been made is superficial. All work has to be done in a hurry. Nice theories that would work out when weather conditions are favorable have to be thrown aside. The plan of preparing and planting one field will not suit another. The implements in use this year will be the early sowing ones next week. That is where the wise, thoughtful farmer excels the careless one who never thinks.

Nine-tenths of the farmers over-crop or under work. In the early spring they are full of hope and energy. When the June showers and grass come they see their mistake. When one is about four days behind his work and keeps that way he falls short in the yield. A lively crop of crab-grass in four

showery days will use up as much plant-food as the crop of corn or cotton will take up in three weeks. When one plants more than he can cultivate well he loses the benefit of half his fertilizer. We often suggest to our neighbors to apply one-third the fertilizer at planting time and the balance after the cotton and corn are brought to a stand and all the first crop of grass killed. The plant-food in that second application will all be taken by the crops. My neighbors say—"Well, that's a good plan, but we have no time to stop to put in fertilizer in June." Ten acres properly fertilized and cultivated will make more than fifteen half worked.

Last fall we exhorted farmers to sow oats and wheat. More than half of them said—"I have no land ready till I pick out my cotton." So it was in this section. The consequence is that very little small grain was sown. The same condition will exist next fall for unwise farmers will plant all the cotton and peas and then crumble because volunteer hands do not go in and pick it. The reason that farmers have no land for small grain is that they do not understand a rotation of crops. Let the corn, pea and sorghum land be followed by small grain, and that by peas. If peas are scarce and high this year, plant in rows 30 to 35 inches apart, and cultivate twice. They will make a fine crop of vines and peas. The cultivation should be level so that the mower will run over them smoothly.

Our limited experience with the velvet bean is that they are a fine land restorer but not as good for hay as the cow-pea. But if it is desirable to prepare a field for small grain, plant two or three of the velvet beans in hills three feet apart and they will cover the land with vines before frost. They make a cheap fertilizer for small grain. The main idea is for each farmer in some way, by some means, to prepare land enough for the early sowing of small grains. That should be the main object of all farmers in the hill country of the Carolinas. With an abundance of small grain, corn, hay, cattle and hogs, the cotton acreage will take care of itself.

We ask farmers to remember the text if they forget our exhortation—"Make Home Supplies in Abundance."

CHARLES PETTY.
Spartanburg, S. C., April 2.

APRIL RAIN.

It is not raining rain for me,
It's raining daffodils;
In ev'ry dimpled drop I see
Wild flowers on the hills.

And overwhelm the town;
The clouds of gray engulf the day
It is not raining rain to me,
It's raining roses down.

It is not raining rain to me,
But fields of clover bloom,
Where an' buccaneering bee
Can find a bed and room.

A health unto the happy,
A fig for him who frets!
It isn't raining rain to me,
It's raining violets!

—Robert Loverman.

Guano Shipments.

Two carloads of guano for the members of the Farmers' Union of this section were unloaded Monday. The guano was shipped direct here from the mines. Several more cars are expected this week.—King's Mt. Herald.

Baked Potatoes That Tempt the Appetite.

The secret of a good baked potato is first a sound structure, then a smooth surface, a well-scrubbed skin and a hot, but not too hot, oven; if baked too quickly the part nearest the skin chars, but when just right, the thin outer skin will peel off easily, leaving a mass of snowy meat inside. Bake from 30 to 40 minutes and when soft on pressure remove and serve at once.—The Delineator.

BEAUTY THAT IS LASTING

Do not think you can make a girl lovely, if you do not make her happy. There is not one re- strain you put on a good girl's nature—there is not one check you give her instincts of affection or effort—which will not be indelibly written on her features, with a hardness which is all the more painful because it takes away the brightness from the eyes of innocence, and the charm from the brow of virtue. The perfect loveliness of a woman's countenance can only consist in that majestic peace, which is founded in the memory of happy and useful years—full of sweet records; and from the joining of this with that yet more majestic childhood, which is majestic in its fullness and promise—opening always—modest at once and bright with hope of better things to be won, and to be stowed. There is no old age where there is still that promise.—It is eternal youth.—Ruskin.

Give The Boys A Chance

C. C. Moore, Mecklenburg, N. C., in a letter to The Cotton Journal says had advice is given on page 24, February 15. Mr. Moore refers to the following brief paragraph which appeared in that issue: "Give the boy a little cotton patch to work for his own and let him have the profit, too. This is the way to make a good farmer." Mr. Moore furnished a substitute, and The Cotton Journal readily consents to the amendment. In truth, Mr. Moore's advice is best. Our original contribution was for the encouragement of the boy on the farm. Mr. Moore says:

"Give the boy a good sow; tell him to read as to her care and feed; let him have land to cultivate himself to produce feed for the sow. The boy will produce the meat for the family, but be sure to pay him the market price. The boy will learn soon enough how to raise cotton. Teach him something else and make a better farmer of him than his daddy is."

Yes, and if the boy's "daddy" had been taught twenty-five years ago that the south could grow some other good things besides cotton, conditions would be better now. Cotton is a good thing in a rotation, but when made to succeed itself year after year, it rebels in scant yields and gullied fields. What we need, as Mr. Moore suggests, and as The Cotton Journal concedes, is to begin in a small way in some line of endeavor which will make a good crop, include the diversification of crops and the improvement of the soil. Yes; and, by the way, a Berkshire Breeders' Association is booked to hold its convention in Charlotte some time within a year. It will be a new feature in these parts, but it will put some to thinking and do it.

EMULATE THE EXAMPLE.

The following paragraphs from an editorial in The Cotton Journal are so timely and well-said, that we pass them along:

"The consumers of American cotton in this country and in Europe set an example, when the occasion requires, which it were were for the cotton growers to emulate, not in thought but in definite action.

"When the demand for cotton goods is restricted, even temporarily, and prices for the manufactured product are affected, the mills by common consent and unity of action curtail the consumption and output of their mills until the causes which produced the unsatisfactory effect are averted. This curtailment when the planters are adopting on and is being agitated to yet more serious consequences, the cause being ascribed to a general depression in jobbing and retail circles. Fortunately this serious condition in the consumption of American cotton comes at a time when the planters can adopt the same sensible plans of the spinners and safeguard themselves against disaster next fall by a corresponding decrease in the acreage to be planted this spring."

Corn Cake That Melts in Your Mouth. Mix two cups of sifted bread flour, one-half cupful of yellow granulated corn meal, two level teaspoonfuls of salt and one rounded tablespoonful of sugar, stir in one cupful of milk, one well-beaten egg, and two tablespoonfuls of melted butter or lard. Beat it thoroughly and turn into greased muffin pans and bake in a quick oven about 20 minutes.—The Delineator.