Farmers' Forum and Monthly Digest

EDITED BY J. M. BIGHAM.

Crop Financing Plan Dissected By Mr. Alexander

By H. Q. ALEXANDER.

I have read and re-read the press receips of the plan devised by Southern representatives and New York bankers to aid the Southern farmers in holding cotton. I wish I could give the plan my unqualified indorsement. I credit these Southern representatives with honesty and sincerity of purpose in their efforts to obtain for the South's great money crop a price that will leave to the producer a fair margin of profit above the cost of production. This is probably the best arrangement that could be made through Northern capitalists. Cotton is strictly a Southern crop and the North is not directly interested in the price paid the producer.

But it takes a lot of money to move the cotton crop. This money is furnished directly or indirectly by the money trust, which centers in New York. Wall street is directly interested in securing a high rate of interest on this money, and no doubt is often directly or indirectly interested in making it buy the farmer's cotton at as low a price as possible.

Therefore, I am reminded of the old proverb, "Beware of the Greeks bearing gifts." This may be an unjust insinuation against the bankers proposing to put up the money and I hope it is.

Now let us examine the plan. It proposes to loan twenty-five dollars per bale, on the payment of a fee of one dollar per bale, without interest for a limited time; this limit being January 1913, when the contract must be closed regardless of the price of cotton. The plan as reported provides further, that "the cotton is not held nor taken from the channels of trade but is placed at the best advantage."

"The grower is given the right to designate the day of sale prior to January 1st 1913 and will participate in any advantage in price to the extent of three fourths of the rise in the market." The fund will be placed through state committees named by the governor or commissioner of agriculture. These committees are empowered to sell when cotton reaches 12 cents and are compelled when it reaches 13 cents. Great care is taken to provide against a violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. A big business can violate the law for years and years and when finally brought before the courts and adjudged guilty is let off without any penalty whatever and allowed to prescribe its own method of conforming to the law. But the farmer must be careful how he defends himself and his family, or he will be snatched up before a court of justice (?).

We will now analyze the plan a little further. The grower lays down his strongest and most reliable weapon of defense when he lets go the cotton. Possession is three points in the law and it's the "whole thing" so far as the farmer is concerned in this fight for living prices at the hands of the speculators. Again, the grower is taking all the risk but receives only three fourths of the profits. The fee of one dollar per bale which he pays, is four per cent interest in the $25 dollars for twelve months. It is hardly probable that many of the contracts will run twelve months and it is a reasonable conclusion that the one dollar per bale fee will cover all expenses of "grading and handling" and four per cent interest on the loan. This is considered pretty good interest on such a large loan as is here contemplated. Add to this the one fourth of the possible rise in price and it looks like a money making scheme.

I believe if all the cotton now in the hands ofthe growe r was turned lose according to this plan, that we would see a slump in the price at once with very little prospect of an advance until the next crop became a positive factor in fixing the price. But with the present balance of the crop in the hands of the grower and a strong determination to let it remain there, it becomes a strong leverage to pry up the price.

Our home bankers and merchants ought to give the farmers all possible aid in holding for better prices. They are doing it in many localities. Whatever price the farmer receives for his cotton will soon find its way back to the banker and merchant; that is the greater part of it.

What shall the cotton farmer do in this crisis? Do the very best that he can with the aid of home banker and merchant to hold on to his cotton. Then get busy sowing grain and preparing to make a living next year, instead of trying to make money on "time bills and cotton." Build warehouses for handling the next crop. Quit buying so much high priced fertilizers and go to farming in a sensible way. Make the farm self-sustaining by growing all food crops. Adopt a systematic rotation, with deep plowing and the sowing of legumes to fill the soil with humus and nitrogen. And stay out of debt.

I had expected to say something about the problems of the tobacco farmers and the possible remedies; but this letter is already long enough.

Comment On The Price Of Cotton

The all absorbing question of the hour, Mr. Editor, seems to be the price of cotton. The Farmers' Union keeps the daily papers hot with all sorts of criticisms of those who they claim are defrauding the farmers by either forcing the price down or allowing some one else to do it. The governors and commissioners of agriculture of the various states are meeting, discussing and resoluting on the price of cotton.

I have been sitting by the wayside and thinking. The procession is long and noisy. Abuse of some imaginary power that is pressing the price of cotton down fills the air, and seems to be expelling from the minds of the people their usual stock of common sense.

What are the facts? The cotton states have grown and are gathering the largest crop of cotton that has ever been grown. The weather conditions furnished us by the Supreme Power have cause the crop to mature and open thirty days earlier and more quickly than ever before known. The cotton grower has rushed his crop on the market and the capacity of both ginneries and warehouses has long since been over-reached. The cotton world has been unable to meet this rush and those wanting cotton have bought it as low as they could. They have been presented with a fine opportunity to secure a bargain and they have met it in the same manner that the cotton grower meets similar conditions—taken advantage of the opportunity, secured the bargain and are enjoying it to the discomfort of the other fellow.

Who then is to be blamed? Who has committed the sin? What act of commercial or moral turptitude has the cotton buyer or consumer committed? Has not the farmer rather acted the fool and is now attempting to load his folly on the other fellow's shoulders? Did not the cotton grower know that this unprecedented rush of cotton on the market would carry prices down? Why then does he persist in forcing his produce on a market that is weak and declining?

An overproduction of any article of commerce will depress the market thereof unless it is marketed slowly and systematically. Legislate as you will; resolute as you will; hold conventions as many as you will; but no power on earth could have prevented a heavy decline in the cotton market when a 14,000,000 bale crop was rushed on the market in three months. The world will do well to consume 12,000,000 bales in twelve months, and we are attempting to force 14,000,000 bales on it in three or four months. With what result? Disaster.

The cotton buyer is just like all other human beings. What he buys he wants as cheap as possible; for what he sells he wants the highest price possible. I realize that these views are unpopular just now, but they are the result of a close observation of one sitting by the wayside.

When cotton was 15 to 16 cents the cotton grower laughed in his sleeve at the antics cut up by the manufacturer. The cotton consumer squirmed and writhed with financial colic on account of his inability to digest 15 and 16-cent cotton, and the cotton grower looked on with that contented smile that indicated satisfaction and a full pocket. Mill after mill closed down, thousands of operatives were deprived of the bread of life, yet not one grain of sympathy was extended by those who now curse and abuse that imaginary being who is "bearing cotton."

Away with all this demagoguery and lets return to the old fashioned common sense. How? Make it an invariable rule to plant ¼ cotton, ¼ corn, ¼ in small grain and ¼ in forage crops (such as alfalfa and clover) and potatoes and other small crops. Don't preach this doctrine, but practice it yourself. Don't argue that the other fellow will curtail and you will increase and profit by his good work. Move your meat, hay and corn supply houses from the west to your own farm. Go to market with a full wagon and return with the proceeds in your pocket behind a team gladdened by being only required to pull an emptied wagon.

When the cotton grower quits talking so much about being oppressed by the other fellow and adopts methods that will make his business independent of the other fellow, then and not till then will the cotton price question be solved. I am a farmer and expect to make my living out of the ground, but I have been a manufacturer and I know both sides.—A. O. Murphey, in Southern Cultivator.

TWO BADLY INJURED IN TRAIN WRECK.

By Associated Pres.

Paducah, Ky., Dec. 2.—Only two of those who were injured in the wreck of southbound Illinois Central passenger train No. 101 last night were brought back to a Paducah hospital today on a relief train. These are Engineer Andrew Frailey, of Louisville, and Joe Smith, a Memphis negro. Both probably will recover.

THE WINDING ROAD.

There are many to sing us the doleful song
Of the heart that is heavy with tears;
But who will sing us the dauntless song—
A marching measure that swings along—
Of the heart that has no fears?

The joys of life is the forward road
To the heart that is ready to go;
There's a laugh and a jest at the End of day,
And a sweet voice calling from far away
Whenever the wild winds blow.

Though what we shall see at the turn of the road
Is hidden from you and from me,
Yet with heart that is free of a vain disguise,
And face to the front and fearless eyes,
We will dare whatever we see.

—Tertius Van Dyke, in the Outlook.

Education That Educates

Th people of this country are beginning to appreciate the necessity of a change in the policies of the public schools. The popular idea uopn which the school systems should be based is for the best service to the greatest number. Education that does not fit one for service is but a hollow and unmeaning form. The old-fashioned classical course which drilled Greek verbs and Hebrew roots into the mind of the student is now obselete. What the people are demanding is a system that will take the young people of the country, the vast army of boys and girls who need free schools and turn them out after their course is completed better fitted to meet the demands of everyday life. Over 70 per cent of the people of this country live in the country or in small towns. It stands to reason, then, that this large proportion of the people must make its living from agricultural pursuits. Farming in all of its branches, especially dairy farming, has progressed rapidly in the last 20 years. The change has been so radical that the man who was successful then would be a hopeless has-been today. Something must be done to help these people to keep up with the times. Where is the agency that is better suited to fit them to meet the problems of the farm than the public schools? It is not to be supposed that agriculture should be forced into the course of study of every high school or even of every public school, but there should be men and women capable of teaching the practices of the farm and the farm home to all those who are interested in bettering their condition and improving the prosperity of the agricultural section. The academies and the colleges take care of the boys and girls who are financially able to fit themselves along more advanced studies, but the large majority of the boys and girls are never able to go beyond the grammar grades and a large majority of those who do finally graduate find that they must depend upon the farm for their success. Why not, then, teach those lines that will be helpful to give the boys and girls an opportunity to learn something about the various lines of dairying? Why not give them the privilege of studying the varied lines that are closely related to farming? No more interesting course could be offered and nothing could be put before them that would have a greater tendency to hold them irrevocably to their course of study. There is something fascinating about any lesson that has to do directly with those things that are vitally connected with a child's home life. If he can be shown how he can increase the prosperity of the farm, he will find much keener enjoyment in following his course of study. Give him a chance to get this information in the common schools and you will improve the system and make the boy a better citizen at the same time.—Kimble's Dairy Farmer.

Winter Work On the Farm

One ofthe most important things to look after during the winter months is making manure for our impoverished soils. There is no part of the year so favorable for rotting a quantity of bedding as the winter. Because we usually have more rain in winter than any part of the year and we houuse our stock more regularly than at any other time. If the readers of the Furum would resolve to make all the manure their stock could rot this winter, it would surprise them at the quantity they would have to spread during winter and spring.

The making of manure on the farm and the growing of legumes is the only way for us to economically develop our poor lands. We must quit relying upon commercial fertilizers.

The hogs upon the farms are usually allowed to waste their manure. While if they were given suitable quarters they would make as much manure as any class of animals on the farm. I have made as much manure during the year from a single brood-sow as from a cow. And a half dozen shoats during the fattening period will rot a great quantity of litter. While fattening hogs should have dry quarters to go into at will, they should be fed in the opening where they can stir and rot a lot of litter. I have practiced this method and have been much pleased with the quantity of valuable manure they have made me.

Let us all resolve to give special attention to this feature of winter work.

R. B. SULLIVAN.

Hebron, Va.

—The crematory report for November shows that there were burned 12 horses, 2 mules, 8 cows, 7 calves, 30 hogs, 49 dogs, 148 cats, 976 chickens, 17 ducks, 1 turkey, 49 rabbits, 1200 lbs. spoiled fish, 650 pounds spoiled meat, and 1084 barrels night soil.

The Farmer's Thanksgiving

While the president of the nation and the governors of the various states call upon the people year after year to give thanks, among other things for bountiful harvests, they do not always remember that the harvest depends not alone upon the bounties of Providence but upon the farmer also. No matter how favorable the season may be, or how rich the soil, there will be no crops unless the farmer prepares the ground, sows the seed, cultivates the crop, and gathers in the harvest, in other words, the farmer is is God's partner in feding the world; God's hired man, or perhaps better, he and the amount of food that the world will enjoy depends largely on the efficiency of the junion partner in this food-producing firm.

The farmer, we fear, does not always sufficiently "magnify his office" nor his position in this partnership. The prophet Isaiah, however, recognized it long ago when he wrote:

"Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech. Doth he that ploweth to sow plow continually? doth he continually open and harrow his ground? When he hath leveled the face thereof, roth he not cast abroad the fitches, and scatter abroad the cummin, and put in the wheat in rows, and the barley in the appointed place, and the spelt in the border thereof? For his God doth instruct him aringht, and doth teach him."

The farmer's Thanksgiving, therefore, differs, or at least should differ from the Thanksgiving of any other man or class of men on the face of the earth. He is a partner with the Almighty in the work of feeding the world, and without him the human race would perish.

The work of these partners is quite distinct. The raw material—the sunshine, the rainfall, the climatic conditions—is furnished by the senior partner, as He sees best. The farmer has nothing to do with that. His business is to utilize this raw material, and by utilizing it create food for the hungry nations. If he has made full use of this raw material, the best use possible under the conditions and circumstances, he will have a harvest and abundant reason for thankfulness. If he has failed to do his duty, it is his business to know wherein he has failed.

The farmer can see as no other man can his dependence on the Power that rules this world. Without the senior partner, the junior partner can do nothing. He may plow and plant and cultivate; he may even mature heavily; but the amount of the harvest depends mainly on the raw material, which is entirely beyond his control. David long ago recognized the fact that this rain from heaven and fruitful seasons are the gift of God, that filleth the heart of the farmer and the consumers of his product with joy and gladness.

While the farmer should give thanks for rain and sunshine and fruitful seasons, he should not forget that he also owes thanks for any natural ability he may have to work up this raw material. We have known men who were really good farmers, but who spoiled it all by taking al lthe credit to themselves, and thinking and speaking slightingly of their neighbors who had not their skill and success. This is human nature. This streak in humanity runs back a long way.

Moses saw it in the wilderness, and in the eighth chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy writes: "Beware lest thou forget Jehavah thy God, * * * lest, when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; (13) and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; then thy heart be lifted up, and thou forget Jehovah thy God, * * * and lest thou say in thy heart, My power and the might of my hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember Jehovah thy God, who giveth thee power to get wealth; * * * "

The hich man is not the only man who puts on airs, pats himself on the back, and says: "What a tremendous big fellow I am." Nor is the good-looking girl, who, by birth, inherited a fine form and a beautiful face, the only one whose head is swelled. The farmer is quite likely to pat himself on the back and say: "I am the biggest man in all this community. These neighbors of mine are poor farmers, shiftless and lazy."

The question we wish to put to any man who feels so inclined on Thanksgiving Day is: Where did you get it? Who gave you the knack of farming? Why is it that everything you touch turns into money? and why is it that some of these other people failed after doing their very best? It is partly natural endowment; and all the credit that is due you is for developing that endowment.

This brings another fact: that the farmer in this day, and especially the Western farmer, should be thankful all Thanksgiving Day that he was born at the right time; that his father or his grandfather settled in the right place; that he was born at a time when inventive genius enables him to get rid of most of the backbreaking work and drudgery of farming; that science has enabled him to hang his cradle and scythe on a tree and get out a mower, a reaper and binder; that science has taught him how to preserve canned feed for his live stock all the year around, winter and summer; that science has taught him all abotu bugs and worms and blights and molds, the life-habits of all these pests, and has taught him to stand by his feathered friends through thick and thin. This in itself is ground for thankfulness.

It is true that we do not utilize all these advantages, and that is a matter for humiliation even on Thanksgiving Day. There never was a time in the history of the world when the farmer had so many helps in utilizing and making the most of the raw material which the senior partner gives him.

If our neighbor's cornfield has yielded 40 bushels of corn this year when ours has yielded only 20 on the same kind of land, that's no reason why we should be jealous of our neighbor; but it is reason why we should enquire why it is that our neighbor under the same conditions has been so successful. If ours has been a big crop and our neighbor's a small one, this is no reason why we should look down upon this neighbor; but the very best of reasons why we should win his confidence and suggest to him how he can reap as great a harvest as we have reaped this year.

If our readers will think this over, we believe they will see new reasons for Thanksgiving and gratitude, new reasons for using extra efforts next year, taking more and better agricultural papers, reading more carefully fully and reports of experiment stations, attending the corn and judging shows, getting in touch with the young fellows who have been wide-awake to the opoprtunities and are ready to help us. There is no reason why this should not be the best Thanksgiving we have ever had since Thanksgiving began in our experience. — Wallace Farmer.

Mr. Sullivan Writes Interestingly

The Farmers' Forum:

I often wonder if the farmers really do read with interest the stuff we continue to write for them. It may be that they do, for they are a long-suffering people. It is like the Scriptures: We have read them all our lives, and yet we find something new at each reading. At any rate it is like the new preacher. He came to his new charge, and took a certain text and preached a fine sermon that pleased his people very much. The next Sunday he came back and read the same Scripture and announced the same text. The brethren listened attentively and felt sorry for the preacher, thinking he had forgotten that he had preached from the same text the Sunday previous. The next Sunday he read the same Scripture and preached from the same text. The brthren began to murmur and said they were tired of the same sermon every Sunday. The fourth Sunday he did the same thing, but that was the limit. They could not stand it any longer. They were really indignant. So they got the deacons together and told them that something must be done; they would not stand it any longer. So one of the deacons called on the minister and told him the people were tired of his sermon, and that he must change it or they would ask for his resignation. The good man replied that "he had been preaching for results but had not seen any." Thus it is with those who are writing to encourage reforms in farming; they are writing for results but they are slow in coming.

For instance, we have been preaching, that it is the best for every farmer to grow his own "supplies" at home, and not depend upon some other farmer miles away to produce them for him, for in this way the farmer purchasing his supplies, not only pays the farmer the cost of producing them, but ap rofit as well, and besides he pays the transportation company for hauling them; and one or two middlemen a profit for handling them. Then when that is done, he must cost the time of a hand and a team to haul them from town to his farm, which may be several miles. There is still another matter to consider, and that is the quality, very often it happens, that the purchased product is inferior to the one he could produce at home for less money. Then again, this same farmer must manage in some way to make the money to pay for the supplies, and this is usually harder to do than to produce the supplies at home. There is yet another economy, that of keeping the money at home.

If all the money that North Carolina sends out of the state each year could be kept at home for ten years, we should hardly know what to do with it.

How many farmers know this and yet fail to do it? This hard year when cotton is short in all Piedmont Carolina and also low in price, will hardly suffice to teach the lesson. My friends, it is not a question to be argued. I know of a small town in North Carolina which has had shipped into it this year two car loads of corn, three car loads of hay, and a vast amount of fat back meat, etc., each week, and not more than two miles from this town lives a farmer, yes, a farmer, who sells hay and corn every year, and makes money at it. No man can successfully carry on a farming business on a one crop basis. Diversification is as necessary to successful farming as diversified diet is to the welfare of an animal. Nature wants change. Our soils demand change. They do not tell it in words, but decreased yields and empty purses are just as eloquent. Friends, the remedy is potent. What say you!

E. S. MILLSAPS

November 28, 1911.

Hoke Smith Calls On President

Washington, Dec. 2.—Hoke Smith, the new senator from Georgia, who, as governor, signed his own credentials of entry into Washington's political life, made his first call on President Taft today.

Senator Smith went to the executive offices with ag reat crowd of other law makers who dropped in to pay their respects before the beginning of the session next week.

Among the other callers was Senator Bailey, of Texas, who says he won't come back.

Banquo's Ghost Rises Up Again

December.
In December ring
Every day the chimes;
Loud the gleemen sing
In the streets their merry rhymes.
Let us sing by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire.
—Longfellow.—"By the Fireside."

Try to side step it as you may, two farmers when they meet will not talk two minutes until the subject of the price of cotton is introduced. Like Bangos ghost it will not down. Some lay the low price of cotton to the speculator, some to the manufacturer, while some say the farmers are to blame themselves. There always has been some corelation between the acreage, the production and the price. Some years it is more closely related than others, but in a decade of years this proposition is true. Accepting this proposition as true, the farmers, then, themselves are to blame. Adam Smith, the great English economist, said nearly 150 years ago, "that the price of a commodity varied according to the demand." Experience and observation has amply proven this position.

Moreover, observation and experience has proven that the maximum or minimum quantity of a commodity increases or decreases the demand. This is a universal principal that has never been controverted, and yet this principal seems to be hard to put in practice. Let us go back to the original proposition—that there is a corelation between the average, production and the price. Last spring the farmers planted 35,000,000 acres an dmade 14,000,000 bales and the price is 9 cents, about 2 cents below cost of production, under present conditions. Who is to blame for these figures? We pause here for answer. Surely less than 14,000,000 bales on the above acreage, would be considered poor farming and it would be. Then obviously a reduction of the acreage should be the end sought. If our memory is not at fault, Senator Smith, of South Carolina, in a speech at Spartanburg, when cotton was bringing 12 or 14 cents, that he would never again advocate a reduction of the acreage of the cotton crop. This shows how the wisest of men should change their minds sometimes. Suppose next June (1912) the acreage should read 30,000,000 acres in cotton, then barring an extreme season we should have 11,000,000, this even under present trade condition should bring 14 to 15 cents. But will the farmers be wise. Some say they will not. Do you know, Mr. Cotton farmer, that the acreage given to oats, one of the best stock and cattle feeds in the South, is less than it was ten years ago? And that corn, oats and hay are all higher or, will next spring, than they were a year ago?

Now, what are we going to do about it. There is a scripture that says, he that soweth to the wind shall reap of the whirlwind. The application is not far to seek. If we duplicate the crop of 1911 in the good year 1912, we need not expect 9 cents for our cotton, but 6 cents instead. There was 5,000,000 acres of cotton in the South last season that should have been in oats, corn and potatoes not so much that the 5,000,000 acres influenced the price of cotton, but that we need the oats, corn and potatoes. There are 100 days yet before the next cotton crop is planted, in which oats may be sown. There are 100 days yet to think over the fully of last year's planting—that 35,000,000 acres planting to cotton. That holding movement; we were about to forget it. It is very good, in that it will prevent a glutted market and preserve a uniform price—that and nothing more. And as for that 2 million dollar loan, we could as soon advise chasing the rainbow for the traditional bag of gold. Our help lies along another line.

Weather Forecast For Farmers

(Written for the Farmers' Forum by O. O. Atto, Observer, Weather Bureau)

Nothing has brought the weather forecasts within such easy reach of the farmer, as has the extension of the rural telephone lines to practically every community.

An arrangement has been effected and put into operation, between the U. S. Weather Bureau and the Bell Telephone Company, for the free distribution of weather forecasts over rural lines. The number of farmers' residences reached by this arrangement, in this section of the state alone, reaches well into the thousands.

Any farmer who is on a rural line of the Bell Company, and is not receiving the forecast daily, free of cost, can do so, by inquiring of his local exchange, and asking for the information. On most lines, the operator calls all the subscribers shortly before noon on each day, by a preconcerted signal, giving the forecast to all the subscribers on his line at one time.

In addition to this, many special requests as to peculiar phases of the weather, are gladly answered by the observers, wherever a local office of the bureau is maintained. The great variety of these requests, show the importance of the weather in farming operations. Many of these calls are received over long distance lines, from distances of fifty or a hundred miles away. Following are a few of the actual questions asked of the local office, in the last few weeks, by practical farmers.

"I have five acres of green corn out. It is going to frost tonight? If it is I shall cut at once and make ensilage of it. If it does not frost, it will make roasting ears in two weeks."

"Am going to have a sale at my farm tomorrow: will it rain? Yes? Then I shall provide a large tent under which to hold the sale."

"I have a few acres of hay to cut: is rain expected today or tomorrow?"

"I live at Dalton, N. C. Have a large acreage of cowpeas to cut for hay. Will you kindly let me know by long distance 'phone, at my expense when three or four days clear weather are expected? Please keep me informed for the next two weeks."

"Have two acres of sweet potatoes dug, but not picked up yet. Will it freeze enough tonight to hurt them? If so, I shall rush the work till they are picked up."

One cold morning, several calls were received like this: "I want to butcher a hog today: how long will this cold spell last?"

Another farmer says: "I have some fodder to shred: what are the indications for rain for a couple of days?"

"I am about to take a big contract for some heavy winter hauling over country roads. Will you kindly give me the average rainfall for each of the winter months, and the average number of rainy days in each?"

These questions will illustrate the uses, which the progressive farmer makes of the forecasts. In all cases, the questions are answered to the best of the ability of the observers or forecasters, and it is pertinent to add that mistakes are seldom made in giving information of this kind, when the need for the knowledge of the weather is plainly stated in the request.

The farmer who gets this knowledge even at the expense of a few cents for the call, will win out in the long run, for "forewarned is forearmed."

—There were twelve interment in Pinewood (colored) cemetery during November—five males and seven females.

Cutting The Cotton Acreage

(Prof. Massey in Progressive Farmer.)

I notice that the conference of Southern governors has started the old cry to cut the cotton acreage. This effort has been made years ago when cotton was down low in price, but it availed little, for every other man will imagine that there is going to be a reduction in the acreage and he will plant all he can to get in on the better prices and the result is the usual over-acreage.

The only way to reduce the cotton acreage is to get the farmers to farming and to quit depending on cotton alone. Good rotative farming—not mere growing "supplies," but growing other crops besides cotton for sale, growing feed and feeding beeves and hogs; in short, farming instead of merely planting cotton. No agreement among the all-cotton planters to reduce the cotton acreage will ever amount to anything. Years ago when cotton was down to its lowest point a certain state commissioner of agriculture was urging in all his publications that the acreage should be reduced. He had a farm in the country, and one day I rode out with him to his farm in the early spring, and to my surprise, found the whole place plowed for cotton. "Why,' said I, "I thought that you were advocating a reduction of the acreage?" "Yes," said he, "I think there will be a large reduction in the acreage, and I want to be in on it." And men all over the cotton belt were just as insincere in their efforts. They wanted the other man to reduce and give them a chance to make money.

But if we can but get the farmers to really farm with cotton, it would not be many years until as large a crop as this year could be grown on one-third the acreage, and being grown on less than half the usual cost, the farmer, with other things to sell, would not be so much worried by a low price for cotton. Single cropping is at the bottom of all the trouble about cotton and cotton growing cotton at an expense that is needless if the farmer farmed well. The man who has nothing but cotton and whose cotton costs him 10 cents a pound to make it, is in distress at present prices, while the farmer who makes from one to two bales an acre still has some profit even if not as much as he would like to see.

The only cure for these recurring panics over the price of cotton is good farming with cotton as the money crops and stock to pay all the cost of the farming.

Want New Trial in Night Rider Case

Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 2.—Argument for a new trial in the case of Robertson county "night rider" case styled Thomas Menees vs. T. J. Martes et all was presented before Federal Judge Edward T. Sanford here today. Judge Sanford took the motion under advisement. A verdict for $25,000 damages was rendered in favor of the plaintiff at a session of the federal court in Nashville in October last. Menees sued for $25,000 charging that the defendants who it was alleged were members of the "Silent Brigade" had dynamited his threshing outfit.