

THE ROWAN RECORD

VOL. II.

CHINA GROVE, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1910.

NO. 14.

THE BOLL WEEVIL.

An Interesting Letter From President Finley of the Southern Railway Upon This Pest, Also other Matter Pertaining to the General Welfare of the South.

Washington, D. C., April 11.
Dear Sir:

My close business association with the South and my business interest in everything bearing on Southern prosperity prompts me to write to you on the present outlook for agriculture in the South with special reference to the cotton situation.

The world demand for cotton is constantly increasing. Dr. S. A. Knapp, of the United States Agricultural Department, has estimated that it doubles once in about twenty-two years. This means that the farmers of our section will be called upon for larger supplies in future years. The practical question is how this increased demand can be supplied so as to yield the largest margin of profit to our farmers.

Co-incident with the increased demand for cotton the prices of grains, forage crops and meat products of all kinds are advancing. I do not believe, therefore, that it should be the policy of our farmers to increase their cotton production by planting larger areas, to the exclusion of other crops or the neglect of live-stock growing. I would suggest on the contrary, that more attention be given to the diversification of crops and to live stock and that cotton production be increased by the adoption of those methods of seed selection, soil preparation and cultivation which will result in larger yields per acre. There is reason to believe that the demand for cotton will generally maintain the price at a level that will make intensive cultivation profitable, but if conditions should be such as to depress the price in some seasons, the farmer who has grown his own corn and meat, and who has live stock and other farm products for sale, will be affected much less by the low price of cotton than will he who has nothing for sale but cotton and who must buy meat for his family and feed for his work animals. I believe that the South can keep pace with the growing demand for cotton and can, at the same time, increase its output of other farm products.

It may be objected that the possible spread of the Mexican cotton boll weevil East of the Mississippi river will tend to reduce the average production per acre in the areas affected and make it impossible to keep pace with the demand for cotton without increasing the acreage at the expense of other crops. I believe that a study of the effect of the weevil in the localities where it has been longest present does not sustain this objection. In fact, while the weevil is the most serious insect pest that the cotton grower has been called upon to combat, it has been demonstrated that by the adoption of proper methods it can be so far controlled that substantially as large yields per acre can be obtained as before its invasion, and what is of more importance to the South as a whole, the methods that have been developed in fighting the weevil are identically those which will serve to increase the production per acre in those localities where the insect is unknown. They are methods, therefore, the adoption of which in regions where the weevil exists is imperative, but which may be adopted with profit by the cotton grower in any part of the South.

The weevil crossed the Rio Grande into Texas about 1892, but did not attract general attention until 1894, since which year, as the area in which it is present has gradually increased, the insect itself and methods of controlling it have been subjects of constant study by the United States Agricultural Department, State agricultural officials and intelligent farmers. Its gradual spread is illustrated by the accompanying chart of the cotton belt. The direction and extent of its future spread cannot be predicted with

certainty, but the farmers East of the Mississippi have the great advantage of the knowledge and experience gained in the campaign that has been waged against it for sixteen years in the territory west of the river, where it has been demonstrated that cotton can be grown successfully and profitably in spite of its presence.

This may be illustrated by some facts as to production under boll weevil conditions. In the State of Texas the area in which it is present, as shown by the accompanying chart of that State, has been approximately the same since 1906, embracing by far the greater part of the cotton-growing area of the state. Yet the two largest crops ever produced in Texas—those of 1906 and 1908—were grown under these weevil conditions. There are fluctuations in the size of the crops in Texas as well as in other parts of the cotton belt, but where scientific methods of combatting it are adopted, these fluctuations are due not so much to the presence of the boll weevil as to weather conditions. Thus the crop of 1909 in Texas was more than a million bales below the crop of 1908, but Dr. Knapp has expressed the opinion that, but for the excessively hot and dry weather which prevailed in the middle of the growing season the yield would have been the largest in the history of cotton growing in the state. He points out as significant, the fact that the greatest decrease as compared with 1908 was in the dry Western part of the state where the weevil is least prevalent, while in the Eastern counties where the insect is most numerous there was the least falling off. Dr. Knapp estimates roughly that the falling off in the Eastern part of the state where the weevil was worst was only about seven per cent; in the central part, about 28 per cent, and in the western part, where the weevil is less prevalent, about 51 per cent, tending to show that the short crop in Texas in 1909 should not be charged to the weevil, but to the unfavorable weather conditions. Fluctuations in yield due to weather conditions are inevitable whether the weevil is present or not. Thus, Calhoun county, Alabama, which has never had a boll weevil in it, had an unfavorable season in 1902 and produced 8,811 bales, but two years later, under favorable conditions the yield of the county was more than twice as much—18,527 bales.

In localities west of the Mississippi the appearance of the weevil was followed by a decline in production, but with the adoption of the methods recommended by the Agricultural Department and the State officials, improved results were soon attained.

In Limestone county, Texas the normal production before the boll weevil appeared was about 50,000 bales. In 1902 the county produced 52,562 bales. In 1903 the weevil cut the crop down to 17,039 bales. The Agricultural Department methods of combatting the insect were introduced and the production rose to 41,902 bales in 1904; 38,110 bales in the season of 1905, when the weather conditions were unfavorable; 72,320 in 1906, when conditions were favorable; 36,253 under the unfavorable weather conditions of 1907; 70,525 in 1908, when the weather was favorable, and 50,184 under the unfavorable weather conditions of 1909.

Harrison county, Texas, had a normal production of about 20,000 bales before the weevil appeared. It did not become destructive until 1906, when, in spite of favorable weather conditions, the crop was reduced to 18,131 bales. The next year with a combination of the weevil and unfavorable weather conditions it fell to 7,883 bales. In 1908, with a favorable season and the general adoption of Agricultural Department methods, it rose to 16,844 bales, and in the unfavorable season of 1909 the crop was 16,983 bales.

In De Soto Parish, La., the normal yield before the appearance

of the weevil was about 29,000 bales. The weevil and generally unfavorable conditions cut this down to 6,343 bales in 1907. The adoption of Agricultural Department methods resulted in a crop of 13,625 bales in 1908, and, although weather conditions were less favorable in 1909 the parish produced 14,190 bales, showing the same tendency to return to normal productivity noted in the Texas counties. At the same time, in those localities where the weevil has been present for a series of years, there has been a marked development of diversified agriculture which has been highly beneficial to the farmers.

The above figures show that in the region west of the Mississippi the appearance of the weevil has generally been followed by a marked decline in production for from one to three years, until the farmers could learn and put in practice the methods necessary for its control. This emphasizes the importance of the immediate adoption of those methods in the regions where it has not yet appeared and the damage will be minimized, and the exports of the Agricultural Department are agreed that, in the meantime, the production of cotton per acre will be largely increased. I think there can be no doubt that the cotton growers west of the Mississippi River could have maintained substantially this normal production if they had not waited until the appearance of the boll weevil before adopting improved methods. I believe, therefore, that it is of the utmost importance that the farmers East of the river should adopt these methods whether they are in territory immediately threatened by the weevil or not.

The methods of the United States Department of Agriculture strongly urge upon cotton growers everywhere, with a view of obtaining increased yields without increasing acreage and in connection with diversified farming and which at the same time, are the methods necessary for the control of the boll weevil, or the seed should be carefully selected with a view of the production of early varieties with the dwarf habit, fruiting close to the ground and producing large bolls of cotton with a good length of staple; that preparation of the soil should be commenced by deep plowing early in the winter, followed by harrowing once or twice during the winter; that the seed should be thoroughly prepared and the seed planted as early as the soil has become warm enough to insure rapid germination; that shallow cultivation should thereafter be commenced as early as possible and should be continued constantly until some of the bolls begin to open; that excessively wet lands should be drained or devoted to other crops; that farmers through the cotton belt should practice diversification and crop rotation, and that they should generally give more attention to live stock.

The Department of Agriculture has published pamphlets containing full information as to these improved methods of growing cotton. I shall be glad to procure copies of these circulars and send them to any cotton growers who may write to me at my office, Washington, D. C., and I am authorized to state that they will be sent direct to any grower who will address an application to the Agricultural Department at Washington.

Yours truly,
W. W. FINLEY,
President.

There's an idea somebody fooled Mt. Etna and Vesuvius by telling them Colonel Roostvelt had landed and expected fireworks.

Have settled the question "What is whiskey?" the government experts are now asking "What is wine?" The oldest and best answer is that wine is a mocker.

It is only a question of a short time before they will be writing it g. o. p., instead of G. O. P. Changes are coming.

A New Jersey jury has decided that it is not a violation of the law to say d—. This may bring some consolation to the soul of "Uncle Joe," anyway.

Disgruntled Members of The President's Cabinet.



R. Z. LINNEY DROPS DEAD

Call Comes While He Stands At Door of Law Office.

SERVED TERM IN CONGRESS

Played Prominent Part In State Politics, Being Known as "The Bull Of The Brushies."

Taylorsville, N. C. April 15.—Hon. R. Z. Linney died suddenly at his office here at 3 o'clock today. He had driven into town from his farm 2 miles away and seemingly in his usual health and fine spirits, hailed and had a pleasant word as usual for his friends as he passed them on the street. He was accompanied by Lawyer R. B. Burke to his office in his store block near the depot and when he arrived at the door he made an effort to turn the lock, but unable to do so asked Lawyer Burke to open the door for him and while he was doing this he heard Mr. Linney fall heavily to the floor behind him. Medical aid was summoned at once, but before the doctor arrived he breathed his last dying in less than five minutes after he fell.

APPOLEXY WAS THE CAUSE OF HIS DEATH.

Mr. Linney was born on the 26th of December 1841, and therefore was a little more than 68 years of age. His schooling was under Dr. Brantley York at York Institute and at Taylorsville under Mr. Millen He studied law under Colonel Armfield at Wilkesboro immediately after the war and was licensed in the year 1867 and began practicing at Taylorsville. He was elected to represent his county in the State senate in 1870 and again in 1883. He was elected Congressman from the eighth district in 1894 and served in this capacity for six years.

In the death of Mr. Linney the State of North Carolina has lost one of her most prominent citizens and the bar of the State one of its bright lights. He was married in 1865 to Miss Dorcas Stevenson. To this union were born six children—four daughters and two sons—all of whom survive him. They are: Solicitor Frank Linney, of Boone; Dr. Rom. Z. Linney, Jr. of Hopeton, Okla.; J. W. Hepdren, of Stony Point; Mrs. W. D. Deal, of Taylorsville; Miss Hester C. Linney, of Roanoke, Va.; and Miss Blanche C. Linney, of New York.

CRACKSMEN LOOT BANK

Fired Shot at Man Who Attempted to Stop Them.

SAFE BLOWN, \$10,000 TAKEN

Evidently The Work Of Inexperienced Men—Held Up a Railroad Operator

Spring City, Tenn., April 14.—Robbers blew the vault of the First National Bank of this place this morning at 12 o'clock and escaped with over \$10,000. Nitro glycerine was used. Blood hounds were placed on the trail but thus far the robbers have escaped. Last night there was \$10,200 in the vaults and this morning only \$50 was found. One of the robbers shot at S. E. Paul, as he was in route to the institution following the explosions.

Glycerine was poured into the cracks around the safe door. Five flashes of the explosive were found in the building this morning. The work was evidently that of inexperienced men. It is thought the party was composed of four. Entrance to the building was made through a side door. The first explosion was heard at 12 o'clock. Several persons in the vicinity were aroused and rushed to the bank. At 1:40 the robbers were seen leaving the institution, having looted the safe in 20 minutes. During the time the thieves were robbing the bank one of the members of the party held up the operator at the Cincinnati Southern railroad station to prevent him giving alarm of the robbery.

The building, a substantial structure, was badly wrecked, the front of the safe was blown to pieces, one of the doors being found several feet away.

Attorney General Wickersham diana district, by indorsing the Payne-Aldrich law, Taft, Beveridge, Canon and reform, show that in the matter of straddling, the Colossus of Rhodes is a knock-kneed infant compared with the Hoosier pie hunters.

General Conference of the Methodist Church to Meet in Asheville May 4.

The largest denominational gathering to be held in the South this year, and the largest, probably, ever held in North Carolina, will be the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which will convene in Asheville on Wednesday, May 4, and will continue in session for at least three weeks. The fact that the General Conference meets only quadrennially increases the interest attached to its sessions, and owing to the many questions to come before the body for discussing at this meeting, will render it of more than usual interest.

During the past several months the papers of this denomination have been filled with communications from ministers and laymen, in which some have advocated and some have opposed the radical changes which have been suggested and which will come before the General Conference for discussion and action.

The membership of the General Conference will number a little more than three hundred, the delegates being composed of an equal number of ministers and laymen. Each annual conference in the church is entitled to one clerical and lay delegate for every 48 ministers that compose the body. The Northwest Texas conference will send nine clerical and nine lay delegates to the General Conference and this will be the largest single delegation in the body.

The coming session of the General Conference is looked forward to in every section of the church as one of the most interesting and one of the most important meetings of the body in the history of Southern Methodism. It is probable that no session of the General Conference ever has had a greater number of questions of such positive interest to the church brought before it as will be presented Asheville next month. Among the questions that are being discussed most in the conference organs and in the general organ of the church in anticipation of the General Conference, are these: The episcopacy, the time limit of the pastorate, lay representation of the women of the church, a change in the manner of appointing the presiding elders, and the order of worship.

This will be the first time the General Conference has been held in North Carolina, and it will be the means of attracting a large number of ministers and laymen from this state and from the several near-by states to Asheville during the sessions.

It is not to be doubted that this meeting of the General Conference will be one of the most interesting in the history of the church, and judging from the number and variety of communications which have appeared, there is a wide diversity of opinion among leading men of the church upon the different important subjects to come before the conference for consideration and action. This being the case, some of the most animated discussions in the churches history may be expected at this time.

The bishops in the M. E. church, South, are elected for life, this having been the custom since the first bishops were elected in the early days of the church. The opinion now exists in the minds of some of the ministers and laymen of the church that from this time on the bishops should be elected for only a certain number of years while others favor the doing away of the episcopacy in its present form.

There is also a strong sentiment in favor of the passing of a law by the General Conference by which the presiding elders of the future shall be elected by the annual conferences instead of being appointed by the bishops, as is now the case. It is not unlikely that the time limit of the pastorate will be abolished at this meeting of the General Conference. Should this be done, it will not affect the meeting of the annual conferences and the appointment of the pastorate at the end of four years.

A memorial from the Women's Board of Home Missions will be presented to the General Conference asking that the rights of the laity be granted to the women of the church. This will be the first time that such a request has been made to the conference and there is a marked and very decided diversity of opinion among both the women and the men of the church on this subject, and no doubt lengthy discussion regarding the matter will take place in the room of the committee to which it is referred and on the floor of the conference, if it comes before the open conference for action.

There are at present seven bishops in the active service of church, and the opinion exists that at least six more will be elected during the General Conference. A number of the prominent preachers of the church are already spoken of for the episcopacy, and this election will, without doubt, be an event of far more than ordinary interest to the entire church.

The present order of worship does not give universal satisfaction to the church, and that some changes will be recommended in this connection there is no doubt, and the probability is that some of the changes recommended will be made as a result of the action of the conference.—Asheville Citizen.

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The Matter of Dewey's Pardon. A few years ago there was a great to do about Thomas W. Dewey's sentence being too short, only six years for robbing a bank. The papers are full of criticism of the sentence, that it was too short, and when an effort was made to have him pardoned, a short time after his sentence, the criticisms were general throughout the state because of his effort to have him pardoned. These criticisms, it is true, usually came from the people who knew nothing about the facts of the pardon. They are usually the ones who made the most to-do.

As for ourselves we have never seen any reason why he should be pardoned, although we have never investigated the facts carefully. But the smoke has blown away the warmest of feeling against him, and now we find, last week, Judge Roberson, Governor Aycock, Supreme Court Justice Wiker, Editor Josephus Daniels, State Treasurer Lacy Auditor Dixon, all before the governor begging for this man who robbed a bank of thousands of dollars and the only excuse which he gave for the robbery was gambling in futures, as he now recalls the fact, and lost the money which he took from the bank for that purpose.—Asheboro Courier.

The Aldrich ordered tariff is the hookworm of the Republican party. It will take more than millions to eradicate the disease and the signs are that the millions of the voters will prefer to give power to the healthy Democratic party rather than to try to cure the diseased Republican party.—News and Observer.

It would be interesting to know whether Mr. Pinchot's return trip coupon reads: "Good for one passage from Elba to Washington."

J. W. Y. Myrtle COLLECTION