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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1920.

### CLAIMS OF THE FARMER UPON GOVERMENTAL AID.

The New York Times dismisses the efforts of Southern and Western Sen- Observer's figures. When he ators to secure governmental aid for posed of it to a local firm, he may their constituents as "cornfield bank- last experience with cotton. He could ing," and then proceeds to quote Sen- not understand the Southern idea is ator Edge, of New Jersey, as saying raising a thing at nine cents and sell-that farmers, like everybody else ing it for five cents. He has never must take their medicine in this time of inevitable readjustment.

know that the farmers are not seek- time arguing that the farmer was ing to be relieved from bearing an at five cents, so there are "authoriequitable share of the losses attend- ties" now who are contending that ant upon this readjustment period, ten cents a pound will not only cover They are, however, rightfully objecting to bearing the main brunt of the burden. They have more than con-tributed their part towards lowering commission house that is claiming tributed their part towards lowering the cost of living, while the losses fourteen cents as sustained by corporations are infinitesimal in comparison. The best This same firm thinks eighteen cents authorities admit that it cost not less would be "a most liberal allowance." But there happens to be a newspaper than thirty cents a pound to produce this crop of cotton, and those who knowledge of the cultivation of cotare selling at 15 cents a pound are ton and its cost. It is the editor of pocketing a loss of 50 per cent. If The New York Commercial, from the manufacturers, as the Marshville whom this paper is in the habit of Home says, "were carrying a 50 per cent loss it would mean that they should first figure off all added profits on their good and then discount the remainder 50 per cent. That is, it advances are superficial and are they would be selling their products not based upon any independent in-at just one-half what it cost them to vestigation. Then The Commercial produce them-not a small portion, proceedsbut the entire 1920 output." Few. is declared by those who have made if any, manufacturers, have applied a thorough investigation of costs to the pruning knife to this extent.

The manufacturers, being but human, are seeking to keep prices for their products up to the highest possible level so as to avoid too much it is not unreasonable to believe the loss. This policy has crippled the to be the case, loss. This policy has crippled the buying capacity of the country, as been produced as low as eighteen consumers, aware of the drastle recents a pound, but the general as ductions in the price of raw mater- sumption is that it has been more ials, are reluctant to purchase goods likely twenty-eight or thirty cents at prices they know to be all out of reason in comparison with the cost But assuming for the sake of ar-of the products of the farm. Take gument that in pre-war days cotton reason in comparison with the cost the price of shoes, for illustration, could be produced for less than ter The manufacturers have made some reductions, it is true, but no one would dare maintain that the reduc- this figure would represent? Show tions are at all in keeping with the link a "profit" at ten cents a pound simply meant that the lenant farmer price of hides, which are quoted at a cents a pound.

ment is sufficient monetary aid to season with just enough to pay back with erection of a school bundles permit the holding of his products what he had borrowed to produce that has been hadly needed and that until the exorable law of supply and to start a new crop or even to live demand has had an opportunity to during the period of its growth. To ment is sufficient monetary aid to season with just enough to pay back demand has had an opportunity to assert itself. This will not be possible until the consumers are considered that the prices of manufact-visions sufficient to live on over the nred goods have reached rock-bot- period, but these provisions would in a great majority of instances be

There is another claim that the farmer has upon governmental aid, gether. Such a thing as a farm He was told that it was his patriotic figuring in the cost of his own labor duty to produce, to till every idle acre, to make two stalks of wheat, or cotton, grow where only one grew these conditions at first hand canbefore. He was promised good not realize what this means.

It is very easy to talk of the cost prices, and unless the government comes to his aid he will come to the conclusion that the rewards of pairi- all the factors that enter into it. If otism are meager.

### THE NAVAL HOLIDAY.

the United States, and Japan, the greatest powers of the world. Under countries would make appropriations for the enlargement of their navies during the five-year period. The plan is sponsored by Senator Borah, but it has the opposition of Secretary of the Navy Daniels, who insists that this country either enter into the League of Nations or build a navy League of Nations or build a navy around Washington in recent days, "second to none." The saving to One day last week, a farm located this country would amount to hun- 10 or 12 miles from dreds of millions of dollars.

sundry extravagances, none is more up at auction at the court house door senseless than the naval competition and was "knocked down" for \$24. between the great countries, and it 000. should be stopped either through the was held open for a higher bid, it is League, or by the proposed "navai probable that in the final transaction holiday" agreement. Unless such an agreement is entered into, the mad of money. This farm consists of race for naval supremacy between about 189 acres, only two or three the ranking powers of America of which front on the "main road," Great Britain, and Japan, will ten the balance lying on a "cut-off," That times shame the hectic and expensive portion of the land fronting the immilitary preparations of the German Empire. There will no end to the bitter struggle. Billions upon billions will go into the construction of acre. It is just an ordinary countrybattleships, dreadnaughts, and super- side farm, with no modern improve dreadnaughts, and America will be-

come a tax-ridden nation. gress to effect a sweeping reduction tand, but bidders wanted this farm in the cost of government. Without and were willing to pay what a few the burdensome expense of building years are would have been regarded such a navy as Secretary Daniels advocates our war debts could be paid and \$45,000 transactions in Mockien-with comparative case, and peace burg lands might be taken as good would not be jeopardized by an ex-indication that things are not in a pensive fighting machine that we had way in at least one North Carowould be certain to want to try out. line county.

THE MONROE JOURNAL NATIVE OF PENNSYLVANIA REFUSES TO RAISE COTTON

> Mr. Dotger Couldn't Understand Idea of Producing a Commodity Below Cost.

(From the Charlotte Observer.) During the memorable "buy-a-bale" year when five cents was the best the market was offering for cotton, there were "authorities" who at that time made contention that the farmer could come out "even," as it had not cost him more than five cents to produce his crop. The Observer went into a careful study of the question at the time and on the basis of existing costs of labor and material. established the cost of raising cotton at a fraction over nine conts. At that time Mr. Dotger had newly arrived from Penusylvania and had raised a crop on a suburban farm. He found that the cotton he raised tallied in cost of production with The the statement that it was his first and since grown a stalk of cotton, and is miles further from the poorhouse now than he was then. As there Surely the Times and Senator Edge were "authorities" who were at that not doing so badly selling his cotton the cost of producing the present crop, but leave the farmer a little cotion, making allowance at that for the advance in cost of commodities. man in New York who has practical quoting on the state of the Nation The Commercial intimates that it is useless to give serious consideration

> The cost of the present cotton crop be the highest ever known. Considering the cost of fertilizer, of labor of money itself, and of everything it the way of preliminary expenditur which the farmer has to encounter It may be that in pound, while in some localities it has indoubtedly reached forty cents.

to the contentions of this commission

house. It declares what the people

know to be a fact that the figures

cents a pound, is it possible that right thinking American people want conton produced under the conditions -and most of the cotton is produced by tenant farmers manage All the farmer asks of the govern- to come out at the end of the crop of the quantity and character barely sufficient to keep soul and body toor that of his wife and children was still. unheard of. One who has not been down among them and encountered

of production of cotton, but it is quite another matter to correctly estimate the cost of producing the cotton were estimated on the same basis as the cost of producing wheat no one would THE NAVAL HOLIDAY.

Of far-reaching importance is the show a profit at ten cents. If costs proposed "five-year naval holiday" were estimated on the basis of facagreement between Great Britain, fory production, on the basis of the cost of raw material plus labor (and labor, by the way, on an eight-hour schedule) plus insurance, depreciaits stipulation, neither of the three tion, interest and all other such charges, no one would expect it to be below thirty cents.

> Mecklenturg Land. (From the Charlotte Observer.)

Mecklenburg does not seem to be figuring in the tales of the "tragedy" farm that have been heard of millions of dollars.

sold for \$45,000. Monday a farm the category of various and located six miles from town was put This was a cash sale, and as i it will call for even a larger excharge proved highway brought \$700 The average price offered for the farm in cash was about \$200 an ments of note and no extra qualities about the soil. It was never suspect-This is the opportunity for Con- ed that there was a gold mine on the as an amazing price. These \$24,000 indication that things are not in a

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The Observer on Bond Election. (From the Charlotte Observer.)

The people of Monroe have just carried a bond election for an issue of \$200,000 school bonds, and car-ried it "against the registration," the snag that for a long time stood it way of school improvement Monroe will now proceed Charlotte. county needs is fast disappearing. But the truth of the matter is that under developed conditions the bond issue is the only method by which needed money is to be handily raised. and it is either issue bonds or stand

Comments on Success of School Bonds.

From Raleigh News and Observer.) Monroe votes an issue of bonds for a high school building. It recguizes that good educational facililes are necessary for the growth of town and that education is an essential to the stability and permaence of our institutions. There will be little danger of Bolshevism or any the other governmental doctrines ch threaten to wreck civilization f the people are educated so that they can know the past and profit from its mistakes.

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