

### Farmers Give Own Diagnosis

#### Radio Course Listeners Tell What Is Matter With South's Agriculture.

HOW less cotton—more cows, sows and hens—is the new found creed of the southeast farmer, according to the first answers received to the "final exam" given at the close of the first radio short course in agriculture broadcast from WSB, Atlanta, by the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation in co-operation with the Soil Improvement Committee of the National Fertilizer Association.

Ten questions submitted to the students at the close of the course show that the farmer of the south Atlantic states has been won away from the idea that he must grow just one crop—cotton. "Grow diversified crops that will feed the family, the live stock and the land; let cotton be grown as a cash crop and not made to support the entire farm," is the way in which one of these radio students sums up the situation.

It was the aim of the short course to sell the farmer of the southeast the idea of raising enough live stock at least to feed his family, raising enough grain and hay to feed the live stock, and enough cover crops to replace in the soil the elements which are taken from it year by year by the continuous growing of crops.

The answers to this radio examination indicate that the farmer of the southeast has learned to pin solid faith in the advice of his county agent; that he is getting tired of gambling with one crop farming, and that he is going in for pure-bred seed, as well as pure-bred cows, hogs and chickens.

Three cash prizes are to be awarded to the three best examination papers submitted to the Foundation, and announcement of the winners will be made from the Atlanta radio station February 7.

### CUT COTTON LAND, EXPERT ADVISES

D. W. Watkins of Clemson College Tells Farmers Need of Reduction.

#### ALTER TENANT SYSTEM

THERE should be a decrease in the total cotton acreage to restore a balance to our farming system, according to D. W. Watkins, assistant extension director, Clemson college, S. C., who discussed the "Cutting of the Cotton Acreage" in the Radio Short Course over WSB, Atlanta. This two weeks' course for farmers of the southeast was conducted by the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation in co-operation with the Soil Improvement Committee of the National Fertilizer Association.

"Not only should there be a decrease in 1927, but in future years," said Mr. Watkins, "but when it comes to saying who is to do the reducing we find there are several different classes and conditions of farmers with which to deal. There are the farmers, all too few, who own their land, farm intelligently and while they are set back in years like 1926, manage to keep their heads above water and continue their independent, self-supporting way. This class already produces 80 to 90 per cent of their living on the farm. They do much of their own work and utilize labor saving machinery. They will not have to reduce as much as others.

"It is the duty of the landowners and others responsible for financing agriculture to bring about a different tenant system. Tenants should be led and required to give more attention to producing a living for themselves and to soil and farm improvement. This will automatically reduce their cotton acreage and will be beneficial to themselves and landowners.

"The light is at last beginning to dawn on all of us in the southeast, that we must be more self-contained and less dependent on one source of income. The southern farmer must learn to have his fields covered with a green crop every winter. Our mild, open winters permit of the loss of more soil fertility than is removed by crops. Northern soils are frozen and not subject to this loss. All these things have a direct bearing on the acreage in cotton in the southeast. The grower who follows these policies can continue to grow cotton, and after providing for a self-sustaining system of diversification, may in four out of five years produce cotton at a profit.

"The year 1927 is not a year to gamble on cotton production, but for the grower who uses the best seed and the best methods and the best sidelines and who reduces acreage and cuts production costs, there is hope for 1927 and thereafter in cotton growing. Such a farmer cannot be put out of business because he is the veteran and expert who puts the other kind of grower out of business."

Business travels so slowly that Poverty soon overtakes him.

What we didn't do yesterday causes most of the trouble today.

### ASSASSINS SHOOT KEVIN O'HIGGINS

#### "Strong Man" of the Irish Free State Forgives Slayers; Calm to the Last.

Dublin, Ireland, July 10.—Kevin O'Higgins, known as "The Strong Man" of the Irish Free State, was shot down in a street today and killed by assassins. As in the case of another "Strong Man," Michael Collins, his murderers lay in wait for him, and as he was walking alone from his home at Black Rock, a short distance from Dublin, to mid-day mass, an automobile pulled up beside him and three men pumped bullets into him.

The assassins drove away, and thus far have escaped the police.

As he lay on the road mortally wounded, O'Higgins, Vice President of the Free State Council, Minister of Justice and Foreign Affairs, gasped out: "I forgive them all."

#### Mortally Wounded

Nothing could be done to stop the flow of blood which was streaming from half a dozen wounds. Four bul-

lets had gone through his neck, one passed into his chest, and another through the ear to the base of the brain.

But the sorely wounded man retained consciousness and to those about him said: "I am dying at peace with my enemies. I die for my country. I go to join Michael Collins."

Mr. O'Higgins was usually accompanied by a detective, but today when starting for church he told his escort for the first time in three years to remain at home. He was taken by surprise when attacked. The first shot struck him in the abdomen, but he managed to stagger across the road, where he collapsed. His assailants fired five or more other bullets into his head and body before springing into their car and driving furiously away.

The first to reach the wounded minister were Eamon Fleming, an official of the Ministry of Finance, his brother, and Professor John MacNeill, former Minister of Education.

Fleming raised his head, and Kevin whispered huskily: "They've got me, just as they got my father," and later—"I forgive them. I die at peace with my enemies and my God." Turn-

ing to Professor MacNeill, he said: "There is no hope. I wanted to dictate my will."

MacNeill knelt on the blood-stained footpath, and in a clear voice, O'Higgins dictated his will, leaving everything he possessed to his wife and baby daughter.

The best surgeons in Dublin were summoned to his home, where he was taken, but they could do nothing to save his life. Despite his terrible wounds, his mind remained clear to the end, and the doctors marvelled at his vitality. He embraced his wife and child and said farewell to scores of friends.

"Kevin, while there's life, there's hope," one of them said encouragingly.

"Ah! There's no hope," the Minister declared in his old cynical manner. "But I was always a bit of a die-hard."

Kevin O'Higgins was known as the Irish Mussolini on account of the strong measures he adopted for suppressing the Republican attempt to smash the Free State by force of arms. He was probably the most respected and at the same time the most hated man in Ireland. A nephew

of Governor Tim Healy, he shared the Governor's gift of incisive and bitter speech. Combined with this was a keen, analytical mind and inflexible will. But for him, it is considered doubtful if the Free State could have survived the civil war of 1922.

The dead minister always was particularly outspoken in his demands-

tions of the Republicans and the De Valera Party in his political speeches, and for this and other reasons was provided with police protection.

A particularly touching incident is that his assassination follows upon the similar fate of his father, Dr. O'Higgins, who was shot dead by raiders in his own home in 1923.

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