

OUTLOOK FOR COTTON

Impossible to Predict Price of Staple

Crop in Bad Shape in Texas and Oklahoma, But Good in Other Parts of the Belt—With 12,000,000 Bale Crop Price Will Soar.

(By Leased Wire to The Times)
Washington, Sept. 9.—In speaking of the outlook for the cotton crop this year, Major A. B. Anderson, a well known business man of Birmingham, Ala., who is visiting Washington, said today:
"It is impossible to predict the price of cotton this year. Reports from Texas are that the crop there is in bad shape and the same story comes from Oklahoma, and in the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee I can say from personal observation that it is up to the average, if not better. If the total crop does not approximate 12,000,000 bales it is probable that the price of cotton will soar. The government report has it that the crop all around will be short and that it is almost as bad in the states I have named as in Texas and Oklahoma, but I know better.

"What effect would a poor crop have on the business of the country? Well the value of the cotton crop in this country in the past has exceeded that of the wheat crop, but at that it is not of so great importance that it would have any big effect on the general business. How much tonnage do you think the cotton crop of this country approximates compared with the total amount of freight carried by the railroads? Not 3 per cent. Why, the freight shipped from Jackson county, Ala., alone will exceed the total tonnage of the cotton crop. I am not seeking to belittle the importance of the cotton crop. It is without doubt the most valuable crop to the people of this country, perhaps, of any staple produced. That is, it brings in more foreign exchange. A very large part of the cotton crop of the United States is exported, while the wheat crop is largely consumed at home. But even if it does happen that our cotton crop this year is below the average, I do not think we shall have to worry a great deal. There is every indication in every part of the country I have visited that business is gradually getting back to normal."

Dutch Cruiser to Attend.
(By Leased Wire to The Times)
New York, Sept. 9.—The Dutch cruiser Utrecht arrived today from Curacao to attend the Hudson-Fulton celebration.

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REPORT ON CHINESE FOREIGN COMMERCE

Washington, Sept. 9.—Commercial conditions in China and the position of the United States and other leading nations in reference thereto are discussed in the official report on the foreign trade of China for 1908, a copy of which has been received by the bureau of the department of commerce and labor. Imports are found to have been \$258,000,000 in 1908, compared with \$273,000,000 in 1907, \$293,000,000 in 1906, and \$225,000,000 in 1904. There was thus in 1908 a decrease in imports of \$15,000,000 when compared with 1907, and of \$35,000,000 when compared with 1906, the year in which China's imports reached the highest record. Exports from China are reported at \$181,000,000 in 1908, compared with \$173,000,000 in 1907 and an increase of \$8,000,000.

That the United States, has, in the import trade of China, fared better than most other parts of the world is indicated by table showing the value of the direct trade with principal countries and grand divisions for whereas net imports into China during 1908 decrease \$15,000,000 from figures of the preceding year, those from the United States increased about \$3,000,000—from \$24,171,777 in 1907 to \$27,015,936 in 1908.

The improving condition of the great export trade in the United States to China in cotton goods is further illustrated by figures of the monthly summary of commerce in finance for June, 1909, which shows the exports down to the middle of the current year. For June, 1909, exports of cotton cloths from the United States to China aggregate 25,500,000 yards against 8,500,000 yards in June of the preceding year.

NOVEL METHODS USED

By Our Department of Agriculture, Says Baltimore Sun

Praise for the System Used in This State to Instruct Farmers and Their Wives—Love for Farm and Home Free—Cooking Taught on Car.

The Baltimore Sun of a recent date has the following article on the methods used by the Department of Agriculture in instructing the farmers and their wives:
"How modern ideas and improved methods in agriculture are being brought to the attention of the farmers of North Carolina is, in part, explained in the last report of Major William A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture of that state.

"There is no more important division of the state government in North Carolina than the Department of Agriculture. It has, among many other activities, virtual control of the Agricultural and Mechanical College; it has a bureau of geology; another that analyzes and collects taxes on all fertilizers; another that analyzes all foodstuffs and administers the state Pure Food law; it also conducts a number of experimental and test farms, owned by the state, and holds institutes 'for farmers and for women all over the state, and in aid of this work runs 'demonstration cars' from town to town along the railroad.' In this farmers' institute work not only the commissioner himself takes part, when his other duties allow, but he has a staff of lecturers, including professors of agriculture, professors of animal husbandry and dairying, veterinarians, practical farmers, poultrymen, dairymen and women lecturers on domestic science, butter making, poultry raising and care of the home.

"Dr. Butler, director of the institute work, reports from December 1, 1907, to December 1, 1908, there were held 234 institutes. Of these 151 have been regular farmers' institutes for men, 14 orchard demonstration institutes, 68 institutes for women and 1 five-day short-course dairy school. In addition, a round-up institute, or, as it is generally known, state farmers' convention, was held, embracing separate meetings for both men and women.

Concerning the women's institutes the report says:
"The holding of institutes for the women in the farm homes was inaugurated in 1906, and 21 institutes were held in 19 counties. During 1907 this work was greatly extended, there being held 50 institutes in 38 counties. During 1908 the number was also largely increased, 68 institutes being held in 46 counties.

"The success of these women's institutes has more than justified our assumption that an effort to improve rural conditions through the co-operation of the women on the farms would be as effective as the institutes for men had been. Allowing for the general lack of knowledge regarding the purposes or objects of these institutes, the interest in them and the appreciation shown for the information sought to be imparted have been very gratifying and indicate very plainly that the women on the farms of the state are ready to take hold of the work and make it a tremendous power for the upbuilding of farm conditions and farm life.

"The best farms are impossible without the best farm homes, and a knowledge of modern domestic science is as important and useful to the woman who is to develop and maintain the ideal farm home of the future as is a knowledge of modern agricultural science to the man who is to build up a model farm.

"The following list of subjects is given as a sample of the topics discussed: The farm fruit garden, the farm vegetable garden, farm poultry, farm butter making, beautifying the home surroundings, home conveniences, literature for the farm home, home-making, home nursing, the nutritive value of foods, cooking meats, vegetables, etc.; bread making, educating the girls on the farm, home sanitation.

"The usual practice has been to hold the women's institutes on the same day and at the same place as the institute for men, but in a separate hall. At least one, and usually two, separate sessions are held, which enable the women to form an organization of their own and permit of greater freedom in the discussion of special household topics, many of which would neither be instructive nor interesting to a mixed or general audience.

"Two women lecturers are usually sent out by the state to each meeting, and when a joint afternoon session is not held with the men some of the lecturers from the men's institute usually assist at the women's meeting.

Of the demonstration cars for the women the report says:
"For many years special trains of cars have been run in a large number of states for the purpose of carrying institute workers and materials for illustrating their work. The special trains are usually run so as to devote at most a few hours at a place, from 3 to 10 stops being made each day. In this way much spectacular effect was obtained, but facilities and opportunities for teaching are sacri-

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"During the past institute season it was determined to use two cars—one for domestic-science demonstrations and the other for agricultural implements, seeds, spraying and dairy apparatus, etc., for demonstrations at the men's meetings.

"A passenger coach, from one end of which two seats were removed, was fitted up as a modern kitchen, with labor-saving utensils and devices. In this kitchen was an oil stove, ice box, kitchen cabinet, fireless cooker, sink and necessary utensils. The remaining seats of the car were utilized for seating those attending the demonstrations, and when the attendance was not too large, the women's institute was held in this car.

"It is believed that this is probably the first domestic science car ever run, but it clearly demonstrated its utility in rendering more effective the work of the women's institutes by offering facilities for actual demonstrations of many of the things taught.

"Another car was fitted with modern improved agricultural implements, etc., and whenever practicable the farmers furnished teams and these implements were taken to the fields and their working demonstrated. These cars were furnished and hauled free of charge by the Southern Railway Company. The results obtained were more than satisfactory, especially with the domestic-science car."

It would seem that Major Graham and his predecessor, the late S. L. Patterson, might have given some valuable pointers to ex-President Roosevelt's late lamented commission which was to devise means to ameliorate conditions on the farms.

It would seem also that the southern farmer and his wife are rather more wide-awake than they are generally given credit for in the north and west.

Postmaster Arrested.

(By Leased Wire to The Times)
Washington, Sept. 9.—The postoffice department has been advised of the arrest of Adolpho Espinosa, postmaster at Ranches of Taos, N. M., charged with having embezzled money order funds. The alleged shortage is placed at about \$4,500. The postmaster claims that the shortage is due to a robbery of the postoffice September 3.

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