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“More Food, Less Cotton” Europe’s Cry: Let’s Heed It



SOY BEANS ON FARM OF LEE STEVENSON, STEVENSON, LA.

On the Stiffer, Stronger Soils Throughout the Cotton Belt Soy Beans Are Proving a Valuable Forage Crop.

IF ANYONE wishes a concrete illustration of the drafts the European War makes on America’s food supply, just let him compare food exports for the eight months ending March 1, 1914, as compared with exports for the eight months ending March 1, 1915, as follows:

as compared with the eight months a year previous, increased her demand for corn from 5,000,000 to 23,000,000 bushels, her demand for wheat from 71,000,000 to 192,000,000 bushels, and her demand for beef, fresh and canned, from 60,000,000 pounds to 105,000,000 pounds, she

	8 Mos. Ending March, 1914	8 Mos. Ending March, 1915
Corn, bushels.....	5,747,387	23,164,015
Corn, value.....	\$4,274,656	\$17,759,054
Oats, bushels.....	797,382	47,385,413
Oats, value.....	\$357,517	\$26,932,992
Wheat, bushels.....	71,618,028	192,092,312
Wheat, value.....	\$67,654,608	\$229,205,142
Flour, barrels.....	8,336,302	10,456,213
Flour, value.....	\$38,200,696	\$55,946,386
Beef, canned, pounds.....	2,391,174	44,060,235
Beef, canned, value.....	\$320,251	\$7,106,855
Beef, fresh, pounds.....	4,116,457	61,059,441
Beef, fresh, value.....	\$503,560	\$7,437,924
Beef, pickled, pounds.....	15,565,114	16,229,682
Beef, pickled, value.....	\$1,536,750	\$1,694,928
Bacon, pounds.....	144,201,407	160,295,260
Bacon, value.....	\$19,187,933	\$22,426,687

In the matter of cotton, on the contrary, the record for the same periods read as follows:

	8 Mos. Ending March, 1914	8 Mos. Ending March, 1915
Cotton, bales.....	7,281,217	5,607,226
Cotton, value.....	\$498,510,323	\$243,947,192

One finds, in short, that while Europe in the eight months ending March 1, 1915,

decreased her demand for cotton from 7,381,257 to 5,607,226 bales. And in the face of this greatly decreased cotton demand—in spite of the fact that prices are cut in two while food prices are almost doubled—we have *the greatest cotton production in the history of the human race.*

Or to look at the matter in yet another way, Europe during the latter period of eight months increased her payments for food stuffs from \$132,000,000 to \$388,000,000, and decreased her cotton bill from \$498,000,000 to \$243,000,000. In other words, she paid out almost three times as much for food and less than half as much for cotton, leaving us also with a record-breaking surplus to carry over and be added to our next fall’s crop.

In the face of facts such as these, what shall we say of the farmer who lets himself be fooled by the present little upward spurt in cotton prices—a trick of the speculators, it would seem, to secure another big acreage? Who will bite at the bait?

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