

FIGHTING COTTON OIL TRUST.

Advice of President E. A. Calvin to Texas Farmers' Union.

One of the most arrogant and exacting trusts in Texas to-day is the Oil Mill Trust. So well is this known that the grand juries in the State have been called on to make special investigation of its workings. The territory of the State of Texas is districted and farmed out among several oil mills and there is no longer any competition among them in the buying of seed. Last fall they fixed the price of seed at ten dollars per ton, and most of the crop was sold at that price.

The trust is not satisfied with merely owning and controlling the oil mills and fixing the price of seed at about one-half their value, but they are reaching out in every direction and absorbing the gins throughout the State, the object being to better enable them to control the price of seed.

Some of the trust-owned gins gin cotton only for custom or toll and will not gin for money; others insist on buying all the cotton they gin in the seed, thus enabling them to get control of both cotton and seed.

So long as this practice is permitted to continue we need not expect to get fair prices for our cottonseed. I call upon all true Union men everywhere to see, if possible, that no more cotton is sold in the seed and that cash is paid for ginning.

With oil ranging from thirty to thirty-five cents per gallon, and meal \$27 per ton, the products of a ton of seed will bring in the market about \$27.50. Seven dollars and fifty cents will cover the cost of crushing and handling and allow a liberal margin of profit, so the producer ought to be receiving from eighteen to twenty dollars per ton for his cottonseed instead of ten dollars or eleven dollars as at present.

I want this convention to take this matter up and agree upon a reasonable price for this fall's crop of seed. Not a seed should be sold at such cut-throat prices as were fixed by the trust last fall.

Every farmer should provide a place for storing his seed, and keep them at home until a fair price is offered; if a fair price is not offered, they should be used for fertilizing purposes. If we will stand firm and ask our neighbors to stand with us, it will not be long until fair prices will be paid.

There is a way to solve the cotton question and become independent of the oil mill trust, and that is this: The mills should be owned and controlled by members of the Union.

Early next year this matter must be taken up and carried through. Every County Union in the South which is strong enough should buy or build an oil mill, and where a County Union is not strong enough, two or more counties should be put into a district for this purpose. Every Union man in the district or country should have an interest in the mill. The profits to the stockholders should come from the increased value of seed, and for this reason all Union men in any county or district should be interested and own a small share in the mill. This matter should have been taken up this year, but we have had so much on our hands that we thought it best to devote our time and efforts to solving other problems and to let this rest until the beginning of another year.

A Mississippi Subscriber Pleased.

Messrs. Editors: The liberal inducement offered some months ago in your endeavor to increase the circulation of your periodical caused my name to be entered on your mailing list as a subscriber. Really I have

forgotten whose names as substantial farmers I gave you in this locality which entitled me to the copy you have regularly sent me; but this thought arises in my mind: I wonder if they have found The Progressive Farmer as interesting and valuable to their firesides and general interest as I have? I will say this, that every feature and deduction presented from time to time in its columns, no matter upon what subject, seems to be conservative and logically drawn. This being my "debut" into your sanctum, I will ask only a line or two more on the last paragraph of "Harrow's" contribution in your last issue and then I'll close. The Executive Committee of the Southern Cotton Association have placed themselves, in the retention of Mr. Cheatham, in a light that will create suspicion and operate on that line of not fooling all the people all the time. Bad generals have caused defeat upon many a battle ground though the cause they fought for was just.

"OLD REB."

Coffeerville, Miss.

Col. Charles E. Johnson on the Cotton Situation.

"You ask me what I would advise the farmers to do as to holding cotton. There are two courses which the farmer could pursue which would be, in my opinion, disastrous.

"(1) To rush all of his cotton to market during the first few months of the season.

"(2) To hold his cotton back so that he would have to rush all of his cotton on the market during a few months later on in the season.

"Either course would depress prices. I have always thought that the best way to market cotton, as well as any other commodity, was not to over-load the market at any one time. In other words, market it along gradually throughout the selling period, rather than rush a great quantity on the market at any one time. Any artificial conditions produced by combinations are obliged to bring about disaster in the end, because the economic law of supply and demand will prevail in the long run and must not be lost sight of.

"As to my opinion about the general cotton situation: The crop in the United States is much larger than last year. This must be admitted. Trade, however, is good, and manufacturers are making a fair profit. I see no reason, therefore, why cotton should decline to a starvation price. Ten cents seems to me, under all conditions, not unreasonable."

Who Can Tell?

Messrs. Editors: I want the address of a company that makes machinery for manufacturing hamper baskets. Can you give me any information as to how to find it?

U. LEE LEWIS.

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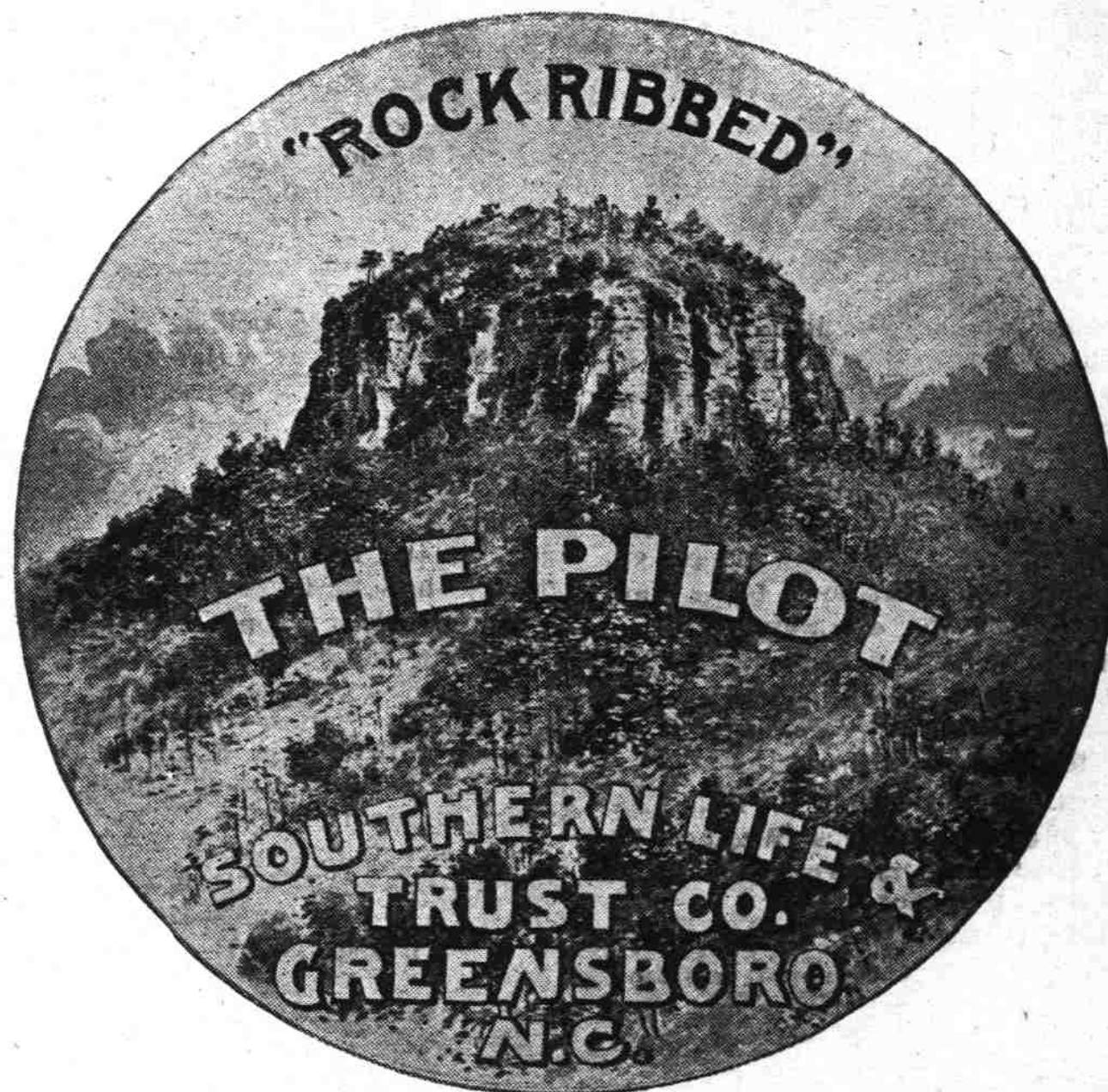
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on the contrary, can be, and are, adapted in composition and quantity of ingredients to any soil or crop. Those most used, perhaps, contain 8 or 10 per cent. phosphoric acid, 2 or 3 per cent. nitrogen and 2 to 4 per cent. potash. Particularly on some clay soils, these furnish a well-balanced ration for the wheat. On some clay and most sandy lands, however, fully twice this percentage of potash should be used, while many soils need nitrogen. Buy only the high-grade VIRGINIA-CAROLINA FERTILIZERS, and you cannot make a mistake if your seed selection and cultivation are proper. They will "increase your yields per acre."

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