

## An Imperative Message to Tobacco Growers.

**"Don't Increase Your 1907 Acreage; No Increase Means at Least \$2,000,000 More in Your Pockets Than You Got Last Year"—This is Mr. Gravely's Message and He Supports it By Able Argument.**

Fellow Tobacco Growers:—I am often asked the questions, "What do you think of planting tobacco this year?" "Do you believe prices will remain as high as they are now, or have been this season, if the crop is increased to the size of the 1902 or 1903 crops?" In reply, I wish to say that if I should consult my own personal interest, as many others are doing at this time, I would advise the planting of the biggest crop of your life.

But when your interest is considered, and the welfare of our State and Nation is thought of, nothing but dishonesty and criminal selfishness would suggest or advise the planting of a big crop of tobacco in 1907. Planting a big crop this year, my brother farmer, is dangerous—so dangerous that many humble homes will be brought to grief as a result. Line after line of statistics could be brought to show the probable disaster that will come to the producer with a big crop, but it seems unnecessary to do so when we have daily practical proof before our own eyes that competition is weak—yes, almost entirely gone, and that a conscienceless trust fixes the price of your stuff at whatever figure they think will best serve their selfish interest, regardless of what you say, think or do.

### Two Plain Propositions.

The ability of the Trust to fix the price of our tobacco cannot be denied, and that they will fix a price below the cost of production on a big crop, need not be doubted.

If there are those in our midst whose blindness permits them to think that prices will not decline if the crop is largely increased, we have only to compare pounds and prices of the crops of 1905 and 1906 to show that such an idea is based upon nothing but hope. We produced in North Carolina in 1905 eighty-six million pounds of tobacco, which we sold for six million eight hundred thousand dollars. In 1906 we reduced the production sixteen million pounds, giving us only seventy million, for which we obtained seven million one hundred and forty thousand dollars.

### Trust Pays More for a Small Crop Than a Big One.

In other words, we sold seventy million pounds in 1906 for three hundred and forty thousand dollars more money than we got for an eight-six million crop in 1905—sixteen million pounds less, for three hundred thousand dollars more money, and of a much inferior quality, when the condition in which it was placed on the markets for sale is taken into consideration.

With these stubborn facts before us, isn't it the height of foolishness to increase the planting? Does it appear that sensible men will do such a thing? But, says one, "I am told by my friend Jones, Smith, or Brown, or some other fellow, that the short crops we have had for the past three years have caused the supply to be less than the demand, and you can therefore plant all the tobacco you can cultivate this year, for prices ain't going down." Or, "The world needs it and all you have got to do, old boy, is to make 'er."

Hear me, fellow-farmers: the man who acts on such advice is a fool, and the fellow who gives it belongs in the State Penitentiary.

Nothing, nothing I say, but a big crop will carry prices down in 1907, and every man with three grains of gray matter in his "noggin" knows it. Why, then, should "a friend" advise you to "plant all you can?" Listen: a friend won't to it.

### A Big Crop Our One and Only Danger.

I know that you are told to watch the fellow that's going through the country organizing farmers, that he or they are after the dollar, care nothing about your interest; in fact, "I have heard that they are hired by the trust"—and many other such falsehoods concocted for the one single purpose of feathering their own nests at the expense of the men who grow the tobacco.

We know, no increase in acreage this year, means higher prices. As for a big crop, we only know it might sell well.

Who takes the risk? The farmer.

And a big risk it is—so great that there is hardly a shadow of a doubt about his pocket-book being lighter and debts heavier as a result. On account of the farmers' organization and the "get-together" sentiment they created all over the country, they made for themselves about two million dollars by curtailing the crop last year by sixteen million pounds and thus raising the price about two cents.

### Why the Price Was Raised.

Why was the price raised. We all know that little piece of poetry, "Will you walk into my parlor, said the spider to the fly," don't we? The trust raising the price of our tobacco last season for the purpose of inducing us to plant a big crop this year, brings it to my mind most vividly. Has the cost of entering that beautiful parlor so many times been great enough to teach us not to again swallow the poisonous bait? Is it possible, that those of us who were fortunate enough to raise a fine crop the past season, and have sold or are now selling at satisfactory prices, are so blinded by the opiate of good fortune that we cannot see the dangers of the future as reflected by the flash-light of past experience? If so, we have only to recall to memory the sad recollections of 1902 to show that our hopes and expectations of continued prosperity, are a simple delusion.

### Remember Past Experiences.

At that time we had some ground for thinking that prices would remain sufficiently high to justify us to grow the weed. Two commercial giants, each fortified with unlimited means and composed of determined men of the most powerful nations of the earth, were at war over the golden leaf which we produce, and as a result, prices soared aloft. Won't we happy? Perfect satisfaction was written on the face of every farmer who had a cart load to sell, and the thought of a change of such a glorious condition of affairs never for one moment entered our minds. "Will Uncle Sam's boys surrender? Not on your life." And John Bull "will stay there until the end of time," was heard in almost every home. But alas! a flag of truce appeared on the horizon, a peace conference was called, the hachet was buried and peace, love and unity prevailed amongst the former combatants, and the tobacco was taxed to pay the cost of the conflict. Notwithstanding the

fact that the combination lowered the price of leaf at least four cents per pound, in less than thirty days after hostilities ceased they could not get enough revenue out of what remained in the farmers' hands to reimburse them, so they took the next crop (1903) for less than six cents per pound net to the grower.

### Keep Down the 1907 Crop.

Therefore, my brother farmer, I beg you to tell me on what you base your hope for satisfactory prices for a big crop of tobacco in the year 1907 upon? Nothing; nothing but an earnest desire of the heart. "Faith," says one. Yes, faith is a good thing to have, but "faith without works availeth nothing," says the Good Book.

Then what works are we going to do to prevent a return of the conditions that existed in 1903? Or to obtain as much money for the crop we are about to plant as we did for the one just sold?

It appears from the reports received from the tobacco-producing counties, that nothing except the preparation for a big crop is being done. What can be done is an easy question to answer.

Don't increase your planting. No increase in acreage means at least two million dollars more in your pockets for the 1907 crop than you got for the 1906 crop.

### The One Remedy.

How can an increase be prevented? By concert of action. Agreeing among ourselves to do "the same thing at the same time," and then doing it is the good fruits of organization. Therefore: organization, perfect organization, is the only sure method of obtaining each year profitable prices of our tobacco. And of this I shall have more to say in later numbers of The Progressive Farmer.

J. O. W. GRAVELY.

Rocky Mount, N. C.

## Make Plowing Easy

By Using  
Wonder  
Plow  
Trucks.



This truck will fit any beam, right or left, one or two horse, wood or steel plow. A boy can handle it with ease, most of the time without his hand on the plow. Regulates perfectly depth and width of furrow. Will balance plow in hard, dry, stony soil, and save a third of draft on horses. The plowman does not need to hold plow handles. Works perfectly in tall grass or weeds, turning them completely under. Thousands in use.

If it does not do all of these things, you can send it back and we will not only return your money but pay the freight both ways.

Write for our booklet "Progress in Plowing." Agents wanted everywhere. Retail price \$5. Get special agents proposition. Wonder Plow Co., 109 Factory St., St. Clair, Mich.

## Time is Money!

SAVE YOURS  
BY USING

RUBBER  
STAMPS &  
STENCILS.



Catalog 170 on  
request.

Price 25 Cents.

Dixie Seal and Stamp Co., Atlanta, Ga.

## STRAWBERRY PLANTS

Send \$1.80 for 1,000 plants. True to name first-class.  
12 apple, peach or plum for \$1.00.

John Lightfoot, Dept. 14, Chattanooga, Tenn.

## Fortunes in Cabbage Raising.

Early Jersey  
WAKEFIELD

The Earliest  
Cabbage Grown.

Charleston  
Large Type  
WAKEFIELD  
Second Earliest.

Succession

The Earliest  
Flat  
Head  
Variety.

Any of the above varieties of Plants, C. O. D. or cash; less than 4000 at \$1.50 per M.; 5000 to 9000 at \$1.25 per M. Special prices on lots of 10,000 or more. We have been in the business eight years and grow our plants in the open air, so that they will stand the early frosts and severe colds. All shipments have our personal attention, and satisfaction is guaranteed or money refunded. Address, B. L. COX, Ethel P. O., S. C. Express and Telegraphic Office: Meggetts, S. C.

## Cabbage Plants.



I am now prepared to fill orders for my Celebrated Cabbage Plants in any quantity desired.

Early Jersey Wakefield—Earliest and best sure header, small type.

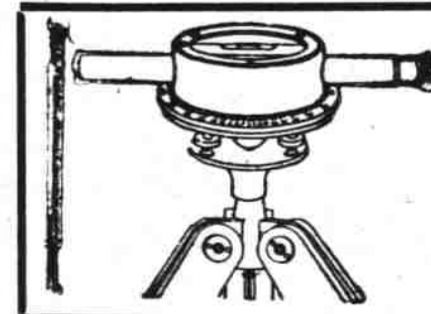
Charleston Wakefield—about ten

days later than early Jerseys, also a sure header of fine size.

Succession—Best known sure heading variety of large flat cabbage, later than Charleston Wakefield.

These plants are from the very best tested seeds and grown in the open air and will stand severe cold without injury. All orders are filled from the same beds that I am using for my extensive cabbage farm. Satisfaction guaranteed. Prices, f. o. b. here, packed in light boxes: 500 for \$1, 1,000 to 4,000 at \$1.50 per M.; 5,000 to 8,000 at \$1.25 per M. Special prices on larger quantities. All orders shipped C. O. D. when not accompanied by remittance.

CHAS. M. GIBSON, Young's Island, S. C.



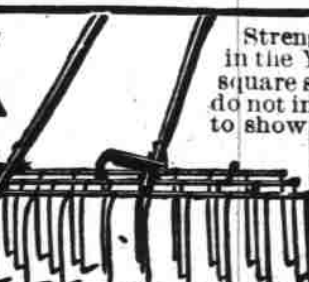
## FARMERS OF NORTH CAROLINA!

Do you want to know why more than 8000 Farmers have bought

The Bostrom Improved Farm Level With Telescope for Terracing, Irrigation and Drainage and recommend it to be the best one made? Write for list of names, Treatise on Terracing and descriptive circulars—Free. Price including Tripod and Rod—\$12.50. Expressage prepaid to nearest station, cash accompanying order.

Bostrom-Brady Mfg. Co., 128 Madison Ave., Atlanta, Ga.

## The YORK Improved WEEDER



Strength of frame and flexibility of teeth are combined in the York Improved Weeder. The teeth are made of square springs and without points. Being narrow, they do not injure the plants. No clogging. Ask your dealer to show you The York Improved Weeder, examine it carefully, and you will see that it has the advantages of efficiency and economy over all other weeders. Spangler Corn Planters and Grain Drills always give satisfaction—durable, perfect in operation. Write for our free catalogue.

SPANGLER MFG. CO.,  
508 N. Queen St., York, Pa.