

South Carolina Crop Conditions.

Cotton Will Exceed an Average Crop According to Commissioner Watson's Reports—Rapid Development Shown in Growing Corn and Tobacco.

Messrs. Editors: The Southern States Association of Commissioners of Agriculture meets in annual session in Columbia, in November, on the invitation of Commissioner Watson, who was last year elected president of the Association at its meeting in Jacksonville. Mr. Watson with his usual energy is preparing to make the meeting a success and he expects a large attendance of Agricultural workers besides the Commissioners. In company with other Commissioners, composing the committee appointed for that purpose, Mr. Watson has this week gone to Washington to extend an invitation to attend the meeting to Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, Dr. S. A. Knapp and others prominent in the agricultural work of the Federal Department. It is probable that an invitation will also be extended to President Roosevelt.

Mr. Watson's System of Crop Reports

Mr. Watson has written to each of the Commissioners belonging to the Association to suggest that each of them come to Columbia on this occasion prepared to give an accurate estimate of the cotton crop in this State, so that from these estimates by States a general estimate may be prepared. Mr. Watson believes that it would be of value if there could be organized a system of such reports to be compiled at stated times during the season and sent out from some central point, giving an estimate of the crop that will be free from the alleged influences which control the government estimates. He has himself just completed a report on the crops in South Carolina which is considered very accurate in view of the fact that it is compiled from reports, by counties, made without previous organization, but by men upon whom he called without notice for their opinion and observations. This report will be included in an advertising handbook to be distributed in a short while.

Cotton Expected to Reach an Average Crop.

In the estimate of the condition of the cotton crop in this State, Mr. Watson came within a few points of the figure announced a few hours later by the department of agriculture at Washington. He places the condition on August 1 at 80.5 per

cent, as against 72 per cent last year the same date, and 79 per cent on the first of July this year. The reports made to him show that there has been a steady improvement in the condition of cotton since the opening of the season which is in marked contrast to the deterioration between July 1 and August 1 of last year, but there has not been the rapid improvement which characterized the crops in the record year of 1904. On account of the set-back which the crop received in May, it is more dependent than usual on the weather conditions in August, upon the absence of an early killing frost and upon a good picking season.

Mr. Watson's figures justify an estimate of 984,153 bales, the average crop in this State being placed at 956,672 bales. The South Carolina mills consume annually an average of 761,410 bales.

Some of the counties report a slight decrease in acreage and others a slight increase, about balancing each other in this respect. Inquiries were made as to labor conditions for the cultivation and harvesting of the crop and reports on this also varied but the majority of reports indicated a scarcity and inefficiency of labor that is by no means encouraging.

Rapid Development of Corn and Tobacco Growing.

Reports as to the corn crop show that there has been a largely increased acreage this year and a larger use of fertilizer. "The rapid development of corn growing," says Mr. Watson, "has been perhaps brought about in some measure by the introduction of the Williamson plan and the fact that the State, during 1906, not only won the first prize but a number of others in the National corn-growing contest."

Reports from the tobacco belt indicate a very large increase in acreage over 1906, in some of the counties the acreage being doubled. The crop is very fine and promises an unusually good quality, the prospect being better than it has been since 1903.

The fruit crop in South Carolina is this year almost a complete failure.

Mr. Watson is being urged to make these reports a regular feature of his department and may arrange to do so. JAS. A. HOYT.
Columbia, S. C.

What's the Price of Cotton?

Cotton Farmers, Bestir! Hold a Mass Meeting August 24th in Every Township and Say What You Want for Your Cotton.

Messrs. Editors: What's the price of cotton? The time for asking this question is near at hand. There are but two parties who can answer it. These are the seller and the buyer. The one party in many communities is resting easy, making no effort to have a say in the matter; the other party is busy shaping his forces so that he may name the price far below the cost of production; in fact, he has already bought cotton to be delivered to him at less than the farmer can make it at.

Send Delegates to State Meeting, 29th

Farmers, business men, it is time to bestir yourselves, if you would realize fair prices for the 1907 crop.

Let every city, town and township in North Carolina cotton producing counties hold a mass meeting on Friday, August 24th, make a fair estimate of the probable production of the township, agree on what a fair minimum price shall be, select one or more delegates to attend the Cotton Association meeting at the A. & M. College, Raleigh, N. C., on August 29th. Select men who will certainly attend this important meeting and not disappoint you.

In townships where there are no sub-divisions of the Cotton Association, I urge the farmers to organize a sub, elect a chairman and secretary and send their address to our office at Charlotte, N. C. Also report to our office the general condition of the cotton crop on August 24th.

We want the address of every township officer to enroll on our mailing list. We believe that through the mailing list we will be able to give much valuable information to the farmers of the township, during the next cotton season.

Are You a Sticker?

Reader, this letter is to you; what are you going to do about it? Will you get your neighbor and go to your school house on Friday afternoon, August 24th, and talk over a matter that concerns you? This letter is not addressed to the farmer who says, "It's no use to try to organize the farmers, they won't stick." My friend you are the chap who has no stick about you, and you are the chap who is in the way of a prosperous South. If you are not a non-sticker, you will go to your township meeting and you will advertise the time and place in your community.

Indications are for a large attendance at the Farmers' Convention, August 28th to 30th, it is probable that one or more farmers from every township will attend the Convention (every farmer should go), therefore it should not be difficult to have every township represented at the meeting of the Cotton Association.

Conditions Point to Higher Price.

On August 29th, the North Carolina Cotton Association will recommend to the National Committee a minimum price for the 1907 crop of

cotton; the State executive committee would like to have a full expression on this very important question.

The price of spot cotton continues around 14 cents generally over our State. Prices on dry goods from jobbers indicate that manufacturers can pay 15 cents per pound for new cotton and make a good dividend on their products, which are already sold far ahead.

I anticipate an interesting meeting on August 29th. I hope you will be there. C. C. MOORE,
President North Carolina Division
Southern Cotton Association.

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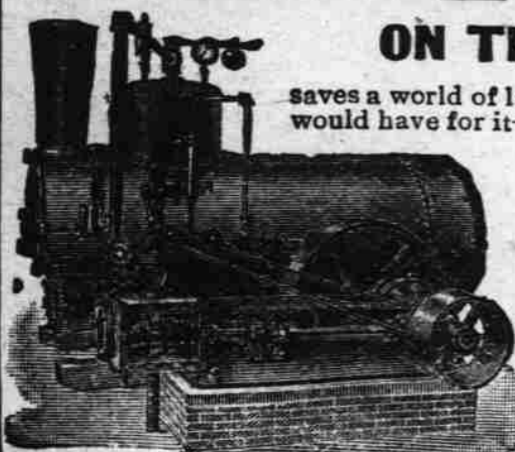
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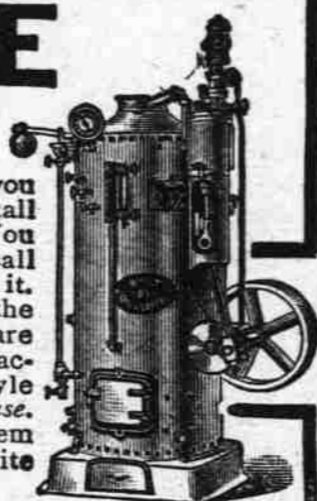
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