

LATEST NEWS AT FIRST HAND FROM THE 1907 COTTON CROP.

A few days ago *The Progressive Farmer* sent to the presidents of farmers' organizations in the Cotton States a letter requesting a report on the size and present conditions of the 1907 cotton crop. The answers received up to this time are printed below, and may be regarded as accurately reflecting the real size and condition of the cotton crop in the States to which they apply.

CONDITIONS EASY IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Markets Are Active and Prices Satisfactory—Texture and Quality Better Than Last Year—Acreage Notes.

Messrs. Editors: Your letter of recent date, addressed to Mr. E. D. Smith, has been opened by me on account of the illness of Mr. Smith, who is now in a hospital at Florence, S. C.

I have had an excellent opportunity of observing the crops in South Carolina, being secretary of the Southern Cotton Association in South Carolina, and we are making very fine crops; I think we will make at least a million bales. I am glad to say, however, that our people—on account of the high price of cotton for the last few years—are in a strong financial condition; and we have received at this office assurances from thousands of farmers throughout the State that they propose to hold their cotton. And I am told by the cotton buyers that a very limited quantity of cotton is being offered for sale. We have erected warehouses, by subscription

of the farmers, all over the State, and these warehouses are being well patronized by the farmers; and our banks are taking care of everybody who needs advances on their cotton.

We have a great many meetings of the Association throughout the State, and we request the merchants and bankers to attend these meetings, and at the conclusion of the speaking we ask those bankers and merchants to stand by the farmers in this great fight we are making. I am glad to say that the responses to these pleas on behalf of the farmers have been very generous.

The people of South Carolina appreciate what the Southern Cotton Association has done and is trying to do for the farmers of the State, and we have no ground to complain of the support which we are receiving from all classes of our citizens.

FRANCIS H. WESTON,
Secretary.

Columbia, S. C.

MEAGRE REPORTS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Write President Moore a Postal Card Giving the Cotton Facts About Your Township.

Messrs. Editors: I would most gladly give you the information asked for in your recent letter, if I could do so with any degree of accuracy.

We have in nearly every cotton growing township, a local secretary. We have pleaded with them to make a monthly report (on a postal card) of the condition of cotton in their township and during the ginning season to report on gain or loss in ginning as compared with last year. Not having received these reports, it would be only a guess on my part to attempt to give the size of the 1907 crop.

Farmers are curious folks (I am one of them myself); they would

prefer that some New York Cotton Exchange man should estimate their crop and publish same to the world, rather than to do the estimating themselves and tell it to the world through their own organization.

But the farmers are waking up, they will in time perfect a system of statistics that will be reliable and that will be given out through their organization.

Every township secretary who reads this will please take a postal card and write to me telling the probable yield of cotton for his township, and will you not do so every month?
C. C. MOORE,
President North Carolina Division
Southern Cotton Association.

ARKANSAS FROM ONE-SIXTH TO ONE-THIRD SHORT.

Upland, Crop is Short and Bales Are Light—Bulk of Crop Has Been Picked—35 Per Cent Off is Conservative.

Messrs. Editors: In reply to yours of a recent date as to the condition of cotton crop in Arkansas will report as follows: Taking one hundred as perfect, it is very conservative to estimate the crop as fully 35 per cent short of last year's crop, with a diminished acreage of fully one-fourth in northeast Arkansas.

Corn has also suffered in many counties on account of too much dry hot weather, and that is affected fully 30 per cent.
J. B. LEWIS,
State President Farmers' Union.
Jonesboro, Ark.

Messrs. Editors: The Arkansas cotton crop, in my opinion, is short of

last year's crop at least 150,000 bales which would make this year's crop in rounds numbers 750,000 bales. I do not think it will be greater than that amount, although on some of our bottom lands the crop is much better than last year. I think the shortage on the uplands will greatly over-balance the good bottom crop. The weather has been very fine for picking and the bulk of the upland crop is out. The bales are not averaging as heavy as last year, which will help to reduce our crop.

B. H. BURNETT,
President Arkansas Division Southern Cotton Association.
Chickalah, Ark.

TENNESSEE FARMERS STANDING TOGETHER.

Cotton 25 Per Cent Off—Farmers in the Union Are Warehousing Their Cotton.

Messrs. Editors: In regard to the present cotton crop of Tennessee, will say that most of the Farmers' Union cotton is being warehoused by the membership of about 20,000, and that the crop is likely to be about three-fourths of the usual crop. The other crops are about 80 per cent of an average. The farmers of Tennes-

see are more determined than ever before to co-operate in their efforts for marketing. A central warehouse has been established and also arrangements made to finance the "distressed cotton."

J. E. MONTGOMERY,
State President Farmers' Union.
Gleason, Tenn.

LOUISIANA SHORT HALF A MILLION BALES.

Adverse Seasons and the Boll Weevil Have Cut Crop in Two—Talk of Abandoning Cotton for Other Crops.

Messrs. Editors: Louisiana's average cotton crop for the past ten years has been near one million bales, but this year's crop will not be more than five hundred thousand bales. The wet spring and the dry summer have been the cause of a great shortage in the cotton crop. Not this only but the boll weevil has taken about half of the State. Some sections of the State the boll weevil damage is about half, while in other parts they entirely destroyed the cotton.

We fully realize that Louisiana

will soon be out of the cotton business. We are preparing for the boll weevil to have his own way, by giving up the cotton business. Sugar cane, rice, corn, and fruits of all kinds can be grown here very successfully. We will surrender the production of cotton and do better.

The cotton crop of this State is about gathered. Quite a lot is held in Farmers' Union Warehouses.

L. N. HOLMES,
State Business Agent of the Farmers' Union.
Bernice, La.

MISSISSIPPI CROP ABOUT 1,600,000 BALES.

Messrs. Editors: I have your esteemed letter of inquiry and beg to say that the crop of Mississippi will be about 1,600,000 bales, practically the same as last year, just a little more. Picking has never progressed more favorably and we are now considerably ahead of last year in the way of picking, but have hardly

ginned so much. With a few more weeks of the present weather, the crop will be practically gathered. It is hardly necessary to say more in reference to it, as I feel quite sure I am not far from the mark.

Yours truly,
WALTER CLARK,
Clarksdale, Miss.

LONG STAPLE GROWERS STRUCK IT RICH.

The farmer who has raised long staple cotton this year has struck it rich, the price of that variety being more than twice what is paid for the short staple. A few days since Mr. Calvin Stubblefield, of Yazoo County, Miss., sold several bales at twenty-four cents, receiving \$7,000 for the lot.

E. W. Brister, of the same county, sold seventy bales at twenty-seven

cents, or \$9,867.70 for the lot.

Mr. C. Brister sold nine bales at twenty-two and one-half cents; T. B. Peaster twelve bales at twenty-four cents, and twenty-four bales at nine teen cents.

These sales were all made at Yazoo City, which is famed as the best market for long-staple cotton in the State, though several fine sales have been reported from Vicksburg.—New Orleans Picayune.

GOVERNMENT REPORT OF COTTON GINNED, BY STATES.

Census Bureau Shows 4,407,055 Bales Ginned Up to October 18, Being Half a Million Bales Less Than Last Year.

Washington, Oct. 26.—The complete report of the Census Bureau on the quantity of cotton of this year's crop ginned up to October 18th shows 4,407,055 bales, and 24,934 active ginneries.

In 1906 there were 4,931,621 bales, and 26,125 active ginneries. In this report round bales are counted as half bales.

The report includes 97,433 round bales for 1907 and 132,144 for 1906, and 17,984 Sea Island bales for 1907 and 12,091 for 1906. The number of active ginneries and bales ginned by States as compared with 1906 follows:

Alabama, 419,834 bales, against 469,647 in 1906; active ginneries, 3,147, against 3,351 in 1906.

Arkansas, 162,208, against 163,102; active ginneries, 1,821, against 2,000.

Florida, 19,210, against 24,321; active ginneries, 207, against 248.

Georgia, 878,315 bales, against 720,316; active ginneries, 4,290, against 4,283.

Indian Territory, 120,489 bales, against 103,634; ginneries 491; against 515.

Kentucky, 175 bales, against 218; ginneries, 1, against 2.

Louisiana, 183,104 bales, against 321,123; ginneries, 1,542, against 1,907.

Mississippi, 398,381 bales, against 365,058; ginneries, 3,188 against 3,293.

Missouri, 5,934 bales, against 7,375; ginneries, 54, against 53.

North Carolina, 215,012 bales,

against 223,437; ginneries, 2,323, against 2,487.

Oklahoma, 120,299 bales, against 95,075; ginneries, 402, against 344.

South Carolina, 536,242 bales,

against 396,551; ginneries, 3,010, against 2,899.

Tennessee, 54,970 bales, against 38,858; ginneries, 519, against 533.

Texas, 1,292,029 bales, against 1,998,807; ginneries, 3,891, against 4,108.

Virginia, 853 bales, against 4,099; ginneries, 48, against 102.

Best in the Long Run.

Farmers in this (the Northeastern) part of the State are using more labor-saving machinery than ever before. They are realizing that the scarcity of labor is likely to continue. The change that is taking place is for the best interest of our farmers. In our opinion. Southern people have not been taught that there is dignity in honest labor, to the extent that they should, and too many have grown to manhood and womanhood imbued with the idea that they must get a living otherwise than by the sweat of the brow. The introduction of labor-saving machinery on the farms makes farm work easier and more profitable, and the farmer more independent. We see great possibilities for the South under the changed conditions that are rapidly taking place.—Roanoke-Chowan Times.

Our "Hog and Bacon Special" will appear November 21st.