

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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SHALL THE SOUTH SURRENDER \$150,000,000 IN GOLD!

That is What Will be Done if the Cotton Crop Goes at Present Prices—These Prices are Lower Now, Comparatively, Than in the Days When Six Cent Cotton Covered Our Farms With Mortgages—Every Loyal Son of the South of Whatsoever Calling Should Strike Hands With the Farmer in His Fight for a Better Price for His Cotton.

The flippant way in which some people speak of the present price of cotton argues that they do not fully appreciate the gravity of the situation. This is intensified when they say that the farmers have put the price of cotton too high and that it is now seeking its natural level. Such people leave the impression that they are not looking beyond their personal interests and therefore fail to see the stream of gold that annually comes to the South from foreign countries in exchange for her cotton crop—this amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars, which is the mainspring to all business life and activity in the South. Curtail this inflow of gold and we at once cripple every industry in the South. Augment it and at once the electric effect is seen and felt in every line of industry.

A Loss That Will Paralyze the South.

The price of cotton is to-day 2½ cents per pound less than it was one year ago. If this depression in price is to continue throughout the season it will mean a loss to the South on a 12,000,000 bale crop, of \$150,000,000, a sum equal to more than half of the capital invested in the cotton mills of the entire South; likewise a much greater sum than will be spent in the South this year for public education.

These illustrations are given to more forcibly illustrate the enormity of the loss to the South caused by the present depression in prices, and to endeavor to arouse a determination among our people, irrespective of vocation, that it shall not be so.

What Causes the Depression?

For the past few years the South has been enjoying an unprecedented prosperity due entirely to the good prices received for the cotton crop. It seems that the cotton-buying world has decreed that this age of Southern prosperity shall not longer continue. As evidence of this there was during the summer a report sent to the cotton factory centers of the world stating the Southern cotton crop would approximate 16,000,000 bales and the prediction made that the price would go to eight and possibly as low as 6 cents per pound. Such a report very naturally demoralized the cotton trade and every manufacturer wanting to get in on the ground floor was unwilling to lay up stock, and so curtailed production and bought cotton from hand to mouth, continually looking for lower prices. Another factor in depressing the price of cotton is the closing of the Lancashire mills in England. These mills are said to represent half the spindle capacity of that country; consequently their closing will very materially affect the prices of cotton.

Let the Farmers Stand on Their Manhood and Hold for Better Prices.

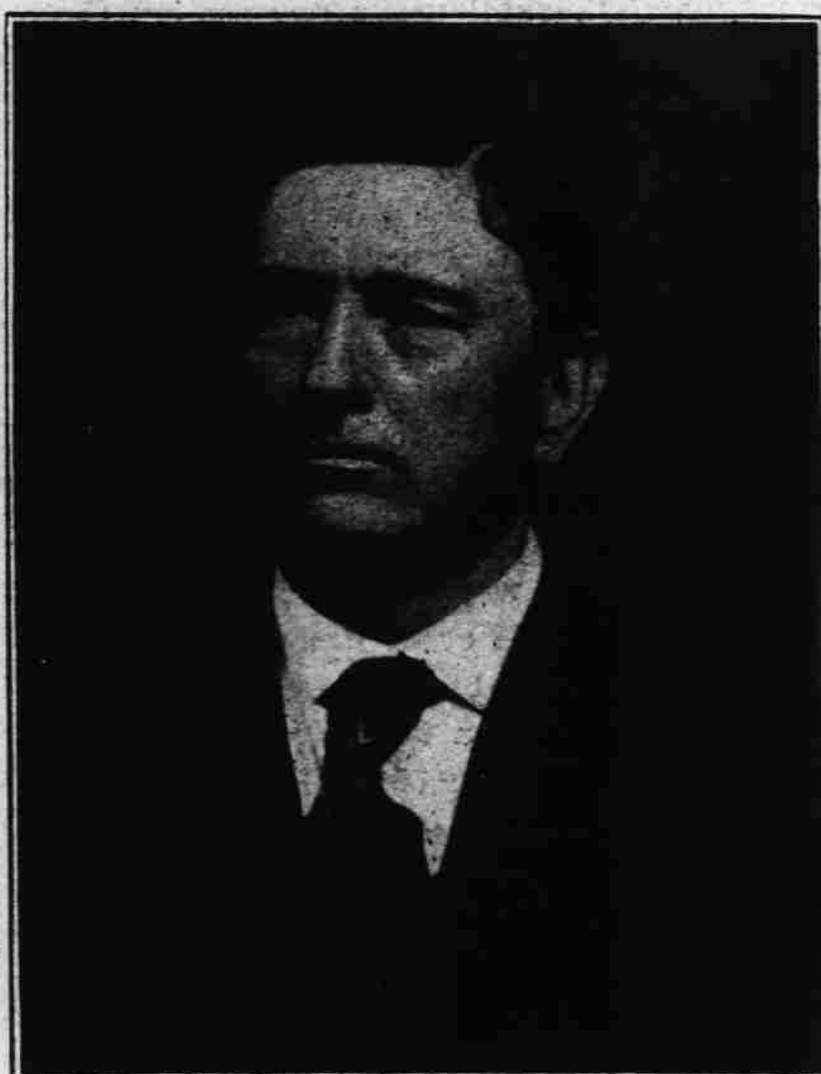
Such briefly is the situation. What are the remedies? An easy question to ask, but a far more difficult one to answer.

In my opinion, the first thing necessary is for the cotton farmers themselves to determine in all their might and manhood that they will not sell a bale of cotton at present prices except to satisfy existing obligations; and then first endeavor to store the cotton and get advances on it to meet the necessity of the occasion. As long as sufficient cotton to meet the requirements of the mills is offered there will be no need for them to advance prices. Therefore hold the cotton off the market until the surplus is worked off. If the

cotton mill men can not sell their goods they can not be expected to buy cotton at its full value, so the thing to do is to not offer any cotton for sale until the trade wants it at a price that will justify the farmer to sell.

Price Lower Now Comparatively Than in the Days of Six-Cent Cotton!

At present prices the purely cotton farmer is making no more money on his cotton than he was ten years ago when cotton was selling at 6 cents



T. B. PARKER.

Mr. Parker was a leader in the cotton holding movement that culminated in the New Orleans Convention in January 1906, and it was upon his motion that the Convention took its stand firmly for ten cents—although cotton was then selling far below that figure—and won its fight, as all the world now knows. What Mr. Parker has to say of the present situation will be read with interest throughout the South.

per pound. At that time corn, meat, labor, and other things that the cotton farmer buys was selling at but little over half of the prices they are now bringing. Six-cent cotton at that time multiplied mortgages on the cotton farms of the South. Notwithstanding the few years of good prices we have had have enabled most farmers to pay off the mortgages then incurred, a continuation of present prices and conditions will bring about a repetition of those days. For that reason the manhood of the South should be against low priced cotton. It is not yet time for the South to assume the role of a philanthropist and sell cotton for a price less than the cost of production so as to furnish the world with cheap cotton goods.

Stand as a Unit, Loyal to the South, and Save Your Own Prosperity.

Do we want farm values to increase instead of decrease? Do we want factories of various kinds to multiply and enlarge in the South? Do we want to educate our children and beautify our homes? Do we want an air of prosperity all over this Southland of ours, with new life, vigor and activity into every line of business, vocation and

profession? If so, let us without regard to vocation be a unit, loyal to the South and her every interest, and save to her this \$150,000,000 annually by maintaining the price of cotton at a remunerative figure so that prosperity may continue to smile on our people.

Let not the farmers be fooled another year by the siren songs of those who tell them the world will take at good prices all the cotton they can produce; but rather let them first see that their crops are so diversified as to insure to each farmer a sufficiency of corn, meat, and other products

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SEED CORN.

Of course, if a farmer has not planted a seed patch, and has not studied it and attended to the breeding all summer, he should make the selection in the field in the fall, but he will seldom get corn like the ears he selects in this way, for the grains have been fertilized by the pollen all around them, and he will get more of the style of corn he rejects than what he selects. I am glad that men like Henry Wallace are coming to agree with me in regard to corn shows. As now managed, they only serve to show that one man has prettier shaped ears than another. We learn nothing at all about the plant that bore the ears, nothing about its ancestry nor the methods used in breeding it. And the bigger the ears the more likely they are to get a prize, though these large ears are almost invariably the only ones on the stalk. With the whole plant shown, we would learn something about the corn more than the particular shape of the ears.

W. F. MASSEY.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

Let every youth aim, first of all, and most of all, at self-mastery. Without it he must be base and miserable. With it he can not but be happy. Without it other things are but "gifts of the evil genii, which are curses in disguise."—F. W. Farrar.

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