

ADDRESS TO COTTON GROWERS.

Head of National Ginners' Association Urges Reduction in Acreage of at Least 10 Per Cent.

To the Cotton Growers:

A year ago I strongly urged you to reduce the acreage in cotton and grow more feedstuff. It seems from the acreage report last year that only a part of the growers reduced their acreage and in some sections a small increase was shown. The result has been about as I predicted, the lowest prices we have had for several years. It now looks as if the crop will bring around \$550,000,000, or over \$50,000,000 less than last year's crop, which was nearly 2,000,000 bales smaller; and, taking the cost of growing the extra 2,000,000 bales into consideration, it means a loss to the South of over \$100,000,000.

The time has arrived when you must decide on the acreage for this season. I strongly urge you to reduce your acreage in cotton at least 10 per cent, and raise more grain

and hay, so you will be more independent at marketing time. When the spinner is assured there is enough cotton grown to supply his needs he is very independent and will only buy at cheap prices. With a possibility of a shortage he is a very eager buyer. While the consumption for the first half of the cotton year ending March will likely be a little less than half the crop, the consumption the last half will be

very much larger, so that we will likely have about the same visible supply that we had last season, so that we should raise next year at least 1,000,000 bales less than the consumption in order to get good prices for it.

Now, don't think that every one else will reduce and you can plant more and get a big price, for that is what too many of you did last season. It will take a uniform reduction in order to get the proper results. You should only plant enough so

that with the most favorable conditions the crop would not exceed 12,500,000 bales and then if weather conditions reduce the yield to 11,000,000 you will get more money for it than if you raised 12,500,000.

J. A. TAYLOR,
President National Ginners' Ass'n.
Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 17, 1909.

If we said less and thought more there would be far fewer things to explain.—Outlook.

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