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Let's Have Cotton Price-fixing if It Will Help Win the War

ON July 5, in New Orleans, at a meeting of cotton growers and bankers from every important cotton state except North Carolina, a resolution was adopted asking President Wilson and Con-

gress to be depended upon to fix them fairly and equitably. Wheat prices have been fixed at \$2.20 a bushel, against a pre-war average of 80 to 90 cents; pig iron at Birmingham is \$33 a ton, against a pre-war price



AT PRESENT PRICES FOR WOOL, SHEEP RAISING IS VERY ATTRACTIVE

gress to create a United States Cotton Corporation vested with power to buy at a price fixed by the President any cotton for which there is no other buyers. A committee composed of one grower and one banker from each cotton state is now in Washington to lay the matter before the Administration.

There can be only one answer to the question as to the advisability of cotton price-fixing: Will it help win the war? Will it better serve the producer, the manufacturer, the consumer and the Nation as a whole to have prices fixed? If it will, then let us have price-fixing.

Southern farmers want no special privileges. Cotton and cottonseed products are essential raw materials, but Southern farmers as a class have no desire to capitalize this fact. Prices of practically all other important raw materials have been fixed, and if it will best serve the common good to fix raw cotton prices, then by far the large majority of cotton growers are for it.

President Wilson and the War Industries Board, if cotton prices are fixed, may

of about \$9; prices of cotton seed and cottonseed products have been fixed satisfactorily to producer and consumer; and so on all down the

line. The aim in every case apparently has been to get an adequate production and at the same time do justice to producer, manufacturer, distributor and consumer. In the case of cotton, we have every reason to believe a similar policy will be followed.

Most of the members of The Progressive Farmer staff are actual farmers and have a personal as well as general interest in this problem. And not only do we believe price stabilization will benefit the entire industry, but especially do we believe it will be helpful to Southern growers, bankers and business men generally. Cotton may go to 40 cents and it may go to 15—and one is equally as dangerous as the other. This is no time to gamble on cotton prices. Rather let us have a stable market, with the certainty of fair and reasonable returns for our labor. We want no more, and we believe we can trust the Administration to give us no less.

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