

COTTON PRODUCERS MUST FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS

Farmers Must Demand a Free World-market for Cotton and the Removal of All Hampering Restrictions

THE armistice has been signed and peace is at hand, therefore, it is necessary that cotton producers squarely face what is before them and fight out the issue.

Cotton is, always has been, and probably ever will be, sectional. Our monopoly in production tends to make it to the interest of other agricultural sections as well as all manufacturers and consumers to work together to hold down the price of our product. This is not a matter for us here in the South to rave over and get mad about, but we should realize it and protect ourselves as best we can.

Domestic spinners are well organized and are already bringing pressure to bear in Washington to protect their interests during the days following peace. They are seeking a continuation of the present plan, whereby our allies are forced to purchase their cotton through a committee appointed by the War Industries Board and then secure a license for exporting the cotton from another Board which also controls the exports to neutrals. The effect of these restrictions is to prevent a free, competitive market for our cotton.

The sympathies of these committees and boards is, in the nature of things, contrary to our interest. If these agencies are not quickly dispensed with, it is highly probable that a surplus of cotton will accumulate in this country and prices remain at a relatively low figure notwithstanding the fact that other countries are wanting our cotton at higher prices. How may a surplus accumulate under this plan? A speaker at the Atlanta Conference gave the answer. "Suppose the War Industries Board is now empowered to license all buyers of American raw materials for export. Suppose this Board stipulates that only a certain quantity of American raw cotton may be shipped out of the country and the remainder kept here. That is the plan that is now being considered, and we might as well face the issue."

The failure of the Purchasing and Distribution Committees to purchase cotton freely when prices are below the cost of production, but instead bring low grades on the market just as we are marketing our good grades, and thus further depress the price, is an indication of what may be expected.

We have been badly hurt by those who were supposedly appointed to protect our interest; therefore, we should without further delay demand that cotton be freed from unfair and obnoxious restrictions. R.

Orchard and Garden Work—What to Do This Week and Next

THE fall of the year is with us and the ground is again littered with leaves. It is not desirable to allow these to cover the lawn, but they should not be burned, because they contain considerable plant food. Pile them up in a corner somewhere and put on a thin top layer of rich earth. In this shape they will soon rot and make a most excellent manure for the garden next spring.

If any portion of the garden is not growing some fall or winter vegetable, or a winter cover crop, by all means break it good and deep as soon as possible. In addition to destroying many harmful insects, it will put the soil in the right shape to absorb and hold the winter rains. Also the alternate freezes and thawing will pulverize and leave it mellow and friable next spring.

Pull up all of the tomato stakes and put under shelter for use next year. If allowed to remain in the ground

throughout the winter many will rot off, and besides this they present an unsightly appearance if left in the garden during the winter.

Make ready for the winter spraying now by securing the material for making the lime-sulphur solution at home, or by ordering the commercial lime-sulphur solution or scalecide, so as to have it on hand to use at the most opportune time. On account of the congested traffic conditions, it is highly important to secure these and all other materials considerably ahead of the time they are to be used.

Those who have not already done so should now select the place for the home orchard, or an addition to the present one. Select good ground, preferably an elevated spot with a northern exposure. If the place selected is not already in a good state of cultivation, plow the ground good and deep and harrow several times so as to put it in the proper shape. This will pay, because fruit trees are as much plants as are cotton, corn, etc., and to produce the best results attention must be given to the proper preparation of the soil.

Pruning can be done any time after the leaves fall, but should certainly be done before giving the winter spraying, provided the branches that are pruned off are burned. Unless they are burned they are liable to serve as hiding places for insects and fungus pests. By pruning before spraying, the work of spraying is reduced just that much. Not only is the labor reduced, but the amount of spraying material necessary to thoroughly cover the tree is considerably reduced. Spraying material, like almost everything else, costs more money now than it did formerly, and anything that will reduce the amount necessary to do good work is certainly advisable.

Make provision for storing a few apples for late winter use. Apples are usually plentiful during the fall and early winter on any farm that has a good home orchard, but not one in ten of such places carry through any appreciable quantity for late winter use. This can be done without any great amount of trouble. Any cool and dry place will serve the purpose. Store in barrels or boxes and put in a dry place, and then when real cold weather comes along and there is danger of freezing, keep covered with old sacks, blankets, or anything of the kind.

Do not overlook picking up and burning the twigs that have been cut from the pecan trees by an insect known as the pecan girdler. This insect attacks not only the pecan, but the hickory and persimmon tree. It makes a hole in the bark of the twig in the early fall and lays an egg in it. The egg soon hatches and the worm burrows around in the wood until spring. Immediately after laying the egg the insect girdles the twig below the place where the egg was laid, so that the young worm can have dead wood, which is its food. The girdle is sufficiently deep for the first hard wind that comes along to blow these twigs off, and all know that it is a common sight to see these under the pecan, hickory and persimmon trees during fall and winter. Much can be done toward the elimination of these pests by picking up these twigs and burning them.

Scrape off all the rough bark from the trunk of the fruit trees and burn it. Such places harbor not only harmful insect pests, but many destructive fungous diseases also. By no means leave this bark on the ground, but burn in order to destroy these insect and fungus pests, and when the fruit trees are given the winter spraying be sure and thoroughly wet the trunk of the tree. This winter spraying material will kill not only insects but many of the disease spores that are likely to be hanging on the tree at many places. This may seem like a



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small point to some, but it is well worth while.


Spare time during the winter can be very profitably utilized by raking leaf mold in the woods and fence corners and spreading it broadcast on the garden. It makes clay soil more porous and more easily workable. It also helps to make loose sandy soil more retentive of moisture. In addition to this, it contains sufficient plant food to make the operation worth while when this quality only is considered.

Those who have only a small lot can grow a few fruit trees. Of course the average farmer has sufficient ground to plant all the fruit trees needed, but often those living in small towns have not more than one-fourth of an acre for the entire lot; but even here a few of the smaller growing fruits should be planted, such as peaches, grapes, figs, etc. These can be put out in the corner of the yard or garden to a decided advantage.

Don't be "buncoed" by some unscrupulous agent who comes along with large and extremely colored specimens in glass jars. Please understand that we are not stating that all fruit tree agents are fakes, because we know some of these people are as straight and honest as can be found anywhere; but unfortunately some unscrupulous fellows get into the business, and their chief desire is to make a sale, and often make claims for the trees that are preposterous. What we wish to do is to warn those who are not certain as to the kind and variety of fruit they need. If uncertain as to these points, consult The Progressive Farmer, your county agent or experiment station, where the very best available information can be had free of charge.

In setting fruit trees, put the top soil around the roots and the raw soil on top. Firm the soil around the roots and set the trees an inch deeper than they were in the nursery row. By all means set in straight rows even though you may be setting but a small number of trees. This makes the orchard look so much better.

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