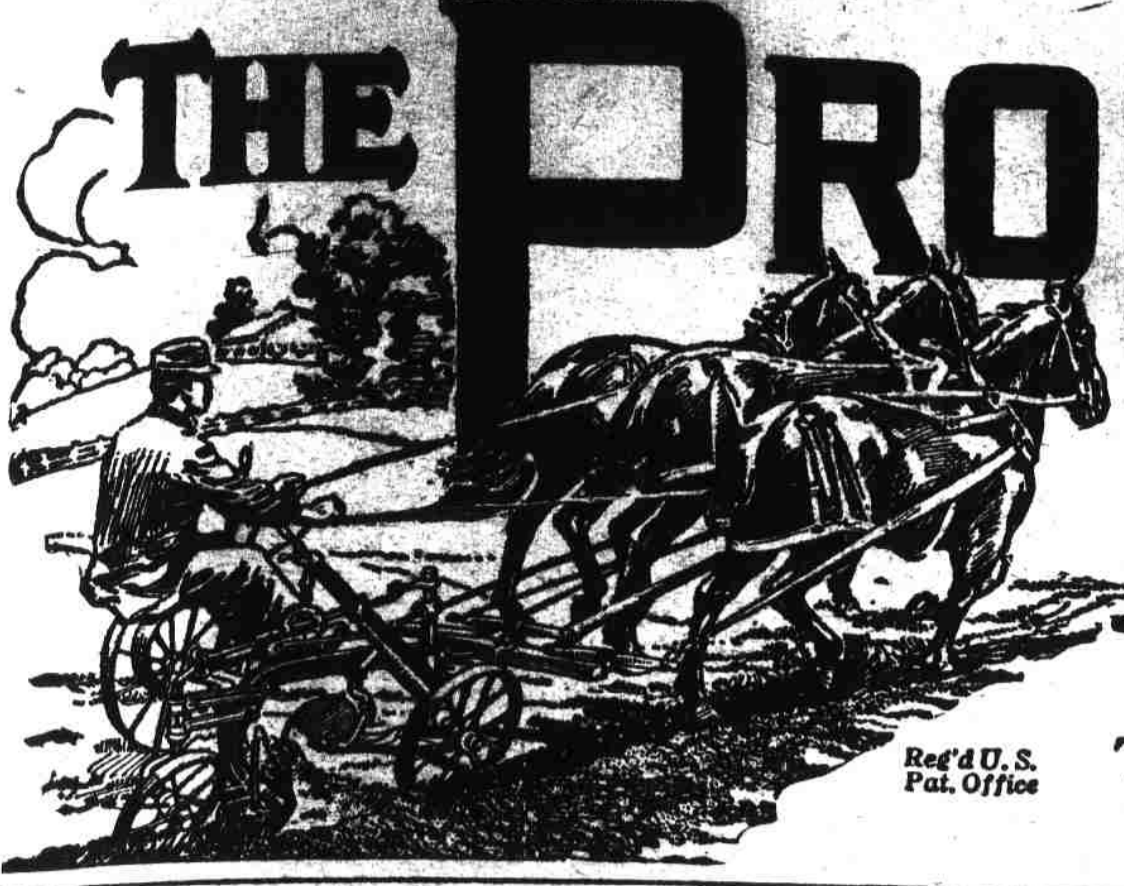


# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER



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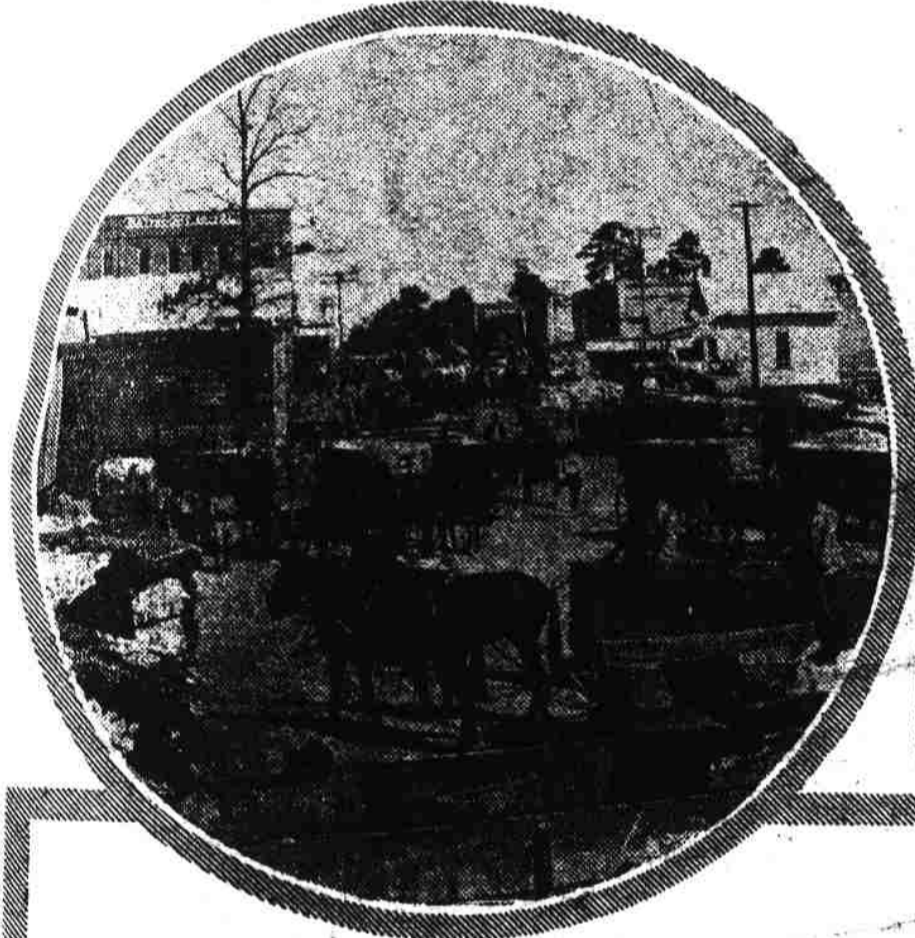
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## THE COMMON SENSE OF THE COTTON-HOLDING MOVEMENT

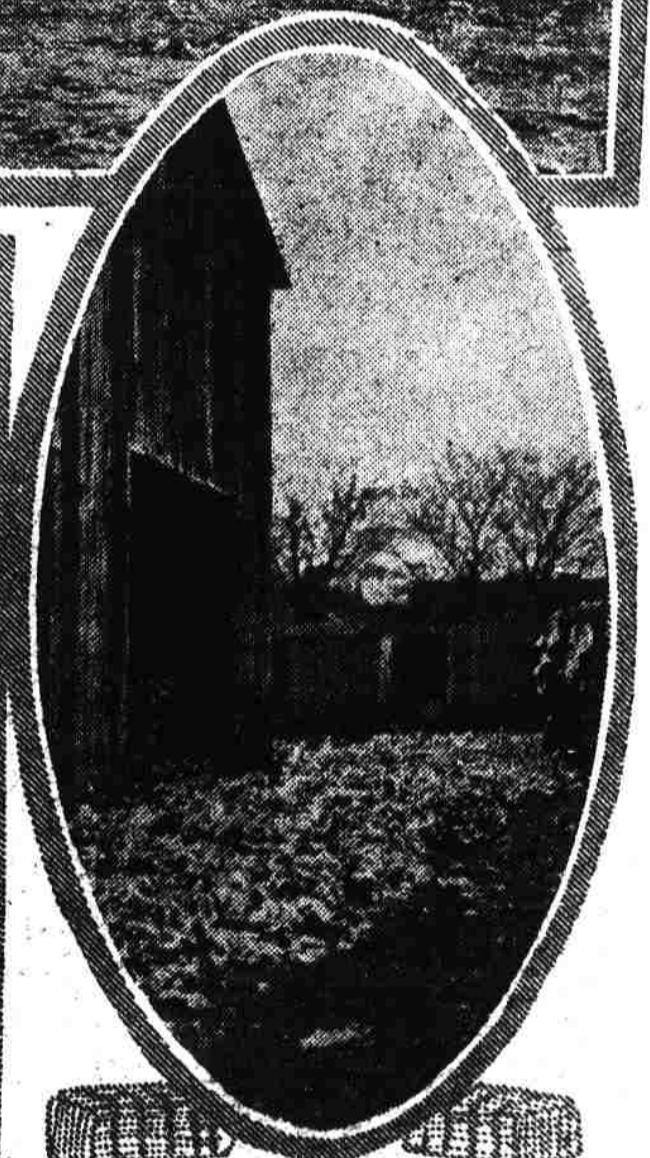
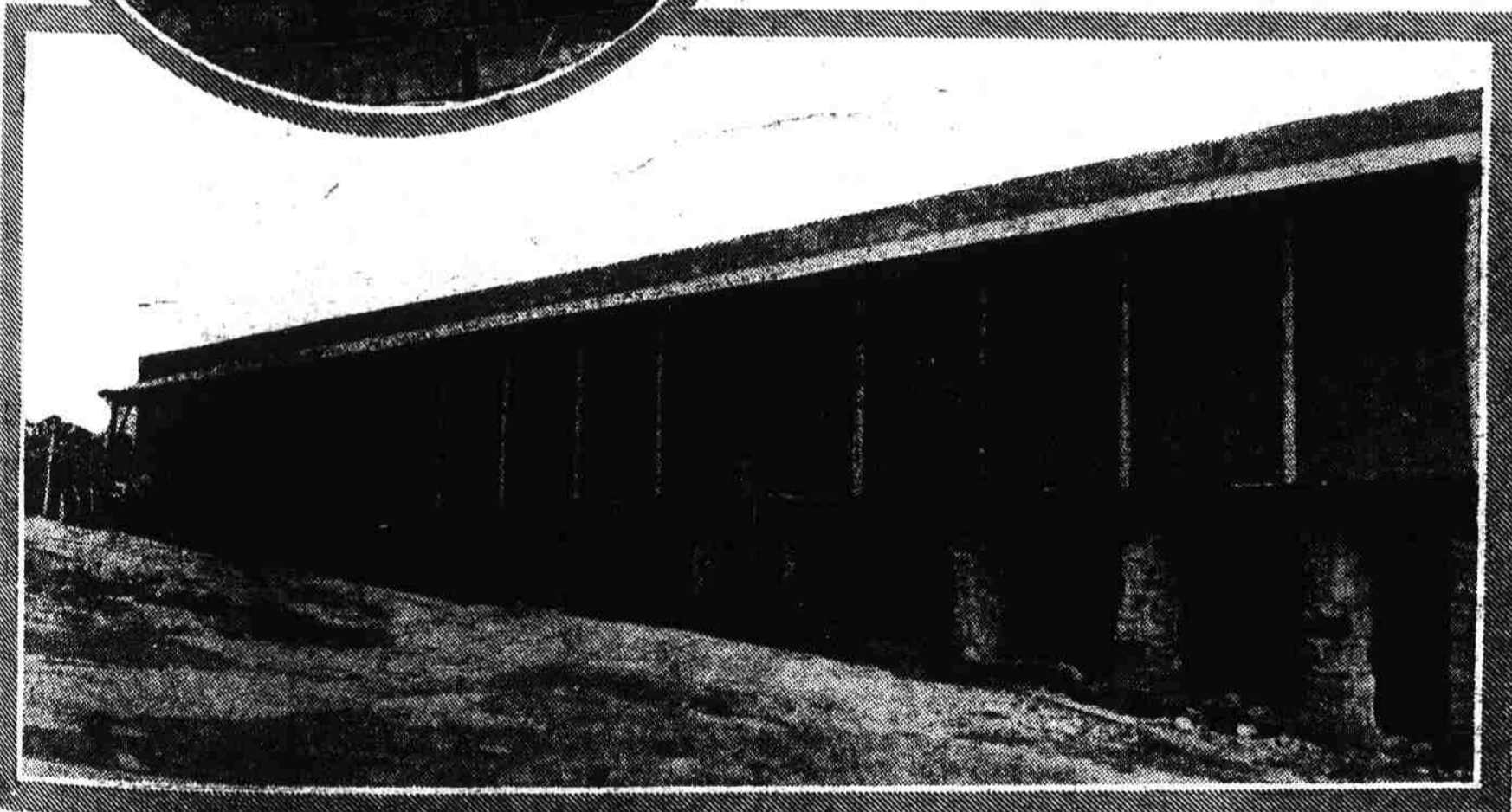
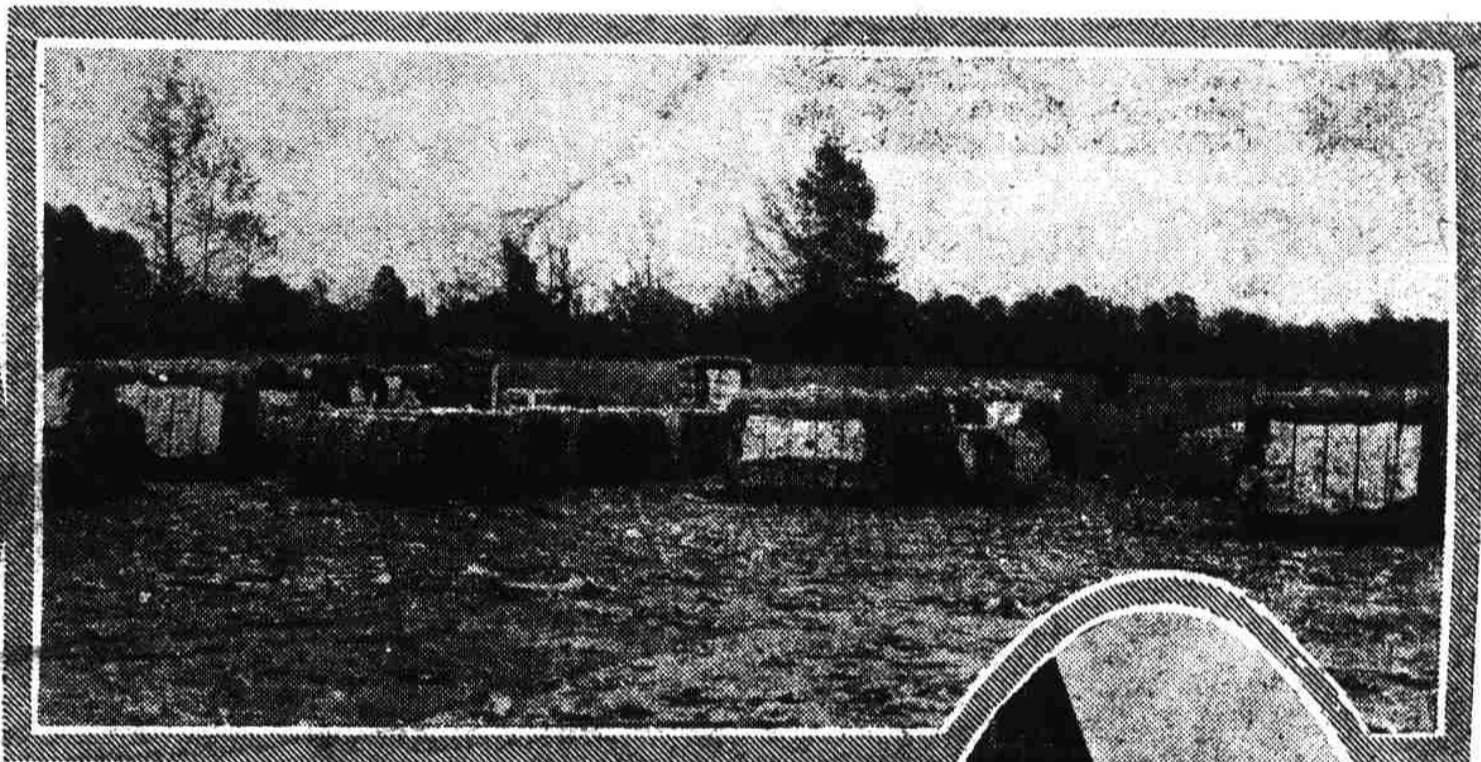
WHAT is the common sense of the cotton-holding movement? It can be very easily explained. The *New York Economic World*, in its latest issue now before us, gives the reasons for the present low price of cotton in very simple language. The *Economic World* isn't trying to

but simply because their inability to get bank credit, etc., makes it impossible to buy except on a "hand-to-mouth" basis. They are taking just enough cotton to get along on from day to day. Consequently if farmers try to force them to buy enough for three, six, or nine months ahead, the mills

1.—A TOWN FULL OF COTTON



2.—THE WRONG WAY TO HOLD COTTON FOR BETTER PRICES



3.—FARMERS COTTON WAREHOUSE, CONYERS, GA. HERE COTTON IS PROTECTED FROM FIRE AND WEATHER, AND IS GOOD COLLATERAL

4.—"PICKINGS," THE RESULT OF GIN STORAGE

please cotton growers or to help cotton prices. It is simply reporting the undisputed facts for the information of its readers in New York and elsewhere. Here is the way it sizes up the situation:

"The difficulty is, of course, that the spinners in every cotton consuming country in the world find themselves almost completely at sea with regard to the future of the goods market, or else fatally handicapped either by the abnormalities of the international credit and exchange position or by political and social disturbances of a very threatening kind. Hence they do not dare to commit themselves upon the customary scale in respect to their raw material for the coming months even though the price at which it is now obtainable is entirely satisfactory. They must perforce pursue a purely hand-to-mouth policy, taking for the present only such cotton as they have immediate use for and leaving it to the cotton producers to carry the main part of the supply until the future determines how much of it can be consumed and at what price."

In other words, the *Economic World* says that the reason mills are not buying cotton is not that they can't spin it at a profit at present prices,

simply say, "Well, if I buy a whole lot more than I want now, you will practically have to give it to me."

To try to feed the cotton market now is like trying to get more corn down a foundered horse. It is like trying to make a man eat three more pieces of chocolate cake after he has already filled himself with dinner and dessert. He doesn't want it NOW—but if you just wait till tomorrow, he will beg for it.

What is the remedy? The remedy is to get the facts before the farmers. We must educate the farmer who is trying to overfeed the market. We must get him to read the papers that are trying to fight his battles and give him more information and guidance about his marketing problems. We must inform him concerning such triumphs of co-operative effort as California growers have achieved. We must get him to attend the meetings where his interests are discussed. We must get him to join the warehousing organization provided for his benefit. But the first step is to get him to read. If he gets the facts about the market and the causes and remedies for present conditions, then these other things will follow.