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VOL. XXV. NASHVILLE, North Carolina, March 13th, 1919. NO. 11.

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COTTON CONVENTION HELD AT RALEIGH

Resolutions Adopted At This Convention Means Much For Cotton Farmers.

The South is confronted with a disaster unless the crop of 1919 be reduced and the balance of the crop of 1918 be protected and held until market conditions justify its sale. To enable all people in the South interested in cotton, and nearly all are, to adopt a direct and intelligent method of meeting the situation, this Convention earnestly recommends that the following plan be adopted:

(1) That the crop of 1919 be reduced at least 33 1-3 per cent in acreage, and that the fertilizer on the two-third area be not increased; but this does not apply to any farm of less than five acres to the horse: Provided, that in carrying out this recommendation the following schedule of reduction shall be observed:

Any man planting five acres or less to the horse to make no reduction; 6-7 acres, reduce one acre to the horse; 8-9 acres, reduce two acres to the horse; 10-11-12-13 acres, reduce three acres; 14, reduce four acres; 15-16, reduce five acres; 17-18, reduce six acres. Under no circumstances will any farmer plant more than 12 acres to the horse.

(2) That on all the cotton land left out and on the balance of the farm ample supplies of food, feed and other crops be planted.

(3) We believe that the existing situation justifies the holding of every bale of cotton now in the hands of our Southern people, and we urge our farmers not to sell the balance of the present crop for less than thirty cents per pound, basis middling.

(4) That to carry out this purpose we call upon the bankers and business men of the State for their hearty co-operation.

(5) We recommend that every owner of cotton immediately put his cotton under shelter, or in a warehouse and will not permit it to leave the warehouse until the owner shall so specify.

(6) We earnestly warn the farmer that if he buys high-priced fertilizer and a large acreage of cotton is made he must pay next fall with cheap cotton for the high-priced fertilizer and other supplies.

(7) We recommend to the farmer that he leave uncultivated in cotton every acre that he cannot reasonably expect to make enough cotton to yield a profit at reasonable prices. We do not believe that an acre that produces less than two-thirds of a bale will yield a profit to the grower, and every such acre should not be planted in cotton.

(8) For the purpose of securing the united co-operation of all financial interests, and to put this plan into effect, the merchants, bankers, landlords, fertilizer dealers and other business men are asked to extend credit and to finance farming on the basis of a safe program, including full production of food and feed, rather than the production of cotton alone.

(9) It is recognized that the world need for cotton when conditions become anything approaching normal will, without doubt, be exceedingly great, and it is therefore important that those who can hold their cotton against that time, and that in the meantime the situation be held in hand by control of future production.

(10) We recommend that the present Congress of the United States enact the Smith bill covering the character of cotton deliverable upon cotton exchanges.

(11) We recommend that the legislature pass an adequate warehouse bill for the State of North Carolina.

(12) We recommend that the taxbasing day for individual taxpayers be made June 1st.

(13) We recommend that a committee of seven persons representing the farming and business interests of the State be named by the governor to inaugurate a State-wide campaign to effect the purposes set forth, such committee to meet immediately, and to have full authority to devise ways and means to carry out the provisions of these recommendations.

This committee is authorized to raise money, employ clerical assistance, and to put on an intensive campaign and to do any and all things necessary to effect the purposes of this meeting.

(14) This organization shall be known as The North Carolina Cotton Association, and every person present is asked to enroll as a member before leaving.

The following committee was approved by the governor: C. D. Gorham, Warren, chairman; W. O. Cheek, Vance; J. D. Bailey, Clinton; J. R. Cox, Raleigh; A. A. Green, Greensboro; R. D. Hodges, Goldsboro; O. L. Clark, Oxford.

The resolution declared that the adoption of an honorary capital in cotton by each one who is all cotton we hold and we could not lose for our country, and by the world we would be the first to recognize it for years to come.

[illegible]

In A Red Triangle Dug-Out Oversea.

Y. M. C. A. men fixed up dug-outs with our men on the French front in the bad old days before the armistice was signed, and it became possible for the American veterans to take their recreation out in the open. Here in the dimly lighted underground rooms, refreshments were served, and an opportunity was given the boys to write home, indoor games were played and occasionally some more athletic games such as boxing. It was even possible, sometimes to put on a moving picture show for the boys in their time off from actual trench duty.

SOUTHERN AVIATOR DIGS FROM PRISON AND SWIMS RHINE

Calls "Y" Work In German Prison Camp "Life Saver," While Confined At Villingen.

New York, Feb. ...—Lieutenant George Puryear, of Memphis, Tenn., an aviator, was one of a trio of hardy American adventurers who were successful in a wild dash for liberty from the Villingen prison camp on October 6. Sixteen men made the attempt, but only Puryear, Lieutenant Harold Willis of Boston, and Naval Lieutenant Isaacs of Portsmouth, Va., got away. Word has just been received at Y. M. C. A. headquarters here concerning their almost hopeless escapade.

The men brought back remarkable accounts of Y. M. C. A. work even at Villingen.

"The 'Y' sent us books of all kind and even sporting goods," said Lieut. Puryear. "We played basketball and volley ball incessantly—our space was too small for baseball and football. I tell you, those games were life savers to us, and they kept us in fair physical condition."

It is reported that Puryear and his comrades slipped out of the camp through a tunnel under the wire. All but the three named were headed off before they reached the river Rhine, but the intrepid trio swam the river—a terrible feat in itself—and made their way into Holland.

MONEY SENT HOME BEFORE BIG BATTLE

Doughboys "Cleaned Pockets" for Home Folks, When Return From Fight Was Uncertain. Y. M. C. A. Has Delivered Millions of Dollars For Amex.

Paris, Feb. ...—The steady unselfishness of the American soldier, shown by the way he "cleaned his pockets" of money before going into action, to be sent home if he didn't come back, is told by W. J. Baker of Port Chester, N. Y., who served eleven months as a Y. M. C. A. worker with the 26th Division. His particular charge was the third battalion of the 103rd infantry. He joined that unit on the St. Mihiel front, went with them to Chateau Thierry, and later was in the famous St. Mihiel clean-up and the drive before Verdun.

"It was just before that action began," said Baker, "that I saw the finest example of the characteristic unselfishness of the boys. They 'cleaned their pockets' for the folks at home. They knew they were going up against the real thing, and they wanted all their money to go home in case they never came back. In all, I was entrusted with $[illegible] francs — upwards of [illegible] — before that attack. We handled such funds through the regular Y. M. C. A. service established for sending money from soldiers to relatives in America."

[illegible] with his battalion, and [illegible] the "[illegible]" [illegible] and [illegible]

SOUTHERN "Y" MAN BLINDED IN SERVICE

Says It Will Take Time For Public To Realize Value Of The Red Triangle Service To American Fighters.

DeRoy R. Fonville.

New York, Feb. ...—So unusual was the service rendered by DeRoy R. Fonville of Burlington, N. C., in his Y. M. C. A. work overseas that Major General L. S. Upton has written him a personal letter in appreciation of his efforts.

Mr. Fonville has returned to his home after ten months service with the Y. M. C. A. He was with the Fifth and Sixth Marines and Ninth and Twenty-third infantry at Chateau Thierry, Soissons and St. Mihiel. It was while he was in a trench waiting to serve the Marines when they "pushed off," that a high explosive shell blew particles of rock into his eye, blinding it. The same shellfire killed James A. Birchby, a Y. M. C. A. secretary from Pasadena, Cal., and wounded another Red Triangle worker, Thomas W. Wilbut, Jr., of New Britain, Conn.

The letter of appreciation that was sent to Mr. Fonville by General Upton read as follows: "I have observed your work as Y. M. C. A. representative of the Ninth infantry for some time and wish to convey to you my appreciation of the uncomplaining and soldier-like manner in which you have undergone all without the glory that is attached to the profession of arms. The work which you have done had added greatly to the contentment of the men and thus to the efficiency of the command."

"My experience gave me an appreciation of American men and what they can go through," said Mr. Fonville. "Our division was a shock unit. It never went any way but forward. Our division alone captured 13,000 prisoners. Those men appreciated the Y. M. C. A. and understood the difficulties it had to contend with in getting supplies up to the front. I have no complaint to make about losing the sight of one eye, that is war, but it tweakings me to have known what I do of the work of the 'Y' in France and then come home to learn of the criticisms being circulated here. I believe that in due time the full story will be told and be proven."

GIFTS FROM "Y" HELPED DOUGHBOY

Corporal Irving Abrahams of New York has just returned from France. Just because the Y. M. C. A. men overseas had gone out of their way to treat him well, he took the trouble to make his way to the Headquarters Building of the National War Work Council, Y. M. C. A., New York City, and found some one on the 9th floor at Headquarters to tell how much he appreciated the service of the Red Triangle.

This is just a part of what he said: "I returned from France on the 27th of January. Have been wounded three times. Am feeling fine, but the first time when we landed over in France in April, 1917, we took the position up on Chateau Thierry and the Y. M. C. A. was right with us and brought up on the firing line chocolate, cigarettes, and also pears, biscuit and done the best and all he could just to please the boys.

"And in August when we drove the Germans back he came up under heavy shell fire and brought us the same chocolate, cigarettes, and if the boys didn't have any money he would give it to us just the same.

"And up on the Argonne Forest he went under heavy shell fire and brought up all the candy and chocolate, and also spoke to the boys to send our money to our mothers and which we did, and also he told us to send our money home and he will do all he can for us, and also the boys of the Third Division is very well pleased of the Y. M. C. A. and also thank them ever so much; and also when we got relieved from the Argonne woods the Y. M. C. A. entertained us, gave us a grand time, and we thank the Y. M. C. A. with our full heart and we shall never forget them.

"So I don't see why the fellows are coming back from France and kicking the Y. M. C. A., and I can speak to anybody and ask them why they are knocking the Y. M. C. A."

Red Triangle Man Tells Of Serving At Chateau Thierry

The Y. M. C. A. has been criticized because it was said that it had no one at the fighting in the region of Chateau Thierry. The other day, Ernest G. Bardwell, a New York man, came back from France, broken in health because of his strenuous work in that region.

Mr. Bardwell was one of a party of Y. M. C. A. men who entered Chateau Thierry village with supplies at 10 o'clock on the morning of July 22 and worked all day and far into the night serving the boys who were beating back the German counter-attacks. The last German prisoners, he said, were taken out of Chateau Thierry at 8:30 o'clock on the same morning.

THE Y. M. C. A. IN FAR EAST

The work of the Y. M. C. A. in Macedonia is rapidly extending over the newly-opened areas, and in the present state of flux heavy responsibilities devolve upon C. W. Bates, the secretary in charge at Salonica. Centres have been opened in Serbia at Vranja, Nish, Monastir and other towns, and in the capital city, Belgrade, the Y. M. C. A. is now established in a good building. Percival Whitley, son of the deputy speaker of the English House of Commons, is developing the association's work in Northern Bulgaria, while on Turkish soil Mr. Harold Buckley has planted the Red Triangle in Constantinople itself.

COTTON PROPOSAL IS GRIPPING SOUTH

Movement is Spreading Like Wild-Fire All Over The Cotton Belt.

Reports received at state headquarters, Raleigh, of the North Carolina Cotton Association during the past few days indicate that the movement inaugurated at the recent county conventions held in practically every county in the state last week to hold the unsold balance of the present crop and to reduce the acreage for the coming crop by one-third as compared with 1918 is spreading like wild-fire in all parts of North Carolina. The bankers, merchants and farmers who attended these conventions last week let no grass grow under their feet upon their return to their homes. The New Orleans, Houston, Galveston, Dallas, Memphis, Montgomery, Atlanta, Little Rock, Charleston, Savannah and Birmingham newspapers have been publishing daily reports of county and State meetings held in these States to ratify and put into practical effect the work outlined by the general convention recently held in New Orleans. In fact it would seem as if every Southern State and every county in the cotton belt were vieing with one another to see which will make the best record in the matter of reducing the cotton acreage in 1919 and holding the cotton now on hand for remunerative prices.

Alarmed over this movement, which threatens to break the strangle-hold which the spinning interests of the country, aided and abetted by the bear speculators in the New York market, have had on the cotton market for some weeks past, the Northern press is attempting to throw ridicule on the movement and to belittle it. A typical instance of this bear propaganda to offset the cotton acreage reduction movement is furnished by an article published in a recent issue of the Journal of Commerce. Some supposed correspondent from the South is quoted in that Journal, which has always been very friendly to the New England spinning interests, as saying:

"I take little stock in resolutions to decrease acreage, as such attempts at reduction are economic heresy. Too well do many of us remember the days of four and five cent cotton in the nineties. Conventions were held in Memphis and elsewhere to reduce acreage. Solemn oaths were signed, but always the result was the same, an increase of acreage, because each went home with the same determination to increase his own acreage as he believed his neighbor was going to decrease.

Such articles as these, full of misstatements of facts, are calculated to have just the opposite effect in the South from that intended by the authors. Much water, in an economic way, has passed under the mill since the early nineties. The cotton growers of the South have learned by sad experience that a small crop with good prices pays better than a large crop with low prices. If they had any doubt on this score Secretary Hester's annual reports, showing the total value of the various crops produced by the South, state the facts only too plainly. The Journal of Commerce statement to the contrary, no signed pledges were required by the cotton convention previously held in the South, and it was this very lack of signed pledges that foredoomed the acreage production movements of previous years to practical failure. There never was a year in which a convention of this sort was held that the acreage was not materially decreased, although the cut in acreage did not always come up to what the convention had planned. Lack of proper organizations by States and counties, the failure to get signed pledges to carry out the objects of the convention and the fact that no subsequent convention was held later in the season to receive reports as to the progress made by the different cotton-growing States in effecting a reduction in acreage were some of the reasons that the former conventions proved a failure in so far as accomplishment went. All these loopholes have been closed by the recent convention, and, in addition, a resolution was adopted by the convention to brand any man in the cotton belt who refuses to co-operate as "so lacking in public spirit as to forfeit the confidence of the community in which he lives."

The "economic heresy" of reducing the cotton acreage, to which the Journal of Commerce refers, is a fine-sounding phrase, but cotton men say it will not deceive anybody in the South who stops to think. The New England and Southern mills, when they find a stock of goods accumulating and no buyers coming into the dry goods market at once take steps to reduce their output. It is argued, therefore, that if it is a good thing for the mills to reduce their output of the manufactured goods, in order to stimulate demand, why should it not also be a good thing for the cotton growers in the South who produce the raw material? This is the point at issue and the [illegible] of the [illegible]

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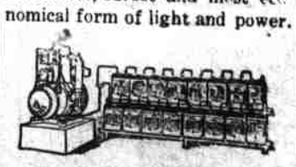
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