

**Farm Department.**

Conducted by J. M. BEATY.

**The Cotton Situation.**

The cotton crop and the marketing of same are now interesting topics alike to the farmer, the manufacturer and the speculator.

It is very evident that for the past several months there has been a determined and concerted effort to "bear" the cotton market. All signs point to that as plainly as the finger board on a mile post does to the destination of the road.

The cotton mill men of the South, generally, have been the natural enemies of high prices for cotton—and not, under former conditions, without some degree of justification. Their capacity to manufacture was limited and their products have not been established in many of the world's best markets. For them to have stocked their warehouses with high-priced cotton and see the surplus go to their Northern and foreign competitors at a reduced price, would have been courting disaster and ruin. The situation to them, especially for the last year, has been exceedingly perplexing. Their capital was invested in machinery, supplies, etc., and to lie idle meant loss. On the other hand, to buy exceptionally high-priced cotton, not being able to even guess at the size and price of last year's cotton crop, might mean still greater loss. So indeed they were in an unenviable position, and the only thing in sight for them was to fight down high prices, which they have done as faithfully as any one could have wished for.

**MANUFACTURER NEEDS, NOT LOW PRICES, BUT STEADY PRICES.**

But the conditions which first faced the farmers, a few years ago, and later, the manufacturers, have put all hands to thinking, and from their research will evolve a plan or method by which both producer and consumer will be benefited.

The cotton manufacturer does not need low-priced cotton but he does need steady priced cotton. With steady prices he has something to base a calculation on and knows just what he is doing. With steady prices the buyers of his products will know what to do and will keep on hand a stock sufficiently large to meet his demands. And the farmer, too, is much better off with a steady price, carrying with it a fair profit, than to have the extremes in prices that he has experienced within the last few years.

**THE WAREHOUSE SYSTEM EXPLAINED.**

The most feasible plan in my opinion, for this that has been suggested is the bonded warehouse system. By this plan the promoters claim (and not without a slow justification) that the prices of cotton can be more steadily maintained by marketing the cotton crop only as the trade requires it, and withhold from the market any surplus that may accrue until a short crop will cause a demand for it. This, it seems to me, would be an ideal condition. When we think of the crop in 1898 of 11,270,000 bales selling for \$325,000,000 and last year a crop of about 10,000,000 bales selling for twice as much, we can readily understand what a mill stone around the cotton farmer's neck is a surplus of a million bales.

If we can eliminate that surplus or keep it off the market the question that most confronts and concerns the cotton farmer will be immediately solved. This is just the thing the promoters of the warehouse system propose to do. They propose to do it in this way: The man who must have money to meet his obligations can carry his cotton to one of these warehouses, have the cotton weighed and graded and get a receipt for it upon which he can get money at the bank to meet his obligations without throwing the cotton on the market. Of course, if prices are all right and to his liking, he need not take his cotton to the warehouse at all, but sell it on the

open market. And also if he is in position to hold the cotton himself he need not take it to one of these bonded warehouses, but store it on his own premises if he so desires.

By this system, it is claimed, the speculator will be largely eliminated and the "bears" who have been pulling the prices of cotton down, will have to seek cooler climes for their operations.

**THE OUTLOOK FOR CONTINUED GOOD PRICES.**

As a matter of course if the better prices that cotton would bring under this system of selling were to run our cotton people crazy, and they were to persist in making more cotton than the trade could consume, there would of necessity be a drop in prices. That would be inevitable, but it would not be the spasmodic fluctuations that we now see, but a gradual decline until a reaction was brought about.

However, that is hardly probable for some time to come at least. In our new possessions, the Philippine Islands, we have acquired several millions of inhabitants, the most of whom according to the pictures we have seen, show the need of a new suit of clothes without much delay. And as our soldiers have been there for the last few years civilizing them wore uniforms from cotton cloth, it is but natural that the citizens of those islands will also adopt cotton cloth for their clothing. These islands alone should develop a great market for Southern cotton. And as civilization advances there and elsewhere, the market for cotton goods will increase, in all probability, to the capacity of our production. Even here where the cotton is grown, the demand for cotton goods is increasing. There are more pounds of cotton consumed per capita among our own people now than there were twenty or thirty years ago, and the consumption increases annually. It will be so all over the world. As the people advance in enlightenment the consumption of cotton will increase; therefore with prudence, we need not look for any great surplus in our cotton crop for some time to come. And with the warehouse system a surplus could be carried in all probability until a partial failure in the crop would create a demand for it.—T. B. Parker in Progressive Farmer.

**The Craze to Live in Town.**

On one of the back streets of a country town is a vacant lot. This lot is unimproved, covered with brush and stumps. Hard at work upon this lot, chopping and grubbing, is a man about forty years old. I ask him if he has bought the lot, and he informs me that he has not bought it, but has rented it for a garden. He pays a dollar and gets all he can raise there this season. He says he cannot afford to buy potatoes and other vegetables, they come so high. I can conceive no harder task than grubbing and clearing this lot, and the saddest part of the task must lie in the fact that he is not clearing it for himself, but for another. This man owns a small, cheaply constructed house on a small lot in the worst part of the village. Four years ago this same person owned sixty acres of good land, mostly improved, with good buildings and a fair orchard. He had his own fuel, water handy and fine land for gardening. To-day he buys his fuel, carries water forty rods and pays a tribute for the privilege of clearing another man's lot. One year in a grocery store, one year in a restaurant, one year working out and this year picking around getting a living any old way he can. But he and his wife wanted to come to town. They wanted to be where they could see something, and they wanted less work. Well, they are in town now, they can see something—the back end of a livery stable and two saloons, a pile of old boxes and barrels and the front of an old blacksmith shop. Their children play in the streets and their neighbors' pigs and chickens play in the back yard. This man was worth \$4,000 and out of debt four years ago; to-day I would not give \$500 for all he has.

Last night I drove by his former residence, a handsome, comfortable farm home, with schoolhouse and neighbors near by. In my mind I compared this man's surroundings as they are now, and I wished I could show them upon canvas to some of my friends. Surely some of them would be made to appreciate the advantages of a country home.

Every night about 5 o'clock I meet or see passing and going toward the village scores of farmers, their sons and hired men. In wagons, in buggies, upon wheels and on foot, all in a mad rush to get to town. Who does their chores, who cares for their stock I do not know; but there they go, and I wonder what they find to compensate them for leaving the farm at this hour of the day. But from 5 to 7 there is a general rush for the village. Twilight is the pleasantest part of the day in the country. The early evening, the cool, delightful atmosphere, the beautiful sunset, the content, the peace, the rest. And yet hundreds of farmers, their wives and children miss it all, and for what? For an hour in the throng, for a few minutes idle gossip, for a glass of beer or an evening's carousal.

And consider the loss. Calves, pigs, cows and horses half cared for or even neglected; money lost, odds and ends of work put off and many an important job left uncompleted. Money foolishly and hastily spent, bad companions annexed and bad habits formed. Could a merchant do a successful business that way? Does the business man desert his place of business during the most important hour of the day? I know a man who makes it a rule never to go to town in the evening except upon important business or to some promising and specified entertainment. A good sermon, a good lecturer, concert or theatrical entertainment will occasionally call this man and his family to town in the evening; but the occasions are rare when he is not at home as dark comes on. This man reads and studies; his place is in good repair and his livestock shows good care. He and his family are well dressed, the table is supplied with good food, the library contains good books, and all have time to read, and really do read the best farm journals. Now, who is likely to be "green," this man and his children or some of these people we see night after night standing around the streets of our villages?

The farmer needs an office. Let that office be at home. Let him make the evening his office hours. Let the children learn business habits. Let these habits be learned at home. Such boys and girls will not be half so green when they go out into the world as those who stand yelling around a pool table or trapesing up and down the streets of a country town.

The evening hours are the pleasantest hours of country life. The evening hours are the most profitable part of the day to the real farmer. The gadding habit once started makes us dissatisfied with the farm, and it is easy for me to recall instance after instance of those who have become dissatisfied, made great sacrifices and moved to town, who are now total failures, living from hand to mouth upon the back streets of little one-horse villages. These people wanted to be "in it," where they could "see somebody," and where they would not "have to work so hard." One such man is working upon the streets to-day shovelling dirt, and as I look at him I wonder why it was so much harder to work for himself than it is to work under a boss.

Fashions change. Even now people of the better class are looking for country homes. Let the change go on. As these dissatisfied, restless and lazy people leave the country a class of better, brighter and more intelligent people from the city will come to take their places, and then, oh! how the country will boom and how some of our poor, disappointed old neighbors will long to get back to the beautiful homes they are now abandoning!—Indiana Farmer.

Lulu Stanhope, St. Louis: "I used to have a horrid complexion, took Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea and am called the prettiest girl in the city." Tea or Tablets, 35 cents. A. H. Boyett, Selma Drug Co.

The heart is an astrologer that always divines the truth.—Calderon.

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**How to Handle Manure Produced on the Farm.**

Manure, like every product of the farm, has a value, but if we put more labor in value, on this manure, from the stable to the field than the manure will increase the value of the crop, the credit of the manure will be on the wrong side of the ledger. Manure is a very particular thing to handle without loss. If you pile it up so that it throws the rain, it burns and away goes the ammonia. If you spread it out thin, the better elements are washed away. If you put it under a shed and water it and work it over, from time to time, you exhaust very much of the value by the time you have abstracted the value of your labor. You can add nothing to its value; you only retain what is in it, and you may get the manure in a condition that the crop will take more of it up the first year. Especially if you use it on garden products it should be well broken down, or rotted as we generally call it. Manure is like food; it must have moisture before it can be assimilated by growing crops, so that sometimes manure in a very dry season does more harm than good by keeping the soil dry. My experience and observation have taught me that we get the most profitable returns from manure spread on the surface after the ground has been broken, either for corn or small grain. It is in a condition or rather position, to be carried to the roots of the plants by the rain, and if the rain fails to come it acts as a mulch to some extent.

I would always spread manure from the wagons as I hauled it. Never leave it in heaps to burn. Also if it stays any time you get too much where the heap has been. Another argument in favor of putting manure on the surface is in reach of the young plant when it needs it the most. The young, vigorous plant makes the large crop. Your horse and cow may travel to the hay stack and help themselves, but your plants cannot go after food any further than the root can reach out, and they may become exhausted before they reach it. Therefore we should get all the manure in such a position that plants can be fed on it in early life. This is more especially true with wheat. Manures plowed under six or eight inches, and the ground sown to wheat, is of little benefit. Before you get the manure turned back, it has got down below your reach or the reach of your plant.

Many farmers now haul their manure direct from the stable to the field, and scatter it as they haul, and I prefer this method to leaving it under the eaves of the stable to be placed out. Manure put on the surface in this manner should lie long enough to leach into the soil; that is, the soluble part. Then turn under what humus there is left. This plan of hauling direct from the stable at all seasons of the year gives better results on clay soil or clay subsoil. On light sandy soil or gravel subsoil, I would put the manure on just before planting. There is a great deal of rubbish about the farm that should go into the manure, or to the feed lot where it could be tramped down.

Now, I would use all this barnyard manure to produce more manure, in the form of clover, the cheapest manure that the farmer can use. We can fill our soil full of humus and nitrogen with clover. Guard your manure pile well. See that it neither escapes into space, nor starts to the Gulf of Mexico by way of some rivulet that meanders through your barn lot.—Indiana Farmer.

For eruptions, sores, pimples, kidney and liver troubles, constipation, indigestion, use Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. Carries now life to every part of the body. Tea or Tablets, 35c. A. H. Boyett; Selma Drug Co.

Where there is emulation there will be vanity.—Johnson.

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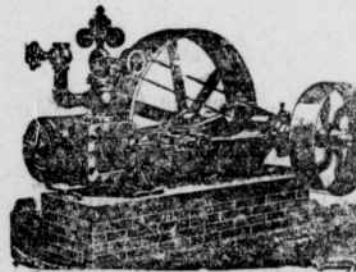
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