

COTTON NEARER 30-CENT LEVEL

Both Spot and Option Prices Establish New High Records, Though Setback Follows.

With a further early setback all options beyond October fully \$5 under last week's top levels, some of those who have been predicting decisive readjustment in cotton seemed to think that the turning point had been definitely reached. But the market soon reversed its position and in most deliveries new high records were quickly established, with October crossing 29 1-2 cents during Wednesday's short session and the local spot quotation touching 29.90 cents on the same day. The best figures for the rest of the list were 28.12 cents for December, 27.45 cents for January and 27.14 cents for March, but there was a subsequent reaction of about \$4 and some months ended on Friday somewhat below last Saturday's closing, though spots gained \$1.50.

It is a matter for regret, except to some speculators, that the weather has continued very much against the crop, and it now appears that at the best only a moderate production is to be expected. Further reports of killing frost came from different sections of the belt this week, and more frequently are estimates heard of but 11,000,000 bales, not counting linters, for this season's yield. This means that in the opinion of some people the crop will be about 1,000,000 paces less than was indicated by the last official forecast, issued before the frost came, and it is to be remembered that this is the third successive year in which the crop has been disappointingly small. Yet some experienced and conservative cotton men not only think that the present position of the market discounts all the bad features in the crop situation, but they also consider prices too high under existing war conditions, and, while more new records were registered after Monday, the occasional lack of response to bullish news was regarded as significant. The real test will come when the crop begins to move in volume, as has been intimated before. Meanwhile, it is observed that the ginning to October 18 proved larger than had been expected, though the total of 5,571,624 bales is well below the 7,291,733 bales reported a year ago. But this does not necessarily mean that the yield is actually smaller, for the crop has been unusually backward this season.—Dun's Review.

The Army and Navy Insurance Law.

A division of military and naval insurance of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance has been organized as a part of the Treasury Department and is in active operation. A number of policies on the lives of soldiers have already been issued, aggregating nearly \$25,000,000 in insurance. The benefits of the law are available to all of the members of the United States Army, Navy, and Nurses' Corps.

A short summary of some of the main features of the law follows:

Premiums for a \$10,000 policy begin with \$6.30 per month at ages 15, 16, and 17; increase to \$6.40 per month for the ages 18, 19, and 20; to \$6.50 per month for the ages 21, 22, and 23; to \$6.40 per month for the ages 24 and 25; \$6.70 per month for the ages of 26 and 27; to \$6.80 per month for the age of 28; to \$6.90 per month for the ages of 29 and 30; to \$7 per month for the age of 31, with progressive increases for ages above those given. The minimum amount of insurance that may be taken out is \$1,000.

The compulsory allotment to a wife or children, which is separate from the insurance, shall not be less than \$15 a month, and shall not exceed one-half of a man's pay. A voluntary allotment, subject to regulations, may be large as the insured desires, within the limits of his pay.

In addition, the Government will pay monthly allowances as follows:

Class A. In the case of a man to his wife (including a former wife divorced) and to his child or children:

(a) If there be a wife and no children, \$15.

(b) If there be a wife and one child, \$25.

(c) If there be a wife and two children, \$32.50, with \$5 per month additional for each additional child.

(d) If there be no wife but one child, \$5.00.

(e) If there be no wife but two children, \$12.50.

(f) If there be no wife but three children, \$20.

(g) If there be no wife but four children, \$30, with \$5 per month additional for each additional child.

Class B. In the case of a man or woman, to a grandchild, a parent, brother, or sister:

(a) If there be one parent, \$10.

(b) If there be two parents, \$20.

(c) For each grandchild, brother, sister, and additional parent, \$5.00.

In the case of a woman to a child or children:

(d) If there be two children, \$12.50.

(f) If there be three children, \$20.

(g) If there be four children, \$30, with \$5 per month additional for each additional child.

If the man makes an allotment to certain other dependent relatives the Government will also pay them an allowance which may equal the allotment, but this shall not be more than the difference between \$50 and the allowance paid to the wife and children.

The increased compensation in case of death runs from a minimum of \$20 monthly to a motherless child, or \$25 monthly to a childless widow, to a maximum of \$75 monthly to a widow and several children. The widowed mother may participate in the compensation.

In case of total disability the monthly compensation runs from a minimum of \$30, if the injured man has neither wife nor child living, to a maximum of \$75 if he has a wife and three or more children living, with \$10 a month extra if he has a widowed mother dependent upon him.

The maximum is enlarged still further, for when the disabled man constantly requires a nurse or attendant \$20 monthly may be added. If the disability is due to the loss of both feet, both hands, or total blindness of both eyes, or if he is helpless or permanently bedridden, \$100 monthly is granted.

The law contemplates future legislation for re-education and vocational training for the disabled. It gives them full pay and their families the same allowance as for the last month of actual service during the term of re-education.

The Carolina Alumni Banquet.

At a recent meeting of the Johnston County Club at the University, it was unanimously decided to have the annual alumni banquet some time during the Christmas holidays.

There are more students at the University this year than there has been for some time, and with the cooperation of every loyal Carolina alumnus, there is no reason why we should not get together, and each alumnus assume the responsibility of making this the best banquet known in the history of the Johnston County Alumni Association.

With the co-operation, support and attendance of every Carolina man we can make the Johnston County Alumni Banquet shine with all its radiance and splendor as Guilford, Wake, Durham, and Mecklenburg.

All together, every man's shoulder to the wheel, let's go and make Johnston County a model for the other counties!

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY. Chapel Hill, N. C., Oct. 31, 1917.

BETHANY NEWS.

Rev. W. D. Stancil filled his appointment at Bethany Saturday and Sunday. The attendance Saturday was unusually large. It was election day and Mr. Stancil was unanimously chosen for the next year.

Mrs. Winnie Edwards is quite sick. Her health has been failing since her husband left for Camp Jackson.

Mrs. Elizabeth Stancil has been very sick for some time.

Cotton in this section is poor, only about half a crop will be saved. Corn is good. Peas are very scarce.

Talk about being saving, we have been practicing economy in these parts for a long time.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Creech, of Middlesex, spent the week-end in this section.

Miss Lola Peelle, of Rocky Mount, spent Saturday night with the family of Mr. Kirkman Creech.

A great many people from this section attended the Association at Beulah. We hear of some getting hurt by being run over. Let me tell you, if you own an automobile, 'tis no use to try to drive so fast to make a show. The other fellow has a car that may be just as fine as yours and maybe it cost more. So just go slow and don't hurt anybody.

Mr. Tyner and son, Miss Kate Tyner and Mrs. Olive, of Four Oaks, spent the week-end with the family of Mr. Moses Creech.

Mrs. Jones, of Kenly, visited her mother, Mrs. Watkins, Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Herman Edwards, who has been at Camp Jackson, has been spending a few days at home.

Mrs. Lena Creech, of Raleigh, has been spending some time with her father, Mr. A. B. Atkinson.

Mr. W. T. Durham and Miss Manolia Creech were married Sunday at 12 o'clock at Bethany church, by Rev. W. D. Stancil, the bride's pastor. The attendants were: Miss Sadie Creech with Mr. Harvey Atkinson; Miss Belva Batten with Mr. Frank Creech; Miss Lillian Creech with Mr. Otho Durham. The wedding march was beautifully played by Miss Emma Ouel. Many beautiful and useful presents were given to the bride.

Miss Petronia Boykin, the music teacher of Buckhorn school, spent last week in the home of Mr. Moses Creech.

BETH. Kenly, Route No. 2.

RESTRAINTS ON CORN TRADING.

New Buying of December Contracts Prohibited. Some Advance in Prices.

Because of recent intimations that restrictions might be placed on corn trading, the action of the Chicago Board of Trade this week in prohibiting new buying of December contracts did not come wholly in the nature of a surprise. This has naturally tended to limit business in that delivery, but the immediate effect of the decision was to cause a strengthening of prices, as the December position had apparently become oversold and shorts were anxious to cover. The continued smallness of receipts and the scarcity of old corn were also factors making for higher prices, and Friday ended with the option list considerably above last Saturday's closing figures. At one time, the December delivery reached \$1.21, but final quotations were somewhat under the best. The meagerness of rural offerings had a steadying influence on oats, and on occasions there was a fair export inquiry. But prices moved over a narrow range, the highest level in December being 59 7-8 cents and the lowest 68 1-8 cents, and showed comparatively little net alteration.

The wheat crop, as all know, has been estimated by the Government to exceed last year's meager harvest by about 20,000,000 bushels, but it is still slow in coming forward. As an illustration of this, receipts at western points continue to fall far behind those of 1916, and this week are only 6,900,000 bushels, against 10,000,000 in the earlier period. Some complaints were heard during the week because of dry weather; yet prospects, on the whole, are considered very promising and it is said that the crop will start the new season under unusually favorable conditions. The expected sharp reduction in flour output, due to the request of the Food Administration that the mills run at only 60 per cent of capacity, appears in the compilation of the Northwestern Miller, which shows but 317,000 barrels for the latest week, as compared with 525,000 in the previous week and 429,000 barrels last year at Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Duluth.—Dun's Review, October 27th.

Rotation As a Soil Rest.

Rotation of crops is the best way out of a lot of difficulties the farmer must face. One of them especially, the fertility problem, cannot well be handled any other way; while weeds, insect pests and plant diseases, ask no safer breeding ground than the field which is continually cropped with one thing.

We are rapidly learning that good physical condition of the soil is as important as fertility. A hard, lumpy, soil may contain plant food in large quantities—so may a rock—but plant roots cannot penetrate a rock, and they cannot do so very much more in a seed bed filled with baked chunks and simply washed over by the rains. Rotation is a "friend in need," of good tillage. The change from shallow rooted, surface feeding crops to those having extensive subsoil roots, together with the varying methods of cultivation required by each, assists greatly in maintaining that deep, mellow, condition of the soil upon which profitable farming largely depends.

A proper rotation is virtually giving your surface soil an occasional rest. Not entirely so perhaps, but to a large degree. Say that after a crop of corn and another of oats or wheat, the soil is seeded to clover; for two seasons the surface soil has been drawn on pretty heavily. Fertilizers may have been applied but a certain amount of them leached down. The clover as soon as it is fairly established strikes into the subsoil. It feeds near the surface to some extent but mostly in an independent way; it feeds on the air for nitrogen—a trick the corn or wheat never learned—and goes five or six feet into the subsoil for a lot of its potash and other materials. Some of that material you probably paid for and applied to the surface but the rain stole it and ran away with it; the clover plays detective admirably in finding it out and bringing it up to the top again. All of this rests the surface soil; the plant food which is being continually broken down from the soil grains is given a chance to accumulate for the next crop. And more than that, when the clover is plowed down and decays, it will form a fence of humus that the rain drops will have a hard time to leach through with their stolen particles of precious fertility. The long roots that decay in the soil will form air tubes and the aid that filters down them will assist in making available some of the crude subsoil fertility for your next crop of clover, and it will be healthier and more rugged.

So much for the clover part—the most important part of rotation. Whatever the rest of it may be let it include a cultivated crop if possible. Abundant tillage helps along the clover's good work. Land that is given

frequent cultivation, such as that planted to corn or potatoes, requires one year in clover in every three or four. Then it will hold up to an average of yield well above similar soil devoted simply to clover and grain. The reasons are evident; manure and other organic matter in the soil is more quickly and thoroughly rotted. The process of forming plant food in the soil by bacteria and nitrofication is aided, and the tendency of the clover to mellow the soil is established. The top foot or two of your soil is your farm's proper but the subsoil beneath, and the air, are reservoirs from which much fertility that would otherwise cost hard dollars may be drawn. Clover is the means, rotation the way. Save every forkful of manure by all means and buy fertilizers, temporarily, if you must, but so farm—rotate—that not a penny's worth of fertility goes to waste. The wisdom of nature in providing different grains, and plants requiring different elements, made such farming possible.—W. Johnson, in Indiana Farmer.

A Look Ahead.

That American breeders of livestock may look forward to a long period of prosperity is no prediction of a wild-eyed fortune teller. It's as sure as higher taxes. The world must have meat, and the countries whose herds and flocks have been decimated will be anxious to get them back to their former strength. This country will be the biggest source of meat and breeding animals. Even the high market prices of the present should not blind us to the prospects of the next ten years.

Our Government estimates that since the war the herds of Europe have been reduced by 28,000,000 cattle, 54,000,000 sheep and 32,000,000 hogs. These are astounding figures. They mean that there are twenty per cent fewer cattle, thirty-three per cent fewer sheep and about forty-five per cent fewer hogs in those countries than there were three years ago. And the rate of decrease is becoming greater each month.

While we are supplying a big present demand we must not destroy our foundation stock. Animals in sections where roughage is not plentiful must be shipped to other parts of the country where they can be maintained. Stock from the range country, where roughage is scarce, can be handled in the Middle West and South where there are good supplies.

There is no sense in the argument put up by many misinformed patriots that all animals should be raised to maturity. Animals that we know are not going to be economic producers ought to go the regular way. The usual profitable market weights—seventy-pound lambs and two-hundred-pound hogs, for example—must remain about the same if feed is to be used to the best advantage, but the herds should be increased and losses through carelessness and disease should be cut down. Hog cholera can be prevented; a lot of young pigs can be saved by watchfulness and proper equipment at farrowing time; cows properly treated will recover from milk fever; a newborn, well-warmed-up lamb is half grown.

This sort of thing is not war sacrifice. Every man who builds up a herd now is going to help himself just as much as he helps the big cause.—Country Gentleman.

LOWER JOHNSTON ITEMS.

Mrs. Russel Parker and children, of Middlesex, spent several days in this section last week visiting Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Lee, and others.

Elder Xure Lee and family spent Sunday and Monday near Four Oaks with their mother, Mrs. J. F. Barefoot.

Mr. Ernest Johnson, of New Hope section, spent Saturday night and Sunday in Lower Johnston.

Elder Smith, from near Benson, preached at Reedy Prong Primitive church Sunday, in the absence of the pastor, Elder L. A. Johnson, who was elsewhere.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Jones, of Smithfield, spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mrs. Jones' mother, Mrs. L. D. Johnson, Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. C. M. Johnson spent Sunday near Clinton and other points in Sampson County.

Mr. Allen Ramon-Johnson left last week for the training camp in South Carolina.

Elder Xure Lee preached a very able sermon last Thursday night at Mrs. L. D. Johnson's, for the benefit of Mrs. Johnson who is confined to her bed. A goodly number were present.

Mr. J. M. Johnson, Misses Mildred and Eva Lee and Georgia Maie Wagstaff spent Saturday and Sunday near Oakland school, Sampson County.

Several people in this section will attend the Sampson County Fair at Clinton this week.

Mr. Jasper Lee and family, of Peacock's Cross Roads, spent Sunday at Mrs. L. D. Johnson's.

BOWSER.

Coming With Mules



Mr. J. A. Galbraith is coming to my stables with mules and horses about Dec 10th. Mr. Galbraith has written me that he has bought 100 head of splendid Tennessee mules. These mules will sell \$25 a head cheaper and \$50 a head better than western mules.

I invite all those who are interested to wait and call at my stables to see Mr. Galbraith's mules.

W. M. SANDERS

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 - THE IRON TRAIL, by Rex Beach.
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