

DEVASTATION BY THE BOLL WEEVIL

Only One Bale Of Cotton From Over 100 Acres in Some Parts of Georgia

(From Cotton Facts.)

In many of the cotton producing counties of Georgia and South Carolina which have been so severely ravaged by the boll weevil this season there is developing feelings of pessimism among the farmers which is evidencing itself in expressions of the deepest depression and helplessness. It is especially true of the older farmers who have passed the meridian of life, and who have seen the accumulation of a life time's wealth swept away under the deflation in values of the 1920 crop and the destruction by the boll weevil in 1921. In many of the counties in middle Georgia it has taken more than 100 acres planted to cotton to produce a single bale, and in other instances it has required the pickings from several farms with the neighbors combining their seed cotton together to get light bales. There are some counties in middle Georgia heretofore having a normal annual yield of from 15,000 to 20,000 bales of cotton that this year will not give more than 200 to 300 bales, the crop having been completely annihilated by the boll weevil.

In a large number of the counties in several states, the yield of lint cotton this year will not exceed ten per cent of the yield in 1920. In such counties where cotton has been the leading staple money crop, such conditions are undoubtedly distressing, as the purchasing and delivering power of the farmers have been temporarily destroyed. Many cotton farms are now being offered to tenants for 1922 for a rental just sufficient to pay the state and county taxes assessed against the lands, having no hope for the normal rental income. Negro tenants are leaving these counties in large numbers and going into the Northern and Western states to secure work in industrial and manufacturing concerns which will afford them a living wage. Neither landlord, merchant or banker is willing to furnish supplies of money to these negro tenants in 1922 for the dangerous undertaking of planting cotton, after this year's disastrous consequences, or risk the unfitness of the average negro tenant to make a success of growing another staple crop except cotton.

Just how these are to be paid this winter in these boll weevil stricken counties is now a vital problem to hundreds of formerly independent, well-to-do cotton farmers, to say nothing of past due obligations for supplies, fertilizers and borrowed money. The situation calls for a distinct and definite reconstruction in the methods of farming heretofore pursued. Farmers are afraid to plant cotton next year and risk the continued destruction of the boll weevil, and they hardly know what other staple crops to concentrate upon as money-producing crops. Their minds are definitely made up regarding the imperative necessity for growing sufficient food and feed crops to sustain the needs of each farm. But they own no land, and must raise some staple crop which is marketable and will bring in a cash income. How these crops are to be and how to manage the tenants and croppers on their farms are matters as to the future.

Debts

Thirty years ago most people hated to go into debt. They know, from their own experience and the experience of their friends and relatives, that it is very hard to conduct a business or a farm so as to make enough money pay off the interest on the mortgage, let alone setting aside anything to apply on the principal. From the Civil War until 1890, prices on the whole were tending downward and those people who were trying to pay off mortgages were fighting a losing fight. The men who were active in business and in farming during the '70s and '80s were right when they shunned indebtedness as they would the plague.

From 1890 to 1910, men gradually lost their fear of debt. Prices rising, and the business man and farmer continually found it to his advantage to be in debt because he could pay off his indebtedness in dollars of less purchasing power than when he borrowed. During the 25 year period extending from 1890 these farmers who borrowed money to buy land made great profits. It happens, therefore, that most of the men who are farmers and doing business today have no fear of debt. Up until 1920, they continually took risks and contracted debts and were rarely punished.

The times has come when it is wise to cultivate a fear of debt. Of course, it may be wise under the present situation to borrow money rather than to sell corn at half the cost of production. Nevertheless, the farmer should take it as a guiding principle from now on that he should bend every effort to get out of debt and stay out of debt. He may not be in for such a terrific decline in values as took place during the 25 year period following the Napoleonic wars and the 20 year period following the Civil War. Nevertheless, values on the whole will be tending somewhat lower during the next 25 years and it is the part of wisdom, therefore, to keep out of debt so far as possible. —Wallace's Farmer.

They Forget God

According to the accounts given in the newspapers, magazines and religious periodicals of the day the poor people of Russia are in sore straits, in want of food, starving by thousands. In want of clothes, freezing and dying in the streets of the cities and towns where they seem to have gone in search of help. They are also suffering from disease brought on in part perhaps by unsanitary conditions due to exposure and lack of food. Cholera is playing a part in the general moribund destruction of life. Now you folks don't know anything about the cholera that these people have. You've seen boys die of lung cholera and chickens die of chicken cholera but please be informed that Asiatic cholera among people is quick in action and more deadly in effect than any epidemic that ever struck your hog lot or chicken pen—why all this destruction and suffering is the result of the Russian people. The leaders forgot God and

left him out of their calculations. Habbakuk 2:12-13; "Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and establisheth a city by iniquity! Behold it is not of the Lord of hosts that the people shall labor in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?" In Ezech. 1:17-18 we find "and I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have snared against the Lord; and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as dung."

Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy; for he shall be favored by the fire of his jealousy; for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. The woes pronounced against rebellious Judah will apply with equal force and aptness to any people of any age or country who forget or decline to obey God. History bears out the truth of this assertion. Coming nearer home,—take a look at the professors in our colleges who sneer openly at the teachings of the Bible and explain away Creation and put evolution in its place; who preach the doctrine of "the survival of the fittest" thereby endangering the very foundation of religious liberty on which our Government was built. That kind of teaching is having its effect in an indirect way on the whole social and religious fabric of this great nation, for which, as a general thing, the pulpits do not openly condemn the teachings of Christ and condemn in a half hearted manner to teach his doctrines some of them will tell you privately that they only do so because the majority of the people have not been educated to the point of receiving favorably the "new thought stuff," when our people shall have been so educated and shall have laid aside the principles of Government under which God originally intended his people should live then shall the wrath of God fall unparaphrasing upon this nation even as history shows that it has fallen and brought destruction upon other nations so doing.

Every individual who refuses to accept the Bible and its teachings as his daily guide in business, pleasure or whatever his task, is a traitor to his country and as such is doing an individual's part, little or much in bringing certain destruction upon himself; and if he be in the majority, upon the country. A nation can be no better than the individuals who make up its population.

D. R. LEE.

Hogging the Boll Weevil (By Aaron Hardy Uhm.) The jokes are old, but they once contained or implied so much truth that they shouldn't be permitted to die.

"I never realized the full meaning of the term 'hogless land' until I traveled through Georgia and could see none except the lardless hog. Northern man decared about ten years ago.

"Why do you keep such hogs?" a traveler asked a cracker farmer in the same State.

"They are built for speed," the farmer replied.

"W!" speed?" "Well, for any hog to survive in this country it must be able to out-run any pig."


Neither joke is now altogether proper. Since 1918 the percentage of increase in hog production ranks Georgia fourth among all the States of the Union. In total production of pork Georgia has risen in four years

from ninth place to something in the last few years sold breeding stock to farmers in about one-half of the other States of the Union, and wholly to the introduction of pure-bred stock. The State whose hogs have bred a joke ten years ago, has with the purchase hog industry is

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spotted one in Georgia and other Southern States that have taken it up in like manner. The spots, however, constitute most of the cases of property that during the last year have stood out from the weltering desert of devastation caused jointly by the boll weevil and the collapse of cotton prices.

One of these cases is a little county almost in the center of the Georgia cotton belt. It is known as Bleckley, named, on its creation about ten years ago, for a former noted chief justice of the Georgia Supreme court. The creation of the county was due in large measure to the fact that located around what is now its seat, the town of Cochran, there was an element of business men and farmers of unusual enterprise. They were cut off into different counties that abutted each other and they wanted to get together and work together.

So they prevailed on the legislature to give them a separate and single county government. Almost concurrent with the creation of the new county there was introduced into what is now its territory the first herd of purebred Duroc known to that section. They were brought in as a step of advance preparation for the boll weevil whose advent into the area was at that time prophesied with an accuracy that time since has proved.

At that time the farming area that makes up what is now Bleckley county, as well that entire section of Georgia, was devoted almost exclusively to cotton culture. Meat and grain were imported from the midwest in considerable quantities. The prevailing type of scrub hogs, which spent most of their time running wild in the woods, and supplied but a moiety of the pork needs of the population, could have qualified for either of the jokes recited in the beginning of this narrative. Succinctly, hog raising, like the hogs raised was little more than a juicy joke.

In much of the Georgia cotton belt neither hog raising nor the types of hogs raised are yet on the serious

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