

THE CAROLINA FARMER

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One Dollar a Year

THE CALL TO ARMS

THE BATTLE IS ON AND THE SOUTH MUST BE SAVED FROM LOW PRICED COTTON

Union City, Ga., Aug. 29th.—National President Barrett, of the Farmers' Union, today made his first official expression regarding the attitude of that big organization in the battle that is coming this Fall to maintain the price of cotton at a proper level.

"The Farmers' Union," says President Barrett, "issues an invitation to the entire South to co-operate with it in saving to this section many million dollars on the cotton crop of 1911-12. It is for the merchant, the business man, the banker, the smallest citizen, no less than the farmer, to figure the difference between eight or nine cent cotton and thirteen or fourteen cent cotton. The fight we are going to win is not alone in behalf of the farmer. It is waged in the interest of the southern business world, as a whole. To that degree, it is not only the duty, but the individual profit, of every element in the Southern States to join hands with the Farmers' Union, to the end that the powerful machinery of this organization may be brought to bear with complete success upon the present situation."

"To the farmer, whether or not a member of the Farmers' Union, my imperative advice is 'Hold your cotton.' It is worth infinitely more than the price now quoted. You should first go to your local banker, if you are in debt, and borrow sufficient money, with cotton as collateral, to enable you to hold. Your own banker knows you best, and it is to his interest to aid you in the fight. Should he fail you—and I don't think he will—you can depend upon us for assistance."

"The Farmers' Union does not intend that a clique of bear gamblers or domestic and foreign spinners shall combine to dictate the price of our product, or to rob the section of a tremendous sum of money. It is for the South we are working. Now is the time for every Southerner to prove his business insight, and it is not the time for hypocritical pretensions. It is a cold matter of dollars and cents. If the farmer suffers, the business man, every business interest, suffers along with him."

"It is no longer possible to produce cotton for eight or nine cents at a profit. If we could return to the old prices for mules, supplies, farm machinery, land itself, the proposition would be feasible. But as we cannot, the farmer must insist upon the price of his product being maintained upon a level with that of every other product."

"The South ought to be abundantly able to

finance and hold its own principal product. The accomplishment should be a matter of pride, as well as of common sense. Practical men realize that the cotton crop of the opening season will not be nearly so large as it has been reported. We, who have investigated, know that there will be a demand, at a fair price, for every pound of the staple produced. The main thing is for the farmer, large and small, organized and unorganized, to get together and resolve that he will not be cheated out of the result of his toil.

"Every solitary southerner is interested in the same result. And to each one, in whatever calling, I extend a cordial invitation to work with us for his own monetary interest, no less than that of the farmer. As for the latter—another season or two of fair prices mean absolute emancipation from debt. That thought should be sufficient to nerve him for the battle—especially when he is assured assistance in its winning."

"Captain Reuben F. Kolb, Commissioner of Agriculture of Alabama, has called a meeting of the Commissioners of Agriculture of the Southern States, and of all interested parties, barring none, to devise means for maintaining the price of cotton. This conference will follow the Farmers' Union convention, to be held at Shawnee, Okla., September 5th, and the convention will be liberally, if not as a body, represented at the conference. I urge all southerners who realize the importance of the occasion to meet with the commissioners and with members of the Farmers' Union in this conference. Let all come, not to discuss the farmers' 'greatness', which may be taken for granted, nor any other subject but the securing of a proper price for cotton. That is a big enough job for a gathering composed of the South's best brains, and it should not be in-

terfered with by 'hot air' or discussions admirable in their way but without any bearing on the paramount issue."

Prompt action taken by this joint conference, following the policies outlined at the Farmers' Union convention, will bring triumph in a campaign which no southerner, however humble, can afford in self-interest and patriotism, to ignore."

CHARLES S. BARRETT.

Gaston Farmers' Want Farm-Life School.

The Gaston County Farmers' Union has decided to push the matter of establishing a Farm-Life School in that county. After discussing the matter thoroughly they have decided that the first step to be taken would be to have a mass meeting of the citizens of the county for the purpose of discussing and of learning something of the nature of the proposed school. To this end President Faries is making arrangements for holding such a meeting, and to secure prominent speakers for the occasion. This mass meeting will be held at Dallas on Thursday, September 14. Among the prominent speakers who will be present are Dr. J. Y. Joyner, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of North Carolina and Dr. H. Q. Alexander, President of the North Carolina Farmers' Union. Both these gentlemen are enthusiastic advocates of the farm life schools, and will have something to say that will be of interest to every citizen in the county.

An acre of peanuts, properly cultivated, will produce one ton of vine, valued at \$8, and sixty bushels of nuts, worth \$40 to \$60. Cost of cultivation, fertilizer, seed, etc., should not run over \$25 per acre. These figures are averaging ones, taken from the statements of many growers and from government bulletins on the industry. This will leave a net profit of from \$25 to \$35 per acre, which, considering the sureness of a good crop, the steadiness of the market and the ease of production, to say nothing of the fact that another crop of some other quick growing plant can usually be taken from the peanut fields, is a rather good margin of profit for the grower.

Cabbage Seed at \$2.40 per lb. Cabbage Seed at \$1.00 per lb. Plants from each kind are offered at the same price. The Wakefield Farms, Charlotte, raise and sell plants from the \$2.40 seed.

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