

The Lancaster Ledger.

W. S. CARTER
OWNER AND MANAGER
SEMI-WEEKLY

A Family Newspaper: For the Promotion of the Political, Social, Agricultural and Commercial Interests

LANCASTER, S. C. JANUARY 28, 1905

ESTABLISHED 1852

In Order To Reduce Stock By JANUARY FIRST

WE ARE OFFERING SOME
GREAT BARGAINS IN ALL
DEPARTMENTS OF OUR
STORE.

HERE ARE A FEW OF THEM

Men's \$5.00 Suits \$3.00

“ 7.00 “ 4.00

“ 10.00 “ 7.50

Boy's Suits for 50 cents.

Men's 6.00 Overcoats 4.00.

We can certainly save you
money on anything you want to
buy.

Be sure and come to see us.

RESPECTFULLY,

Lancaster Mercantile Co

The New Orleans Cotton Convention

HARVIE JORDAN CHAIRMAN.

Curtailment of Production and
Use of Fertilizers Will First be
Acted Upon—Large Num-
ber of Delegates Pres-
ent.

New Orleans, Jan 24.—By a unanimous vote at the close of its first session today the Southern Interstate Cotton convention, by general agreement the largest and most representative that has gathered in the south, declared that reduction of acreage and commercial fertilizer is the paramount question to be considered at the convention, and it must be settled before any other business is undertaken. Eleven hundred and thirty-five delegates, representing the 13 cotton growing States and territories, had registered when the convention was called to order. Even that number did not represent the full strength of the convention.

The forenoon and early afternoon were devoted to the compromising of all differences that existed as to organization, the central idea being that the work of the convention should go to the country with the stamp of harmony and practical unanimity. The result was that former Congressman Catching's name was withdrawn and all opposition to Harvie Jordan's selection ended.

Washington Artillery hall, seating 2,000 people was crowded to the doors when the convention met. As president of the Southern Cotton Growers' convention Mr Jordan called it to order. He said in part:

“We are all agreed upon four general propositions.

“1. We must tie up and take care of the surplus of this crop and remove it from the markets of the country until next fall, and hold the balance of the crop absolutely in our possession until the price advances to normal conditions.

“2. We must reduce the cotton acreage and use of commercial fertilizers under that of 1904.

“3. We must arrange for a general system of bonded warehouses under local control of the people throughout the south.

“4. We must at once proceed to organize the producers of the south in every cotton growing county on a business basis to carry into operation a permanent system of relief and protection for the future.”

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.

Judge E B Perkins of Dallas nominated Former Lieut Gov Jester of Texas as temporary chairman and he was unanimously elected. Concluding a brief but effective address, Gov Jester said:

“Two reforms must be inaugurated by the southern farmers;

“Diversification of crops that will reduce the production of cotton and better facilities for the storage of cotton that will give lower insurance and interest and better protection.”

J A B Lovett of Bluntville, Ala, Richard Chatham of Mississippi and J H Whyte of New Orleans were elected secretaries.

The question of representation immediately arising Gov Vardaman moved that every properly

accredited delegate should be entitled to a seat on the floor and a voice in the convention and though the motion provoked considerable discussion it finally prevailed.

On motion of J A Brown of North Carolina a committee on permanent organization of one delegate from each State was named and pending its report welcoming addresses by Mayor Behrman and President Sanders of the Progressive union were listened to. There were responses by Walter Clark of Clarksdale, Miss, and J Pope Brown, chairman of the Georgia railroad commission.

Mr Brown said it was the number of bales which regulated the price of cotton and the present price would not advance until it was known that the production this year was to be curtailed. Eight million bales would be an ample crop to raise this year. With the 4,000,000 of surplus held on to, it would give precisely the crop the bears desire. He believed the south could whip in the present fight.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION.

W D Nesbitt of Alabama presented the report of the committee on permanent organization. It provided for Harvie Jordan as president, for a vice president from each State and for the three secretaries named by the temporary organization. It fixed the representation on the basis of one vote for every 100,000 bales of cotton raised during 1903-'04, as follows: Alabama, 10; Arkansas, 8; Florida 1; Georgia 14; Louisiana 9; Mississippi 14; North Carolina 6; South Carolina 9; Tennessee 3; Texas 26; Oklahoma 2; Missouri 1, and Indian Territory 3.

These committees were provided for:

Reduction of cotton acreage and use of commercial fertilizers with one farmer, one banker and one merchant from each State.

Permanent organization of farmers with three farmers, one banker and one merchant from each State.

Financing and holding balance of the present crop until legitimate prices are secured, with one farmer, one merchant and one banker from each State.

Warehousing and financing future crops, similarly constituted.

On direct trade between farmers and manufacturer.

On transportation.

On resolutions to consider matters of a general nature not otherwise provided for.

“Reduction of acreage and commercial fertilizers being of paramount importance we recommend it be made the first order of business and be settled before other business is undertaken,” was the conclusion of the committee's report which was unanimously adopted.

The convention then adjourned until tonight.

At its night session the convention listened for an hour to an address by President A Brittin of the New Orleans cotton exchange. Mr Brittin denied that low prices were in any sense due to future sales. Low prices were due to one cause and one cause only, that of over-production. With the removal of that cause values would go up with future regardless of all the bound sellers of Europe, Africa or America.

Let the acreage be reduced 25 per cent. and all the speculators

on earth cannot keep cotton from going to 10 cents. Speaking of the growing consumption of cotton, Mr Brittin said if this year's crop was kept within 10,000,000 bales in three to five years the world would require a crop of 13,000,000 bales and more. Referring to the importance of the present convention, he said that any resolutions it might pass would amount to little if they were not followed up with earnest, sincere and determined work. In the solution of the problem confronting it, the most serious since the War Between the Sections, he said the convention had the best wishes of the great exchange which he had the honor to represent.

After naming the vice presidents and committees, the convention adjourned to tomorrow morning.

25 Per Cent. Reduction

COTTON GROWERS UNANIMOUS:

A Comprehensive Plan Adopted to
Secure the Support of Every
Power for an Equal Decrease
in Acreage and Fertilizers
Meetings to be Called for
Feb 11 in all Counties
Not Previously Or-
ganized and for
Feb 18 in Each
Precinct.

New Orleans, Jan 25.—What is firmly believed will be the solution of the cotton situation was reached here today, when the cotton convention without a dissenting vote declared in favor of a 25 per cent reduction in acreage and an equal reduction in commercial fertilizer, and backed that action up with the adoption of a comprehensive plan to secure the support of every farmer, big and little, in the cotton belt. An overwhelming majority of this delegates were present when the report was received and acted upon.

At the opening afternoon session former Senator McLaurin, of South Carolina, spoke along the lines of national protection for the cotton growers, saying that heretofore the cotton planter had been sacrificed to the doctrine of free raw material.

A PRO-ROOSEVELT DEMONSTRATION.

A reference to President Roosevelt's kindness to the South provoked a favorable demonstration on the part of the audience. Former Lieutenant Governor Jester, of Texas, from the committee on “holding and financing the balance of the present crop,” presented a report setting forth that each State and local section seems amply able to finance its present holdings. The committee believed that the cotton now in the hands of the producers should remain on the farm or be stored in local warehouses, protected against weather and fire, and said that the banks and commission men evidenced a willingness to aid in marketing the balance of the crop so as to hold in check any disposition to rush in cotton unduly and break the market. Belief was expressed that 25 per cent reduction in acreage and 25 per cent reduction in fertilizers will solve the cotton problem.

After the convention had voted an invitation to Capt Richard F