The Plan of Reduction Presented by Mr E D Smith

Addressed Business Men and Farmers of Dillon—Work of Organization Begins in Earnest.

Hon T J Redding, Director of Georgia Experiment Station, in Atlanta Constitution.

The work of the recent Cotton Growers' convention at New Orleans deserves, in its main features, the hearty approval of and endorsement of the farmers all over the south. The action of the committee since the adjournment in formulating a constitution and by-laws as a basis and bond of union for the continued existence of the organization is also worthy of all praise for its comprehensiveness and adaptation to the objects sought to be promoted. It is an able document, and should be the means of consolidating and unifying the interests of the cotton growers and manufacturers in the future. Whether its effective influence shall outlive the present emergency and promote the cotton growers' best interests in the future will depend largely upon the good judgment and sound discretion of those in active control of the organization, backed by the loyal and voluntary support of the great mass of farmers themselves.

But many of the most intelligent and up-to-date farmers, supported by those who are themselves only sincere friends of the farmers, are unable to see the wisdom of the advice to reduce the amount of fertilizer to be used by the growers of cotton.

It is all "well and good" to cut down the acreage in order to curtail the size of the coming crop. It would have been better to have cut the area to one-half the acreage of last year. It would have been better still to have advised and argued upon a horizontal cut to 10 acres to the plow, assuming that such a reduction would amount to about one-half, taking the entire cotton area into account. The effect of such a reduction would practically have resulted in such a large decrease in the aggregate cotten output that even a very much larger increase in the per acre application of fertilizers than is at all probable would not suffice to produce more than a 10,000,000 bale crop, under most favorable conditions.

For what does a farmer use commercial fertilizers if not for the purpose of increasing the yield per acre, and at the same time, as an inseparable incident, to lessen the cost per pound of producing the cotton? If the fertilizer does not enable the farmer to produce a bale of cotton at a less cost than it could be produced without the fertilizer then what good office does the fertilizer perform? If a farmer who has been growing cotton without the aid of fertilizer at a cost of 7 cents per pound of lint, what is the use of applying fertilizers if such does not lower the cost to 6 cents, or to 5 cents, per pound of lint?

Suppose a given farmer had usually planted 100 acres in cotton and that the average yield without fertilizer has been about 40 bales, which is about the general average. Will any one claim that such a yield has cost less than 7 cents per pound of lint? Will it cost him any less by simply reducing the area to 75 acres, and continuing to abstain from fertilizers, or apply only an insignificant amount per acre? Not much, if any, and if any less it will be because he will be able to throw out 25 acres of the most productive land.

But instead of reducing the area to only 75 acres, suppose he shall cut it down to 50 acres and apply 200 pounds per acre of a well-balanced, home-mixed fertilizer. Will he not thus increase the yield per acre by at least one-half, so that he will get 30 bales from the 50 acres? The "fixed charges" in labor, interest, superintendents, etc., will be no greater per acre on the 50 acres than they were formerly on the 100 acres, or just half as much for producing the 40 bales.

He will have produced on the 50 acres 30 bales, whereas before he produced only 20 bales (the half of 40 bales) on that area. This gain of 10 bales is due almost entirely to the use of $2 worth of fertilizers per acre, or $100 worth on the 50 acres, making the 10 bales cost $10 each, or 2 cents per pound—ready to pick, or 3 cents per pound baled ready for market. Of course these 10 bales, or 5,000 pounds, are distributed throughout the 20 bales. The 20 bales that the 50 acres of land produced of itself we have supposed to have cost 7 cents per pound or $700 for the 20 bales.

The 10 bales of increase cost $100, plus the cost of picking, $50; total, $150. Of course then the 30 bales will have cost $700, plus $150, or a grand total of $850 for the 30 bales, of 5⅔ cents per pound of lint.

The supposition on which these calculations are based are all within very moderate bounds, and are used only to illustrate the principal. And much more liberal application of fertilizers per acre would make a still stronger illustration.

Therefore it seems to me plain that the farmer should produce a larger percentage of that individual portion of each bale that costs only 3 cents per pound. If one-half of each bale of cotton costs 3 cent per pound and the remaining half costs 7 cents per pound, then it is quite clear that the mean cost of the bale of cotton would be an exact mean between 3 and 7, or 5 cents per pound. If one-third only of the bale cost 3 cents per pound and the remaining two-thirds costs 7 cents per pound, the whole bale will have cost 5⅔ cents per pound. If one-fourth of the bale cost 3 cents per pound and the remaining three-fourths costs 7 cents per pound, then the whole bale will have cost 6 cents per pound.

Acres.	Fertrlizers. Per acre.	Yield. Bales	Cost per lb Cents.
100	None	40	7 00
50	$2 00	30	5 66
50	3 00	34	5 41
50	4 00	38	4 21
50	5 00	41	5 14

The above is suggestive, not absolute, but it is well within the limits of probability. You will say that there would not be much money profit even in the last stated case, with cotton at 7 cents. Well, no; but it is much better than making 40 bales on 100 acres at a cost of 7 cents and selling it at 7 cents.

The truth is, land that with good cultivation and without fertilization will not produce more than 50 bales on 100 acres is hardly fit to plant in cotton, even if it be liberally fertilized, unless there is an assured prospect of selling it at 9 or 10 cents per pound. Such land ought to be planted in oats, cowpeas, sorghum or Bermuda grass, which costs but little to plant and cuttivate, and the product of which may be consumed on the farm.

What about the hundreds of acres planted annually in cotton that average very far less than 40 bales to the 100 acres—say, not more than 15 or 20 bales to the 100 acres? If all such be retired from cultivation in corn or cotton, and put into less expensive crops, or pasture, the problem of the "cotton situation" aided by a diversification, liberal manuring and fertilization, would be completely and permanently solved.

11 Negroes Die in Churdh.

Upwards of 50 Others Injured, Some Probably Fatall, as Result of a Collapse of the flooring.

New York, Feb. 27.—Eleven persons were killed and upwards of fifty injured, some probably fatally, by the collapse of the flooring of the Fleet Street African Methodist Episcopal church, in Brooklyn, to-nigth. Of those killed, 8 were women, and two men and one child. The building was an ancint ramshakle frame structure, erected 60 years ago in the heart of the colored section of Brooklyn, in Fleet street, near Myrtle avenue. Arrangements had been made to-night to hold funeral services of Sunday Tainler, one of the older members of the church and the auditorium, which is on the second floor of the building, the ground floor being used for the Sunday school was crowded with an audience upwards of 300 persons of whom the majority were women.

The congregation was waiting in silence for the arrival of the body when a sharp crack of timber was heard, and in an instant the half of the auditorium nearest the door collapsed, carrying down more than a hundred persons who were crushed in the wreckage of the flooring and pews.

Postoffice Burned.

Aiken, February 28.—Fire was discovered in the rear part of post office building Sunday night and before the flames could be gotton under control they consumed the entire Chatfield building, burning all the postoffice fixtures and destroying all mail, and burning the stock of goods of Mr. H. S. Jordan, and the Gift Shop. The household goods of Mrs. S. E. Chatfield were also burned and the total loss will aggregate $8,000.

After days of suffering from smallpox Police Howard succumbed to the disease at 8 o'clock yesterday evening. A wife, who is also stricken with the disease, and several shildren survive.—Greenville News.

BOWMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO THE CHARGE OF ARSON.

Charleston, Feb 28.—Raymond Bowman, the 16-year-old white boy, pleaded guilty to the charge of arson in the court of general sessions today, and threw himself upon the mercy of the court. Judge Gage took the position that the recommendation of mercy would have to be made by the jury and the case was given to the jury, with the result that a recommendation for mercy was made, and Bowman will consequently miss the gallows which threatened him. Judge Gage discussed the needs of a reformatory in passing upon the case, pointing to the youthful years of the prisoner at the bar and the likelihood of his nature being hardened by contact with more depraved criminals in the State prison.

SHERIFF OF CHESTERFIELD

Gov. Hayward's office yesterday received notification that Mr. D. P. Douglass has no opposition for the office of sheriff of Chesterfield county to succeed the late Sheriff D. P. Douglass. The primaay has been called off by the county Democratic executive committee, and Mr. Douglass will be commissioned for the unexpired term. Mr. A. W. Hursey had been suggested as a candidate but he withdrew from the race.—The State.

LANCASTER AND CHESTER RAILWAY

Schedule in effect Jan 8, 1905
(Daily except Sunday.)

WESTBOUND

Lv Lancaster,	7 45 a m	3 45 p m
Lv Fort Lawn,	7 34 a m	4 15 p m
Lv Bascomville,	7 44 a m	4 30 p m
Lv Richburg,	7 50 a m	4 45 p m
Ar Chester,	8 15 a m	5 15 p m
Ar Charlotte, So R	9 55 a m	7 10 p m
Ar Columbia So R	11 30 a m	1 05 a m
Ar Yorkv'l, C&N W	9 45 a m	
Ar Gastonia, CN W	10 38 a m	
Ar Lenoir, c & n, r	2 12 p m	
A Atlanta, s a l, r	4 55 p m	

EASTBOUND

Lv Atlanta, s a l, r		1 00 p m
Lv Lenoir, c & n, r		3 05 p m
Lv Gastonia "		6 00 p m
Lv Yorkville "		6 50 p m
Lv Columbia, So R	6 10 a m	7 00 p m
Lv Charlotte, So R	6 15 am	
Lv Chester,	10 00 a m	8 45 p m
Lv Richburg,	10 40 a m	9 09 p m
Lv Bascomville,	10 50 a m	9 15 p m
Lv Fort Lawn	11 06 a m	9 26 p m
Ar Lancaster,	11 40 a m	9 45 p m

CONNECTIONS.

Chester—Southern, Seaboard and Carolina & Northwestern Railways.

Lancaster—Southern Railway.

A P. McLURE, Asst Traffic mgr
LEROY SPRINGS,
Pres't and Traffic Manager.