Texas Won't Help Reduce

Threatens That if the Older States Do Not Stop Planting So Much They Will Scatter the Weevil Among Them.—Other Notes on Texas Farming.

Cor. of The Charlotte Observer.

Waco, Texas, April 20.—In central Texas there is more talk about cotton than anything else, and the boll weevil and the boll worm are centres of attraction. As has already been stated in a previous letter, the weevil has appeared, and is preying on the young cotton. The writer has been shown weevils which were taken April 18th and which the experts here, in this centre of the cotton belt, pronounce full-grown "birds." It is astonishing what harborage these insects find. If the bark be cut from a cotton stalk a row of holes will be seen, into which eggs have been deposited. The weevils go into the late bolls and deposit eggs in such numbers that the bolls do not open. They come out in the spring and grow wonderfully. An experiment was made here at Waco to test the vitality of the weevil. Many dozen were put in a bottle and the latter was frozen in the centre of a block of ice at one of the factories and allowed to remain there three days. Then the block was broken and the bottle removed and opened. As soon as they were warmed the weevils were active. The time has been, and that within a few months, or even weeks, when some farmers in Texas, in fact quite a number in the black belt, expressed the opinion that the weevil was a blessing in disguise. Some of these used a good argument, from their standpoint, this being that the weevil would force a diversification of crops. As a matter of fact, diversification is now beginning, and more meat supplies are being raised all through this section. In the course of a talk with many farmers right from their farms, it is learned that fifty per cent. more hogs were raised last year than in previous years.

THREATEN TO SCATTER WEEVIL.

Mention has been made of the fact that it was reported here, on seemingly good authority, that colonies of the boll weevil had been taken by a certain man to the other cotton growing States and thrown out of the car windows, in order to spread the terrible pest as widely as possible. I had a talk with the oldest cotton buyer here, who is also a large farmer, and he assured me of his belief as to this matter. He said some very interesting things in this connection, and declared very positively that if cotton fell to 5 cents a pound, people here in Texas would scatter colonies of the weevil all through the other cotton growing States, although this is in violation of the laws of some States and in violation of the federal law, and added that some weevils had already been sent, largely as a test, to see whether they would thrive and be heard from. He declared that the Texas farmers as a rule resent the planting of such a large acreage of cotton in the older States, as they think the planting in the other States, with Texas having the weevil, takes this State at a disadvantage; the farmers say that they wish the other States had the weevil and that Texas could stand the insect if the cotton growers knew that the other States had the pest also, but that if Texas has them and the other States do not, it is a hardship upon Texas. All the cotton men here say that if the weevils do get into the Eastern country, where there is so much moisture, they will multiply very fast. My informant, already referred to, says it is very untrue to make a statement that Texas can raise as much cotton with the weevil as without it. He cites his own case, that last year he planted 200 acres and his crop last fall was 70 bales, where he ought to have had 300. He expressed the confident belief that the boll weevil is in Texas to stay forever; that it is in the ground, the timber, the cotton stalks and even the corn stalks, and that its rate of advance into new territory has never slackened.

NOT REDUCING ACREAGE.

I went on the market square here, where there were scores of farmers and talked with them about cotton and other crops. Wagon loads of cotton were coming into the city, the custom among the farmers being to bring a considerable part of their crop in at one time. The impression gained by the talk was that there would be but little reduction of acreage. The growers appear to think that in the other States there will be but little reduction, and they will plant as much as before. I was told of one farmer who was holding his crop of 1,000 bales, in a few miles of here, having built a shed over it, who said yesterday that he would plant as much this year as last year, and that two other farmers, brothers, who have a very large farm in common and who raise 1,800 bales, have sold none and say they, too, will plant just as much. From talks with growers, and with buyers also, it was gathered that the reduction in the Texas crop will be from 8 to 10 per cent as compared to last year. One prominent citizen, a buyer, declared that it seemed up to a few days ago that the reduction might be as much as 15 per cent., but it now seemed it would be less. He said it would take another big crop, which would mean 5-cent cotton and would bring the farmers to their senses, to lead to a positive and sweeping reduction of the crop. There will be a lot of new acreage in cotton this year, both in Texas and in the Indian Territory, which is always spoken of as simply the Territory this being in an effort to get ahead of the boll weevil. The farmers do not really realize their power. When asked about what the yield was in this rich black wax land section last year, they said they thought it was about one half a bale to the acre, on an average. They say they could make a fine crop if it were not for the boll worm, which hurts the early cotton, and the weevil, which injures the late. The weevil is at its worst in the low lands, and does not cut so much of a figure on the high rolling land, the farmers say.

BEGIN TO USE FERTILIZERS.

I was struck by the comment of farmers upon the question of the use of fertilizers and also of better farming. They say that the land owners force upon renters the necessity of taking too much land for cultivation. When a renter says he wants 35 or 40 acres the owner ridicules him and he must take 75 at least, and more if he has any more workers in his family, and thus he undertakes to do more than he can do. Renters pay one-third of corn and other grain crops grown and one-fourth of the cotton, or if in money, $3 to $4 per acre. Farmers say these black lands are from 4 to 6 feet in depth, but, rich as they are, they are not so rich as they used to be, and the judicious use of fertilizer has a wonderful effect, not only in forcing crops, but in increasing them. Their use has but now begun, and that in a very small way.

Johnson grass is a pest which has taken possession of much valuable land. In some cases such land is abandoned to it, and it is cut for forage half a dozen times a year.

When asked as to the crop raised it was stated that oats average sixty bushels to the acre, and last year went as high as eighty-five; wheat eight to sixteen bushels; barley thirty to thirty-five; corn twenty bushels, running as high as thirty-five to forty for the past few years. There are no small farms, nearly everything being done on what in the East would be thought to be an immense scale, no one here thinking a three thousand acre cotton plantation at all unusual. Cotton is well up in this section and is growing very rapidly. The rainfall at times is immense, five inches having fallen last Sunday night.

This is the country of great farms. For example, in one not a great way from here there are 120,000 acres all under one fence, since the law requires all lands in use in Texas to be fenced. In another ranch, there are 440,000 acres, and in still a greater one there are 3,000,000 acres, the latter land having been given by the State of Texas to a Chicago firm as payment for the construction complete, of the $5,000,000 State capitol, at Austin, the material of which is red granite, quarried nearby. A farmer in this State has what he calls a horse lot in which there are 12,000 acres, in which his horses run.

Fred A Olds.

Notice to Road Overseers

All overseers of the public roads of Lancaster County who have not worked their section of road will please warn out their hands and work same at once, as the roads have now dried off so they can be properly worked. If there is any section that has not an overseer, please report same to me at once and I will appoint one.

M C Gardner,
Co Supervisor.

4t.

Gold Bank Robbery in New York State.

Oneona, N Y, May 2.—A band of masked robbers rode into the village of Gilbertsville, about 18 miles from here, at 3 o'clock this morning, blew open the modern and supposedly burglar proof safe in the private bank of E. C. Brewer, and made good their escape with booty estimated at between $5,000 and $10,000. When the startled villagers were awakened by the muffled roar of the explosion and had been halted by pistol fire of the retreating bandits, they found that the robbers had completely isolated Gilbertsville from the outside world by cutting all the telegraph and telephone wires. Efforts to communicate with neighboring towns were futile.

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Application for Final Discharge.

Notice is hereby given that at 11 o'clock a m. on Saturday, May 13th, 1905, I will file my final report as Administrator of the estate of Jno A Estridge, deceased, with J E Stewman, Probate Judge, at his office and apply for letters dismissory as such Administrator.

W Marcus Estridge.

April 12, 1905—1m

$100 REWARD!

A reward of $100, will be paid for the arrest and conviction of the party or parties who set fire to and burned my barn and stables about three miles North of Van Wyck, on Wednesday afternoon April 12, 1905.

J. D. Nisbet,

April 20, 1905-2t.

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Jan. 10, 1905.—tf.

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Aug. 29, 1904—tf

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R E WYLIE,
Aug 31—6m. Attorney at Law

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Notice.

My regular office days will be Saturdays and first Mondays. All other days you will find me at my office near L & C depot. Will keep school books at both offices and will be glad to wait on you any day in the week.

W M Moore,
Co Supt of Education.

Jan 16, 1905.

LANCASTER AND CHESTER RAILWAY.

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

WESTBOUND.

Lv Lancaster,	7 15 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 York, S & N W	9 48 a m	
Ar Gastonia, S & N W	10 38 a m	
Ar Lendir, C & N W	2 12 p m	
Ar Atlanta, S A L	4 55 p m	

EASTBOUND.

Lv Atlanta, S A L		1 00 p m
Lv Lendir, C & N W		3 05 p m
Lv Gastonia "		6 00 p m
Lv Yorkville "		6 59 p m
Lv Columbia, So R	6 10 a m	7 01 p m
Lv Charlotte, So R	6 15 a m	
Lv Chester,	10 00 a m	8 45 p m
Lv Richburg,	10 40 a m	9 03 p m
Lv Bascomville,	1050 a m	9 18 p m
Lv Fort Lawn	11 06 a m	9 26 p m
Ar Lancaster,	114 0 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,
Prest and Traffic Manager