### THE THRONE OF KING COTTON

May Be Occupied For a Time By a Worthy Consort-Peanut Growing Profitable In Cotton Belt

(By W. M. Goodman.)

low in the wake of the boll-weevil. acre should be applied broadcast after Adoption of long-talked-of systems of diversified farming, stock-raising and soil-building may be forced upon the farmers of the cotton belt as a result of the incursion of this voracious and implacable enemy of King Cotton. And with these changes and improve-ments, and the consequent eradication of this destructive pest, cotton may which will insure a more prosperous

The Value of Peanuts.

The boll-weevil is expected to be in full force next year in the best cotton growing sections of Georgia and the Carolinas, and the forehanded farmer may profit by engaging in peanut culture on an extensive scale.

Dr. W. W. Long, Director of Extension, Clemson Agricultural College of South Carolina, says: "The value of the peanut, both as a money crop and for feeding on the farm, renders it especially desirable as a part of the rotation wherever conditions suitable to its development exist."

And such conditions are found in many sections of the southeast, and are especially favorable in the coastal plains regions of North and Louth Carolina.

In some parts of the South peanuts have already supplanted cotton on many farms heretofore devoted almost exclusively to the growing of that staple. It is shown by recent reports from the boll-weevil territory of Georgia that the peanut is one of the most profitable crops that can be grown in the place of cotton.

Prof. H. C. Thompson, U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, says: "Peanut growing is desirable in the cropping system in some parts of the cotton belt. The commercial value of the crop increased from \$7,270,515, in 1899 to \$18,271,929 in 1909, and the increase since 1909 has been even greater than before that year. These facts do not represent the full value of the crop, for they do not take into account thousands of acres of peanuts grown for hog feeding purposes."

The Peanut as a Nitrogen Gatherer. "The peanut plant, in common with other legumes, has the power of collecting nitrogen from the air and storing it in nodules on its roots," says Prof. Thompson. "For this reason the peanut is a very desirable soil improving plant. It should be borne in mind, however, that in order to benefit the soil the main portion of the roots should be left in the ground. The nitrogen gathering bacteria are usually present in abundance even where the soil is planted for the first time."

Importance of Lime in the Soil. Authorities agree that peanuts require an abundance of lime to insure proper ripening and the filling of pods and the testimony of practical peanut bear them out in this state-

Where the soil contains limesione or shells it may not be necessary to apply lime, but on most sandy soils, and on being about \$200 per ton.

land that is in the least sour, from one Better farming in the South may fol- to two tons of pulverized limestone per the land is plowed and thoroughly mixed with the soil by harrow.

Dr. Long says: "It is necessary to lime the soil for peanuts, unless it is definitely known that there is an abundance in the soil. In this state at least 1,000 pounds of burnt lime or 2,000 pounds of ground limit should be used per acre."

Balanced Matiens

Peanuts require phosphate as well as lime, but it should be borne in mind that neither of these elements can be omitted under average conditions, and in the coastal plains regions potash should be included. One element may help, but it's the combination that brings big results. A "balanced ration" is as necessary for plants as for animals.

Market For Peanute.

Most farmers have a fair idea of the market for peanuts for roasting and for the manufacture of various, products, such as salted peanuts, peanut candy, peanut butter, etc., but less is known concerning the importance of this product in the manufacture of vegetable oils. With the coming shortage of cotton seed from which to make oll, and with an increase in demand, there seems to be a great field for the peanut oil industry in the South.

In addition, the peanut yields a valuable hay crop, and when peanuts are harvested for market hogs may be turned into the field to slean whatever is left after digging.

It is said that many growers fatten two hogs on each acre of peanuts so harvested. "Few if any crops will produce more pounds of pork on an acre of land or produce it at a lower cost per acre than peanuts," says a writer on this subject, "and in addition to the profit on pork, the crop producing capacity of the soil will be materially increased."

The Outlook.

The farmer who knows how to raise peanuts will make money, but the haphazard farmer can, never realize much profit on any crop. There is much to be learned as to preparation of soils, planting, cultivating and harvesting, but our state experiment stations will furnish the necessary information.

The peanut crop in some of the states is short this year and growers are expecting higher prices. The crop s above the average in quality and it is thought that the higher grades will reach 121/2 cents to 14 cents a pound by Christmas, and peanut off-has advanced 3 cents a pound. This means a good profit for the farmer, and as there is no danger of flooding the market, growers may look for large returns next year.

The oil mills of the South now provide a market for hundreds of thousands tons of peanuts and the average price during the past three years for the small white Spanish variety b h en \$100 per ton; the present

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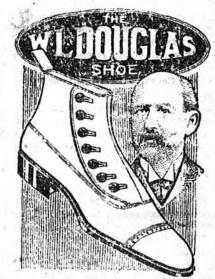
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