

The Barnwell People-Sentinel

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Being convinced by the action of the cotton market Monday, following the publication of the government's crop forecast Saturday, that estimates of this kind are worthless, The People-Sentinel has decided not to attempt any forecast of the size of Barnwell County's crop. There is too great a variance in the estimates submitted, and the early deterioration, together with the unknown amount of loll weevil damage, makes any estimate of negligible value. We thank those who sent in estimates for the interest shown, but they will not be published for the reasons above stated.

The people of Colleton County are at last aroused to the wanton destruction of fish and game within its borders and a mass meeting of citizens was scheduled to be held in Walterboro Monday "for the purpose of taking such action as may be necessary." We hope that their awakening has not come too late and that there is yet time to save at least a part of this heritage. It has long been an open secret that the fish laws have been flagrantly violated in that section and that it could only be a question of time, and that very short, before the streams would be hopelessly depleted.

At this writing, we do not know, of course, what action will be taken by the people of Colleton, but we certainly hope it will be drastic enough to conserve the supply of fish and game. We have in mind a certain stream, two hours ride from Barnwell, where, only two or three years ago, it was possible for a fisherman with rod and reel to catch 75 or 100 fine trout and jack fish in the course of a morning. Many such catches have been reported and verified and even so mediocre fishermen as is this writer succeeded in catching a nice string of 16 finny beauties one day. Sad to relate, this particular stream has been almost entirely depleted of its supply of fish—so much so, that one of the best fishermen in this section fished hard for several hours one day last week and caught only two small trout and one jack.

People have been so selfish and unthinking in their efforts to break old records of numbers caught and establish new ones that a condition has come to pass that can be remedied only by drastic action. Not satisfied with being able to make such large catches with hook and line as those referred to above, many have been so unsportsmanlike as to resort to nets, dynamite and rifles in their pot-hunting activities.

The writer enjoys a day's sport with rod and reel or hook and line as much as anyone and he sincerely hopes that something can be done, not only in Colleton but in other counties in the low country, to protect the fish supply from the depredations of unsportsmanlike fishermen.

Why a Cotton Estimate?

The action of the cotton market following the last two government reports of condition and estimates of the probable yield makes the query, "Why a Cotton Estimate?" a most reasonable one. Two weeks ago, when the condition as of July 16th, was placed at 70.4 per cent. of a normal, with an indicated yield of 13,588,000 bales, the market immediately advanced about 1½ cents a pound. Then Texas was visited by rain and all of the advance was lost on the theory that a half million bales had been added to the crop.

The department of agriculture's August 1st forecast was issued Saturday. The average "guess" of the members of the New York cotton exchange was for a condition of between 67 and 68, with an estimated yield of about 14,000,000 bales. The government's figures placed the condition at 65.6 per cent of a normal, with an indicated yield of 13,566,000 bales, a decline of 22,000 bales instead of an increase of half a million. The report was not published until after the close of the market Saturday. Naturally, everybody looked for an advance in the market Monday. On the other hand, the price declined nearly one cent a pound. Evidently, the cotton gamblers refused to believe the government's forecast.

Therefore, "Why a Cotton Estimate?"

A few weeks ago, when there was talk of a crop of between 14 and 15 million bales, a prominent Barnwell citizen, who was in New York at the time, took advantage of the opportunity to visit the cotton exchange. In spite of big crop talk, the market was very steady, advancing a few points instead of declining. In response to his question as to why the price did not decline in view of the probable large crop, he was told that the South had sold the market heavily and as long as that condition existed, there would be no decline. Evidently the South was "shaken loose" on the previous report and there is now an excellent opportunity for those who don't know a cotton stalk from a gypsum weed., as Senator Smith expresses it, to buy cotton at a very cheap price.

England fixes the price of the world's supply of rubber by reason of her monopoly, advancing the price of crude rubber from 17 cents to about \$1 a pound in a short while. The South enjoys a practical monopoly on cotton production, yet the cotton gamblers of the North apparently are hand in glove with England in seeing how cheaply this great commodity can be sold to the world, at the expense of this section of the United States.

The People-Sentinel is not advising its readers as to what they should do with their cotton, but it seems to the writer that cooperative marketing of the fleecy staple offers the only practical solution at this time. Year after year, with sickening regularity, we see our cotton crops sacrificed at prices that barely cover the cost of production—hardly that when everything is taken into consideration.

If the cotton gamblers of the world refuse to believe the government's forecasts unless it pleases them to do so, why issue these estimates to

the injury of the producer? And if the cotton exchanges exist merely for the purpose of hammering down the price of cotton, why not abolish them also?

A Cold Day in August.

H. L. O'Bannan, Esq., of this city, has experienced the proverbial "cold day in August." In a letter received from him a few days ago, requesting that his copy of The People-Sentinel be forwarded to him at Hendersonville, N. C., as he wants "to know what is going at home," Mr. O'Bannan writes: "I am sitting by the fire and find it very comfortable."

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Wins Small Fortune at Baccarat



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B. S. MOORE, Manager :: Barnwell, S. C.

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