

The Lancaster News (SEMI-WEEKLY.)

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Weather forecast for South Carolina: Local thunder showers Friday and probably Saturday.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1914.

Cotton has been a cruel king. It's the time to dethrone him.

Let's supplant him with other crops. Can you afford to raise cotton at 7 cents? If not, why not cut it out?

President Wilson has bought one bale of cotton. Why not you? The Greenville Piedmont seems to have a grouch at Mr. Bryan.

Don't get excited and don't be misled, but sit steady in the boat and it will all come right in the end. Do you need foodstuffs on the farm? If so, why not raise them instead of buying at high prices from the West.

The New York cotton exchange could help the cotton situation materially, if it would buy something like 1,000,000 bales at present prices. "Buy a bale of cotton" and "sow grain" are two slogans, which if put into practice, will relieve the situation more effectively than any legislation or other schemes for helping the farmer.

"Was Mr. Richards ever congratulate Mr. Manning on his victory? If so, we have not heard of it."—Abbeville Medium. Not yet, contemporary. But give him time, he is doubtless still nauseated from the overdose of Bleasism he swallowed just before the race for governor began.

Every business man in Lancaster owes it to himself and to the farmers of Lancaster county, to attend the County Cotton Congress, which meets tomorrow in the court house. Farmers from all parts of the county will be there and our business men should be on hand to welcome them and co-operate with them in their effort to work out some plans to hold the present crop of cotton and to curtail the acreage of next year's crop.

"HIS MASTER'S VOICE." "Bull Moose" Beard publishes in a recent issue of The State, a letter purporting to have been written by "Curly Headed" Johnny McLaurin last November, just after that notable meeting of the Blease coat-tail swingers at the Jefferson Hotel, in which Carroll Simms got the applause, much to the chagrin of McLaurin, who was present. The letter is addressed "To my friends," and scores the whole Blease aggregation, save Blease alone, who is extolled in fine fashion. He compares the Jefferson Hotel affair to a regular "Belhazzar's rest," wherein dunkeys competed for the favor of their master and mountebank tricks of speech befogged the plain men present." He says the meeting was a "dismal failure" and that the voice of sense and reason was drowned in the clink of glasses and the promptings of wisdom in the maudlin mouthings of cheap demagogues drunk with the novelty of success.

Mr. McLaurin, however, makes it plain that he excepts himself and his friend, Blease, from the severe strictures he heaps on the Blease crowd generally. Our opinion is that Blease was just as much the "master" of McLaurin as of any of the other coat-tail swingers, and he would have readily responded to that "master's voice" if it had called to him.

PAY TEN CENTS FOR IT.

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the country and pay ten cents a pound for cotton to farmers who owe them and store the cotton to use as an asset in their business. This is genuine and true co-operation, and we commend the spirit which actuated the Gregory-Hood Live Stock Company in launching the movement in Lancaster county. It has cost every farmer at least ten cents a pound to raise his cotton and it is no fault of his that the present war in Europe has caused it to drop for the time being to eight cents. And those who allow their debtors ten cents will not likely lose anything in the end, for by the curtailment of the acreage another year, which is sure to be done, and the withholding of the present crop from the market, the price is likely to advance to ten cents or more in the course of the next year. So we urge upon the merchants, fertilizer companies and all others who are in any way interested in cotton to pay their customers ten cents for the staple. They will lose nothing by such a course and it will help those who have given them their business. But, in this connection, we suggest to every one who takes in cotton at ten cents, as a guarantee of good faith on the part of the seller, that he sign a written pledge that he will plant next year only fifty per cent of this year's crop.

GRIST FOR THE MANNING MILL.

The York News expresses its pleasure over the fact that its contemporary, the one-time "Blease organ," of the White Rose county, notwithstanding its pre-election charge that Mr. Manning was the "logical candidate of the 'old conservatives,' most of whom were bankers, professional men and merchants, is making a fair start for the Manning band wagon." According to The News, its contemporary is unquestionably repenting in sack cloth and ashes, for now viewing the situation from a post-election standpoint, the erstwhile organ says, according to The News, "Mr. Manning's election will give general satisfaction throughout the state, and that he has won his way by 'superior energy,' and fair and upright dealings, etc."

Well, all of this is somewhat of a surprise, but we believe all prodigal sons, who have tired of the miserable husks of Bleasism, should be received, if not with open arms and the killing of the fatted calf, at least with some degree of cordiality, and be accorded seats upon the band wagon, even though they be rear seats. Yes, we believe in receiving all kinds of Grist at the Manning mill. We now suggest to The York News the propriety of singing that old-time, camp-meeting hymn: "While the lamp holds out to burn, The vilest sinner may return."

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

The Rock Hill Buggy Company, in a printed circular, which is being distributed, suggests a feasible plan to enable the debtors to pay what they owe without sacrificing their cotton and without putting it upon the market. Briefly, the plan is for the bank, merchant, fertilizer company or other creditor to get the farmer to bring in his cotton, place it in a warehouse, where it can be held until the price advances to such a point as will justify its sale. When sold allow the debtor the price at which it was sold and after deducting charges for storage and insurance, give him credit for the balance. This arrangement would hurt nobody and would enable the debtor to get a fair price for his cotton. The plan is a good one and should commend itself to all fair-minded persons.

TOO MUCH BUNCOMBE.

In a report of a large meeting of the cotton growers and business men of Sumter county, President Dabbs of the State Farmers' Union, and Senator John H. Clifton are said to have indulged in strictures on President Wilson, his cabinet and Southern representatives in Congress "for indifference towards the dire needs of the Southern farmers in the present crisis." It ill becomes these gentlemen to indulge in such buncombe. We are not greatly surprised at politicians of the stripe of Mr. Clifton, who was recently defeated for reelection to the senate, but we are surprised at Mr. Dabbs. If both men would concentrate their efforts to getting the farmers of Sumter county to cut out cotton and make more "hog and hominy," they would be engaged in better work than that of criticising the Democratic administration, which they should know is willing and ready to help the Southern farmers in every constitutional and legal way.

Don't mope around and talk hard times. It will do no good. Straighten up and put on a smile. You will thereby help somebody else.

"PLANT FOODSTUFFS."

Senator Hoke Smith delivered a speech to the recent Georgia Democratic convention, in session at Macon, that is so replete with good advice to Southern farmers, that we are reproducing a portion of it for the benefit of the farmers of Lancaster county. Senator Smith said in part:

"If, on the other hand, the farmer wish to give you this suggestion with reference to the cotton situation. A large part, in my judgment, at least one-third of the demand for lint cotton will be cut off during the next twelve months by the failure of mills to operate. It is possible that this condition may continue through at least part of next year.

"We cannot meet this situation by simply furnishing money to handle distressed cotton. If another crop next year is raised similar in size to the present crop nothing will prevent the lowest price of cotton next fall that has been known in twenty years.

"If on the other hand, the farmers of the South begin this fall planting their cotton lands in wheat and oats and other food stuffs; if by the first of next April it is known that one-half of our cotton lands are planted in food stuffs and that the cotton crop of next year will be reduced one-half, the financial pressure will be off the South. It will give confidence in the intelligent business judgment of the farmers of the South and the cotton that we hold will at once demand a good price.

"If there could be any guarantee today that the cotton crop would be reduced one-half next year, there would now be an immediate market for every bale of cotton which is brought to town.

"The greatest difficulty which confronts us is not so much furnishing money to finance the present crop, as it is that fear that next year's crop, by its size, will destroy the value of the present crop.

"My urgent advice is that steps be taken in every county in the state to cut once and for all and dedicate to food stuffs one-half of the cotton lands, and that farmers that pledged themselves to this course live up to it.

"I have a little farm for which my tenant pays me \$500 a year standing rent. Since reaching Georgia I have agreed to accept ten bales of cotton at 10 cents a pound in settlement of my rent but I have stipulated that next year he shall not plant a seed of cotton.

"We must meet that problem that confronts us for the next six months by mutual forbearance; by sympathetic co-operation. No honest man who seeks to pay must be crowded for his debts. We must economize. We must realize the situation. We must bear ourselves, with courage and with manhood. And I promise you it will only last six months, if, next spring, the fact is established that one-half the cotton lands of the South have been planted in food stuffs. They will be profitable to the grower and the next six months of hardship will prove a blessing if it changed the South from a one crop section into a section that uses its cotton as its surplus product and produces for itself all that its people need and a surplus of food stuffs to sell.

"The condition with reference to our country as a whole is not only one of but temporary depression; it is one of certain great increased commercial growth as an incident to the war.

"Before the end of two years we will have absorbed much of the commerce with South America and the Orient and Africa, heretofore belonging to Germany and to the other countries which have each other by the throat, and which are engaged in killing each other with a heartlessness and fury never shown since the days that civilization spread over the world.

"To relieve our commerce from the conditions which the war has brought upon it, we have passed a navigation law, relieving our merchant marines from many of the stringencies which before rested upon it. We will see to it that the American flag is floating upon vessels prepared to carry our agricultural and manufactured products to any market ready to buy them, even though it be necessary for the government to own the vessels.

"And for our country from it is destined a growth and a power among the countries of the world far greater than we would have had for years to come, but for the very opportunity which the war affords. And while we suffer a temporary hardship in the South, let us not think alone of our own troubles. Let us think how much worse it might have been. Let us think of those unfortunate people where the war devastates property and sweeps down human lives by the hundreds, and fills every home with sorrow as it takes from every home, sons and brothers. Let us thank God that in this free country of ours, we have no war lords, but that the destiny of the United States has been directed by a wise, brave Christian man, who fears God and loves his fellow man, and who had courage enough to stand against the influences that for two years past would have carried our country and our people into the horrors of war.

"Let us take courage and let us have hope. The dark clouds around us will soon drift. We have the power to scatter them ourselves. Let us thank God for the blessings we have and with a spirit of mutual co-operation bend our energies to do our full duty to this beloved section of our country in which we delight to live and for which we would lay down our lives.

"Again, gentlemen, I thank you. I thank your constituents through you for the great honor you have given me, and I pledge you once more to do all I can in your service."

Don't fail to attend the County Cotton Congress tomorrow. Our very presence, even should you have nothing to say, will be a help to others.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK of South Carolina, at the close of business September 12, 1914. Includes financial statements for RESOURCES and LIABILITIES, and a testimonial from E. M. Croxton, Cashier.

REMEMBER YOUR LAST DOSE OF CALOMEL? You probably recall the bad after-effects of the calomel more than the sickness you took for. You need never again go through with being 'all knocked out' for a day or two by calomel.

SEE WOODWARD For Plumbing and Electrical Work PHONE 399. 5 or 6 doses 666 will break any case of Fever or Chills. Price 25c.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, County of Lancaster. By J. E. STEWMAN, Judge of Probate. Whereas, W. U. Cuyburn has made suit to me to grant him letters of administration of the estate and effects of W. H. Roberts, deceased.

Scrubs Fatten Quickly. You want your pigs to eat as much as possible when you fatten them. Give them a great variety of feed, keep the appetite keen and the digestion in good order, and you will obtain the desired result; especially if you mix with the grain ration a dose of Bee Dee STOCK MEDICINE.

This Bank Is Built on the rock of "ample resources." Financial storms may come and go, but we are always ready to meet and defy them. Keep your account here for safety's sake. Keep it where the resources are always ample for any demand. We invite you to read our last statement. STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE FARMERS BANK & TRUST COMPANY, located at Lancaster, S. C., at the close of business June 30, 1914.