

The Press and Banner

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

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COTTON IN THE WAREHOUSE.

The Columbia State believes that the editor of the Press and Banner is an old-timer because he opposes the storage of cotton in warehouses and the borrowing of money thereon, and the State may be right, but it cannot prove by the figures that we are wrong.

A man who puts cotton in the warehouse at ten cents, we will say, gambles with big odds against him. He pays the warehouse twenty-five cents per month for storage and insurance; he pays interest on the money he owes, or he loses interest on the money his cotton will bring, at eight per cent, of four dollars per bale per year. He loses an average of ten pounds in weight, making a total loss of eight dollars per bale on every bale of cotton which goes into a warehouse for twelve months, and it generally stays about that long. The cotton which has been put in there for the purpose of holding for higher prices must sell at eleven-sixty before the farmer, or the person who stores his cotton, is even with the game. If there are any farmers in this country who think they can gamble on the price of cotton, with such odds against them, they are due a rude awakening.

Because the storing of cotton in warehouses, and borrowing money on it, is gambling it is enticing, so much so that we know men in Abbeville, who are rated as good business men, who have cotton in the warehouse for which they were offered fourteen cents, or thereabouts, two years ago. And that is the story of every man who stores cotton; he holds it until he is forced to sell; he holds to get even, which he never does. We can tell the editor of the State of a farmer in the upper part of the county who has the fever of storing cotton and gradually marketing it. We know the history of his case, and we are able to demonstrate to a mathematical certainty that in the last ten years he has lost enough money by the practice over and above any profits he has made, to pay off the mortgage on his farm, which has grown to such an extent as to threaten the homestead of the mortgagor, who is now past sixty; and only recently he borrowed money on cotton, when it was selling at twelve and a half cents per pound, to pay accumulated interest on his debt. And his experience is the experience of others.

Of course there are times when it pays to hold. In every gambling game there are a few winners to make the game interesting. But we claim that if a man cannot play the game without giving odds, he had better not gamble on the price of cotton. If he owes no one, and can store his own cotton and run the risk of losing it by fire, or pay insurance only, he may take the chance; but if he must gamble, he had better sell the actual cotton and buy futures. It will not take so much to carry a hundred bales, and the loss will soon come and be over with; or he may keep the futures good as well as he can hold the actual cotton and pay interest on the money. He will be forced to sell by May, or July, or sometime and he can buy that month and take his chances. He will certainly escape the charges for storage, and he will only lose in the long run anyway.

And then there are other considerations. The people who hold cotton generally owe seventy-five, and sometimes a hundred per cent, of its value. By holding they deprive their creditor of the money he is entitled to; and he in turn is placed in a bad light with the Baltimore, or New York, merchant who has credited him, or if he owes his bank, he places the bank in the awkward situation of asking for extensions. The result is that he has no money, the merchant has none, the banker has none, and at the times when a man should hold, if ever, the money of the country has all been borrowed and spent, and there is no more to borrow until somebody pays up. And we have all seen this result; we have all seen money harder to get in December than in August, and business at a standstill in consequence of it.

Wherefore, as the lawyers say, we stick to our original proposition, that a man who sells his cotton as it is ginned, will, on the average, pro-

fit more than he who stores his crop, pays storage and borrows money. And the farmers need not think they can fool the people who buy cotton by attempting to hold it off the market. The people who buy the cotton know in advance all about the crop, how much will likely be made, how much will be demanded, how much the merchant owes, and the bank, and the farmer, and just how long then can hold, and anybody who thinks that the people who owe the money can bull the market by storing cotton, which has already been counted, and make the people who buy it pay more than it is worth, has another guess coming.

PROGRESS IN ANDERSON.

The Anderson Intelligencer, one day last week, was boasting that the Owl Drug Store has adopted the sanitary drinking cup, and that it had set the pace in Anderson. We are surprised that Anderson is so far behind. The sanitary drinking cups have been in the drug stores here so long that we are afraid to say just when they came into use. The fact is they are used at Hodges, Calhoun Falls, and all well regulated towns of three hundred population, and upwards; but that is no reason why they should not be used at Anderson, and we are glad to see that progress is in evidence there.

There are a few other things we have in Abbeville which should be "inaugurated" in Anderson, such as Signboards at public road crossings, etc.,

A steam-heated hotel,
A thoroughly ventilated courthouse,
Longer pants.

We are reminded by the letter of what the late Col. H. T. Tusten told us a few years ago, when we stated that the Anderson farmers were ahead of the farmers of this county. He stated that they had more money than our farmers, but they had saved it by wearing their pants too short, and thereby economizing on the cost.

BAD POLICY.

We protest against the growing practice of judges of the courts of this state in sentencing criminals to the chain-gang and then suspending sentence on condition that they leave the state. When the criminal law has been violated, and the violator convicted, he should be given such sentence as is not only commensurate with the offense, but a sentence which will warn him to be good in the future, or then quit the state.

But if the courts will persist in the practice, we suggest that the legislature pass an act providing that a man who commits a crime in this state may escape trial if he will leave the state and not return. We could in this way avoid the expense of trial, and the criminal the expense of counsel's fees.

The state of South Carolina would not welcome the criminal element of another state, if the courts of that state should dump it upon us, and we have no right to chase our criminals across the river into Georgia. A white man convicted of selling liquor should crack rocks for awhile; sending him to Georgia is too light a sentence, even though it is cruel and unusual.

The legislature should relieve judges of the responsibility of suspending sentence in any case.

GETTING MOST GOOD FROM STABLE MANURE

(Clemson Weekly Notes.)
In view of the present high prices of commercial sources of potash, farmers should take special pains to keep and apply their stable manure in such a way as to get the greatest benefit from this valuable product. The liquid manure, which is often permitted to go to waste, is even more valuable for plant food than the solid and farmers should be careful to use good bedding to save this part of the manure.

In a forthcoming bulletin on potash and its sources, T. E. Keitt, chemist of the South Carolina Experiment Station at Clemson College, says of methods of keeping and applying manure:

"Under ordinary farm conditions it is not practicable to haul out manure every day and apply it to a field that is soon to be planted. When manure is hauled out it is desirable to have it incorporated with the soil immediately. Under present conditions it is best to conserve manure until spring and apply it to cotton land in very light applications.

"The best way for the average farmer to handle his manure is to permit it to accumulate in the stall being careful to keep the stall dry and well littered. The animal will

pack the manure by tramping it, and it keeps best when packed. The litter will absorb the liquid manure.

"We should advise its application to cotton land in the drill when the land is "laid off." Applications may be as light as one ton per acre. One ton of manure running 0.6 per cent potash contains as much potash as 100 pounds of kainit or the potash content of 300 pounds of an 8-4-4 fertilizer."

GOOD FENCES ESSENTIAL TO GOOD FARMING

(The Progressive Farmer.)
We do not believe that it is possible to do really good farming on a farm that is not fenced, and a prerequisite in getting ready to do better work lies in getting the farm well fenced. Good farming without fences is impossible for several reasons. In the first place, fenced land, even in the woods, improves rapidly because of the accumulation of vegetable matter. This, of course, may be largely due to the fact that livestock is not allowed the free range of it and that fire is kept off, but the truth is that fenced woodlands improve very fast.

Another and still more important reason for fencing all the farm is that no adequate rotation system, with the necessary cover crops and livestock, can be followed without good fences. Two divisions, the pasture and the cultivated fields, should be made of every farm, and a good, strong, hog-tight, horse-high fence should be put around each. Then on most Southern farms the cultivated area should be subdivided into three fields of equal size, with good fences between. Such a division admits of the use of rotations and cover crops, without which rich land and good farming are impossibilities and, furthermore, makes it possible to carry the hogs and cattle that are necessary to convert otherwise waste products into meat, milk and butter.

As fences are more or less permanent structures, much care should be exercised in locating them. A sketch or map of the farm, as it is to be when all plans are worked out, should be carefully made, and all fences, roads, pastures and rotation plots placed strictly according to the plan. Doing this will save much future trouble and inconvenience.

Local conditions must largely determine the matter of selecting the best and most economical fencing. Where timber is abundant the old-style rail fence can undoubtedly be built at less cost than any other; but it has objections in its lack of durability, in the danger from fire, and of the fact that it and the frequently accompanying weeds and briars occupy land that ought to be making crops. These objections are so serious that, unless it is simply impossible, we would urge that wire be used.

In building wire fence, wire with a heavy coat of galvanizing will, because of its greater durability, generally be most economical in the long run. What kind of posts shall be used, however, is a local problem, as posts of the same quality are much cheaper in some sections than in others. In the long leaf pine belt of the South, where fat pine posts often may be had at from three to five cents each, these will doubtless be the most economical to use. Farther north, where good posts are much scarcer and higher-priced, concrete and steel may well be considered. As an illustration, the United States Department of Agriculture has found that red cedar posts on an average cost twenty-nine cents each and lasted on an average twenty years, while concrete posts cost thirty cents each and lasted forty-eight years.

Here of course the advantage is greatly in favor of the concrete.

AUTUMNAL DAY IN CAROLINA.

Sleeps the soft South,—nursing her delicate breath,
To fan the first buds of the early spring;
And summer, sighing, mourns his faded wreath,
Its many colored glories withering
Beneath the kisses of the new waked North,—
Who yet in storms approaches not, but smiles
On the departing season, and breathes forth
A fragrance as of summer, till at whiles,
All that is sweetest in the varying year
Seems softly blent in one delicious hour,
Waking dim visions of some former sphere,
Where sorrows, such as earth owns, had no power
To veil the changeless lustre of the skies,
And mind and matter form one paradise.
—By William H. Timrod, (Father of Henry Timrod.)

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

There is a difference between keeping boarders and having boarders keep you.

There is at least one thing women can do that men can't—and that is say "good-bye" gracefully.

The longer a man lives in a community the more money his neighbors owe him—or else the more he owes to his neighbors.

And sometimes a wife's display of love is merely for her husband's money.

Every time a mean man smiles he looks as if he actually felt ashamed of it.

Flattery is a mask assumed for a purpose.

Satan cares nothing whatever about a man's attending church on the Sabbath if he gets his services the other six days in the week.—Chicago News.

You can usually ascertain a woman's real age by asking some other woman.

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