

Farmers' Union Bureau of Information.

Conducted by the South Carolina Farmers' Educational and Co-Operation Union.

Communications intended for this department should be addressed to J. C. Stribling, Pendleton, S. C.

Our Cotton On Hand.

Our efforts in these columns has been chiefly directed towards checking, if possible, the increase of acreage by silly farmers in cotton; we have not thought it necessary to give any advice here to the farmers now holding their cotton. These are men of business, and are usually men with sufficient grit, pluck and financial backing to carry their points and know what they are about.

The Signs of the Times.

If we are not badly deceived in the signs of the times, farmers that do not heed the warnings of the Farmers' Union and plant more food crops now, they will be running around next fall wanting everybody's advice about how to buy \$20 a ton peavine hay and \$1.00 a bushel corn with 6 cents cotton.

Our big supply men and mule men, too, had better butt in this thing at once along with the Farmers' Union in their efforts to induce farmers to plant more food crops and less cotton, or the game next winter will be nip and tuck between these men and the buzzards as to who will get the most revenue out of this mule mortgage business.

A good deal is being said recently about live stock associations in each of the counties of the state, which will be a good thing if our farmers will take to them, and instead of bragging about selling peavine hay and other food crops, they will raise and feed more stock and take care of the manure, they need not be howling any longer about the guano trust!

Our Farmers' Unions should take to this live stock idea like young ducks take to water; it is the natural thing to do and right along the straight road to the permanent building up of the up-to-date progressive idea of the independent farmer of the south.

All our Farmers' Unions should be each in itself a good live stock association, and talk more about raising more and better stock and talk less about raising more cotton.

How About This?

Some of our South Carolina Farmers' Unions have been trying to make a deal with the Unions in the grain growing West for their grain, but neither the grain growers nor the cotton growers have been able to get cars to ship the corn. We are told that corn has been offered there from 32 cents to 36 cents per bushel, and thousands of bushels have been piled on the ground there rotting while cotton farmers in South Carolina are paying 75 cents to 80 cents for their corn when they can get it. It seems that the grain elevator men and the R. R. men get about as much out of the western crop as the corn growers get, while South Carolina cotton farmers foot the bills for the whole push.

Now, this is not a matter to be settled altogether by congress or the courts, for the reason that you cannot legislate common horse sense into cotton farmers' heads, nor drive the hog and hominy doctrine down their throats unless some other fellow grows the hog and hominy.

Our way out of this thing is to grow your own food stuffs. It matters not how cheap others can grow it, some how or other, if there is anything like good in this trading business among farmers crops, the men that stand between the cotton growers and the grain growers get about all the sugar there is in the hog, while the farmers at each end are howling calamity and chewing the bag.

At It Again.

As usual about this time of the year, when southern cotton farmers

are trying to induce all cotton growers to reduce their acreage to keep down over production and consequent to the whole southern cotton states, some schemish European cotton bears send out their threats through our newspapers that if we don't grow a big surplus of cotton at ruinous prices to the growers that they will get Africa to do it for us.

The first round in the papers this time about this African cotton growing bluff was sent out by a German official, and later followed by a French official, who claims to have grown and delivered cotton in Harve, France, at the astonishing low price of 3 1-4 cents per pound. Now, we have all along had the opinion that Wall Street cotton bears were the biggest liars this side of hades, but we now give all the cake, pie and crust to France.

There was a time when this kind of talk perhaps had some weight in influencing cotton growers to push in more cotton in order to keep their trade with these foreign spinners, but the up-to-date cotton planter of today is well aware of the fact that these English, German, French and Russian spinners have all been sending down south for our implements, seed and southern men to grow cotton in Africa at times for about 40 years; but all efforts along this line have proved to be about as practical as it is to import monkeys here from Africa to pick out our cotton. In fact the two propositions are about on par as to their practicability, for it takes two men to mind one monkey while he is picking cotton, and it usually takes two of our southern cotton growers to mind one of those native African negroes while he is growing the cotton and keep him at it.

When we come to reason this thing over in our minds, we are confident that we have a large number of tame negroes here about among our progressive cotton farmers that would never do a day's work if they could keep from starving and freezing without it.

There is no necessity for negroes to work in Africa for food and clothing, and it is against their nature to do it here as well as there. We have some white men here that have the same disease.

All this talk about competition with American cotton is rot and out of date here, where we know that the south has the ideal cotton belt of the world, and week now how to grow cotton and are learning how to manufacture cotton, and still more we have learned to count the cost of production of cotton, and how to demand a fair profit upon our products and we are going to have it.

Will Oppose Parcels Post.

Minneapolis, Minn., March 20.—The annual convention of the National Retail Hardware Dealers' Association opens here today. The attendance is unusually large and every state and territory is well represented. The convention will last three days. It is expected that the convention will renew its campaign against the parcels post proposition and will adopt strong resolutions in opposition to it. On the other hand the convention will undoubtedly favor a reduction in the rate on first class mail matter from two cents to one cent for each ounce. The delegates will argue that the reduction of the rate on first class mail matter will be of greater benefit to the public in general, while the parcels post would involve great cost to the government and would benefit mail order houses to the disadvantage of the small retailers.

No Government Armor Plant.

Washington, D. C., March 20.—No action will be taken in the Navy Department toward the preparation of a report on the cost of armor plate production. This information was called forth at the last session of congress, but nothing was said in the Naval Appropriation Bill of the date when this report should be presented. It would require several months to make an exhaustive and complete study of the armor plate situation as it is today, although probably a board of investigation would be aided to some extent by the report on the same question compiled several years ago. It is evident that no steps will be taken this year, at any rate, toward the establishment of a government plant for the manufacture of armor, and most officers believe that with the policy of economy that now prevails and is likely to prevail in the increase of the navy it will not be deemed profitable for the government to embark in the production of armor, especially at the current prices, which are considered reasonable. Some of the officers of the navy are in favor of a government armor plate factory, but it is considered that the supply of the material by contract is sufficiently controlled by the Navy De-

partment, and that no advantage would be gained by establishing a government plant. Of course, there must be sooner or later a report on the armor plate situation, but this cannot be prepared in much less than three or four months, if the subject is to be thoroughly discussed.

Iron Export Records Broken.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 20.—The exports from the United States of iron and stock manufactures during the month of February broke all previous monthly records. Almost 14,500 tons of wire, nails and iron pipe were shipped abroad last month through New York and other Eastern seaboard points, the largest consignments ever made to foreign countries in any one month in the history of the trade. The shipments of steel rails and billets were exceptionally heavy, aggregating a shade under 50,000 tons. In addition to these huge shipments, big lots went overland to the Pacific coast for export to the far East and considerable quantities were also sent from Southern ports.

Besides reaching the high water mark, the February exports were interesting because of the fact that the port of New York handled more than the combined shipments made through Philadelphia and Baltimore. These ports, especially Baltimore, have previously taken care of the bulk of the shipments made to foreign countries from the Atlantic coast. New York shipped nearly 36,000 tons out of the 64,000 or more tons exported last month. Another feature of the February shipments was the large consignments which went forward to South America, hitherto a stronghold of the German and British iron and steel manufacturers. The steel rail exports represented 26,818 tons. 14,132 tons went to the Argentine Republic, while 7,446 tons went to Brazil. To Japan 2,908 tons were shipped.

School Examination.

"Class in general information, stand up!"

The class consisting of four youths in various conditions of forwardness, and in garments of patched hue, struggled up and prepared for the ordeal.

"Now, then, Jim Smithers—What is a politician?"

"A fellow which serves an apprenticeship to lying, selling his friends, drinking and neglecting his family, until he gets out of his time, when he gets to be a journeyman office-hunter or a boss office-holder."

"Good! Now, then, next—What is a popular preacher?"

"A feller which never has a call from the Lord for less than 'five thousand' a year and expenses, including donation parties; also a feller which amuses himself by lecturing around the country at fifty dollars a pop. He gives liberally of nothing to the poor, serves the devil in such a way as he thinks will least offend the Lord, wears first-class broadcloth and preaches against pride, rides to church in a carriage, and condemns the poor people for riding in the cars, and when he gets tired of business, he goes into an interesting decline, gets a pension from his grateful congregation, and becomes a religious sporter. Or else his feelings get too overpowerin', and he gets suspended officially—when ef he gets his deserts he'd be suspended physically, with a rope."

"There, that's sufficient. Next—What's the prevailing religion of this country?"

"Git all you can and keep all you get."

"Wrong. Next!"

"Gitten' what don't belong to you, keepin' what you don't need, and cuttin' a sanctified swell generally."

"Right. Next, What is a fool?"

"Well, he's a feller who thinks every man he meets is honest, a feller who imagines he can make money by being generous to misers, liberal to colporteurs and missionary societies; and honest towards rogues."

"Well, and what becomes of them?"

"Of who?"

"Why, the fools."

"Yes, well, them that don't go into startin' newspapers and managin' opera houses for a livin', generally contrive to pick up a precarious and on-sartin livin' as schoolmasters."

"Class dismissed; half holiday."

After Hours.

Youth's Companion. A business woman of large experience mentioned, not long ago, serious danger in the lives of many girls who have to earn their own living, a danger especially threatening if the girl is conscientious and a hard worker. It is the tendency to become a working woman—and nothing else. It is not strange. She has, perhaps, long hours and hard work. If her occupation is in a store or factory she

has companionship. But if she is in an occupation where she has to work practically alone, especially if she is away from home, she is in danger of becoming dull, listless, unhappy, because, through carelessness or inertia, she lets her life become all work and no play.

A young woman can wrong herself and her employer if that is the case—because her first duty is to be happy, well-rounded woman not a machine; her employer, because it is only by keeping her freshness of spirit that she can do the best work. So no matter how difficult it seems at first, she must batter down the walls of her prison.

If she is in a city—and that is where most of the lonely girls are there are endless opportunities. There are working girls' clubs and classes in which she can meet other girls; church societies that would give her warm welcome; free picture exhibits and music and lectures. Let her seek till she finds two or three other girls to take in these things with her, and life will soon grow full of interest.

Let her do one thing more—let her hold fast to the ideal of home, even if her home is measured by the narrow walls of a hall bedroom. Happiness is not a question of the pocketbook, but of the heart. The simplest of fare has been known to furnish a feast rich in nourishment to the soul. Long ago Lovelace wrote:

Stone walls do not a prison make, Nor iron bars a cage.

But it is one of the discoveries that each must make for herself—no other can do it for her.

NOTICE TO OVERSEERS.

All overseers are hereby notified to warn out the hands in their respective districts and have their roads put in proper shape and condition by the fifteenth day of April, 1906. Herein fail not under the penalty of the law. J. Monroe Wicker, County Supervisor.

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