

COTTON REPORTS

Needs Co-operation in Making Them by the Government.

FAILURE OF GINNERS

To Assist Will Destroy Cotton Statistics.

Says Director North of the Census

Bureau, Who Expresses Surprise and Concern.

Warns Growers.

Director of the Census North in a letter to Representative Burleson of Texas, made public Thursday, takes notice of the situation presented by the cotton statistics given out for publication Wednesday and expresses his surprise and concern at the recent alleged movement in the southern States, "apparently approved and augmented by the cotton growers themselves," to destroy the census reports by concerted refusal of the ginners to make returns.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 29, 1904.

Hon. Albert S. Burleson, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

My Dear Sir: It seems proper to

invite your attention to certain anomalous conditions which confront the census office in carrying out the provisions of section 9 of the act to establish a permanent census office, directing the periodical collection of the statistics of cotton production through the agency of the ginners.

This provision was inserted in the law at your urgent request and that of other southern representatives, on the plea that it was necessary for the protection of the cotton producers against the speculators and others interested in depressing the price of the staple for their own profit.

It was urged that enormous losses resulted from the untrustworthy estimates put forth every year by speculators and agents in the Liverpool market, and that early and trustworthy official information regarding the size of the crop would protect the grower, disarm the speculator and market manipulator and permit the law of supply and demand to regulate the prices.

EXPENSIVE INFORMATION.

Since the law was passed congress has appropriated and this office has disbursed more than \$125,000 a year in the collection and dissemination of this information.

The system has been gradually perfected until it has become more nearly perfect than any similar plan for obtaining exact knowledge of the size of any agricultural crop during the progress of harvesting.

No complaint has been made that the census reports are not accurate, indeed for a year or two past have been able to produce the crop so closely that practically every bale has been accounted for.

The statistics increase in value every year; for it becomes possible, by comparison of the statistics of one year with those of the same date in preceding years, to judge the size of successive crops with an accuracy never before known or approximated.

The ginners reports of the census office have crowded out the speculative and interested estimates referred to, and the single object which has been the object of the legislation had in view, in trying this legislation, has been successfully accomplished.

In view of these facts, I have been surprised and concerned at the present movement in the southern States, which is apparently approved and augmented by the cotton growers themselves, to destroy the census reports, by the concerted refusal of the ginners to make the returns upon which they are based.

Thus far the movement has not seriously affected our work, but if it continues and spreads, it will necessarily destroy its value during the coming year. It appears to have been suddenly discovered that the reports, undertaken by the ginners, are highly detrimental to its interests.

Mr. E. F. Webber, president of the Memphis cotton exchange, is quoted as declaring that "the cotton interests of the south have everything to lose and nothing to gain by their continuance; they put the manufacturing interests in possession of information which works irreparable injury to the south."

My attention has also been called to the so-called "National Cotton Ginners' association," the purpose of which is stated to be "to gather accurate and reliable information regarding the amount of cotton produced in advance of the government report."

It also appears that "this information is to be sent in code, and the members of the association will be sworn not to divulge it." The information is still highly desirable, but possession of it is to be restricted to those who grow and gin the cotton.

DISAPPOINTMENT OF GROWERS.

I can understand the disappointed ment of cotton growers at the present prices of cotton, and their feeling that these prices are due to the unusually large size of this year's cotton crop, and that definite knowledge concerning which has been given to the public by the census reports.

But I confess myself unable to follow the reasoning which leads the growers, and through them the ginners, to imagine that it will be to their advantage, because of this exceptional situation, to destroy the efficiency of the official machinery through which they learned the present situation, early knowledge of which has undoubtedly extended the change in the price of cotton over a much longer period and thus saved the growers a larger amount than would otherwise have been encountered in connection with this year's crop.

It would seem to be plain that in the long run, taking one year with another, only one thing can decrease the speculative element in the business of cotton selling, and thus permanently benefit the cotton grower, and that is knowledge of the exact truth as to the size of the crop, from an absolutely impartial and trustworthy source, at the earliest practicable date.

This was the unanimous contention of the southern representative in congress when the law was passed.

It is not my purpose, however, to argue the matter. I simply desire to call your attention to the fact that the continuance of the census cotton ginning reports is impossible, without the complete, sympathetic, and wholehearted cooperation of the 30,000 ginners of the south.

The census office cannot enter into competition with a cotton ginners' association which proposes to gather the same data "for private information only." Moreover, it cannot continue to promulgate statistics of the quantity of cotton ginned to certain date, after it has reason to believe that these reports are no longer correct, in consequence of a concerted boycott by the ginners. Otherwise it would be guilty of the identical evil of misrepresentation its reports were established to prevent.

The census bureau has no interest in the matter whatever, beyond the discharge of its duty as established by law, and the maintenance of its reputation for the compilation and publication of accurate statistics.

WARNING TO GROWERS.

I have, therefore, decided to notify you in this manner, and through you the cotton growers of the south, that the continuance of the movement which they have begun will necessarily result in the discontinuance of the cotton ginning reports of the census office, for without the hearty and general cooperation of the ginners those reports would become valueless and the compilation an unprofitable waste of public money.

The situation would be the same whether it was five years ago, but after the private and interested estimates controlling the market price have again for a few years been too high, as they undoubtedly will be, and the repeated losses of the cotton growers in consequence have again convinced them that the change they demanded in 1901 was a wise one, it will be far more difficult and may be impossible to induce congress to reestablish a system which the cotton growers set up once before only to tear it down when it chanced that a knowledge of the facts was to their disadvantage.

I deem it my duty to acquaint you with the probable course of the situation, in order that you may take any steps which may seem to you desirable or necessary in connection with the matter.

Very respectfully,

S. N. D. North, Director.

Upon receipt of the letter, Mr. Burleson gave out the following statement:

"Believing that it was to the interest of the producer of cotton to eliminate as far as possible the speculative element from entering into or affecting the market price of his product, I directed the census bureau to act, making the census bureau permanent, the original item providing for statistics of cotton ginned during the current year, and the result of census bureau's labors in carrying into effect this provision has materially aided in accomplishing this end. The result has not influenced a change of opinion on my part.

A PERSONAL ALLUSION.

"If I may be pardoned a personal allusion, a grower of cotton myself, having frequently experienced the damage occasioned by the high estimates and obscure assertions put forward by those acting for speculators and cotton gamblers, I felt the necessity of some impartial source of information which would be as accurate as possible. This the census bureau has proven itself to be.

"I concur in every word contained in this letter of Mr. North and feel that it would be nothing short of a calamity if the ginners should at any time fail to furnish prompt and accurate reports to the census bureau. To fail to report to the census bureau will only play into the hands of the cotton gamblers and will serve to promptly reestablish alleged statistical agents, who are now, thanks to the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture and the census bureau, thoroughly discredited. If during next year, as a result of decreased acreage and imperfect weather conditions, there should be a short crop, which is not improbable, then the ginners reports issued by the census bureau would again be in high favor by the cotton growers. What is wanted and what is really always to the interest of the cotton grower is a prompt knowledge of the exact truth.

"It is my purpose to prepare an offer at this session of congress and amendment to the census act providing for the collection and publication of accurate statistics the number of bales of cotton consumed each year and the surplus of cotton held in the hands of the manufacturer and the number of bales exported. This is necessary and only fair to the grower of cotton. He should promptly have this information as the manufacturers of cotton throughout the world are given knowledge of the number of bales of cotton grown.

"I have discussed this with Senator Bailey of Georgia and he agrees with me as to its importance and necessity of this amendment and agrees to lend a helping hand in securing its adoption."

A Bad Man.

At Thomas, Ga., after killing his mother-in-law, Mrs. W. H. Parrish, making a desperate attempt to kill his 18-year-old wife and shooting himself twice with a Winchester rifle Wednesday, J. B. Barrow is lying in the city hospital Thursday night in a precarious condition closely guarded by officers. Barrow is an engineer on the Atlantic Coast Line. He is 35 years old and had been married but twice in his life. His wife was 20 years his junior. Domestic infidelity is given as the cause of the tragedy. The verdict of the coroner's jury does not say whether murder was committed or the killing was accidental.

Left Alone to Die.

The police are investigating the mysterious death of an unknown young woman, found lying in the snow in the Riverside drive, New York, Thursday night, who was becoming conscious. The suggestions of the police were aroused by the fact that her undershirt and hat were found nearly 100 feet from where the body lay. The spot where the body was found is a lonesome and deserted one. The police suspect that the young woman while unconscious was left there by other persons to die of exposure.

Six Killed by Explosion.

Six men were killed Wednesday afternoon by an explosion of four boilers at a Watville sawmill, 30 miles west of Chehalis, Wis. Two others were badly hurt.

TO COTTON GROWERS.

They Are Advised to Organize and Hold Their Cotton.

Clubs Will Be Formed in Every Voting Precinct in South Carolina Without Delay.

Mr. E. D. Smith, President of the South Carolina Cotton Growers Association, issued the following address last Saturday:

To the Cotton Growers of South Carolina:

I would have written an account of the Shreveport meeting before this, but have been waiting to hear from the president of the national organization as to the final steps to be taken. This I give in this issue.

From the Rio Grande to the Atlantic the farmers are fully alive to the situation. The old spirit that seemed to be prevalent; that every other business was our enemy is passing and the cotton farmer fully realizes that the present condition in which he finds himself is the result of his own doings. Every State in the cotton belt is organizing for the purpose of holding cotton and reducing acreage of cotton and increasing acreage for home supplies.

Let every farmer who has cotton hold it and not duplicate next year's crop. It is manifest to him that if he stores this cotton, borrows the money on it and does not duplicate it, that another year he will realize enough to pay him 75 to 100 per cent. besides giving him an abundance of home supplies. Again we must have a systematic reduction of acreage; some plan by which we may have this done organically, officially, if those are the proper words. To this end we meet in New Orleans, Jan. 24-29.

Let each voting precinct in the State meet on Jan. 10 and organize its club into an auxiliary club, elect a delegate or delegates to meet at a county house on Saturday, Jan. 14, to perfect a county organization and to elect delegates to the New Orleans convention. It is urgently requested that this be done in every county. Send me the names of the delegates elected to New Orleans, so that I may send them in.

In the meantime I wish to warn every farmer against the schemes now being used to get hold of spot cotton. Don't lead to the mill man or exporter. Hold your cotton. We are able to hold and we need the profit.

E. D. Smith, President, South Carolina Cotton Growers' Association. Magnolia, S. C., Dec. 31, 1904.

PRESIDENT JORDAN'S STATEMENT.

Following is an extract from the address to cotton producers of the south by Mr. Harvie Jordan, president of the Southern Cotton Growers Protective Association. In reference to the Interstate Cotton convention to be held in New Orleans, Jan. 24, 25 and 26, President Jordan says:

"We invite bankers on the question of finance and the warehouse system. We invite our southern manufacturers to discuss the question of direct trade relations between the producers and the spinners. No lengthy speeches will be tolerated. We want clean cut business propositions. The principle work of the convention will be done by committees of the best posted business men in our association who will be selected with care from among those present. I will be pleased to have letters from bankers, manufacturers and business men generally who can attend as early as possible.

"Round trip tickets from all points east of the Mississippi river and south of the Potomac and Ohio rivers will be sold to delegates at a rate of one and a third fare, plus 25 cents. The purchasers of tickets are advised to secure from their local agents a certificate of the purchase of going tickets, so that the rate of one third fare returning can be secured at New Orleans. Col. E. S. Peters of Calvert, Tex., president of the Texas Cotton Growers' association, will arrange for rates west of the Mississippi river.

"Every cotton State is earnestly urged to send a full delegation of cotton producers. Let us get together in this business convention and begin to blaze a pathway which the entire south can accept and stand together solidly upon.

"All communications addressed to me will receive prompt attention. Programme of the convention will be issued about the 12th of January 1905.

"Very respectfully,

Harvie Jordan, President of the Southern Cotton Growers' Protective Association.

Earned His Reward.

A dispatch from Columbia says a striking instance of a "Trusty" negro convict's loyalty, was brought to the governor's attention in a pardon petition from Alken Thursday. The hero of the story is Andrew Washington, who was serving a two-year term on the ganj, for killing a negro named George. The governor Thursday granted him full pardon on a strong petition, setting forth that on a recent occasion his heroism prevented the escape of all prisoners on the ganj. The guards were drunk and when the prisoners made a dash for liberty, Washington seized a gun and held them at bay, till assistance came from morning, Washington had served over a year, and was convicted after two mistrials.

Killed Brother and Self.

A special from Ozark, Ala., says: A double tragedy occurred at Middletown in the eastern part of this county Friday. Arch Pope and Jessie Pope, brothers, had a heated discussion and disagreement over a line fence and the former shot and killed his brother with a pistol. Arch Pope then went home and committed suicide by taking strychnine. The Pops are among the most prominent and prosperous people of southeastern Alabama. Both men leave families.

A Peculiar Accident.

Max Silverman, travelling salesman for a New York house, is in the Grady hospital in Atlanta in a serious condition, with the paper wadding from a bank pistol cartridge in his right lung as a result of having been accidentally shot by Sol Grodzinsky. The accident is one of the most peculiar of the hospital authorities have had for some time. The pistol was fired close range and so that the force of the shot that the wadding from the shell went entirely through Silverman's thick clothing, tore through the body and penetrated the right lung. Physicians are not yet able to tell whether the wound will prove fatal.

The Unloaded Pistol.

A dispatch from Holly Hill to The State says Jim Russell, the 14-year-old son of Mr. T. S. Russell, who resides near Holly Hill, accidentally shot himself Thursday morning with the proverbial "unloaded pistol." In taking his father's old pistol, which was believed to be unloaded, from a bureau drawer it was accidentally discharged, the ball passing through his hand and entering his leg just above the knee. The ball was not taken out but the boy is resting quietly Thursday night. The wound was not thought to be serious, but will be some time in healing.

Null and Void.

At Charleston in the United States circuit court Friday afternoon Judge Rawley handed down his decision declaring the act of the last session of the legislature forbidding the shipment of shad out of South Carolina to be in conflict with the interstate commerce act and therefore unconstitutional, null and void.

FARMERS WARNED

Against a Proposal that Will Keep Price of Cotton Down.

To the Editor of The State:

I have noticed the proposition of certain cotton merchants in which they solicit shipments of cotton from the farmers, offering free storage to the privilege of using the cotton in their business and agreeing to settle for it at any time desired by the shippers at the current price at time of settlement.

I have no criticism to make of the cotton men making this proposition, but I wish to warn farmers against accepting it if they hope to realize any benefit from holding their cotton. I am informed that a number of mills in this country and also in Europe have been pursuing a hand to mouth policy, buying only cotton for present needs and having only a small supply on hand. If this is the case and the cotton now in farmers' hands is absolutely withheld from the market a demand will soon be created, stocks will be depleted and spinners will be forced to buy cotton or close their mills. Now if the cotton is consigned to exporters under the proposition referred to above, these exporters can go right on supplying the mills and they need it from week to week and month to month, they will therefore be no withholding of the cotton, no pressure on the spinner, in fact nothing to create an actual demand or cause any advance in the price, the farmer will simply be spiking his own gun. If any pressure is brought to bear on the market the cotton must be kept at home or stored in the nearest warehouse.

To illustrate, suppose the price of cotton seed was down at a figure totally unremunerative and unsatisfactory to the farmer and the oil mills were to send out circulars agreeing to take all the seed and promising to settle at current prices at the time set on Jan. 10 and organ to take into and auxiliary club, elect a delegate or delegates to meet at a county house on Saturday, Jan. 14, to perfect a county organization and to elect delegates to the New Orleans convention. It is urgently requested that this be done in every county. Send me the names of the delegates elected to New Orleans, so that I may send them in.

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A PECULIAR CASE.

A Man Serving a Life Sentence at Penitentiary Wants Release.

Governor Heyward has received from Senator Tillman a letter in regard to the pardon of George Ennis, now serving a life sentence in the penitentiary from Barrow county. The case is a very peculiar one, and the request for the pardon came in from Representative Vespian Warner, of Illinois, who is chairman of the committee of the revision of laws of the national house of representatives. Governor Heyward will look into the matter at once. The letters which were sent the governor are as follows:

Gov. D. C. Heyward.

Dear Governor: I enclose you a letter which explains itself. The writer is a member of congress from Illinois and a very fine gentleman and it seems that this man in whom he is interested is at least worthy of having you examine into his record and into the circumstances of the crime and see whether he is being held in prison unjustly or at least longer than the crime would warrant, supposing him to have been guilty. Please look this up and do what you can as a personal favor to me and obliging.

Yours sincerely,

B. R. Tillman.

The letter enclosed is as follows:

My Dear Senator: You will remember that I spoke to you yesterday in relation to one George W. Ennis, who is now serving a life sentence in the penitentiary in South Carolina. Ennis enlisted in the Federal volunteer army at the commencement of the civil war in my county, where he then lived, and where his people now reside. At the close of the war he settled in South Carolina, in what county I do not know, and was afterwards indicted for setting fire, as I am informed, to a small shed containing a mule. Ennis was tried and found guilty and sentenced to be hanged and on the recommendation of the judge, prosecuting attorney who tried him, his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

Ennis insists that he is innocent, and it has since been ascertained that some other person, colored, I believe, set fire to the shed. Ennis has now served in the penitentiary more than twenty five years and I submit that his punishment has been amply sufficient, even though he did not set fire to the shed. His record is as follows: Ennis was tried and found guilty and sentenced to be hanged and on the recommendation of the judge, prosecuting attorney who tried him, his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

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