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FARMER'S SALVATION IN PEANUT RAISING

South Carolina Produced Over 600,000 Bushels of Peanuts With Culture on Increase—Peanut Bank, Similar to Virginia Institution, Recommended by Harris. Registered Hogs Play Stellar Role in Weevil Fight.

The way of salvation for the South Carolina farmer during the era of the boll weevil lies in the substitution of some other crop for cotton, says B. Harris, state commissioner of agriculture, commerce and industries, in his annual report of the department's work. Chief among the crops recommended by Mr. Harris is peanuts which, Commissioner Harris thinks, will satisfactorily replace cotton seed in manufacture of oil. The South Carolina mills, it is estimated, will need 500,000 tons to maintain full time operation. Live stock raising and varied grain culture are also recommended as anti-weevil measures. South Carolina, the commissioner says can produce any crop of temperate climate and has already made remarkable records in corn production. Commissioner Harris' report follows in full:

It is estimated that South Carolina this year produced 698,000 bushels of peanuts. That is quite an increase over former years and will still be further increased in 1920. The cottonseed oil mills, realizing that the crush of next season will be greatly reduced on account of the boll weevil cutting

down the crop, see the necessity of having a substitute for cotton seed. Three years ago the oil mills advocated very widely the planting of soy beans. This department warmly indorsed the idea. It is stated that the planting of soy beans was greatly interfered with because of the lack of proper harvesting machinery. The department deplores that fact, there is no doubt but that the soy bean would be better for the farmer. For while it might not produce as much oil and therefore would not immediately become as desirable as cash getter, yet the soy bean puts back into the soil while the peanut constantly takes the soil and must be followed with commercial fertilizer. It is obvious, therefore, that it is easier to get oil mills and fertilizer makers to interest themselves in peanuts. The soy bean is not only a remarkable soil enricher, but it is a great forage crop.

Added Millions Bushels.
The South added a million bushels to the peanut crop in 1919. Alabama leads as a producer, but her crop is reported to show a decrease of 1,700,000 bushels this year. But the states west of the Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, show great increase, Texas alone has an increase of 5,000,000 bushels. The estimated production by states is as follows: Virginia, 4,795,000 bushels; North Carolina, 5,493,000; South Carolina, 629,000; Georgia, 9,979,000; Florida, 5,336,000; Tennessee, 100,000; Alabama, 14,708,000; Mississippi, 117,000; Louisiana, 81,000; Texas, 18,478,000; Oklahoma, 556,000; Arkansas, 936,000.

The commissioner while in Texas attending the national good roads convention, gathered quite a lot of information about peanuts which he intended to give to the people of the state, in the way of talks at county fairs and such gatherings, but he was prevented from doing so by the severe and prolonged illness, which practically incapacitated him for more than two months.

The oil mills in South Carolina need 500,000 tons of them to keep running all the year and are willing to pay good prices for them at all times. The average price during the last three years for farmers' stock was over \$100 per ton, and today they are worth \$200.

The commissioner observes that the farmers of the state must organize for self protection in marketing peanuts just as they would have to do in marketing cotton, tobacco or cotton seed. While, no doubt, there is great and universal interest in the welfare of the farmer, yet it is the nature of any individual or enterprise, no matter how altruistic, to look out for his own interests when the farmer is being given a little friendly turn.

Peanut meal has proved to be a satisfactory and profitable feed for finishing beef cattle. The North Carolina experiment station at Edgecombe determined this in 1917. Since peanuts can be grown as easily in South Carolina, the value of peanut meal, the by-product, is very evident. A North Carolina farmer fed 24 cattle, made profit

of \$71.26 in 120 days and gathered 75 tons of manure. Peanut meal is recommended as a complement to corn silage in finishing beef cattle.

None Out of State
Not a single pound of cotton seed or peanut meal will be shipped out of any of our Southern states in which it is produced when our farmers realize its worth for feeding animals and plants. Yet at present only a fraction of the supply is used here. By far the larger portion of it goes to the North and West as cotton seed meal, or across the ocean in the form of cotton seed meal an deake. If those feeders can afford to pay the high prices, which include the extra freight, handling and commission, how much more can our Southern farmers afford to use it? Live stock and dairy should consume here all our cotton byproducts and make enough manure to restore our lands to full yields. This way leads to prosperity.

Those who are considering the peanut as a substitute in part for cotton may be interested to know that already the 3,000,000 acreage given to peanuts is nearly one-tenth of that given to cotton. The return from the peanuts alone is \$60,000,000 and this leaves the hay crop as surplus. Thus it will be seen that peanut growing in the South is no new industry. In fact, it got its real start in the territory around Suffolk, Va.

CHEAP MOTOR CARS

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London, Dec. 26.—The first step towards the production of cheap motor cars on a large scale in this country has just been taken in the formation of a \$30,000,000 amalgamation made up of several manufacturing companies. By means of the standardization system, which has been used so successfully in America, the new combine expects ultimately to turn out 100,000 cars a year "for the multitude." The plan is to place the British motor manufacturing industry on a scale of quantity production comparable with that of the United States.

It is stated that the reduction in cost of cars to the public will be from 30 to 40 per cent, compared with present prices.



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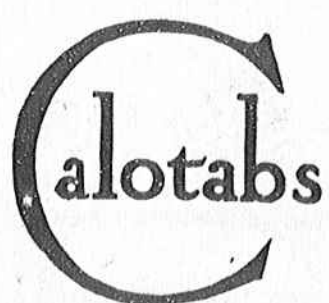
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