

## PLAN ACREAGE REDUCTION

### Campaign For Pledges To Be Waged Through State.

Columbia, Feb. 13.—Representative members from every section of South Carolina assembled in convention here today, adopted resolutions pledging a systematic holding movement for a price of thirty-five cents a pound for cotton, and a campaign for pledges will be waged throughout the state, to which the assistance of the press is being enlisted. Farmers, both white and negro, will be asked to sign pledge cards pledging themselves to reduce their acreage to 13 per cent and the use of commercial fertilizers 50 per cent. These pledge cards will be filed with the Commissioner of Agriculture. The Governor will appoint a steering committee to take charge of the campaign. There were probably between three and four hundred of the leading farmers of the state at the meeting, representing every county in the state. The gathering is in response to the call of Governor Cooper, Commissioner of Agriculture Harris and others that a plan might be formulated to help the present cotton situation and to stabilize the cotton market. J. R. Claffey, of Orangeburg, presided at the convention today. Addresses were made by Governor Cooper, Governor Manning and Commissioner of Agriculture Harris.

This afternoon the members of the convention went to the hall of the House of Representatives where they heard an address by W. P. G. Harding, governor of the Federal Reserve Board.

The resolutions urge Governor Cooper issue a proclamation designating February 22 as "Reduction Pledge Day" throughout the State; that day to be used in getting pledges from the farmers to reduce their acreage and their use of commercial fertilizers. The Governor likewise will call on the Executive of other States to take like action and to request them to hold mass meetings in their States similar to the one held here today. For the purpose of conducting a Statewide campaign to put into effect the purposes set out in the resolution Governor Cooper is asked to appoint a committee of six, two bankers, two business men, two farmers, to act as a steering committee.

Clemson College and its coordinating agencies are called upon to assist this campaign and the President of the State Farmers' Union is called upon officially to do everything in his power to make the movement a success. He is requested to communicate with the farmers' leaders of all other cotton States and to stress upon them the importance of formulating like plans. B. Harris, Commissioner of Agriculture is asked to communicate with the Commissioners of Agriculture of the other States and request them to call mass meetings and start a holding and a reduction of acreage and fertilizer movements. Governor Cooper and Commissioner Harris are requested to ask the assistance of the National Department of Agriculture by means of its agents and channels of publicity. W. G. Smith, State War Commissioner, likewise is requested to communicate with warehouse commissioners in the cotton States and get them interested in the reduction movement. Chambers of Commerce are requested to join the campaign.

Copies of the resolution will be sent to various organizations in the cotton States by the State Commissioner of Agriculture. The resolutions, which are lengthy, conclude with a request that the federal reserve banks of Richmond and Atlanta assist the movement. The State central committee which will have charge of the financing and propaganda of this movement to reach every farmer in the State is composed as follows: W. W. Long, Clemson College; J. T. Mackey, Camden; W. G. Claffey, Barnwell; J. H. Claffey, Orangeburg; J. F. Wannamaker, St. Matthews; P. McLeod, Charleston; T. G. McLeod, Bishopville; T. J. Britt, McCormick. Local county committees and township committees are also appointed. Twenty prominent farmers have been appointed by Governor Cooper to attend the New Orleans conference.

The text of the resolutions following the preamble reads: "Therefore, be it Resolved that united cooperation and action in all the business interests of the South is absolutely necessary to avert the calamity now threatening our commercial life; that definite systematic plans should be put into operation in every section of the cotton

belt. First: The systematic holding of cotton now on hand until it reaches thirty-five cents basis middling. Second: Systematic plans for 33-1-3 per cent reduction of cotton acreage throughout the belt. However, any man planting five acres or less to the horse to make no reduction; six-seven acres reduce one acre to the horse; eight-nine acres reduce two acres to the horse; ten-eleven-twelve-thirteen acres reduce three acres; fourteen reduce acres; fifteen-sixteen reduce five acres; seventeen-eighteen reduce six. Under no circumstances will any farmer plant more than twelve acres to the horse. Third systematic plans for reduction in the use of commercial fertilizers.

"We recommend that the present Congress of the United States enact the Smith bill covering the character of cotton deliverable upon cotton exchanges and amend so as to include grades of same grade. We ask that the Governor of this State communicate immediately with our Senators and Representatives, informing them of this action."

In the following sections the bankers are called upon to secure evidence of acreage reduction before they honor loans.

"Be it further resolved, That the bankers of the State are hereby earnestly requested to scrutinize all applications for loans extremely close, only granting loans under existing conditions on essentials, and on any application for loans for operating farms on which there is no proof of reduction of one-third in cotton acreage, said application to be considered as non-essential and not to be granted.

"Be it further resolved, That the bankers be and are hereby earnestly requested to use their every effort to assist in carrying into effect plans for

the reduction of cotton acreage one-third in the entire State.

"Be it further resolved, That the officials of the South Carolina Bankers' Association are hereby earnestly requested to at once communicate with the officials of similar associations in each of the cotton growing States and earnestly request that they adopt the same plan and only grant loans where there is proof of reduction of one-third in the cotton acreage, and further request that these associations at once meet with the other bodies in their States to form systematic plans for carrying into effect and force said plans for reduction."

### Huge Mortgage Placed on Record.

A three million dollar mortgage is being placed on record at the Court House here this week filed by the Carolina Power and Light Co., Yadkin River Power Company and the Palmetto Power and Light Co. to the Bankers Trust Co., of New York, trustee. The big document represents 67 printed pages of letter size and will require a good deal of time and work to be transcribed on the record books in the Clerk's office. A similar mortgage is being filed in the Clerk's office in the counties of Lee, Darlington, Florence and Cheraw, and wherever these power lines operate.

### Gave a Birthday Party.

Little Charlotte Mae Shaw, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Shaw entertained eleven of her little girl friends at a party on Saturday afternoon, the occasion being her eleventh birthday anniversary. The dining room was decorated in red, white and blue and each little guest was served dainty refreshments. The evening was spent in enjoying games dear to a childish heart.

## TWO MEN BADLY HURT

### Consolidated Auto Co. Garage Badly Wrecked by Explosion.

The garage workshop of the Consolidated Auto Company was the scene of a disastrous explosion last Saturday afternoon about 4:30 o'clock when a carbide generator to a welding outfit exploded. L. A. Haynes and James Griggs, mechanics in the shop, were very seriously injured. Haynes and Griggs were working on the generator making connections preparatory to welding and in some way overcharged it. The escaping gas filled the shop and was ignited, presumably, when the fumes reached a heating stove. The generator, together with other material, was scattered all over the building and the force of the explosion lifted the roof on the rear end, ripping the tin in several places, smashing two large plate glasses in the front and tearing out every window frame and glass in the rear.

The explosion was felt for more than a block and buildings in the vicinity of the accident were shaken considerably.

Mr. Haynes was badly injured. His arm was badly mangled and his side hurt by the explosion. Mr. Griggs was badly burned about the face and eyes but fortunately it is said he will not lose the sight of his eyes. Both men were taken to the Camden Hospital a few minutes after the accident. On Monday Mr. Haynes' arm was amputated and though weak from the loss of blood it is thought he will recover.

The rear wall of the building was blown out of line several inches. No insurance was carried on this kind of damage and Mr. Smith of the Auto

Company estimates his loss at about \$100. The plate glass in the front of the building was fully covered by insurance and will be replaced.

### Purchased Crosby's Place.

Mr. Joe Crosby, brother of the late Geo. W. Crosby has been in Camden during the past week to administer upon his brother's estate. The estate consists of several residences and building lots in the southern part of the city and also the Main Street soda fountain and billiard parlor. The latter fixtures were sold this week to E. L. Moseley and Co., who will conduct the business in the same stand. The elder partner in the business is Mr. J. M. Moseley, who has been residing at Ocala, Florida for several years, but who has sold out his interests in that state and for some time has been staying with his brother Mr. George W. Moseley of the Baulah section. The younger Moseley, who will have charge has recently been discharged from the army.

Mr. Joe Crosby had not been in Camden for twenty-one years. He is now residing in Chicago where he is engaged in insurance lines. He returned to Chicago Monday.

### Mr. Burns Injured.

While riding a horse on Mill Street last Saturday afternoon Mr. Jas. H. Burns was thrown violently to the ground by the animal and sustained painful injuries. His collar bone was broken and his shoulder badly bruised. His friends are glad to see him on the streets again.

### No Rural Mail Tomorrow.

Next Saturday being Washington's birthday and a legal holiday the rural mail carriers will not make their accustomed trip over their routes.

## KERSHAW NEWS NOTES

### Interesting Happenings Gathered From The Era of That Place.

Miss Zelene Sullivan, who was called to her home at Mountville, about ten days ago on account of sickness in the home, has tendered her resignation as teacher in the Kershaw Graded School.

The members of the Kershaw Presbyterian Church gave their pastor, Rev. D. H. Green a pleasant and liberal pounding last Friday night, such as does the heart of a preacher good.

We regret very much to note that Mrs. M. F. Evans was stricken last Saturday morning with paralysis of the left side and is now confined to her bed. Mrs. Evans has many friends who will hope for her recovery.

Mrs. Laura Evans and her charming little daughter, Miss Biddie Evans, of Monroe, spent last week end in Kershaw at the home of Dr. and Mrs. E. C. Brasington, having come down to visit Mrs. Evans' mother-in-law, Mrs. M. F. Evans.

Mrs. Nettie P. Farmer, wife of Minor Farmer, who lives on W. C. Adam's place near Kershaw, died at their home early Tuesday morning 11th inst, after being ill about two weeks and was buried at Pleasant Plains Church Tuesday evening, the funeral service being conducted by Rev. J. M. Neal. Mrs. Farmer was about 28 years of age and left her husband and two sons, aged 8 and 10 years, surviving.

Miss Hargrett Shaw, aged 12 years, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Shaw, died Monday February 10th of influenza, and was buried at Mt. Pisgah Church the following day.

T. P. Ballard celebrated his sixtieth birthday Saturday with a large crowd of relatives and friends present. He received a number of nice presents, which he highly appreciated. After the dinner was served a service was conducted by Rev. W. D. Gleason, of Heath Spring All of Mr. Ballard's children and his little grandson, James Elma, were present.

Mrs. C. O. Beckham, who spent a couple of weeks in Kershaw visiting her mother, Mrs. Hattie Truesdale, left last Friday to return to her home in Lakeland, Florida.

Mrs. Victoria Gardner, of Tiller's Ferry, accompanied by Mrs. Julia Olyburn, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, visited the former's daughter Mrs. T. C. Nelson, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. McDowell of the Flat Rock community celebrated their golden wedding Tuesday evening of last week at the home of their son, P. A. McDowell, whose home adjoins theirs. Friends and relatives to the number of about one hundred and fifty came to extend congratulations and pay their respect to this esteemed couple, whose half century of married life and struggle together finds them still well preserved and in the enjoyment of health and activity. Among the guests were Mrs. Sallie Rollings, one of the bridesmaids at the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. McDowell, and W. M. Miller, who acted as Mr. McDowell's best man, both of Jefferson. The guests came from Camden, Kershaw, Jefferson, and nearby communities. The spacious and comfortable home was appropriately decorated, the color scheme in the front parlor being gold and green; in the dining room green and white, and the decorations were of Southern smilax and ivy. Mr. and Mrs. McDowell occupied seats under an arch in the parlor, where they received the congratulations of their friends and relatives. The guests were received at the front door by Mrs. C. K. McDowell, Mrs. L. E. Truesdale and Miss Kate McDowell. Miss Annie McDowell receiving at the dining room door and Misses Eunice Cauthen, Ida Young and Mamie Anthony served in the dining room. Miss Alma Cauthen and Herbert Young presided at the punch bowl in the rear hall. Mrs. W. C. McDowell was in charge of all arrangements with her usual efficiency. The many and varied gifts, appropriate to the occasion, were displayed in the dining room and attracted the interest of guests throughout the evening. It was a most pleasant occasion and was enjoyed by all present.

### Mrs. King Dead.

Mrs. M. E. C. King died at the Wateries Mill village Saturday night at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Moore, after quite a lengthy illness. She was seventy years of age, and had been residing with her daughter for some time. Mrs. King was the mother of Mr. Walter King formerly of Camden, but now of Kingstree. She was also the mother of Mr. Linwood King, of Sumter, and the late Halston King, who died a few weeks ago in an automobile accident. She is survived by a large family connection in this and adjoining counties. The funeral occurred at Tiller's Ferry six o'clock of Bethune on Sunday.

# Plant Less Cotton This Year

The South is now in a position which might be called "cotton poor"; that is to say, it has large stocks of cotton on hand costing considerably more than present market values to produce and for which there is seemingly no demand except at these sacrifice prices. Although there are sound fundamental reasons why cotton should not be as low as the present market quotations, yet in order to be in on the safe side it is good policy not to raise the usual crop of cotton in 1919—then the world will be sure to take the cotton it can get and pay

the Southern farmer a remunerative price for raising it. Do not flood the market with more than the market will absorb. Any manufacturer when he sees that he cannot sell the stock of goods that he has on hand immediately curtails his production. Farmers are manufacturers and they can apply the same principles on a smaller scale. If in 1919 every farmer will cut his normal cotton acreage by one-third he will get more money for his crop and get paid at least the cost price for any 1918 cotton he might have on hand, which is now quoted below the cost of production.

## Small Crops Bring More Money

Every one knows that small crop years yield more money. In individual cases he might not be so, because one farmer or one section of the farming country or even a whole State might have a ruinously short crop. In this event they would have to suffer while more fortunate individuals in other sections would benefit. But as a general rule when a crop is short everybody makes more money. It is easy to see that ten bales of cotton at \$150 a bale will yield more net profit than twenty bales of \$75 a bale. The total value is the same, but

the cost of handling, of making, of picking, etc., is twice for twenty bales as it is for ten. The same rule applies to all crops. The slogan for 1919 should be, "Make a small crop and sell it for more than it cost to raise." It is time for the Southern farmers to quit doing business at a loss. In any other line of industry when the manager finds that he is losing money he quits and tries something else. It is good business and common sense to cut down your cotton acreage when you are losing money on what you made the year before.

## Don't Put All Your Eggs in One Basket

By cutting down your cotton acreage you need not reduce your land under cultivation. A farmer's business is to farm, and every acre he can make productive adds that much more to the wealth of the world. But a farmer's business is also a business and he should not run it at a loss. Many people never realize that the average cotton farmer's situation is something like this: He borrows money, pays rent and either gives his own labor and that of his family or hires labor to work enough land that will produce say ten bales of cotton. Usually by the end of the season either through bad weather conditions or because of boll weevil activity, or because of rainy weather during the picking season, or a scarcity of cotton pickers, his ten bales are reduced to eight bales. Now taking 30 cents a pound as the market price for cotton, we find that of this eight bales four bales will be good enough grade to bring the full market price of 30 cents a pound, or a total of \$960. The other four bales, because of bad weather during picking or carelessness of pickers, or various other reasons, might average say 18 cents a pound, \$90 a bale, or \$360 for four bales, or a total of \$900 for his whole year's crop. This farmer

started out to make ten bales of cotton worth \$1,500. Yet his gross income dwindled down to \$900. The Southern farmers are certainly entitled to at least 30 cents a pound for their cotton under present conditions, and they should get it.

Diversification of crops is a common sense policy for a farmer. If your cotton crop goes wrong, you have your corn, your cattle, your hogs, or other crops. During 1919 you will make more money by cutting your usual cotton acreage and putting more land into feed and food crops. Plant corn. Feed it to the hogs, if necessary. The minimum base price of \$17.50 per hundred pounds, Chicago basis, as established by U. S. Food Administration for hogs, will probably remain in effect several months. Even when this price restriction is removed there will be money in hogs. Europe is short of fats, and it will be a long while before pork gets so cheap as to be unprofitable to the raiser. Europe needs food. Europe is not in a position to raise a big crop in 1919, or even next year. America must help feed her. Plant some of your land in feedstuffs and foodstuffs, then you will be helping to both feed and clothe the world and make a reasonable profit for yourself.

## Hold The Cotton You Now Have on Hand

Every well posted cotton man knows that cotton costs more to produce than the present market quotation. Some authorities state that the 1918 cotton crop would be cheap at 35 cents. However this may be, the holders of spot cotton should hold their cotton until the demand for it will enable them to get back at least the greater part of the production cost. England has just lifted the embargo on cotton. France and Italy are expected to do so. The ocean freight rates have just been reduced and the export demand will develop immediately. It is expected that the Peace Treaty will be signed soon—as early as the first part of March. This being the case, the Central European nations will be in the market for large supplies of cotton. American

stocks will be the only available source of supply. Cotton will never again go down to its old levels. And it never should, because the South will not go back to the condition of economic slavery that has existed for generations. Its young men and women will leave the farm and go to the city unless farm life is made attractive enough to hold them. This will not happen unless the laborer is paid the hire he is worthy of. Hold your cotton. The banks and merchants can easily finance it. There is more money in Southern banks than ever before. Do not be frightened by paper prices achieved to "bear" speculators who are selling short in the market. Hold your cotton and let the spinners pay you at least what it costs to produce.

# How Bankers, Merchants, Cotton Men, Farmers and Business Men Can Help the South Stay Prosperous

Do not let the South lose its prosperity. Do not let it go back to its economic slavery of past years. Help this big idea of holding the 1918 cotton and planting less in 1919 by talking it to everybody. You can help immediately and practically by sending a subscription for whatever amount you feel you can afford to further this propaganda. A few dollars spent in publicity will save hundreds of millions for

the South. We want the moral support of every business man in the South, and of course the financial aid will be appreciated. This advertising is paid for by public-spirited business men and cotton men throughout the South. Talk high prices—hold your cotton—decrease your own acreage, get others to do likewise, help keep the South prosperous.

The sixteen million bale crop season of 1911-12 brought the Southern farmer only \$310,000,000, whereas the eleven million nine hundred thousand bale crop of the season of 1917-18 brought a total of \$1,007,000,000—Secretary Hester's figure.

We would advise all producing interests not to use the future cotton market as a hedge against spot cotton because in the present position of the contract market it is not a legitimate hedge.

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Attend the Meeting to be Held at Court House in Camden Friday, February 28th.