

# THE COST OF COTTON TO THE SOUTH

MR. J. S. WANNAMAKER GIVES SURPRISING FACTS.

## STATEMENTS OF FARMERS

South Realizes Its Future is at Stake and Must Act Accordingly.

Mr. J. Skottowe Wannamaker, chairman of the South Carolina Cotton Association, upon the request of a well known magazine that he furnish them with a statement "showing the cost of cotton to the South," sent them the following article:

**Cost of Cotton to the South.**  
First, as to the cost of cotton to the South, I have estimated the cost of cotton to the South includes the following:

1. The production of cotton cost the South slavery.
2. It caused the War Between the States.
3. The production of cotton has brought slave labor. Regardless of the fact that cotton is a hand-made product, a price has been established on cotton on the basis of slave-labor, from which price it has never been removed.
4. It caused the South to become cotton slaves.
5. It caused the South to merely exist; denying to the producers the necessities and comforts of life.
6. To produce cotton and exist at the price paid for it by the manipulator necessitated the establishment of starvation wages in the South, which exist even unto today.
7. It has caused the illiteracy of the South, through the manipulations of the cotton bears.
8. It has caused the impoverishment and pauperism of the South.
9. The production of cotton has caused the bad roads of the South, through the impoverishment of producer by the manipulator.
10. It has driven from the communities the white man, who no longer contented to eke out an existence; to deny to himself and family the comforts and necessities of life; to work without a fair remuneration.
11. It is even driving the negro away; he has received a new vision; he is no longer satisfied with his uncomfortable surroundings; he is insufficiently clothed.

**Has Made Other Sections Prosperous.**  
12. It has made other sections of the country prosperous; it has fattened the bears and manipulators of the North; it has blessed mankind in every spot of the globe where the sun shines except in the South, where it has proved a curse.

13. The production of cotton in the South today has caused the descendants of the people who fought to break the chains of physical slavery from the black man to fight for the purpose of forging the chains of slavery, of poverty, of illiteracy on the women and children working in the cotton fields, both white and black, still tighter.

14. It has filled the grave-yards of the South with men, women and little children who existed and passed away without necessities, comforts and education.

15. It has created one of the greatest gambling hells on this globe, the New York Cotton Exchange, extending its damnable and blighting manipulations and schemes throughout our nation; fattening and prospering the gamblers and manipulators on the life-blood of the toiler.

16. The production of cotton in the South has caused the producer to become a commercial cannibal, this being absolutely necessary to enable him to exist. He has destroyed his forestry, fleeced his soil of its fertility, existed on his natural assets; denying to himself and his family reasonable hours of work and proper working conditions; a decent home; the opportunity to play and to learn.

17. It has caused child labor in the South. It has caused the women and children of the South, both white and black, to perform not only labor, regardless of hours, but even to perform the manual labor of tilling the soil with the plow. (White women and colored women can be seen plowing the cotton fields of the South, with little barefooted children plodding along behind them, scattering compost, and performing their work from the break of day to the twilight—underfed, impoverished, half-clothed, worn and weary.)

18. It has caused the producer of cotton to go without the necessary cotton clothing—the white man seldom having enough to meet the requirements of health and hygiene; the negro being seldom blessed with more than four cotton undersuits—one for life use, one when he joins the church, one when he marries the first time, and one when he is buried. (This being in excess of the average.)

**As to the Cost of Production of Cotton in the South.**

I requested the Hon. D. H. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, to furnish me with a detailed statement showing the cost of production of cotton in the South for the year 1913. He has just telegraphed me as follows:

"Itemized estimate of total cost of production of cotton for 1913 not yet

completed. Work now being done will provide basis for estimate in few weeks. Would be glad for your association to select committee of three, to be in Washington, April 21, for special conference on factors to be considered in estimating cost of producing cotton."

For the purpose of estimating the cost of production by the producer, by the experienced business man and by the experienced banker, I have selected various men from our State. The result is aptly furnished by the following statements, which are in line with the various statements received. These statements are from three men of unquestioned veracity, fine business judgment, long business experience and men who have been actively engaged in farming for over a quarter of a century; men who would not purposely make a misleading statement, even though they felt satisfied it would result in assisting us to win this campaign, regardless of the deep interest they feel in the success of this movement for the commercial freedom of the South.

**Cost of Production Illustrated on a One-Horse Farm of Fifteen Acres, Planted by J. M. Holman.**

The production of this farm is based on a ten-year average production of Calhoun county.

I have been farming for thirty-five years, and have also been actively engaged in cotton for the past ten years. All past years must be left out of any calculation in finding the cost of the 1919 crop, for the reason that all values have advanced out of all reason. Labor and fertilizers cost three times as much as they did at the beginning of the war.

The calculations herein are made with the actual cotton planted on this one-horse farm, and the expenses are figured only for the actual working period, my only object being to find out what it will actually cost to produce a pound of cotton. The owner of this farm gets nothing for himself out of this farm except his profit of \$96.50 and he will not get this profit if his cotton is damaged by storm or otherwise and is reduced in grade, also provided he gets thirty cents for his cotton and \$60 for his seed. I have not charged this farm with any expense for hoeing. I expect the plowman to have time to do this work.

Expenses.	
15 bushels planting seed...	\$ 15.00
3 tons high grade fertilizers	180.00
750 pounds rent paid, at 30c.	225.00
Ginning, bagging and ties, 7 bales cotton	35.00
Wages one man, eight months at \$40	320.00
Feed of mule eight months	120.00
Rent of mule	30.00
Picking 9,000 pounds of cotton at \$1	90.00
Hauling to gin and market	21.00
Expense handling seed	45.00
Wear and tear tools and fixtures	15.00
	\$1,066.00

Income.	
3,375 pounds cotton at 30c.	\$1,012.50
5,000 pounds seed at \$60.	150.00
Gross income	\$1,162.50
Expense	1,066.00
Profit	\$ 96.50

\*\*Cost per pound, 31.53.

I certify that the above statement is correct and true. J. M. Holman.  
Cost of cotton production illustrated on one-horse farm of thirty acres (twenty acres cotton and ten acres food) by J. A. Banks.

Fertilizer.	
8 tons 8-4-0 at \$50.	\$ 400.00
1 ton soda	83.50
Labor.	
1 plowman at \$40 per month	480.00
Hoe labor	40.00
Extra labor	40.00
Picking 12 B-C at 75c per hundred	90.00
20 bu. planting seed at \$1 bu.	20.00
10 per cent depreciation on \$500 equipment	50.00
Current cost farm equipment	30.00
Ginning and bagging and ties, 12 B-C at \$5.	60.00
	\$1,302.50

Income.	
276 bu. cotton seed at \$1 bu.	\$ 276.00
3,600 lbs. cotton at 23 1/2c lb.	1,026.00
	\$1,302.00

This farm should produce under average conditions in this county of Calhoun, S. C., food sufficient to feed the horse that plows it and twelve 400-pound bales of cotton (three bales of which shall be taken for rent of land) and 276 bushels of cotton seed. This makes a balance and leaves the farmer nothing for his time and attention.

I have been farming for the past forty years and I am thoroughly familiar with cotton production. I have also had many years' experience in general merchandise business supplying fertilizers and supplies to farmers, also have had twenty-five to thirty years' experience as a banker being engaged during this period in farming, merchandising, operating sales stables and furnishing live stock.

The above is a correct statement illustrating the cost of production of cotton. J. A. Banks.  
Cost of Cotton Production Illustrated on a One-Horse Farm of Twenty-seven Acres (18 Acres Cotton and 9 Acres Corn and Hay). By T. A. Amaker.

Fertilizer.	
6 1/2 tons fertilizer 3-3-2 at \$58	\$ 381.50
1 ton nitrate soda	90.00
Labor.	
1 plow hand 12 months, at \$40	480.00

Labor, 18 acres at \$2.25	
a labor, gathering corn, ay, etc.	50.00
10 bales cotton at \$1 per hundred weight	120.00
18 bushels planting seed at \$2 a bushel	36.00
10 per cent depreciation on \$500 equipment	50.00
Incidental expenses	30.00
Ginning and bag and ties 10 b. s.	50.00
	\$1,348.00

Income.	
7 b. c. 400 lbs. each at 30c.	\$ 840.00
249 bushels-cotton seed at \$1	240.00
	\$1,080.00

The above farm should produce 10 b. c. and tenant must pay three bales rent. After paying entire proceeds of sale of cotton and seed on his year's expenses, he owes a balance of \$268.

Land planted in corn and hay will produce enough to feed horse.

I have been engaged in farming for the past thirty years and am thoroughly familiar with the cost of production being now extensively engaged in farming, and also thoroughly familiar with same as a merchant selling fertilizers and supplies, having been extensively engaged in the mercantile business for the past thirty years.

The above is a correct statement illustrating the cost of production of cotton. T. A. Amaker.

Referring Back to the Cost of Cotton to the South.

Cotton production has cost the South all that I have said and a vast amount more. The cost is so great that it would require the judgment of God Almighty to render a decision as to what cotton has actually cost the South. No mortal man can make the estimate.

Henry Grady more than thirty-one years ago delivered a speech in New England, which made a more lasting impression possibly on the country than any one speech ever delivered by any human being. The production of cotton in the South has prevented his prediction from coming true. He said in part:

"When every farmer in the South shall eat bread from his own fields and meat from his own pastures and disturbed by no creditor, and enslaved by no debt, shall sit amid his teeming gardens, and orchards and vineyards, and dairies and barnyards, pitching his crop in his wisdom and growing them in independence, making cotton his clean surplus, and selling it in his own time, and in his chosen market, and not at a master's bidding—getting his pay in cash and not in a receipted mortgage that discharges his debt, but does not restore his freedom—then shall be breaking the fullness of our day."

The cost of production of cotton in the South has made the loyal American citizen realize that it is absolutely necessary for him in carrying out his pledge to help make the world safe for democracy, to help in every way possible, using every ounce of energy at his command to help improve conditions in the South, so that it will be a fit place for people to live in. He has made this decision because he realizes, first, that it is his duty as a loyal American citizen and because it is his duty in justice to God and man. He realizes:

"Once to every man and nation Comes the moment to decide; In the strife of truth with falsehood, For the good or evil side."

"Then to sidewith truth is noble, When we share our wretched crust; Ere her cause bring fame and profit, And 'tis prosperous to be just. 'Then it is the brave man chooses, While the coward stands aside, Doubting in his abject spirit, 'Till his Lord is crucified."

**South's Future at Stake.**

The South realizes that its future existence is at stake, and that it is absolutely necessary to market, bank and finance its cotton crop and that if this is not done, the cotton production of the South will follow the indigo production, and that the cotton production will be referred to only as something that once existed in the South.

For this reason the farmer, merchant and banker have absolutely determined to arrange to market cotton. They are forming a \$200,000,000 corporation for this purpose known as the Marketing, Exporting and Financing Corporation. The manipulators and gamblers who have fed on the life blood of the South will, of course, violently protest. "We realize that commercial freedom of the South is absolutely necessary to the future progress and prosperity of the South. The banking interests of the South will increase their capital and surplus by at least 50 per cent, and will accept liberty loan bonds in payment for additional stock issued. Opportunity only knocks once. The South realizes that it is knocking today and the door will be opened.

**Are You Helping.**

Are you helping in the fight for commercial freedom of the South? If not, you are not a loyal son of either America or the South. Not only this—you do not realize that America, of which the South is a part, is your own, your native land; you do not realize that God Almighty made all men free and equal; you do not believe on "Peace on Earth good will to men." No loyal American will so far forget his duty as an American citizen; no loyal American will so far forget his pledge to make the world safe for democracy.

## Waterloo Mill News

Camden, S. C., April 30.—About fifty girls and boys enjoyed a jolly evening in the Club House last Friday. All kinds of games were played, there was music and hearty singing of popular airs and at the end a good cool drink of iced lemonade.

A number of new families have come to the Waterloo village. We are glad to welcome the Brigmans, Hancock's, Worleys, Evans, Rollins, Leggetts, Miss Lizzie Clark and other friends who have recently become a part of the village and mill life.

The children's garden club under the guidance of Miss Cornwall is doing excellent work. Flowers have been planted, much attention given to keeping the lawns and grounds neat and a special campaign begun against scribbling on the walls of houses. This club is working to make and keep the village beautiful and hopes for the cooperation of all the grown-ups.

The three teachers, Miss Wilkes, Miss Alford and Miss Simpson are working faithfully to encourage regular attendance at school. It is hoped that next year there will be a larger per cent of regularity among all the children as only in this way can they progress and become the kind of citizens our country most needs.

The State Superintendent of Mill Schools Shealy visited the school this week.

On Sunday evening there was a large attendance at the village church. Rev. J. H. Spaulding, manager of the Economy Home for Motherless Children at

At Last!

There are few cyclists who, when compelled to execute repairs to inner tubes by the roadside, have not longed for unpuncturable tires. This desideratum now seems to have become an accomplished fact in Sweden, where the shortage of rubber has caused great efforts to be made to find a satisfactory substitute for the pneumatic tire. The new device consists of a thin strip of hardened steel supported on the rim by springs, the combination being said to give results comparable with those obtained by the use of rubber. Skidding is prevented by the sharp edge of the steel tread, while such tires are, of course, quite unpuncturable. Whether the new device will survive when rubber again becomes plentiful is perhaps doubtful, but as a war-time measure it has proved very useful.—From Chambers' Journal.

## The Sugar Shortage.

Colonel House at a Paris reception was talking about the French sugar shortage.

"The French sugar ration is a pound a month—if you get it," he said. "Usually you don't get it, and then you buy your sugar clandestinely. The price is 80 or 90 cents a pound. "After enduring the French sugar shortage for a month or two," the colonel ended, "you think very longingly of the peace-time plenty soon to come, and you appreciate as never before the wonderful beauty of the dear old hymn, 'In the sweet by-and-by.'"

## Reading by Ear.

A new invention for the blind enables them to read with their ears. It is a machine called an octophone, by means of which flashes of light from the letters as they are printed cause certain sounds, easily distinguishable by the initiated.

The sounds vary with the shapes of the letters, and very high resistance telephones transmit these to the ears of the blind person, "reading" with highly satisfactory results.

## Early Rising.

"Do you remember how we used to scold Josh. about oversleeping before he went into the army?" said Mrs. Cornstossel.

"Yes," replied the farmer; "that's why we can't say a word when he gets up at daybreak and accompanies the roosters on his cornet."

King's Creek delivered the address and spoke of the needs of this children's home. He is hoping for a liberal contribution from the church members.

Mrs. Florence Bradley married Mr. A. C. Redick last week, both of whom live at Waterloo.

The following families have moved into the village: Mrs. D. T. Hancock and family, of Cheraw; Mrs. S. E. Evans and family of Cheraw; Mrs. S. W. Worley of Columbia; Mr. Wade West and wife of Columbia; Mr. A. S. Lewellyn, Boston, 2nd Coast Artillery; Mr. Andrew Crowley of Columbia; Mr. L. L. Alewine of Lexington, S. C.; Mr. Colton Driggers and wife of Cheraw; Mr. C. C. Brigman and family of Lexington; Mr. S. T. McCaskill of Cassatt.

Mr. C. C. Brigman and family and Mr. L. L. Alewine were visitors at Lexington for the week end.

Mr. J. E. Robinson, spent Sunday in Columbia.

## To Return To Private Ownership.

Washington, April 28.—The government is preparing to relinquish control next month of American cable lines and to restore the telegraph and telephone systems to private ownership immediately after enactment of congress of laws necessary to safeguard the properties.

Postmaster General Barleson, as directing head of the extensive wire communication service taken over as a war measure, announced today he had sent to President Wilson a recommendation that the cables be returned back forthwith, probably not later than May 10. An hour later the postmaster general gave out a statement saying he would recommend that the telegraph and telephone service be returned to private ownership, contingent, however, on financial protection to be obtained from congress.

The Colonial building, combined apartment house and theatre formerly the old Chocora College at Greenville, was burned early Saturday morning. The building was erected about 35 years ago and was formerly the property of the Presbyterians of South Carolina. Flames swept across the street and also destroyed the Coca-Cola bottling works garage in Greenville. The property was owned by C. C. Goode and S. S. Plexico.

A divorce case in Judge Brothers court came to a dramatic close at Chicago, Friday when Mrs. Elmer S. Simpson shot her husband, who was on the witness stand, through the mouth, inflicting a probable fatal wound.

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