

**COTTON ACREAGE IS SOUGHT AS WORLD DEMAND GROWS**

(Philadelphia Ledger)

Of all world industries, cotton is the most widespread. Of all commercial enterprises, cotton and its affiliated industries supply the greatest amount of raw material. Since 1800 no other branch of business has witnessed such an expansion, and it is difficult to conceive of any commercial enterprise which has a greater or more assured future. It is estimated that more than 10,000,000 persons are directly engaged in the production, manufacture and distribution of cotton, while reliable estimates, according to the National City Bank to the current issue of the American, have placed the amount of cotton invested in the business at \$30,000,000,000. It is believed that cotton production has grown from 500,000,000 pounds in 1850 to 1,500,000,000 pounds in 1900 and 14,000,000,000 in 1913. Which is the last year that can be called normal.

Since 1914, however, little increase in the world's cotton production has taken place and one of the greatest problems now confronting the industry, and one which is receiving a great deal of serious attention, is the increase in the area allotted to cotton cultivation necessary to keep up with increasing consumptive demand.

A study of world cotton statistics and conditions shows clearly that a serious shortage of cotton exists. Should the present American crop fail to come up to the most recent estimates, it will mean the sixth short crop, an unprecedented situation so far as American cotton is concerned.

A much greater cotton production acreage is necessary to bring the output more in line with the growing world demand, which is now about 21,000,000 bales per year, but the present decade will see an increase in world demand of at least 10,000,000 additional bales, with a like increase in the succeeding decade.

Where the cotton is to come from to allow the world to double its annual consumption is a problem.

It certainly cannot come from the southern American states; assuming that the American crop will continue to average about 11,500,000 bales, as it has for the past five years and will probably equal this year.

It is plain that vast cotton producing districts in other parts of the world must be developed without any loss of time if a pronounced shortage of cotton is to be avoided.

The area of Egyptian soil on which the long staple for which that country is famous is produced is a very limited one and cannot be greatly extended. Northern Africa is of gradually increasing importance as a cotton producer, but it is unlikely that the world can ever depend upon it for any considerable supply of cotton.

The Caribbean district has much cotton cultivation, but greater profits can be made growing other crops.

Peru and a few other South American countries are becoming interested in cotton, but usually along certain particular lines and for special purposes.

India is increasing its production steadily, the crop this year being especially large. India has possibilities of greatly increased production.

For several years before the outbreak of the war, British engineers had been working on plans for a widespread reclamation of lower Mesopotamia for the purpose of converting it into a large-scale producer of cotton.

That the plans already well matured for the development and financing of an important addition to the world's cotton area will succeed can hardly be doubted.

Germany was just as anxious to replace cotton from the United States with cotton raised under its own flag as is England, and if the world war had not intervened, it is probable that German cotton production in Mesopotamia would already be a fact.

The large amount of capital that will be required to bring about a large production of cotton in Mesopotamia can undoubtedly be raised in Lancashire. The war brought great prosperity to the British textile interests and since the Armistice they have been, on the whole, operating at capacity.

Queensland and New South Wales offer great possibilities for the production of cotton through irrigation. The necessity of irrigating land has in past years been the commonest cause for inability of other countries to compete with American cotton, but in the Australian states it can be raised as a perennial, and in some places it is said that shrubs in suitable locations have borne two crops a year for from five to ten years.

Many export experts believe that a bright future exists for Australian cotton, most of which would be available for export, as domestic demand and the comparatively undeveloped condition would make it impracticable to manufacture it at home.

Another of the changing phases of cotton growing that today makes possible enterprises that would have failed only a decade ago is that advance made in the application of power to the land.

The successful use of tractors, trucks and other vehicles has rendered man independent, to a large degree, from the physical inability of his draft animals to stand excessive heat. In the tropical parts of the world there is no lack of human labor, which is required in large amounts for the production of cotton, and with the intelligent use of mechanical substitutes for horses and mules great areas of fertile soil in the tropical zone become available for cotton raising.

An odd development is the largely increased importation into the United States of Egyptian cotton. In the fiscal year 1918-19 importations of cotton from Egypt of this country were less than 80,000 bales, but Spierling's Journal estimates that 300,000 bales will be imported this year. Most of this cotton will be used for making American automobile tires. The tire business, it is worthy of note in passing, is largely responsible for the new long staple cotton industry that is making such rapid strides in New Mexico, California and Arizona.

Increased production and lowered prices for raw cotton will be of the very greatest importance to the manufacturing sections of the United States and to its industrial population and export trade. The world is clamoring for manufactured cotton and it is reliably certain that 90 per cent of the world's population are clothed in cotton cloth.

**RUINOUS RODENTS**

**Rats Destroy Food and Property Worth Millions.**

As carriers of the dread bubonic plague rats are a menace, but that is only one form of their costly and dangerous depredations, says a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

"Rats are practically omnivorous and their depredations cover a wide range," writes Edward W. Nelson in a communication to The Society. "They feed indifferently upon all kinds of vegetable and animal matter.

"They dig up newly planted grain, destroy it while growing and also when in the shock, stack, crib, granary, mill, elevator, warehouse, wharf, and ship's hold, as well as in the bin and feed trough. They eat fruits, vegetables, and meats in the market, destroying at the same time by pollution far more than is consumed.

"They destroy enormous numbers of eggs and poultry, as well as the eggs and young of song and game birds. In addition they invade stores and warehouses and destroy groceries of every description, as well as furs, lace, silks, carpets, and leather goods.

"They cause many disastrous fires by gnawing matches, by gnawing through lead pipe near gas meters, or by cutting the insulation from electric wires in order to secure material for nests and by gathering oil-soaked rags and other inflammable material in their nests; flood houses by gnawing through lead water pipes; ruin artificial ponds and embankments by burrowing, and damage foundations, floors, doors, and furnishings of dwellings.

"As disease carriers they also cause enormous commercial losses, especially through the introduction of bubonic plague and the resulting suspension of commerce. With the introduction of plague they become directly responsible for business disaster as well as for an appalling mortality.

"Much the greater part of losses from these pests is in foodstuffs, which, as already indicated, are destroyed at every stage from the time the seed is planted until they are ready for human consumption.

"Investigations some years ago indicated that the direct annual losses sustained in the United States were about \$500,000,000, with a great additional sum in indirect losses, including the effect on the public health and commerce from the diseases carried by rats, and the necessary expenditures in combating them. Assuming, roughly speaking, that as estimated the rat population in the United States is 50,000,000 for the cities and 150,000,000 for the rural districts, it will require the destruction of property by each rat of only a little more than one-fourth a cent a day to make the aggregate great sum estimated as destroyed by these pests yearly in this country.

"A more definite idea of the losses from rats may be gained by considering what it means in human effort.

"Taking the average yearly returns on a man's labor in agriculture, as shown by the census of 1910, it requires the continuous work of about 150,000 men, with farms, agricultural implements, and other equipment to supply the foodstuffs destroyed annually by rats in the United States. In addition rats destroy other property, mainly of agricultural origin, the production of which requires the work of about 50,000 men.

"This gives a total of 200,000 men with their equipment in this country whose economic output is devoted solely to feeding and otherwise providing for rats. If a small fraction of this army and the money involved could be concentrated in a continuous national campaign against these pests a vast saving could be achieved."

**SELLERS—saves labor.** Watch next weeks issue, Camden Furniture Co.—adv.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union movement in Japan has more than 4,000 members.

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**Far-Seeing Woman Reformer.**

In noting the fact that Susan B. Anthony was born a hundred years ago, it is interesting also to remember that every considerable reform of which she was an advocate has come to pass, says the New York Sun. She fought for the abolition of slavery, for total abstinence and for equal suffrage. Slavery disappeared when she was still in her most active years. When she died, in 1906, many of the states had agreed with her views on prohibition and votes for women.

**A Last Resort.**

His Wife—Mercy me, Hank! You shavin'? I thought you was goin' to wear them whiskers for always.

Mr. Longbrush—I was goin' to, but we've lost two good table knives an' I've looked every place else for 'em.

**Officers Copy d'Annunzio.**

Gabriele d'Annunzio's bald head has set the fashion for the officers of his little army in Fiume, many of whom have shaved their craniums and are endeavoring to grow miniature Vanduyke beards as copies of the poet's chin adornment.

The Fiume aviators have adopted the craze with greater zeal than other branches and call themselves "Iron Heads." Youthful officers in their teens and early twenties have shaved their heads and are wearing little pointed beards in an effort to look as much like the poet as they can.

Mixed uniforms of French horizon blue and Italian gray green are worn by d'Annunzio's men with great pride.

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**Increase in Japan's Coal Output.**

Shipping and Engineering notes with interest that the output of coal in Japan during the first 11 months of 1919 was put at 25,825,000 tons, showing an increase of 2,740,000 tons, or about 10 per cent, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, in spite of the pessimistic reports made from time to time of the gradual exhaustion of the mines. This was attributed to the revival of old mines and the increase in the number of new mines, owing to the profitable prices obtaining, although the output in Kyushu, which constitutes 60 per cent of the total output, did not materially change.

**Making a Hit.**

I had an engagement one evening with a young woman friend, with whom I was endeavoring to make a big hit, writes a correspondent. We went to the theater; I walked up to the box office and asked for two tickets. Thinking I had them, my companion walked in ahead. I put my hand into my pocket, and, holy smoke, I had forgotten to take any money with me! I turned red and white, but that was nothing compared to how I felt when the usher gently broke the news and escorted my girl to a door marked "exit." Did I make a hit? I've got the chills yet.

**Identifying the Nickel.**

James evidently had a buffalo nickel of the first vintage, for he was having trouble with central. In reply to his "I did drop a nickel," central demanded, "Well, what kind of a nickel are you trying to use?" "I dunno what kind it is," he replied, "but it's got a little ball on it."

**Appearances.**

Baflerty," said Mr. Dolan, "I hear overalls are to become fashionable." "I hope not. They'll put cuffs on the bottoms, make 'em narrow waisted, with belts in the back, and completely ruin their appearance."

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