

NEW MARKETS

In the Solution of the Cotton Situation Says McLaurin.

HAVING LITTLE FAITH

In Reduction of Acreage, He Concludes that all the Cotton the South can Produce May be Sold at Good Prices by Enlarging Our Trade.

To the Editor of The News and Courier: The drop in the price of cotton is exciting all over the South, and a Convention has been called in New Orleans to consider questions relating to the cotton industry. I have seen many remedies proposed for over production, but have heard nothing about under consumption, and herein lies in my opinion the only permanent solution of the problem.

With proper methods of distribution, there is room for a larger crop of cotton than has yet been produced in the South. It is painfully apparent that burning cotton, reduction of acreage, etc. are only temporary expedients, and will afford no permanent relief.

Can we find newer and wider markets for our staple product? That this would be a complete remedy none can doubt, and that such markets exist none familiar with the question will deny.

Facing us on the other side of the globe are the teeming millions of China, and it was among them that we found a market for our surplus when the large crops of the late '90s glutted all other markets.

Five-cent cotton proved a great stimulus to manufacturing and led to the marvellous development from 1890 to 1900, when there was an increase in the United States of 32 per cent, while in South Carolina the output from our mills ran up from ten to forty million dollars, finding a ready market in China.

Indeed demand far outstripped production, and there was a steady advance in the price of spot cotton until the China market was practically closed by troubles in the East, and speculation advanced prices abnormally, and instead of an expanding market with advancing prices, we are in the period of a contracting market, with falling prices. It is evident that we are facing another era of low priced cotton.

Can we take advantage of the situation and create such a widespread demand for cotton goods that low prices and over-production will never be heard of again?

Cotton is now below the cost of production, lower by comparison than it has ever been before. Its natural advantage is such that if we do nothing it will take care of itself, as it has in the past, but by wisdom we can hasten the day when the king shall come to his own again, and this, I apprehend, is the great purpose of a Convention of the cotton growers.

China is an old country, with the stored wealth of centuries; her people need our cotton, particularly the cheaper fabrics.

I heard Minister Wu say once that the question of clothing was one of the greatest problems that confronted his people, but little cotton is grown and the methods of manufacture primitive. They depend largely upon silk, and he laughingly added that, so great was the population, that if cotton were used as in other portions of the world, and you could get each Chinaman to add one inch to the length of the tail of his shirt, it would consume the cotton crop of the South.

So far we have only touched with our cotton trade one small section in North China, the exports never exceeding twenty-five million dollars in one year.

It may seem strange that a profit or loss on an industry amounting to \$340,000,000 annually should be affected by the loss of an export demand of \$18,000,000 or \$20,000,000, but the superficial have only to refer to the history of the cotton trade for 1901, during the Boxer troubles, when exports to China almost ceased to be convinced of the value of our at present comparatively small Eastern trade.

The year 1904 has demonstrated beyond doubt that in spite of the boll weevil the South can produce a crop of cotton far in excess of the demands from present markets, hence necessary forces either the curtailment of the crop or finding newer and wider markets.

No one familiar with present conditions believes that without some providential disaster the crop of 1905 will be materially reduced. If the acreage is curtailed better cultivation and the increased use of fertilizer will make up the deficiency. We have the large profits of two well sold crops in our hands and as long as we can buy manure and guano we will make cotton.

The South now has a practical monopoly in the production of cotton. This she should keep at all hazards, find new markets, and make enough cotton to supply the world at fair prices.

Reduction of acreage may do to talk, but resolutions will not reduce it, and I believe that there will be a rise in the Cotton Growers' Convention who will take a more comprehensive view of the situation.

Considering that in China alone there is a population of 400,000,000 whose trade with us per capita is now infinitesimal compared with what it is bound to develop in the years to come, who will undertake to place a limit upon the quantity of cotton goods that the Orient will consume? Trade follows the flag. Undoubtedly the time was never more favorable for developing new markets; the one now in progress seems bearing an

and Japan will undoubtedly retain its position on the mainland of Asia; Korea and Manchuria will be rapidly taught Western methods, and under the tutelage of Japan the Chinese Empire will be opened up to commerce as never before.

With Alaska, Guam, Hawaii and the Philippines we have stepping stones to the Orient, friendly ports under our own flag, depots, bases of supply, and if need be, for our protection, arsenals.

Nearly fifty years ago a secretary of State predicted that large as was our trade with Europe, greater as it might become, it would in the fulness of the time, be dwarfed in comparison with the inevitable development across the Pacific.

I believe that Mr. Seward was right and that in China there is a market waiting, which will enable us to sell 20,000,000 instead of 10,000,000 bales above ten cents the pound.

If we could with so little effort develop a market in a locality in North China, it seems to me that it could be done in all accessible portions of the Empire.

It ought not to be difficult to teach a thrifty people the superiority of cotton over silk as an article of general wear. It is cheaper, and the fact that it will wash commands it to a people so cleanly in their habits. Then the old saying, "Chinamen never wash their clothes and Japs never wash their bodies," would be more honored in the breach than the observance.

All business is done in China under a system of guilds conducted on similar lines to the Federation of Labor in this country, and this fact properly handled has proven a help rather than a hindrance to the introduction of American goods in China. You deal with an organization instead of individuals. If the cotton burned during the past weeks had been made into cloth and sent into portions of China, where American goods are unknown, it would be a far more sensible plan of reducing the surplus and making customers of these sick clad millions in the Orient.

But 7,000 miles of ocean roll between us and these markets, it must be traversed by ships and each day the difficulties in that respect multiply.

Our carrying trade is in the hands, not only of our commercial rivals, but of the nations who consume our raw cotton and are therefore bitterly opposed to assisting any movement where the ultimate effect must be to advance the price of cotton. If the market for goods is to be extended they will see to it that it is done under their auspices and then not on such an extensive scale as to make it a staple scarce and high. The American merchant flag is a stranger on the high seas, and will be until Congress takes some action which will enable the American built and operated ship to compete with its subsidized rival. For years measures to that end have been before Congress, but the demand has never come up from the people, because the development of this continent has heretofore afforded ample scope, but the days of our national infancy are gone and we must go out into the markets of the world upon a footing of equality with the other nations.

Upon the Atlantic our carrying trade is monopolized by enormous foreign steamship lines that are now circling the globe with their ships that have Emperors, Kings and nobles for their advocates and stockholders. The nations of Europe rejoice in the concentration of the wealth of their people in their steamship lines, they are sustained by subsidies from their Government and through their control of transportation they levy tribute upon all the peoples of the earth, and upon none does it rest more heavily than the cotton grower.

Less than three per cent of our carrying trade with Europe is in American ships, a trade totally a billion and a half annually, two-thirds of our first step in the world.

Our trade in extending and enlarging our cotton market must be transportation facilities. It is asking too much of human nature to expect these nations which are looking for cheap cotton to develop new markets. Cotton manufacturing has been introduced into Japan, but has not flourished, so I am informed, because of the impossibility of getting there cotton. But for this I have no doubt that by this time Japan's cotton factories would be important purchasers of spot cotton.

The New Orleans convention considers no question in which the South is more vitally interested than shipping. About 35 per cent of the total exports of the nation are shipped from Southern ports, while only about six per cent of the imports enter at Southern ports. The great bulk of our exports originate in the South or in the Mississippi Valley that drains into the gulf. New Orleans and the gulf ports are the natural exit, but the great lines of railways run east and west and I do not suppose any one doubts that there is a community of interest between these transcontinental lines and the subsidized foreign steamship companies. That is the combination which has always defeated every effort in Congress to pass a bill for the development of an American merchant marine.

The same interests postponed for a quarter of a century the construction of the Isthmian Canal, but under the present vigorous Federal administration this is in sight, and then natural laws can no longer be defied. God has so fashioned this country that the natural direction for its export products to move is north and south, not east and west. New Orleans should be and some day will be one of the greatest distributing points in the world.

At present about 20 per cent of the ships entering North Atlantic ports come in ballast, while over 80 per cent entering Southern ports come in ballast. This is a serious handicap to the cotton grower, for his is an export product. It means that every ship coming in ballast for cotton charges enough freight one way to pay the expenses of the round voyage, which expense comes from the profits of the maker of that cotton.

About 60 per cent of the cotton goods made in South Carolina go to China, but under this combination of transcontinental railways and foreign

steamship lines, these goods do not take the natural course to deep water, but go north more than a thousand miles by rail and end exit, many of them over the Canadian Pacific Railway. The cotton grower "he pays the freight."

When it comes to our next door neighbors in South America, we are in a still worse plight. Our cotton goods go to South America via Europe.

A vessel loads in South America, comes to Charleston, or New Orleans, discharges a cargo, takes a consignment of goods for South America, and sails direct to Europe and from thence to South America, thus completing the circuit of the triangle, and holding at a disadvantage by this double voyage across the Atlantic the American exporter. Here again Jones, he pays the freight."

The foreigner intends to control by his ships the foreign markets and he is bound by self interest not to enlarge the cotton market to where he will be forced to pay high prices for spot cotton. Our consular reports record instances where American goods consigned to South American ports have been held in Europe and foreign made duplicates sent forward until the South American purchaser in despair accepts the European substitutes.

Is it good sense for us to continue to allow Europe to buy our cotton, carry it across the Atlantic, manufacture it and then send it back across the Atlantic and sell it at a profit right at our door? They will do so just as long as they control transportation.

I believe it was Grady who said "cotton is a fool," and I add has no friends.

JNO LOWMEDES McLAURIN, Bennettsville, January 13.

MURDERED HIS SON.

The Awful Deed Was Done While the Father Was Drunk.

At Greenwood the coroner's jury which adjourned Monday Jan. 16, to meet again Wednesday to finish hearing the evidence in the matter of Scott Clegg, whose death was reported Monday Jan. 16, brought in a verdict Wednesday afternoon that he came to his death from a gun shot wound at the hands of his own father, John Clegg. The verdict was expected in view of developments after Monday's hearing. The unfortunate tragedy has been the topic of conversation ever since it happened. By some sympathy is expressed for the father, because of the fact that it has been shown clearly that he was drunk at the time. In fact, he seemed, as phrased by some, to be "perfectly crazy." Whether he caused the death of his son by drunken carelessness or by the impulse of a sudden blind fury of drunken passion will be for a jury to decide.

John Clegg was at once arrested and is now in the county jail to be tried for the murder of his own son. The testimony heard by the jury Monday, given by Clegg and his son, was to the effect that the boy was shot while they were on their way to Greenwood, and that they did not know who did it. The jury heard from other witnesses that the little boy said Sunday night, after they had arrived here, that his father had shot his brother, and that this was said in the presence of the father. The little boy's changed testimony Wednesday was in substance that his father pulled out the pistol to shoot at something on the road and they (his dead brother and himself) caught hold of the pistol and in some way his brother was shot.

Witnesses living along the road testified that they saw Clegg and heard his awful cursing. One man, W. P. Rhodes, repeated some of his vile oaths, but could not swear whether they were directed at the boy or at the horse. All of the testimony showed that John Clegg was as wild and frenzied as a man could be made by whiskey, and that as a result of this awful state he caused the death of one of his own children. The boy's mother has been dead for several years. Clegg was a policeman at Greenwood. There is no dispensary in the county, and he was drunk or made crazy by drinking tiger whiskey, which must have been of the vilest sort, as Clegg seemed and acted like a crazy man while under the influence of it.

Will Lose His Job. Charles J. Mulky, postmaster at Westminster, S. C., is the postmaster who has gotten into trouble by making and soliciting contributions for paying the expenses of negro and other delegates to state and county conventions. Mulky will lose his position, which he has held only since April 19, 1904. The investigation of inspectors of the postoffice department showed that he had not only made contributions for this purpose himself, but had solicited and obtained contributions from other postmasters, and it was some of those who had complained to the department, as told in this correspondence a day or two ago. In the future all postmasters who either pay money to politicians for traveling or other expenses or solicit money from other federal employes for the same thing will lose their positions. Several other postmasters are likely to lose their positions, so others are reported to have done the same thing.

Called Them Liars. With dramatic fervor, Senator John H. Mitchell, of Oregon, on the floor of the United States Senate Wednesday afternoon denounced his accusers and publicly branded them as "heartsick and atrocious liars." In a heart to heart talk with his fellow members, he proclaimed his innocence of the charges upon which he, with Representative Hermann, of Oregon, was recently indicted at Portland and expressed confidence in his ultimate vindication.

Who Can Answer? The Columbia State says: "We want to know. Was there ever a postoffice robbery in one of our South Carolina towns where the robbers failed to gain ingress by means of a hammer secured from 'a neighboring blacksmith shop?' It is only a coincidence or do all South Carolina postoffices do blacksmithing 'on the side?' We are anxious to secure exact information concerning these points." We pass.

STATE DISPENSARY.

Report of Expert Accountants Who Examined the Books.

Statistical Information Regarding the State's Liquor Business that is interesting.

Messrs. D. Zimmerman and J. W. Jones, the accountants appointed to examine the books and vouchers at the State dispensary Wednesday reported that they had completed their work. The following statistical information was given in their reports:

Table with columns for Assets and Liabilities. Assets include Cash in State treasury, Teams and wagons, Supplies, Machinery and office fixtures, etc. Liabilities include School fund, Personal accounts due by State, etc.

Table with columns for Receipts and Disbursements. Receipts include Balance in State treasury, December '03, January '04, etc. Disbursements include December '03, January '04, February '04, etc.

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PASSED THE SENATE.

A Bill to Investigate the State Dispensary Thoroughly.

Senatorial Spokesmen for Members at the Board Declare Their Willingness to be Looked After.

The most important transaction of the Senate Wednesday was the passage of the concurrent resolution to investigate the State dispensary. There was no fight made and the amendment suggested were embodied without discussion. Had anyone anticipated a spiky debate they would have been mistaken, for the chamber did not for any time lose its wonted air of dignity and newspaper seemed to engage as much attention as the resolution. The resolution was a special order and therefore was taken up first on the calendar.

Senator McLeary's amendment that the committee be increased from two senators and three members of the house to three senators was accepted. He also offered an amendment that instead of having the committee sit now and report before February 1st (as provided in the resolution) it should meet soon after adjournment and report to the next session. The committee is to receive \$4 per diem and mileage. Another amendment submitted by Senator Raylor was a provision that "statements made by witnesses should not be used against them in any criminal proceeding" be stricken out. This was done. Senators McLeod and Brice submitted amendments omnibus in character and giving the committee the right to find out everything possible about the dispensary and through any means, its past and present history included.

The resolution as it now stands provides that the committee will report to the next general assembly on the affairs of the dispensary. They shall have authority to summon witnesses, to employ stenographers and accountants and have access to the books and papers of the institution. There are special questions for them to investigate, particularly the following:

Whether or not it is a fact that houses represented by agents who are near relatives of the members of the board of directors receive large orders at each purchase.

Is it a fact that members of the board of directors are, or have been, agents for certain wholesale houses from which large purchases are made?

Is it a fact that parties to whom large orders are given are not wholesale dealers, but brokers and that the orders are filled by third persons, thus making the State pay the commission of the middle man?

Was it necessary to purchase the large quantity of liquor ordered in December, 1904, to fill demands, and especially the new and fancy goods purchased which is unknown to the trade?

Are the extraordinary heavy purchases made necessary to the best business interests of the dispensary system?

What is the financial standing of the business, and is it run on the best principles for the interest of the law as originally passed and amended?

Is it a fact that the State, through the dispensaries, is violating the constitution of 1895, in that it is selling whiskey in less quantities than one-half of one pint?

Is it a fact that the State is selling C&S in case goods to its customers and charging them for one quart?

Is it a fact that certain agents are traveling over the State and offering special inducements to county dispensers to "push" certain brands of liquor, and, if so, is it a fact known to the members of the State board of directors?

Is it a fact that certain requirements of the law are dispensed with by the county dispensers by order of, or by the consent of the members of the State board of directors?

Has the whiskey which has been recently purchased been ordered out from the dealer or is it held in reserve for future delivery?

What is the indebtedness of the dispensary for liquors which have been bought but not delivered?

The committee can call to its aid any of the employes or officers of the institution and can apply to the general assembly for additional powers. Authority to punish for contempt is given by the resolution, and witnesses shall be paid at the regular rate for witness in Richland county. The meetings shall be public. The expenses are to be charged to the dispensary.

Immediately after the resolution had been passed the senator from Lexington, Mr. Edger, announced for the member of the board of directors from that county, Mr. John Bell Tozill, that he "courted investigation. A similar announcement for the member from Newberry, Mr. H. H. Evans, but more detailed in character was made by the senator from that county.

Dynamic Exploded. By an explosion of dynamite one mile east of Bedford, Wednesday evening, two men were killed and four others injured. The dead: William S. Jenkins, Bedford. William Garrett, Oolite. The men who were employes of the Central Union Telephone company, had been working on the line east of that city. They were returning to town in a wagon in which they had thrown the dynamite, explosion cap and tools. The jarring of the wagon caused the explosion of the caps. The wagon was blown to pieces and one of the horses was injured.

Good If True. In the city of New York it is announced that open gambling has been wholly stopped. Indeed, gamblers, open or under cover, seem to have been put entirely out of business. It was a vast undertaking that District Attorney Jerome entered upon and it seemed almost impossible for him to succeed, but he has again illustrated the truth of the saying that where there is a will there is a way.

Advertisement for a medicine or health product, featuring a portrait of a man and text describing its benefits for various ailments.

Advertisement for Columbia Lumber & Mfg Co, featuring a portrait of a man and text about their products and services.

Advertisement for Southeastern Lime & Cement Co, featuring text about their products and services.

Advertisement for The Guinard Brick Works, featuring text about their products and services.

Advertisement for KILFYRE, featuring text about its benefits for various ailments.

Advertisement for a railroad agent, featuring text about services provided.

Advertisement for a music house, featuring text about their products and services.

Advertisement for a bank deposit, featuring text about the \$5,000 deposit offer.

Advertisement for a specialist, featuring text about medical services.

Advertisement for a cannibal, featuring text about a cannibal's activities.

Advertisement for a national good roads meeting, featuring text about the meeting's purpose.