

MONTGOMERY COTTON MEETING.

Six Things to Do to Help Get Better Cotton Prices.

"What did the Cotton Association meeting at Montgomery do?"

"What can I do to help get better prices?"

These two questions are now being asked on every hand. Perhaps the best answer to both questions is given in the editorial view of the work of the Montgomery meeting and its plans as given in the Progressive Farmer of September 11th, an advanced copy which has been furnished us. Which is as follows:

CAN DO

The Fight for Better Cotton Prices:

Six Things You Can Do

The great meeting of the American Cotton Association in Montgomery, Ala., last week, discussed a lot of things, but we believe the gist of the whole conference may be given in six definite things every cotton farmer in the south can do to help the fight for better prices:

1. First and foremost, hold your cotton. We must show the bear gamblers and the other allies that they have absolutely mistaken the spirit and determination of the southern people if they think we will sit idly by and be robbed of half the fruits of this year's labor. It has cost between 30 and 40 cents a pound to make this year's crop. The decision of the Montgomery meeting was that 40 cents should be a minimum price for middling.

Not only must each man resolve to hold his own crop, but he must see his neighbors and insist on their holding. As J. A. Brown says, "We must shut up the market so tight that no man can buy or beg a bale of cotton at present prices—so that the only way to get a bale of new-crop cotton until prices improve will be to steal it!"

J. A. Todd, the distinguished English authority, who came to Montgomery at President Wannamaker's request, sized up the present world-situation somewhat as follows: (1) The world will need every bale of cotton that is produced this year. There is no real overproduction. (2) Right now, however, there is practically no movement of cotton goods, a wholly abnormal temporary dullness in the business of cotton manufacturers, and of course they are not offering normal prices for cotton. Present prices are only fictitious prices based on a temporarily demoralized market.

Nevertheless if one-fourth of the cotton farmers of the south are such fools as to accept this fictitious under-valuation for 1920 cotton, prices on the whole crop will be lowered. We must keep anybody and everybody from selling at present prices.

2. Go to your county mass meeting next Monday, Sept. 20th. Every county in the south is asked to hold a mass meeting of its cotton farmers on this date, to make plans for holding, warehousing, cutting acreage and cooperative marketing. Go and get your neighbors to go, both landlord and tenant, black and white. We must educate everybody and all classes to the importance of this fight. And see to it that everybody makes some contribution for supporting the Cotton Association in its plans. A good method will be to have every grower to authorize his ginner to deduct 10 to 25 cents a bale for the organization. Business men should subscribe liberally, for no one will be hurt more than they if the south's spending power and debt paying power is cut in half.

3. Cut your cotton acreage next year by sowing a record-breaking grain crop this fall. Don't just talk about "cutting down acreage"—a negative sort of programme. Tell everybody to cut his cotton acreage by sowing more wheat, oats and rye, and by sowing more clover to enrich the land for corn next year. This is the only sensible way to reduce acreage.

4. Put your cotton in a warehouse, and organize a cooperative marketing association. Remarkably important was the comprehensive report on cooperative marketing adopted at Montgomery, the result of months of labor by Cotton Specialist Murphy and others. The report tells just how to start cooperative selling with official grading or classing in your community.

As for warehouses, if there is not sufficient warehouse room in your section, it will pay to hurry up the construction of buildings of a cheaper sort.

5. Do all you can to help men who are in a tight place financially from having to sacrifice their cotton. Make it a point to see the president or cashier of the bank you do business with. Tell him a large part of his business comes from farmers and that farmers expect him to go to the limit in helping them now. See your merchant and tell him he had better suffer some temporary inconvenience, better to wait until he can wait no longer on his cotton customers, rather than force the south back into the poverty and backwardness it for-

merly suffered. And if you have tenants or neighbors who insist on selling anything, but their cotton if possible, and hold it out of the regular channels of trade.

6. Demand also a fair price for cotton seed. This subject has already been discussed in previous issues of the Progressive Farmer. The decision of the Montgomery meeting was that the farmers who can use cottonseed meal for feeding should exchange cotton seed for an equal quantity of cotton seed meal, or should sell seed when a ton of seed is selling for as much as a ton of meal.

If this battle for better cotton prices is to be won, the growers themselves must fight to the finish. Here are six definite things every man can do. Check up yourself and see how many of them you are willing to do—and spread the news to your neighbors.

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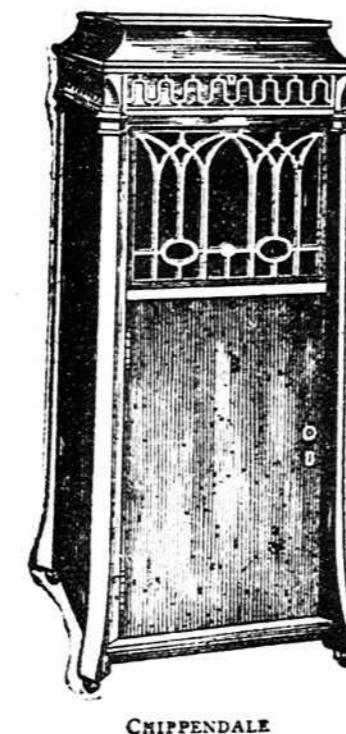
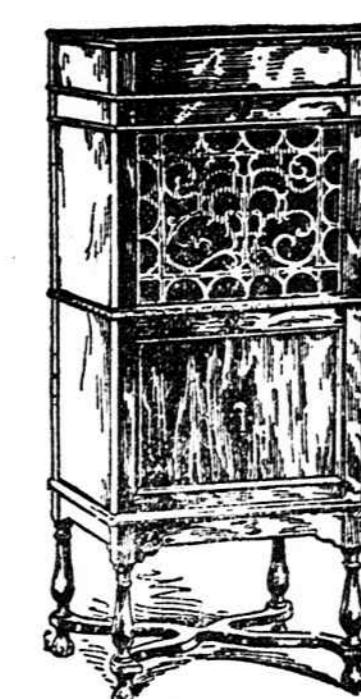
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