

## SWING AROUND COTTON BELT

By Harvie Jordan, Secretary American Cotton Association--White Farming Population Destined to Increase.

During the month of March I made a tour of all the leading cotton states from North Carolina to Texas. Continued rains since last December in the states east of the Mississippi River have delayed plowing and crop preparation on a very extensive scale. Provided we have favorable seasons from now on, the cotton crop will go into the ground from ten days to two weeks late and with hurried preparation, which means an unsatisfactory seed-bed. There will also be quite a limited use of commercial fertilizers again, and what is used will be of the cheapest variety, principally acid phosphate.

West of the Mississippi River the crop preparations were more forward on account of drouth conditions. Heavy rains in Texas beginning on March 26 flooded much of the southern area of that state, drowning out young cotton and causing much replanting. The late start of the crop, the poor preparation and a shortage of fertilizer are especially disastrous on account of the certainty of a record-breaking damage from the boll weevil. The weevil now covers the entire belt, and the number of live weevils escaping the winter spells the absolute certainty of serious even with a dry season, and with a wet season the loss will indeed be startling.

Present estimated increase in the cotton acreage for the states of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas is safely assumed to be not less than ten per cent, as compared with the acreage planted in 1921. This increase is not due so much to the action of the cotton growers, but to the long drought which destroyed the wheat crop in West Texas and southwest Oklahoma. These lands will now be planted to cotton. The

Southwestern farmers who use no commercial fertilizers and can cultivate their lands with sulky plows would have gone in for a much larger increase in the cotton acreage but for the attitude of the bankers and merchants refusing credits for such purpose.

There will likely be a small increase in the cotton acreage in some of the cotton states east of the Mississippi River, but not so great as in the states further west. South Carolina and Georgia farmers will plant in the aggregate less cotton this year than last, owing to the hazard of the boll weevil and the credit situation.

The report of extreme financial depression, inability to liquidate debts, or to secure credits for farm operations, is practically the same throughout the entire cotton belt. Personal interviews with farmers, bankers and merchants in all of the states definitely lead to this conclusion.

The farmers generally are heavily involved in debts which cannot be paid and they are doubtful as to the future rehabilitation of their affairs. I personally interviewed many farmers from the various important cotton-growing counties through the length and breadth of the cotton belt and it is an exception to find one who has not suffered heavy losses during the last two years. They stated frankly that they had lost the accumulations of a lifetime of hard work and close economy during the deflation in market values for the past two years, and that they would be unable to ever recover these losses.

The invasion of the cotton boll weevil over the entire cotton belt, and the financial wreck and ruin of deflation in the prices of farm products dur-

ing the past two years means a drastic change in agricultural conditions throughout the length and breadth of the cotton states. This change will be more pronounced in the Old Cotton States east of the Mississippi River than in the states of Texas and Oklahoma, especially. The farming classes which have moved into the two last named states are mostly white and will more readily solve the problems which confront them. The negro tenant, a mule and the extensive culture of cotton on landed estates in the Old Cotton States east of the Mississippi River is a thing of the past. In 1865 when the negroes were set free in those states, they were forced to enter into competition with their former white masters in the extensive culture of the one crop, cotton, which alone could be used as a basis of credit for food and feed supplies from bankers and merchants of the East. This un-economic agricultural situation has been pursued without change for the past fifty years, although it forced the penalty of an uneducated husbandry, slow progress and a gradual lowering of the social standard among the white farmers, because of their inability to maintain good schools, attractive homes and first class public highways.

The past two years have resulted in annihilating credits, levied a toll of debts upon the cotton growers, which cannot be liquidated at face values, and brought about changes which are far more intense than those which faced the farmers in the days of 1865. While the negroes flocked to the fields to produce cotton in their new freedom in 1865, they are now leaving the cotton fields in thousands in 1922, because of their inability to secure credits and cope with the hazards of the boll weevil. The old system has broken down never to return. The decline in prices of farm products since 1920, and the widespread devastation of the cotton boll weevil, has wrecked whatever was left of the old system, which for fifty years had shackled agricultural slavery upon both the white man and the negro.

White farmers from the North and Middle-Western states must be induced to locate in the attractive agricultural areas of the cotton belt. While the agricultural South is now in the grip of a death-struggle, I believe that it is on the eve of a new birth which will revolutionize the experiences and traditions of the past, and start the rebuilding of a more profitable farming industry for the future. It would be no idle statement to prophesy that the white farming population of the cotton states will largely increase during the next decade. These changes are destined to develop Southern agriculture into a prosperous industry of grain and stock-raising and the expansion of great manufacturing enterprises of various kinds. The soil and climatic conditions of the South, together with its marvelous undeveloped water resources, make these prophecies all the more emphatic, when the necessities for their development so strongly exist. Cotton will continue to be grown, but under such scientific management as will intensify its culture on fewer acres of land to the plow, and for a much larger yield of lint per acre. The South will never lose its world monopoly of cotton production, but the producers will grow the staple in the future under changed conditions and only at prices that will pay to them the cost of production plus a fair and reasonable profit.

What the cotton crop may be this year no man may forecast, but of one thing there is a surety that the consuming world is destined to yet pay a heavy penalty for cotton goods as a result of the forces which have combined to so completely change the agricultural industry of the South and to strike so severe a blow to the production of cotton. As the world gradually returns to health and vigor the demand will exceed supplies, and when this happens the growers will then have the opportunity to in part at least recoup the heavy losses which they have suffered during the past two years. Higher prices not only this year but permanently are absolutely necessary to assure a supply of raw cotton to the cotton-consuming world.

The creation of statewide landowners' associations for bringing white settlers into the cotton belt is one of the impelling needs of the South for its future agricultural industry.

**Poor Fish.**  
A New York scientist has discovered a land-living fish. No need to be a scientist to do that; we know a lot of them.

**A TONIC**  
Grove's Tasteless chill Tonic restores Energy and Vitality by Purifying and Enriching the Blood. When you feel its strengthening, invigorating effect, see how it brings color to the cheeks and how it improves the appetite, you will then appreciate its true tonic value.  
Grove's Tasteless chill Tonic is simply Iron and Quinine suspended in syrup. So pleasant even children like it. The blood needs QUININE to Purify it and IRON to Enrich it. Destroys Malarial germs and Grip germs by its Strengthening, Invigorating Effect. 60c.

## A Good Reputation plus a Better Price - \$10.90

THE new low mark of \$10.90 for the 30 x 3 1/2 size "Usco" created something of a sensation. Naturally, the first impulsive remark was on the "wonderful price."

Even more to the point are the comments of today.

People are getting more used to the \$10.90 price—but the "Usco" value is still a cause for wonder.

With thousands of \$10.90 "Uscos" running today, every locality has had a chance to check up on the surprising tire value.

Let all these "Usco" Tires now serving their owners so well remind you of this—

Whatever the price of "Usco," it has got to deliver big value because it has always done so.

30 x 3 1/2  
**USCO**  
**\$10.90**  
No War-Tax charged

United States Tires are Good Tires

Copyright 1922 U. S. Tire Co.

**United States Tires**  
United States Rubber Company  
Fifty-three Factories The Oldest and Largest Rubber Organization in the World Two hundred and thirty-five Branches

Where You Can Buy U. S. Tires:

EUREKA DRUG CO., Laurens, S. C. E. V. GOLDING, Waterloo, S. C.  
J. D. SPENCE & COMPANY, Gray Court, S. C.  
C. L. WALDREP, Lanford Station, S. C.



Never say "Aspirin" without saying "Bayer."

WARNING! Unless you see name "Bayer" on tablets, you are not getting genuine Aspirin prescribed by physicians over 21 years and proved safe by millions for

Colds	Headache	Rheumatism
Toothache	Neuralgia	Neuritis
Earache	Lumbago	Pain, Pain

Accept only "Bayer" package which contains proper directions.

Handy tin boxes of 12 tablets—Bottles of 24 and 100—All druggists. Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monoaceticacidester of Salicylicacid



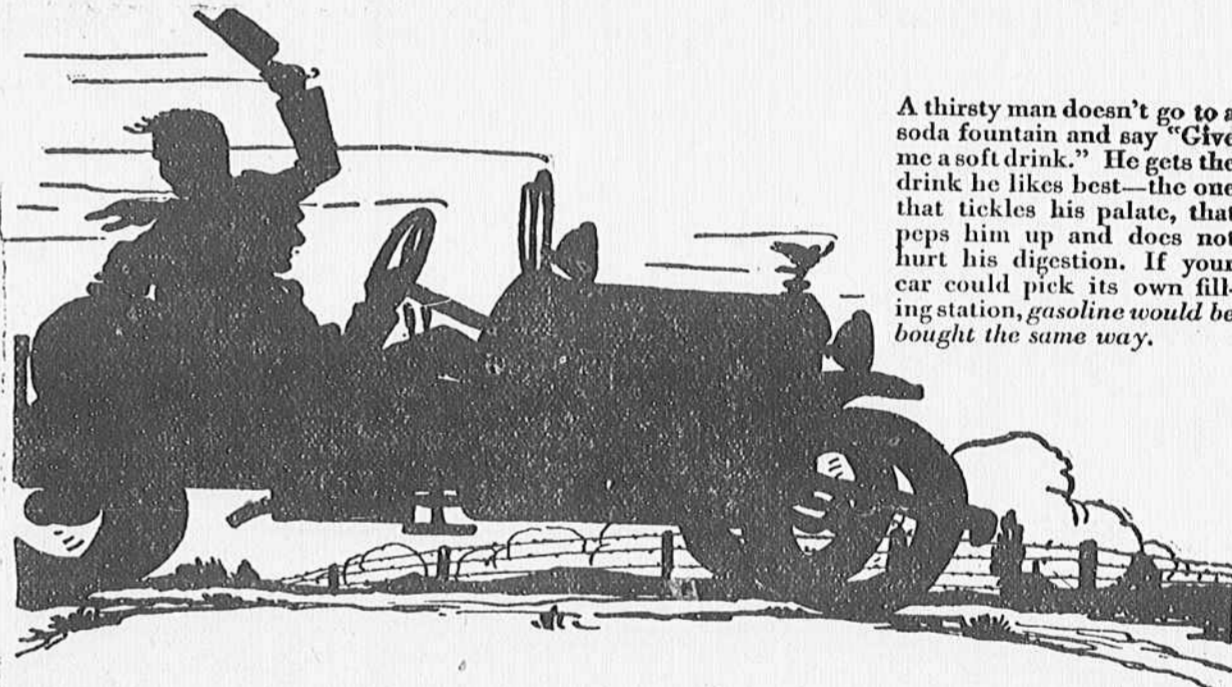
## Old Tires Made New New Tires For Sale

When you have the toothache you have it treated without delay. You know that if you wait it becomes worse and worse. If your tire has an ailment why not bring it to us at once? It, like your tooth, grows worse if you do not have it fixed. We vulcanize any type of tire and all our work is guaranteed.

Pay Us a Visit and Let Us Show You How to Preserve Your Tires

**McDaniel Vulcanizing Plant**

Opposite Postoffice  
GOODYEAR TIRES FEDERAL TIRES



A thirsty man doesn't go to a soda fountain and say "Give me a soft drink." He gets the drink he likes best—the one that tickles his palate, that peeps him up and does not hurt his digestion. If your car could pick its own filling station, gasoline would be bought the same way.

## The Wings of Mercury

THERE is a joyful, business-like hum to the motor burning correctly balanced gasoline that is a revelation to drivers who have been using one-sided fuels. "STANDARD" MOTOR GASOLINE is built up to meet the different conditions under which every automobile must be operated.

It is balanced to give your car easy starting, quiet idling, flexibility, speed and maximum mileage. It should be used with Polarine to give you the best results.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY  
(NEW JERSEY)

**"STANDARD"**  
The Balanced Gasoline!

