

HOW TO GET BETTER PRICES FOR COTTON

DISCUSSED AT FARMERS' UNION MEETING—THE STACK-HOUSE PLAN.

More than 100 representative farmers and business men of South Carolina, meeting at the Richland county court house Friday night, seriously considered the cotton market situation as it affects the South. There were many plans discussed for holding cotton and reducing the acreage. The meeting was called by the State Farmers' Union. The convention decided to open pledge books at every court house in South Carolina to record pledges for farmers who will hold their cotton until September 1, 1912, unless the price reaches 13 cents a pound. The names of those who pledge to plant only 60 per cent next year will be recorded. The convention decided to publish the names of those who pledge themselves to assist in the movement, in the press of the State. The reports will appear each day, and will show the names of the farmers that are aiding in the fight for a higher price for cotton. It was decided to telegraph the action of the convention to the Commissioners of Agriculture and State presidents of the Farmers' Union in the Cotton Belt and ask for similar action.

The meeting that night was well attended and there were a number of interesting plans proposed to help the farmers in their fight to secure a fair price for cotton.

Dr Wade Stackhouse of Dillon read his plan for relieving the situation. It was immediately adopted, but after discussion a number of features of the plan were rejected. The plan is given below. One plan submitted to the conference was to organize the landlords and thereby keep the price of cotton up.

Among the speakers last night was Senator E D Smith. He urged upon the farmers the necessity of retiring all cotton possible at once. He said that the Farmers' Union should send out speakers to all sections of the State to urge upon the farmers to hold their cotton for a higher price. He thought it the duty of the State Farmers' Union to sound the call to the farmers of the State to hold their cotton. He heartily endorsed the warehouse system for holding cotton.

He thought the system would help the farmer in the fight for the future. He advocated the passage of a law to make contracts for future delivery on the basis of specified grades and prices in cotton exchanges. He thought that the farmers should rally to the Farmers' Union. He said that it was not the law of supply and demand but the law of supply and the "man."

"We can get control of the situation if we will," said Senator Smith.

Other speakers were J K Fairey and T B Stackhouse and R B Belser and E J Watson, the Commissioner of Agriculture. Commissioner Watson urged the necessity of holding the cotton now. He said that the holding movement must be carried forward in a systematic manner.

The following is the plan for holding cotton, proposed by Dr Wade Stackhouse of Dillon, that caused so much discussion at the meeting of the Farmers' Union last night:

"There is no shame greater than defeat. There is no joy like victory. The Southern cotton grower today is covered with the shame of defeat, like the Union army at Bull Run. He is in full retreat; panic-stricken he has turned his back to the bears and is hustling to dispose of this crop under the cost of its production.

"Can we do nothing to stop this panic of our brother farmers, which not only threatens this crop but points to a few years of depression, which means a lower level of living to every man, woman and child in the South?

"The time to prepare for war is before it begins. We have lost the best time to prepare for this emergency, but I suggest the following plan:

"Build warehouses in each South-

ern State capable of holding one-fourth of the largest crop we are likely to produce. My argument applies to South Carolina, but should be duplicated in each cotton State, and then combine all the cotton warehouse companies into a whole.

"The farmers should put up the capital stock to erect the warehouses, which should be large storage houses and built only at points where substitution and reshipping privilege can be secured. This would imply that warehouses would be built only in towns having more than one railroad or having water rates and ample fire protection can be provided—the small warehouse can never pay. Perpetual motion is no more impossible in physics than is the continued exercise of good business sense in the conduct of warehouses and in organizing a holding movement of cotton farmers. The warehouseman must be a man of character. He must be a fair book-keeper. He must be a sworn weigher, capable of adjusting equitably differences as to moisture, damage, etc, on cotton stored. He must know how to grade cotton. He should take the notes of farmers wishing to secure loans on cotton and forward the notes with warehouse receipts to the State trust company organized to handle these receipts. Such men can be found today buying cotton for the leading exporters. They are a set of capable men having good, hard, business sense. It will take around \$1,200 a year to employ such men. Then the warehouse must keep a night watchman the year round. It must be built according to certain plans and specifications and must be equipped with automatic sprinklers and have two sources of water supply. This water supply must be absolutely sufficient to satisfy the most skeptical insurance inspector. Having all these requisites it is astonishing how small the insurance cost. It can be reduced to 12 cents on \$100 valuation for 12 months. The small warehouse can't afford all this.

"Our normal crop in South Carolina is around 1,200,000 bales. One-fourth of this, 300,000 bales, would need to be warehoused under my plan. I would suggest organizing a South Carolina Cotton Warehouse company, with a capital stock of \$1,000,000, divided into shares of \$50 each, and that the farmers be asked to subscribe for most of this stock. That, say 15 warehouses be built at central points in the State, capable of storing the 300,000 bales. That a trust company be located in Columbia, S C, and its acts to bind the \$1,000,000 capital stock of all the warehouses.

"We would need a high class banker to manage the trust company at Columbia. He should find in what money centers he could place his warehouse receipts and borrow the money. With a million dollar asset to back him he could sell his warehouse notes in most of the money-centers of the country.

"This plan is not original, but is today employed by warehouses of this city. I would suggest that we let alone all the existing warehouses in State now being conducted as private enterprises. There is ample field for warehousing companies now in operation and the system I recommend.

"The State warehousing companies should take in all friends of cotton in the South. They should cooperate with the Farmers' Union and all other organizations having for their object better selling of the cotton crop. The exclusive business of the warehouse companies would be to better handle the cotton crop.

"Having the warehouses we would ask cotton farmers to store at least one-fourth of crop and sign a contract that if he sold before August 15 the following year, he would forfeit the difference between the selling price and the minimum price fixed. I suggest for this crop we fix 12 cents per pound for minimum price, and should cotton reach that price before August 15, each holder of cotton is at perfect liberty to sell. Before cotton should sell at 12 cents next August the world must have convincing proof that we are going to make a smaller crop. To convince the public we must

prove by the Government institute that we have smaller acreage and have used less fertilizer.

"To get a few farmers to meet at each county court house and resolve to cut the acreage and fertilizer bill is not going to be convincing proof to cotton spinners. To think such resolutions will be lived up to is as vain as the dream of a dreamer who dreamed he had dreamed something.

"I have talked to two or three good attorneys as to the validity of a contract a farmer might make with the warehouse company to hold his cotton. They think such contract can be drawn so as to be legal. The acreage proposition would have to be worked the same way. If Mr A planted 100 acres in cotton in 1911 and contracts with a warehousing company that he will plant only 75 acres in 1912 and provides that in case he breaks his contract that all cotton produced on land over and above the 75 acres shall go to the warehouse company, I think such contract could be made valid. If some strong bank could act as trustee for us in 1912 and they would say they had contracts in their vaults providing for 25 per cent. reduction in South Carolina that would carry weight.

"I have seen the suggestion that each farmer be asked to sign an affidavit that if 75 per cent of the farmers agree to reduce 25 per cent that his pledge would become binding. This would put a premium on lying and surely none of us would like to see such a strain put on our farmers next year. The contract plan is the only solution I can see. Of course the contracts could be drawn so they would not be binding unless a given per cent of farmers signed up.

"But some one croaks that your plan is as weak as the plan of the mice when they agreed to bell the cat. They say it can't be done. Impossible to organize the farmers.

"I will say the American Federation of Labor is a gigantic organization; but who questions they have great power? They contend for a few cents to be added to a day's work. Southern men producing cotton surely have as good fighting qualities as organized labor in the North. While they are fighting for a few thousand dollars in wages, we cotton farmers are fighting for the greatest money prize on earth, losing this year about \$300,000,000 by our slothful neglect to organize.

"The brickmasons of New York city meet and organize and agree that a certain price per day shall be charged to lay brick. Some one that does not want to join the union tries to cut the price. They call him a 'scab' and make it so uncomfortable that it is best to charge union prices or move on to some other country."

A Father's Vengeance

would have fallen on any one who attacked the son of Peter Bondy, of South Rockwood, Mich., but he was powerless before attacks of Kidney trouble. "Doctors could not help him," he wrote, "so at last we gave him Electric Bitters and he improved wonderfully from taking six bottles. It's the best Kidney medicine I ever saw." Backache, Tired feeling, Nervousness, Loss of Appetite, warn of Kidney trouble that may end in dropsy, diabetes or Bright's disease. Beware! Take Electric Bitters and be safe. Every bottle guaranteed. 50c at M L Allen's.

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THE PRICE OF COTTON AND THE POLITICAL SITUATION

Significant Relation Between Tariff Activity and Losses of Cotton Growers Arouses the South.

In the appointment of a delegation of cotton growers at the North Carolina state fair recently, with instructions to attend the meeting in New Orleans having for its purpose the holding by farmers and others of a considerable proportion of this year's cotton crop and the curtailment of next year's acreage, is to be found one of many indications of dissatisfaction existing over the present political relationship to the price of cotton.

It is said that President Taft's recent tariff campaign and the Underwood tariff bills not only adversely affected general business during the year 1911, but specifically caused the cotton manufacturers to lose, by shrinkage and decreased volume of trade, between \$50,000,000 and \$100,000,000.

Crippled and with a prospect of more tariff agitation in 1912, cotton manufacturers have naturally been unable to make purchases of cotton in the usual way, with the result that, with a full crop, political agitation has created a decline in the price of the staple thus far from 14 cents per pound to 9 cents per pound, with many predictions from well posted quarters that a much lower range will be experienced.

It is further claimed that without the extra session for the discussion of reciprocity the Underwood tariff measures would not have been introduced and in consequence these would have been but little probability that cotton would have declined under the force of a full crop lower than 11 cents per pound instead of registering in price the low water mark for years, as it does today.

The farmers in the south and the manufacturers of cotton generally are charging up a loss on this year's crop of not less than \$175,000,000, which loss they claim is directly traceable to political influence.

A Professional Paradox.

The study of science is not necessarily all gray. It may have its rosy patches. It is said that a learned professor of Heidelberg forbade his students the repetition of a certain experiment.

"But," they protested, "it has always been successful."

"Nevertheless," he said, "its position among experiments is absolutely untenable from an intellectual point of view."

The boys started.

"The thing may answer very well in practice," said the professor, "but it is not sound in theory."—Youth's Companion.

Saved From the Sea.

George Sirian, gunner, U. S. N., who died in 1891, was a young boy at the outbreak of the Greek revolution, and one day as he and his mother were on the beach of their island home they were warned of the approach of a band of Turks. The mother forced her boy into a boat that was near and, placing him on the bottom, thrust him off, remaining herself to await her fate and distract attention from the child. He drifted from the shore and was finally rescued by a boat from one of the American cruisers then in the Mediterranean. Mr. Sirian entered the navy as a boy and by good conduct became a warrant officer, serving with credit until his death.



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"My son has been suffering with bronchitis and asthma and a very bad cough. Was confined to his bed. Some one recommended Noah's Liniment, and I rubbed his chest and he was relieved immediately. Mrs. A. L. Whittaker, 613 Holly Street, Richmond, Va."

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